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THE BUCK TO MILITARY

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IN IRAQ TO END THIS YEAR

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UPSKILLING AND
RESKILLING IS MUST

DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY JULY 28 2021; PAGES 12 ₹2



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**OSAKA OUT
OF TOKYO
OLYMPICS
12 SPORT**

Mamata meets PM; chai pe charcha with Sonia today

Bengal CM on mission to unite Opp leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on a high-profile visit to the national Capital met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Tuesday ahead of a series of meeting with top Opposition leaders to prepare the strategy for a unified challenge to the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

On Wednesday, Mamata will hold "chai pe charcha" with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

This was the Bengal Chief Minister's first meeting with the Prime Minister after the bitter Bengal election campaign.

Mamata told reporters after the meeting that there should be a Supreme Court-monitored enquiry into the Pegasus scandal involving Opposition leaders, two Union Ministers and 40 journalists revealed as potential targets of surveillance using Israeli Pegasus spyware that is sold only to Governments.

Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee is among the potential targets whose name has surfaced as part of a worldwide investigation by a media consortium that includes India's *The Wire*. Mamata announced a judicial enquiry led by former Supreme Court judges on Monday.

Mamata described her meeting with the PM as a "courtesy visit" and said she discussed the Covid situation, the supply of vaccines and medicine to the State and also a proposal to rename Bengal as Bangla.

"I should not speak what the PM said," she told reporters when pressed for details.

Apart from Sonia, Mamata



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

is scheduled to meet top Opposition leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi

Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Om Prakash Chautala, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, Delhi

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and political strategist Prashant Kishor.

6th day of Monsoon Session washed out, Modi slams Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Placards of "Big Brother is Watching" and ear-splitting slogans were the only highlight of the sixth day of the Parliament session which ended without transacting any business on Tuesday even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave tongue-lashing to the

Congress for obstructing business in both Houses and asked BJP MPs to "expose" the Opposition party.

Both Houses of Parliament have barely transacted any business as they have been witnessing a repeat adjournment on account of Congress-led vociferous protest on a range of issues, including farm-

ers' agitation and Pegasus spyware controversy.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned multiple times on Tuesday as members of the Opposition continued their vociferous protests on the Pegasus snooping issue, seeking an independent judicial probe into the matter.

Apart from the reports by the Pegasus Project partners, the issues of the farmers' demand to repeal the three farm laws and petrol prices skyrocketing have also been raised by Opposition members.

However, it was the Pegasus issue that has dominated proceedings in both the Houses so far.

As soon as the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha resumed their sessions, the Opposition members began raising slogans in support of their demands for a probe.



Members protest in the Well of the Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Tuesday RSTV/PTI

Assam-Mizoram border row has roots in 1875 Frontier Regulation

1,318 sqkm forest reserve on border is bone of contention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Assam-Mizoram border row that claimed the lives of six Assam policemen on Monday has its genesis in an 1875 Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation declaring 1,318 sq km of the stretch as an inner line forest reserve over which Assam claims its jurisdiction.

Mizoram shares a 164 km border with Assam which is the core of the unresolved border issue between the two States.

Several rounds of talks between the two States with facilitation from the Centre since 1995 have not yielded any result. Both sides have accused each other of transgressing their territories.

In the center of the conflict is the 164.6-km inter-State bor-

der that separates Assam and Mizoram, with the three Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj sharing a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram.

Mizoram, earlier referred to as Lushai Hill shares borders with three States of Tripura, Assam and Manipur besides a 722-km border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The India-Myanmar border in Mizoram is open, and an unhindered movement of people from both sides has reportedly led to a spurt in cross-border smuggling.

The Free Movement Regime between India and Myanmar allows people living along the border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without visa.

Amid recurring claims and counterclaims, the region along the border between the two States has largely remained peaceful.



Locals near damaged security force vehicles after clashes last night on the Assam-Mizoram border at Lalapur in Cachar district on Tuesday PTI

Rakesh Asthana named Delhi CP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Tuesday appointed Rakesh Asthana, a 1984 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Gujarat cadre, as the Commissioner of the Delhi Police.

The appointment of Asthana to the post came just days before his superannuation on July 31. He will have a tenure of one year.

According to a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) order issued on July 27, Asthana currently serving as Director

General of the Border Security Force (BSF), will join as the Delhi Police Commissioner with immediate effect.

Earlier on June 30, Balaji Shrivastava, 1988 batch IPS officer, was appointed as the acting Delhi Police Commissioner after then incumbent SN Shrivastava retired.

Asthana has served as the Special Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). During his stint in the CBI, he was engaged in an unsavoury spat with then CBI Director Alok Verma.



BSY's Man Friday is K'taka new CM

Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat, to take oath as CM today

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Basavaraj S Bommai, 61, the State Home Minister, a "Lingayat" by caste and a close confidante of BS Yediyurappa was on Tuesday declared the new Chief Minister of Karnataka after BJP legislature party met at the State capital.

Bommai is expected to take oath of Chief Ministership on Wednesday.

The name of Bommai, the son of former State Chief Minister SR Bommai (a Janata parivar leader) who had joined the BJP in 2008, was proposed by Yediyurappa, the "Lingayat" strongman and former Chief Minister.

The new Chief Minister is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri district.

"It is a big responsibility in the given situation. I will strive to work for the welfare of the poor. It will be pro-people and

pro-poor people governance," said the Karnataka CM-elect soon after he was elected to the post.

The outgoing Chief Minister, Yediyurappa, said, "We have unanimously elected Bommai as CM...we are very happy."

The MLAs' meeting at Bengaluru's Hotel Capitol that elected Bommai was attended by the Central observers — Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, G Kishan Reddy and general secretary and State-in-charge Arun Singh. Pradhan announced the name of Bommai as a successor to Yediyurappa amid loud cheers and clapping.

By picking-up Bommai, a Sadara "Lingayat", the BJP seemed to have satisfied the caste dynamics of Karnataka, pre-empted influential community's wrath, and agreed to Yediyurappa's choice of the CM candidate.

Yediyurappa himself belongs to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community which is seen to be the BJP's core support base in Karnataka.



Newly elected Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with outgoing State Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa during BJP Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday PTI

Antibody weakens 2-3 months after both doses: Lancet study

Results based on immunisation with Pfizer and AstraZeneca jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indicating that a booster dose is going to be the next in-thing after two mandatory jabs against Covid-19, a study published in *The Lancet* journal has found that the total antibody levels start to weaken just six weeks after both doses of immunisation with Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines. The antibody levels may also be reduced by more than 50 per cent over 10 weeks or 2-3 months, said researchers from University College London (UCL) in the UK.

They said if the antibody levels carry on dropping at this rate, there are concerns that the protective effects of the vaccines may also begin to wear off, particularly against new variants. But how soon that might happen cannot be predicted yet, they added.

The UCL Virus Watch study also found that antibody levels are substantially higher following two doses of the Pfizer vaccine compared to two shots of the AstraZeneca jab, known as Covishield in India. Antibody levels were also much higher in vaccinated people than in those with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, they said.

"The levels of antibody following both doses of either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccines were initially very high, which is likely to be an important part of why they are so protective against severe Covid-19," said Madhumita Shrotri from UCL.

Institute of Health Informatics in a statement.

"However, we found these levels dropped substantially over the course of two to three months," Madhumita Shrotri added. Based on data

from more than 600 people aged 18 and above, the findings of the study were consistent across all groups of people, regardless of age, chronic illnesses or sex, researchers said.



A medic inoculates a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a beneficiary in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Govt asks for data on O2 shortage deaths from States/UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after denying any death due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of Covid-19, the Government has written to States/Union Territories seeking such data, according to Government sources. This data is likely to be presented in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, they added.

Detailed report on P5

Covid immunisation of 12-18 yrs group from Aug: Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is expected to begin vaccinating children against Covid-19 by next month, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present at the meeting.

The Union Government had expressed confidence that it would be soon able to vac-

inate children between 12 and 18 years of age.

Mandaviya said India is on course to become the largest vaccine producing country as more companies will get production licences.

Zyudus Cadila, which is developing DNA vaccines, has concluded its trials for the 12-18 age group, and subject to statutory provisions, the vaccine may be available in the near future, the Centre had said.

CAPSULE

HEALTH OF KALYAN SINGH CRITICAL

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh is on life support as his condition is critical, according to a medical bulletin by the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Tuesday.

IMD: 381 MM RAINFALL IN DELHI HIGHEST FOR JULY

New Delhi: Monsoon may have arrived late in Delhi, but it is inundating the Capital now. The city has recorded 381 mm rainfall so far this month, the highest for July since 2003 and the second-highest ever.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	52,578.76 (-273.51)
NIFTY	15,746.45 (-78.00)
GOLD	47,503.00 (+42.00)
SILVER	67,070.00 (-51.00)
WEATHER	
MAX 26.0°C	
MIN 24.0°C	
Partly Cloudy Sky	
POWERED BY UNIGATE GENERAL MEDIA (P) LTD	
https://pioneeredge.in	

Hockey, boxing bring some cheer to India

PTI ■ TOKYO

There was resilience on display in hockey, a tactical mind sparked in the boxing ring but the free fall in shooting remained perplexing and worrying as India's Olympic campaign oscillated between some celebration and a lot of dejection on day 4 of the competitions here on Tuesday.

At the Asaka shooting range, the Indians largely misfired and with that the hopes of medals in the 10m air pistol and 10m air rifle mixed team events went up in smoke.

The performance so far has resurrected the ghosts of 2016 Rio Games when similar hype and expectations had ended in a deflating medal-less campaign.



India's Rupinder Pal Singh celebrates after scoring against Spain during a men's field hockey match at the 2020 Summer Olympics on Tuesday AP

But perhaps the shooters can take a leaf out of the men's hockey team's book and find a way out of their current misery.

Hammered 1-7 by Australia, the Manpreet Singh-led side claimed a 3-0 triumph over Spain to inch closer to a quarterfinal berth.

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS: DAY 4 MEDAL TALLY					
RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Japan	10	3	5	18
2	USA	9	7	8	24
3	China	9	5	7	21
4	ROC	7	7	4	18
5	Great Britain	4	5	3	12
6	Korea	3	2	5	10
7	Australia	3	1	5	9
8	Canada	2	3	3	8
9	France	2	2	3	7
10	Kosovo	2	0	0	2
39	India	0	1	0	1

Himachal to enhance allowance for employees, says Thakur

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Tuesday announced enhancement of tribal allowance from Rs 450 to Rs 650 and winter allowance from Rs 300 to Rs 500 for the employees serving in the tribal areas of the state.

The Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones of 19 developmental projects worth about Rs 146 crore for people of Spiti valley in Lahaul-Spiti district, virtually from

Shimla as he could not visit Kaza personally due to inclement weather. He also announced the opening of Health Sub Centre at Kemo, opening of Fire Sub Station at Kaza, upgradation of Community Health Centre Kaza to Civil Hospital. While addressing the people virtually from Shimla, Thakur said that all the developmental projects foundation stones of which were laid by him today would be completed within the stipulated time period, so that people of this tribal district could be benefitted

from these projects.

He said that the State Government is committed to the development of tribal areas of the state and is also ensuring that adequate funds are made available for developmental projects in these areas. The State Government would evolve a mechanism for engaging local labour in tribal areas so that pace of development does not hamper. The matter regarding 'Nautor' right to tribal people would also be considered sympathetically, he said.

Exemption for getting environment clearance to continue in Haryana's eight districts

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said that the exemption which was given by the Union Environment Ministry

to industrial units running in areas of as many as eight districts coming under national capital region, for getting environment clearance will continue. The exemption will be applicable to industrial units

where there is no access to pipe supply of CNG, PNG, and LPG, said the Chief Minister after meeting with the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
Tender Notice						
Tender Notice for allotment of advertisement rights for commercial publicity work through one 360 degree LED rotating screen of cylindrical shape at Hardoi, Roorkee, Shahjahanpur, Amroha, Chandausi, Hapur, Najibabad, Rampur and Yog Nagari Rishikesh railway stations of Moradabad Division for a period of five years. Two packet open tenders are invited through E-Tendering :-						
SN	Station/Zone	Dimensions of cylindrical display unit	Assessed Earnings/ Estimated Value (Rs) excluding GST		Earnest Money Deposit (INR)	Cost of Tender form including GST (INR)
			For first year (INR)	For five years (INR)		
(a)1	Hardoi	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)2	Roorkee	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)3	Shahjahanpur	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)4	Amroha	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)5	Chandausi	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)6	Hapur	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)7	Najibabad	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)8	Rampur	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(a)9	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	Height-5ft Diameter-6ft	3,42,769.36	18,20,105.30	36,500.00	2,360.00
(b)	Last Date & time of submission			Upto 14.00 hrs on 19.08.2021, which will open on same day		
(c)	Address of the office & date from which tender documents can be purchased			Tender form along with all the required documents can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in (E-tendering)		
No. 3/Pub/MB Div/2021 Date: 26.07.2021						
Serving Customers With A Smile						
1694/2021						

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान,
 शिमला बर्हिपथ रोड, पिथुवाला –देहरादून,
 Phone No/ Fax: 0135 2640888 Mail ID: ecph-jws-uk@nic.in

पत्रांक: 370/निविदा सूचना /2021--22 **दिनांक : 27/07/2021**

: निविदा सूचना :

मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से देहरादून जनपद में उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की शाखा पिथुवाला की इकाई बंगालीकोटी के अन्तर्गत कैश काउण्टर मय बरामदा निर्माण तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य हेतु सीलबन्ध निविदाये आमन्त्रित की जाती है जो कि दिनांक 28.07.2021 से 10.08.2021 तक अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक कार्य दिवसों में उल्लेखित दरो पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। यह निविदाये दिनांक 16.08.2021 यदि वर्णित तिथि को अवकाश हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस के सांय 3:00 बजे तक पंजीकृत डाक के माध्यम से स्वीकार की जायेगी तथा उसी दिन सांय 3:30 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं या उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी।

क्र. सं	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर धनराशि (₹)	निविदा प्रश्न का मूल्य (₹)	जीएसटी (18%)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ठेकेदार की न्यूनतम श्रेणी
1	उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की शाखा पिथुवाला की इकाई बंगालीकोटी के अन्तर्गत कैश काउण्टर मय बरामदा निर्माण तत्सम्बन्धी कार्य।	9700.00	500.00	90.00	45 दिन	डी श्रेणी या उच्चतर

शर्तें

- निविदा प्रश्न के साथ घरोहर राशि की धनराशि सीसीआर/एफडीआर जो कि अधिशासी अभियन्ता पिथुवाला के पक्ष में बंधक होगी, सिलान करना अनिवार्य है। बिना घरोहर राशि के निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि को किसी कारण अवकाश घोषित होने की दशा में निविदाये अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी।
- अस्पष्ट व अशुद्ध निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा तथा सर्वात निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा एवं अवोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताये एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं को रिपस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
- वर्णित कार्य हेतु ठेकेदार/फर्म का पंजीकरण शाखान्तर्गत/विभाग में होना अनिवार्य है।
- निविदा लिफाफे पर कार्य का नाम लिखना अनिवार्य है।
- निविदा के साथ शपथ पत्र हेतु ₹100.00 का नॉन ज्यूडिशियल स्टाम्प पेपर पर ₹1.00 के रसीद टिकट पर हस्ताक्षर एवं मोहर सहित संलग्न करें।
- निविदादाताओं द्वारा यदि कार्य मंद हेतु अत्यधिक न्यूनतम दरे की जाती है, तो उन्हें दृष्टिगत रखते हुए समिति की संसुति के अन्तर्गत पर 10 प्रतिशत जमानत धनराशि के अतिरिक्त निम्नानुसार अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार को अनुबन्ध करते समय जमा करनी होगी। जो कि 05 प्रतिशत से 15 प्रतिशत तक कम होने पर अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि 10 प्रतिशत व 15 प्रतिशत से अधिक कम होने पर 15 प्रतिशत तक जमा करवानी आवश्यक होगी। यदि सम्बन्धित ठेकेदार द्वारा निर्धारित समयावर्तगत अनुबन्ध नहीं किया जाता है, तो 02 प्रतिशत अग्रिम घरोहर धनराशि जप्त की जायेगी। दरे गुणवत्ता सहित मानक के अनुरूप कार्य नहीं किया गया तो समस्त जमानत धनराशि (10 प्रतिशत, अतिरिक्त जमानत धनराशि) जप्त करते हुए उन्हें काटी सूची में डाल दिया जायेगा।

नोट : विस्तृत नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रश्न में अंकित है।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता

जल संस्थान-जीवन संचयन

IDFC First Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792

Registered Office:- KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.

Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice	Property Address
1	16156477	Loan Against Property	1.Mr. Mukesh Sharma 2.Mr. Devender Sharma 3.Mrs. Naina Sharma 4.Mr. Satish Chand Sharma	06-07-2021	4135638.19/-	All the piece and parcel of the property consisting of Prop. Bearing Municipal No.- 37/8, Shivaji Marg (Kanwali Road), area 1147 Sq. Ft i.e. 106.55 M2. District-Dehradun - 248001 North Property of Seller, measuring 39 Ft. South 20'-0" Wide Pass, measuring 33 Ft. East Prop. of Norny, measuring 30 Ft. West Prop. of Sh. Subhash Sehgal, measuring 33 Ft. 9 Inches

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

Date : 28.07.2021
Place : UTTARANCHAL

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

MKRPL management seeks renaming of Darshan Lal Chowk

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The board of trustees of Mahatma Khushi Ram Public Library (MKRPL) has appealed Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' to rename Darshan Lal Chowk as Mahatma Khushi Ram Chowk or Shatabdi Pustakalay Chowk to mark 100 years of the library on October 4 this year. The MKRPL is the oldest public library of Uttarakhand and the board members have decided to celebrate the centennial year of the library discreetly considering the uncertainties due to Covid-19 pandemic this year. The board members recently revised the plan of celebrating the centennial year

from October 2 to October 4 due to Covid protocols. Dehradun mayor who will be the part of the celebrations also visited MKRPL which has over 45,000 books. During his visit, the management of the library requested the mayor to erect a Shatabdi Dwar to mark 100 years of the library. Moreover, they also appealed to him to provide funds to refurbish the multipurpose community hall and rename Darshan Lal Chowk as Mahatma Khushi Ram Chowk or Shatabdi Pustakalay Chowk. As informed by the president of the trust, VK Bansal, the mayor has assured the management to provide all the possible help to support the library.

Mega e-auction by Punjab National Bank on Aug 12

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Punjab National Bank will organise a mega e-auction across the country on August 12 of more than 5,000 properties, which include residential, commercial and industrial categories.

The bank's Dehradun west circle head Rajendra Kumar Bhatia informed that the interested buyers will be having a wide range of options for purchase of properties across the country. A number of buyers have shown interest in the process as the properties are put on auc-

tion at a very competitive price. The recent trend of the economy has revealed that post the second wave of Covid-19, more buyers are coming out to purchase properties. The properties being offered by the bank through e-auction are comparatively at lesser cost, in addition to this, no brokerage or commission is payable on the deal. He told that all such auctions shall be done on e-Bkay portal and will be simple and fully transparent. Interested buyers, after registration on portal https://ibapi.in and depositing the bid money, may participate in the process.

Haryana CM inaugurates Corporate Headquarters of Hyundai in Gurugram

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

I,Devendra Rana is legally brother of No 5460156K Rfn Hari Bahadur Rana permanently residing Vill- Kislud (Nayali) Khat Laukko , PO- Kerad, The- Tiuni, Distt- Dehradun , State- Uttarakhand , have changed my name from Devendar Rana to Devendra Rana vide affidavit dated 24/07/2021 before SDM Vikasnagar, Dehradun.

I, Gudgever Singh have changed my name from Gudgebeer Singh (Old Name) to Gudgever Singh New Name for all future purposes.

Gudgever Singh S/o Shri hukam Singh R/o Vill. Mldhar P.O Bangsir, Distt Tehri Garhwal (UK).

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₹28 lakh fine imposed for misbranding fruit juice

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The Haridwar additional district magistrate (Finance and Revenue) has imposed a total penalty of Rs 28 lakh on five persons and enterprises for misbranding of a fruit juice. According to officials, a sample of Tropicana litchi juice was collected during an inspection of Priasma HR Solution private limited at Jwalapur by the municipal corporation food safety officer in July 2013. The sample was sent for laboratory testing in Rudrapur where misbranding was found in the sample. The parties responsible did not appear for hearings in the ADM's court. Following this, the ADM Krishna Kumar Mishra imposed a fine of Rs one lakh on Priasma HR Solution account manager, Rs two lakh on C&F depot owner and license holder Ashok Kumar Sharma, Rs five lakh on Varun Beverages limited-Erdorkee and Rs 10 lakh each on Schreiber Dynamix Dairies Limited and PepsiCo Holding private limited. All have been directed to deposit the penalty amount within 30 days.

UPES concludes placement season successfully

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

UPES has concluded its annual placements for the academic year 2020-21 at 91 per cent.

About 2,100 under-graduate and post-graduate students from the university's School of Engineering, School of Computer Science, School of Business, School of Design and School of Law received over 2,800 offers from 500+ companies with many students receiving multiple job offers. Despite the pandemic, School of Engineering and School of Computer Science registered 100 per cent placements.

This is the fifth year in a row for the School of Computer Science to achieve 100 per cent placements. Overcoming the challenges thrown by the pandemic and lockdowns, over 2,600 internships were arranged for the students to get real-time industry experience and put their knowledge and skills to use. Students have been recruited by various industries, predomi-

Students have been recruited by various industries, predominantly by research and consulting firms, IT, education and edu-tech sectors

nantly by research and consulting firms, IT, education and edu-tech sectors.

About 53 per cent of the students at UPES have received job offers for core profiles and major roles like business analyst, cyber security analyst, IoT developer, quality analyst, UI/UX designers, cloud engineers, fire and safety auditor, technology analyst, risk and financial advisor, game programmers, operations and marketing head and domain-specific consultants.

Top recruiters include Indian and global corporations such as Amazon, Infosys, Cognizant, Dell, ZS Associates, Vedanta, Flipkart, Ericson, Wipro, Deloitte, EY, Maruti, Linkedln, Genpact, Accenture, Royal Enfield, VMware, Exxon Mobil and Halliburton.

Punjab CM appeals to Govt employees to call off strike to prevent inconvenience to public

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Assuring of all efforts to resolve their grievances in consultation with the concerned departments, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Tuesday appealed to the State Government's striking employees to call off their strike to prevent any further inconvenience to the general public.

Capt Amarinder, chairing a high-level meeting to review the demands of the striking employees, expressed concern over their continued agitation, which has severely impacted the functioning of various State Government departments.

The State Government had constituted a 'Committee of Officers' to look into the demands of the agitating employees, said an official spokesperson. The Committee had examined, in detail, the demands of various Employees Associations and had submitted its report. It found that certain demands raised by the employees were linked to the

decisions of the Government prior to 2006 and were in no way connected with the report of the sixth Punjab Pay Commission. As such, these demands shall be considered separately, based on the recommendations of the concerned Administrative Departments, it was decided.

The meeting further decided that certain demands linked with intra or inter departmental issues shall be addressed in consultation with the Departments of Personnel and Finance.

INLD chief OP Chautala renews third front bid; to hold talks with Nitish Kumar on August 1

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

After his party was written off in Haryana politics in 2019 State Assembly polls, former Chief Minister and Indian National Lok Dal patriarch Om Prakash Chautala has now embarked on a plan to craft a new political alternative i.e. third front that could challenge the Narendra Modi-led-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2024 general elections.

Faced with an onerous task to revive his beleaguered political outfit in Jatland Haryana, the INLD supremo is eyeing to join hands with opposition parties across the country to write a successful revival story of his political career.

The octogenarian will be meeting Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar on August 1 to discuss the possibility of launching a third front. Recently, he had met JD (U) general secretary KC Tyagi over the issue in Gurugram.

"I will meet leaders of all opposition parties across the country in the next two months in a bid to bring them together to form a strong third front to challenge the current dispensation. The formal announcement to launch the third front would be made on September 25, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal," said INLD chief OP Chautala during his first formal media interaction after being released from the prison earlier this month.

Chautala, who was serving a ten-year term in connection with a teachers' recruitment scam, formally released from Delhi's Tihar Jail on July 2.

The INLD veteran said, "I had talked to Bihar CM Nitish Kumar over phone and will meet him on August 1 at my residence. I will visit all states

to meet other opposition leaders." We also share cordial relationship with Mamata Banerjee, he said while hinting at meeting the West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief soon.

The talks of an alternate front revived last month when a collection of opposition parties known as the 'Rashtra Manch' met at the residence of Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Omar Abdullah from National Conference, Samajwadi Party's (SP) Ghanshyam Tiwari, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) president Jyanta Chaudhary, Sushil Gupta from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Binoy Viswam from the Communist Party of India (CPI), Nilotpal Basu from CPI(M) among other leaders.

On a question whether his arch-rival Congress party could be part of the third front, Chautala said that all like-minded parties who want to join us in national interest are welcome.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar had also recently said an opposition front cannot be formed without the Congress.

The senior Chautala is known for his oration and organisational skills, however it remains to be seen whether he could facilitate formation of a third front. With age not on his side, the INLD chief already has a major task at hand, i.e. resurrecting his political outfit in Haryana.

Pinning his hopes on the ongoing farmers' agitation to win over party sympathisers and garner support of the public, Chautala had recently begun his statewide tour and had also met protesting farmers at three border points of Delhi – Singhu, Tikri (along Haryana), and Ghazipur (along Uttar Pradesh) demanding a repeal of the three farm laws enacted by the Centre in September last year.

Amarinder extends full support to German envoy to boost investment in key sectors

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has extended the State Government's full support to German Ambassador to India Walter J Lindner, who evinced keen interest in investing in the key sectors of mobility, engineering, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and renewable energy in the State.

The envoy, who called on the Chief Minister late on Monday evening, discussed mutual strategies to explore new trade and investment opportunities in the State.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister underscored the major reforms undertaken by the State Government to boost ease of investment and business, including Invest Punjab as a one-stop shop for all regulatory clearances to set up business ventures in the State, apart from Punjab Anti-Red Tape Act 2021 and Punjab Right to Business Act 2020. Capt Amarinder also invited more German companies to come and experience the investor-friendly ecosystem in the State, which is already home to multiple German investments, including Metro Cash and Carry, Hella, CLAAS and Vibracorcs.

The State Principal Secretary (Investment Promotion) Alok Shekhar apprised the German envoy that Invest Punjab held an aftercare session in June-2021 for German companies operating in Punjab to ensure continued business success for them. The State Government is proactively involved with German investment agencies, such as Invest in Bavaria and the Indian Embassy at Berlin, especially for their Make in India Mittlestand (MIIM) initiative. Besides, Punjab Government delegations also attended the German India Business Forum, he pointed out. Invest Punjab CEO Rajat Aggarwal said that the German companies have made investments in the State across various sectors such as auto components, manufacturing and renewable energy.

Classes from VI to XII to resume from Aug 2

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

All schools will resume classes for students of classes VI to XII from August 2. Further, the monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha will be held between August 23 and 27. These and other decisions were taken in the meeting of the cabinet presided over by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami here on Tuesday.

Informing about the decisions taken in the meeting, cabinet minister and state government spokesman Subodh Uniyal said that Kausani in Bageshwar district will be upgraded from Gram Panchayat to Nagar Panchayat. A detailed project report will be prepared on the suitability of land for the proposed greenfield airport in Udham Singh Nagar district.

The DPR will be prepared with the special consultancy services of the Airports Authority of India. The cabinet also granted its approval to distribution of additional foodgrains to state food scheme beneficiaries for three months-May to July this year. It was also



decided that all students passing the preliminary exam of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will be provided Rs 50,000 each while 100 selected students who pass

the preliminary exam of the Uttarakhand PCS will also be provided Rs 50,000. Similarly, Rs 50,000 will be provided to those who pass the written exam of NDA and CDS before

their interview.

The principals appointed on contract in government medical colleges of Haridwar, Pithoragarh and Rudrapur have been granted financial

and administrative authority for salary, office expense and payment of allowances. The Cabinet also granted its approval to a four member committee under retired chief secretary IK Pande for redressal of issues related to pay disparities. Further, approval was also granted to Rs 197.85 crore financial relief package to help those affected by the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the Char Dham Yatra and tourism activities.

This will include Rs 10,000 each to 549 registered boat operators in Naini, Naukuchiat, Bhimtal, Sattal and Sadiatal in Nainital district. Further, 671 beneficiaries operating in Naini lake will get boat renewal fee relaxation for 2021-22 while cultural troupes will be provided Rs 2,000 per month for five months. Relaxation will also be granted on trekking and peak fees.

The cabinet also authorised the chief minister to grant Rs 51.24 crore for three months salaries of transport corporation employees on the direction of the Uttarakhand high court.

Ganesh Godiyal takes charge of U'khand Congress



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The newly appointed Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal assumed office with a massive show of strength in Dehradun on Tuesday. Godiyal accompanied by the former chief minister and head of the election campaign committee Harish Rawat received a tumultuous welcome at Dehradun airport, Jollygrant in the morning. The convoy of Godiyal was stopped at many places en route to Dehradun by the enthusiastic workers of the party. Before assuming the office Godiyal visited the martyrs' memorial where he offered his homage to the martyrs of the statehood movement. Later addressing a massive gathering of the party workers and leaders at the Rajiv Bhawan, the new PCC president said that he would seek cooperation of all senior leaders of the party while discharging his duties.

Expressing his gratitude to Congress President Sonia Gandhi and former president Rahul Gandhi for giving him the important responsibility, Godiyal said that the Congress party has a history of giving sacrifices for the cause of the nation. He exhorted the party workers to throw the BJP out of power in Uttarakhand. The in charge of Uttarakhand Congress Devendra Yadav said that the new team selected by the Congress leadership in Uttarakhand is a mixture of youth and experience. He said that the BJP government has failed miserably in

Uttarakhand.

Former CM and general secretary of All India Congress Committee (AICC) Harish Rawat asked the party workers to work unitedly to oust the BJP out of power in Uttarakhand. He said that the BJP government and the Modi's Gujarat model of governance was exposed in the second wave of pandemic of Covid 19 when lakhs of people died due to lack of treatment and oxygen. He added that the Covid-19 testing scam in Kumbh is a blot on the face of Uttarakhand. The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Pritam Singh reminded that in the run up to

the assembly elections of 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised that the loans of farmers would be waived off if a double engine government is formed in the state but the promise has remained unfulfilled till date.

The gathering was also addressed by former PCC president Kishore Upadhyaya, the four new working presidents Ranjit Rawat, Bhuwan Kapdi, Jeet Ram and Tilak Raj Behed, deputy leader of CLP Karan Mahra, deputy in charge of Uttarakhand Congress Dipika Pandey, Prakash Joshi, Kedarnath MLA Manoj Rawat and others.

Power corporation employees suspend strike

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The agitating employees of the three power corporations of Uttarakhand withdrew their strike after talks with the power minister Harak Singh Rawat on Tuesday. In the meeting the minister assured the leaders of Vidyut Adhikari-Karmchari Sanyukt Morcha that their issues would be solved within a month.

He said that all the genuine issues would be solved within 15 days at the level of department. After the meeting the Morcha suspended its agitation. Earlier in the day the government had banned the strike in the three power corporations for six months and warned to take punitive actions on those who would participate in the strike.

Under the banner of

Morcha more than 3500 employees belonging to ten associations of the three corporations engaged in production, transmission and distribution of power in the state had gone on an indefinite strike from Monday midnight. The employees want their 14 points demands to be accepted by the state government.

The Morcha wants that the old system of Assured Career Progression (ACP) should be restored and all the contractual workers of Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL) should be regularised. The old ACP model of assured promotion at the end of nine, five and five years of service was taken back when the seventh pay commission recommendations were implemented in the power corporations.

43 new Covid cases, two deaths reported in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The State Health department reported 43 new cases of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) and death of two patients from the disease in Uttarakhand on Tuesday. The department also reported 52 recoveries from the disease in the state on Tuesday.

The cumulative count of Covid-19 patients in the state is now at 3,41,874 while a total of 3,27,818 patients have recovered from the disease so far. In the state 7361 people have lost their lives to Covid-19 till date. The recovery percentage from the disease is now at 95.89 and the sample positivity rate on Tuesday was at 0.15 per cent in the State. The authorities col-

lected 27,8923 samples in different parts of the state on Tuesday.

One patient each was reported dead at Sushila Tiwari government hospital Haldwani and Military Hospital Pithoragarh on Tuesday.

The State health department reported 11 new patients of Covid 19 from Udham Singh Nagar, seven each from Dehradun and Rudrapur, five from Almora, three each from Pithoragarh and Nainital, two from Bageshwar and one each from Chamoli and Tehri on Tuesday. No new cases of the disease were reported from Champawat, Pauri and Uttarkashi districts on the day.

The State now has 659 active patients of the disease.

Dehradun district is at top of the table in the list of active cases with 263 patients while Pithoragarh is in the second position with 65 active cases. Haridwar has 62, Udham Singh Nagar 60, Chamoli 34, Rudrapur 29, Champawat 28, Uttarkashi 17, Almora 13, Pauri 12 and Bageshwar and Tehri 11 active cases each of the disease.

The state reported no new case of Mucormycosis (Black fungus) on Tuesday. A total of 551 patients of Black Fungus have been reported till date in the state and out of them 124 have died. In the ongoing vaccination drive 40,946 people were vaccinated in 612 sessions held on Tuesday in different parts of the State.

City bus operators to surrender their buses, blame RTO for losses

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Stating that their situation has been intolerable during the past few months, the Dehradun city bus operators have decided to surrender their buses to the regional transport office (RTO) on Monday. The bus operators have blamed the regional transport officers for allowing the three-wheeler public transport vehicles despite their consistent violation of laws which has brought the business of city buses down in the city.

They added that the Covid-19 pandemic has also hit them hard in the last two years



and the State Government has not provided them with any help or relaxations in taxes.

According to the president of Dehradun Mahanagar City Bus Seva Mahasangh, Vijay Vardhan Dandriyal, the numbers of electric rickshaws are constantly increasing which

are supposed to run in internal areas but they are running on all the main roads of the city without any restrictions. Similar violations are being done by others which has severely affected the operation of city buses. "Hardly 20 per cent of city buses are currently running in Dehradun. We cannot bear the expenses of the buses anymore therefore we have decided to surrender our buses in the RTO premises along with our permits. The transport department can keep our buses. We will demand that the authorities compensate us accordingly for our buses," asserted Dandriyal.

Ensure underage orphans not being exploited: DM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun District Magistrate R Rajesh Kumar has instructed officials to check on those children regularly who have lost both parents to the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure they are not being exploited by anyone.

During the district-level review meeting of Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana (MVY), Kumar stated it is the administration's responsibility to look after orphan children and ensure they are not being harassed or exploited under any circumstances. Also, the officials were directed to ensure there must be no harm to children's ancestral property.

He also directed district probation officer Meena Bisht to make alternative arrangements to provide such children safety, education and employment opportunities till they start receiving benefits under the scheme. Moreover, the DM asked Bisht to release a toll free

Officials have been directed to check on those children regularly who have lost both parents to the Covid-19 pandemic

number for the potential beneficiaries of MVY to contact the officials for any queries and help regarding the scheme in coordination with sub divisional magistrates (SDMs) and the child development department. Responding to this, the probation officer informed that potential beneficiaries can now call toll free number 181 or child helpline number 1098 for any queries regarding MVY. She appealed to all the potential beneficiaries to contact the administration to get all the benefits of the scheme.

No vehicles allowed in Mussoorie this weekend

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun district administration has restricted the entry of vehicles including two-wheelers in Mussoorie this weekend to prevent crowding as a precautionary measure against Covid-19.

As per the orders, only those tourists will be allowed who are registered on the Smart City portal besides those who will have a negative report of RT-PCR test done in

the last 72 hours and proof of hotel booking in Mussoorie.

Meanwhile considering the possible accidents due to heavy rain as State meteorological centre has forecast heavy to very heavy rain this week, the district magistrate R Rajesh Kumar has also prohibited tourists to get into the water bodies like rivers, ponds and lakes in the popular tourist spots like Sahasradhara and Robber's Cave besides Mussoorie on this weekend

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2nd wave still not over, 22 dists see rise in cases: Ministry



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Overall Covid-19 cases may have been showing a declining trend, but there are 22 districts— 7 from Kerala, 5 from Manipur, 3 in Meghalaya among others in the country where an increasing trend in cases has been reported in the last 4 weeks. It is a cause of concern, the Union Health Ministry said as it warned the public that the second Covid wave is still not over.

"There has been a consistent decline in the weekly average in the COVID cases... But if we compare the rate of decline in cases, from earlier to now, its decrease remains the area of concern. We're in talks with states in this regard," Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry, said at a press conference here.

He said, "There are still 62

districts in the country where over 100 cases are reported every day. These cases are found in a localised and limited set of areas of these districts."

The rate of decline of cases has however slowed down which is a matter of concern, cautioned the official.

Echoing similar views, Niti Aayog member Dr V K Paul pointed out that vaccination is not a full guarantee and one should not take Covid for granted. "No vaccine provides 100% guarantee against reinfection. All however reduce the risk of hospitalisation drastically," he said.

In this connection he cited resurgence of Covid cases worldwide, pointing out that "it is a matter of concern and the pandemic is not over yet."

"If we look from a global perspective, the pandemic is far from over. There's a noticeable increase in the number of

SC seeks Centre, Delhi Govt's view on inoculation, rehabilitation of beggars

New Delhi: Making it clear it will not take an "elitist view" that no beggars be allowed on the streets, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre and Delhi Government to respond to a plea seeking vaccination and rehabilitation of beggars and vagabonds in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apex court said begging is a "socio-political problem" and people are compelled to beg on the streets to eke out some elementary livelihood in the absence of education and employment.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah told the counsel appearing for the petitioner that it would not consider one part of the prayer which sought direction



to the authorities to restrain beggars, vagabonds and homeless persons from begging at public places or traffic junctions.

The bench said it would issue notices to the Centre and the Delhi Government seeking their responses on the prayer made in the petition

for rehabilitation, vaccination and providing food and shelters to beggars and vagabonds amid the pandemic.

"As the Supreme Court, we would not want to take an elitist view that no beggars should be there on the streets," the bench said. PTI

cases across the world, which remains the area of concern. We've to work on containing the spread of the virus with strictness," the official said.

At 29,689, India has reported less than 30,000 new Covid-

19 cases after 132 days, according to the government.

The number of active cases in the country also fell below 4,00,000 after 124 days, it said. Fresh cases pushed India's overall Covid-19 tally to 3,14,40,951,

while the death toll climbed to 4,21,382 with 415 daily fatalities, the health ministry said.

The active cases have declined to 3,98,100 and now comprise 1.27 per cent of the total infections.

Reports about India missing 50 cr end-July jab target ill-informed: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday termed as "ill-informed and misrepresenting" media reports that claimed that India will miss the end-July target of administering 50 crore Covid vaccine doses and asserted that over 51.60 crore vaccine doses will be supplied from January to July 31.

"These reports are ill-informed and have clearly misrepresented the facts," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement here.

The figures of 516 million vaccine doses might have been picked up from various sources which informed about the likely availability of the vaccine doses from January to July-end, it added.

"The facts are that a total of more than 516 million vaccine doses will indeed be supplied from January 2021 to 31st July, 2021," the ministry said.

It added that the vaccine doses are supplied to the states in accordance with the

Govt cites study, says Covishield gives 93% protection against virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday cited a study by the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) during the second Covid-19 wave to say that Covishield gives 93 per cent protection against Covid-19 and a 98 per cent mortality reduction.

Addressing a press conference, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul presented findings of the study which was conducted on 15

lakh doctors and frontline workers.

"Protection to the extent of 93 per cent was seen (in people who were administered the Covishield vaccine) and this was during the second wave which was driven by the Delta variant... also 98 per cent mortality reduction was seen," he said.

Reiterating the usefulness of vaccines in battling Covid-19, Paul said inoculation reduces infection but it is not a total guarantee.

advance allocation plan and they are informed about it in advance. The vaccines are supplied to the states in various schedules throughout the month.

"Therefore, availability of 516 million doses till end of a particular month does not mean that every dose supplied

till that month is going to be consumed/administered.

"There would be supplies in the pipeline, which should be available for the next few days till the next supplies of vaccine doses materialize in a particular state/district/sub-district to keep vaccination going on," the statement said.

Lok Sabha sees 10 adjournments over phone-tapping row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed 10 adjournments amid continuous protests by Opposition members over the Pegasus snooping row and farm laws.

After being adjourned nine times, the Lower House reassembled at 4.30 PM and Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the Chair, took up one matter of urgent public importance.

However, the Opposition members again trooped into the Well shouting slogans and carrying banners.

Meanwhile Congress MPs from Punjab Ravneet Singh Bittu and Gurjit Singh Aujala sat on a dharna inside the Lok Sabha chamber after the proceedings of the House were adjourned for the day. The dharna was still going on when the last report came in. This protest indicates the Opposition is expected to up their ante in coming days on Pegasus snooping row and



farm laws.

The members of Congress, CPI, CPI(M) and TMC were protesting over the Pegasus snooping row, while the BSP, SP and Shiromani Akali Dal were raising slogans against the Centre's three new farm laws. Earlier, Speaker Om Birla led the members in paying tributes to Anerood Jugnauth, former president of Mauritius, and Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda, the first president of Zambia. The opposition's protests started soon after the proceedings began at 11 AM.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said by disrupting the proceedings, the Opposition is not allowing the ministers to do their duty of replying to questions.

7 Opposition parties seek Kovind's intervention on farm laws, Pegasus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven Opposition parties have written to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking his intervention to direct the Government to discuss farmers' issues and Pegasus phone-tapping in Parliament.

The decision to knock the doors of Rashtrapati Bhavan took place after a meeting of the Opposition leaders held in the Parliament premises after the adjournment of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Though the Congress was also present in the meeting, the signatories of the letter are BSP, RLP, SAD, National Conference, CPI, CPI(M) and NCP. Later, the Opposition leaders joined senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge for a joint Press conference outside the Parliament.

Congress sources said that the grand old party did not become a signatory to the letter due to the presence of SAD however the both political parties will continue to fight for the right of farmers in the Parliament till justice met.

NCP leader Supriya Sule said the seven parties have written to the President seeking his intervention to instruct the government to discuss the farmers' issues and Pegasus snooping in the Parliament.



SAD leader Harsimrat Badal, who was a Minister in Modi government until she resigned to protest the controversial farm laws, said it is very unfortunate that farmers have died while protesting against the three farm laws but the Centre is not even ready to discuss their issues.

Addressing the Press conference, Kharge said, government is not interested in a meaningful discussion and debate.

"This Government does not believe in its accountability to the people of India through the Parliament. This Government has functioned in a manner, which has lowered the prestige of Indian Parliament and Indian democracy. What the opposition has demanded is fair, correct, within the ambit of rules and established Parliament practice and conventions. When collectively, the opposition gives a notice that matter has to be discussed,

Parliament is not convened only for the legislative agenda of the Government," Kharge said.

"We have no option, but to continue to agitate and we have come here all of us together, because what we say inside the house, does not reach the people, it is never telecast. Opposition is being blacked out inside the house, so through the media, we want to tell our people, we shall continue this fight. The government obdurate as it is, we will force them, as in a democratic set up it is done to come and debate, if the government has nothing to hide, let them start the debate today itself, the opposition is ready," said Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

DMK's Tiruchi Shiva, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, CPI leader Binoy Vishwanath, TMC leader Sukhendu Shekhar Roy, RJD's Manoj Jha and AAP leader Sanjay Singh attended the meet.

Pegasus row continues to halt RS proceedings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pegasus issue continued to rock the Rajya Sabha for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday. Sloganeering and displaying of banners by the agitated Opposition and some of them trooping into the well of the house were the order of the day. It witnessed repeated adjournments due to disruption.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu tried to restore order when the proceedings commenced at 11.00 am. However, the Opposition was in no mood to relent and shouted slogans. Naidu said it was "a sorry state of affairs" before

adjourning the house till 12.00 pm.

Similar scenes were seen when the house reassembled and despite Deputy Chairman Harivansh's appeal, the din continued.

He cautioned that some of the members in the well were not wearing masks and not following the Covid protocol.

Deputy leader of the house Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi also objected to the members not wearing masks and said they are posing a health risk to the Rajya Sabha secretariat officials.

He also objected to alleged derogatory slogans raised against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Govt seeks time till Jan 9 for framing CAA rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has sought an extension for the fifth time till January 9 for framing the rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which was passed by Parliament in 2019. The Ministry also said that due to outbreak of Covid-19 and flood situation, finalisation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam is delayed and the process of issuing rejection slips has been postponed.

Replying to the question from Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, the MoS Home Affairs

Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday that "the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been requested to grant further extension of time upto 09.01.2022 to frame the rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019."

This is the fifth extension sought by the government for framing of these rules. According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of Presidential assent or seek extension.

The MHA, to a query

from Abdul Khaleque (Congress) on the NRC, said nine Gazette notifications, the last being on July 31, 2019, had been published by the Office of the Registrar General and the Census Commissioner. "Several communications and instructions have been sent to the State Coordinator of National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam, for complying [with] the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to disposal of claims and objections, publication of lists of inclusions and exclusions in NRC, etc," said the Ministry.

Dholavira joins UNESCO World Heritage list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The UNESCO on Tuesday said Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis, in Gujarat, has been inscribed on its World Heritage List, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tweet that he was "absolutely delighted by this news".

"Dholavira: A Harappan City, in India, just inscribed on the @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List. Congratulations!" UNESCO tweeted. The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of the



dates back to the 13th century.

"Absolutely delighted by this news. Dholavira was an important urban centre and is one of our most important

linkages with our past. It is a must visit, especially for those interested in history, culture and archaeology," Modi tweeted.

"As CM of Gujarat, I had

the opportunity to work on aspects relating to heritage conservation and restoration in Dholavira. Our team also worked to create tourism-friendly infrastructure there," he further said.

Gujarat so far has three world heritage sites — Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.

This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from Fuzhou in China and is being held online. It started on July 16 and will end on July 31.

The 44th session combines current work, and issues left outstanding since last year, when the annual meeting was postponed due to

COVID-19.

"It gives immense pride to share with my fellow Indians that #Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given @UNESCO's World Heritage Inscription. Another feather in India's cap as we now enter the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions," Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a tweet.

"Today is a proud day for India, especially for the people of Gujarat," he said. "Since 2014, India has added 10 new World Heritage sites — one fourth of our total sites. This shows PM @arendramodi's steadfast commitment in promoting Indian culture, heritage and the Indian way of life," Reddy tweeted.

Hydro-meteorological disasters damaged 2L hectares of cropped area, says Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed Parliament that a little over 2 lakh hectare of the cropped area has been damaged so far this year due to hydro-meteorological calamities. The government also informed that it is aiming to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitised land records that will help to offer proactive and personalised services to farmers.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday informed that 66.55 lakh hectare cropped area was damaged in 2020-21. However, till July 27 this year, 2.024 lakh

hectare area has been damaged due to hydro-meteorological calamities/ hazards, he said.

The maximum damage was reported from Gujarat, followed by Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Goa in the said period. The minister said states undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disasters from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at their disposal.

"As a first step in this direction, the government has already initiated building federated farmers' database that would serve as the core of the envisaged Agristack," Tomar said in another written reply to the Lok Sabha.

No private sector companies are involved as far as the building of the Agristack is concerned. However, leading Technology/Agri-tech/startup companies were identified and invited to collaborate with the central government to develop proof of concepts (PoCs) based on small portions of data from the federated Farmers' database for certain identified areas (district/village), he added.

In a reply to another question, Tomar said that the Centre had approved nearly Rs 700 crore towards relief of farmers in flood-hit Maharashtra, even as Opposition members continued disrupting the lower chamber for the fifth straight day.

UP ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

SP-NCP to join hands

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a move aimed at defeating the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, Sharad Pawar led Nationalist Congress Party and Samajwadi Party have decided to join hands and contest the coming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Well placed sources in Samajwadi Party said that Sharad Pawar and Akhilesh Yadav had a long consultation over the issue in Delhi after which the two leaders decided to forge an alliance but the seat sharing was yet to be worked out.

The sources said Pawar was also said to be in talks with

other "like-minded" parties in a bid to put up a united front against the BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

While addressing party workers in Lucknow last week, Akhilesh Yadav had said that the BJP was an "anti-people" party which was running the government with "hatred" and that the assembly polls next year would be the "last opportunity" to save democracy.

"To achieve the target of securing 350 seats in UP, we will have to work day and night," Akhilesh had said and exhorted party workers to beware of BJP's tricks and propaganda.

Modi, Mins to visit UP every month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To showcase the claim of how double engine Governments in Delhi and Lucknow had changed the face of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers will now frequently visit the poll-bound UP every month to either inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of various development schemes, until the model code of conduct comes into force.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the state capital to lay the foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh State Institute for Forensic Sciences which will come up in 50-acre land in Piparsand village of Sarojini Nagar tehsil in Lucknow on August 1.

The institute will also have a seat of centre of excellence and pave the way for research in DNA testing in



the state.

"Like the model followed in Bihar and West Bengal elections, the Prime Minister, his ministerial colleagues and senior BJP functionaries will be visiting UP regularly ahead of the imposition of the model code of conduct to inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of development projects in the state," a senior BJP leader told this reporter on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister will be in Siddharthnagar to inaugurate nine new medical colleges, his second trip to the state this month after visiting Varanasi on July 15 for unveiling projects. The dates will be announced later. It will be highlighted that these medical colleges have been built under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and with the resources of the UP Government.

Battle of one-upmanship among two Nishad parties worries SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The battle of one-upmanship among two Nishad parties staking claim over the legacy of 'Bandit Queen' and former MP Phoolan Devi has worried the Samajwadi Party. The Nishad Party of UP and Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) of Bihar, both allies of the Bharatiya Janata Party, are vying with each other to establish themselves as the sole representative of the Nishad community in UP and claiming themselves as the sole representative of Phoolan Devi.

"It was the Samajwadi Party that took cudgels on behalf of the community in 1994 and not only ensured the release of Phoolan Devi but got her elected to Lok Sabha twice. Now new claimants have emerged to stake claim on her legacy. Both Nishad community-based parties would be exposed during the 2022 UP Assembly elections as people know who their real benefactor is," said a Samajwadi Party leader in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Nishad leader and Bihar Minister Mukesh Sahani has said that his outfit, VIP, will contest 165 Assembly seats in the 2022 UP elections.

Eying the votes of Nishad (Mallah) community that constitute seven per cent of UP's electorate, Sahani has decided to install Phoolan Devi's statues in 18 UP districts including Prayagraj, Firozabad, Ballia, Sant Kabir Nagar, Banda, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Auraiya, Lucknow, Unnao, Meerut, Mirzapur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Varanasi and Jaunpur.

BSP announces names of two candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a lead over other political parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party, on Tuesday, announced the names of two of its candidates for the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Ramesh Singh Yadav will be the BSP candidate from Bithoor assembly constituency in Kanpur and Kalmesh Ambekar from Bharthana (reserved) assembly seat Etawah in the 2022 election.

The name of Kalmesh Ambekar was announced by BSP's Etawah district president Shilu Dohra on Tuesday.

Kalmesh Ambekar is the wife of Bhimrao Ambekar, chief sector incharge of the BSP for Kanpur division.

In 2007, Kalmesh's husband Bhimrao Ambekar was elected as BSP MLA from Lakhna reserved seat, which has now been included in the Bharthana reserved seat, but he could not taste victory in the subsequent assembly elections.

The Bharthana reserved assembly constituency is presently held by Bharatiya Janata Party, from where Savitri Katheria is the ruling party's MLA. Shilu Dohra claimed that the BJP would contest the 2022 assembly elections with full force. He said preparations were being made to field a candidate of Yadav or Shakya caste from Shivpal Singh Yadav's Jaswantnagar constituency.

Naresh Goyal, Ajay Singh, Prashant Ruia, PSU chiefs in Pegasus list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pegasus snooping list seems unending. The latest list to come out figures many industrialists and their lobbyists. It includes the now defunct Jet Airways owner Naresh Goyal, Spice Jet promoter Ajay Singh, considered close to the top BJP leadership, Essar Group's Prashant Ruia, Aircel promoter Sivasankaran, and Rotomac Pens' Vikram Kothari and son Rahul Kothari, facing bank cases.

Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani Group's V. Balasubramanian and A.N. Sethuraman and Adani Group's lobbyists' names also figured in the list. As per the report published by The Wire portal, the top executives of PSUs like GAIL, LIC, Narmada Valley Fertilizer Corporation also figured in the Pegasus target list.

"Apart from Goyal, the most prominent names on the list are numbers used by SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh and the Essar Group's Prashant Ruia. The list also contains multi-

ple businessmen or officials of companies who have had run-ins with the law over the last few years, mostly due to investigations of loan fraud. This includes Vikram Kothari of Rotomac Pens (and his son Rahul), and C. Sivasankaran, former Aircel promoter and maverick entrepreneur," said the Wire report.

Former GAIL Chairman BC Tripathi, who later joined Essar Group, two numbers, "one for a former boss of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the other for a former executive director of the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertiliser Corporation also appears on the list," said the report.

Though the report named both Reliance Group lobbyists Balasubramanian and Sethuraman, it did not name the lobbyists of Adani Group who were targeted. Dravidian splinter group leaders were also caught on the Pegasus radar. "Naam Thamizhar Katchi's Seeman, May 17 movement's Thirumurugan Gandhi, Thanthai Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam's K.

Ramakrishnan and Dravidar Kazhagam treasurer Kumaresan feature in the list of potential targets of an NSO Group client.

Senior journalists move SC seeking independent probe

New Delhi: Veteran editors N Ram and Sashi Kumar on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking an independent probe by its sitting or retired judge into the reports of alleged snooping by Government agencies on eminent citizens, politicians and scribes by using Israeli spyware Pegasus. "The targeted surveillance using military-grade spyware is an unacceptable violation of the right to privacy which has been held to be a fundamental right under Articles 14 (equality before the law), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) by the Supreme Court, said the petitioners.

Assam-Mizoram border sealed; MHA calls meeting of DGPs, officials

New Delhi: Union Home Ministry has called a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and DGPs of Assam and Mizoram on Wednesday in the wake of violence along their shared border, where five Assam Police personnel were killed.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla will chair the meeting to discuss the sudden escalation of violence along the Assam-Mizoram border. The meeting of the Chief Secretaries and DGPs is expected to work on a peace formula so that there is no repeat of the violence along the border of the two states, a home ministry official said.

The central government is in regular touch with the Assam and Mizoram governments and trying to calm down the situation, the officials said, adding CRPF has been deployed in the violence-hit area. Five Assam Police personnel, along with a civilian, were killed and more than 50 others, including a Superintendent of Police, were injured when Mizoram Police opened fire on a team of Assam officials on Monday.

Assam's Barak Valley districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi share a 164 km long border with Mizoram's three districts of Aizawl, Kolabib and Mamit. The incidents came two days after Home Minister Amit Shah held talks with the chief ministers of eight northeastern states and underscored the need to resolve lingering border disputes. **PNS**

22,129 new Covid-19 cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala on Tuesday logged 22,129 new Covid-19 cases across the State while the pandemic claimed 156 lives during the last 24 hours. This took the death toll in the State till date to 16,326. The average Test Positivity Rate on Tuesday was 12.35 per cent.

The Legislative Assembly witnessed charges and counter charges between the Opposition UDF and the ruling LDF over the death toll released by the Government. Leader of the Opposition V D Satheeshan claimed that the Government has not included more than 7,000 persons who died of Covid-19 in its list while Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan retorted that the Government does not have anything to hide. "If you have any genuine grievances and evidences, furnish it to us and we will certainly examine the same," said the Chief Minister while replying to an adjournment motion moved by the Opposition.

Tuesday's announcement regarding the Covid-19 details came amidst the concern expressed by the Union Government that Kerala's ten districts had the highest TPR in the country.

Malappuram topped the list of districts with highest number of new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. While Malappuram registered 4,037 new patients, Thrissur came second with 2,623 patients. Kozhikode (2,397), Ernakulam (2,352) and Palakkadu (2,115) were the other districts with more than 2,000 patients.

On Tuesday, 1,79 lakhs samples were tested, according to the release issued by the Department of Health. "The number of new Covid-19 cases are likely to go up further in days to come as we are waiting for the impact of the lifting of lock down in connection with the Id festival," said a Government Physician who has been on Covid-19 treatment duty for the last one year.

He said there were discrepancies in the details submitted by the Department of Health, Kerala Government. "A comparative study between the details released by Tamil Nadu and Kerala reveal that the former is more transparent. **PNS**

Rajnath begins 3-day visit to Dushanbe to attend SCO meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the whole region and terrorism and ways to curb its funding will figure prominently during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's three-day participation in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) conclave starting Wednesday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The annual conference of the Defence Ministers of the SCO countries will also see the Chinese and Pakistan Ministers taking part. While Rajnath had met his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in the SCO conclave last year in a bilateral meeting in Moscow, it was not yet confirmed about such a meeting this year.

Rajnath and Fenghe had discussed ways to ease tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in nearly two-hour long parleys on the sidelines of the SCO conclave in September last. Incidentally, it was the first high level meeting between leaders of India and China after stand-offs erupted on the LAC in eastern Ladakh in May last year.

Giving details of Rajnath's schedule in Dushanbe, the Defence Ministry said here on Tuesday, the Minister will address the SCO gathering on Wednesday.

Defence cooperation issues among the SCO member states will be discussed and a communique is expected to be



issued after the deliberations.

During his visit, Rajnath is also expected to meet his Tajikistan counterpart Colonel General Sherali Mirzo to discuss bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest.

Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting series of Ministerial and official-level meetings. A few days back it hosted the foreign Ministers' meet.

Addressing the SCO dialogue on Afghanistan there on July 14, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had proposed a three-point way forward to restore peace in the strife torn country. He also stressed that the solution has to be Afghan led.

Jaishankar also cautioned that the international community is against the "seizure of power by violence and force" and will not "legitimise such actions". This was in an apparent reference to the Taliban surging in many districts in Afghanistan.

As regards Rajnath's address on Wednesday, sources said he is expected to delve into regional security challenges, including terrorism, and the ways to deal with them.

IN SHORT

PVT SECTOR HELP NEEDED FOR MONUMENTS' CARE

New Delhi: The department-related parliamentary standing committee, "Development and Conservation of Museums and Archaeological Sites - Challenges and Opportunities", chaired by BJP leader T G Venkatesh, has recommended that the Culture Ministry seek the participation of the private sector for the investment needed to maintain international standards in the development of museums and conservation of monuments.

DIRECTIONS FOR UNIFORM HEALTHCARE STANDARDS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking directions for a uniform standard of healthcare for citizens in line with the Constitution by adopting the provisions of the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010.

'FALL IN MAOIST-LINKED VIOLENCE IN 3 YRS'

New Delhi: There has been a decrease in Maoist-linked violence activities in the country over the last three years, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed Parliament on Tuesday. While there were 833 incidents of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence in 2018, they came down to 670 in 2019 and further decreased to 665 last year. The corresponding official deaths in these incidents too came down from 240 (2018) to 202 (2019) and 183 in the last year.

SC ASKS HC TO DECIDE APPEALS OF CONVICT

New Delhi: Terming it a "hard case of unduly long incarceration", the Supreme Court has asked the Allahabad High Court to make an endeavour to dispose within four months the appeals filed by two life convicts, including one from Bangladesh, who have in custody for over 30 and 15 years.

PVT HOSP PROCURES OVER 1.27 CR JABS DIRECTLY

New Delhi: Under the "Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy", over 1.27 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines were directly procured by private hospitals in May, the Government informed Parliament on Tuesday. The strategy came into effect from May 1.

Centre seeks data on deaths due to oxygen shortage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after denying any death due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of Covid-19, the Government has written to States/Union Territories seeking such data, according to Government sources.

This data is likely to be presented in the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Parliament, they added.

"The Centre has written to States for data on deaths related to Oxygen shortage. The data is likely to be presented in Parliament before the Monsoon Session ends on August 13," sources told a news agency.

The Government has been drawing flak over the claim that no deaths due to lack of oxygen had been specifically reported by states and Union Territories during the second Covid-19

wave.

The Centre, while responding to a question by Congress MP KC Venugopal, had on July 20 told the Rajya Sabha that no deaths due to lack of oxygen had been specifically reported by States and Union Territories during the second Covid wave.

In the written reply, Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar stated that health is a State subject and accordingly all States, UTs report cases and deaths to the Union Health Ministry on a regular basis.

Hospitals across the country reported severe oxygen shortages for several days and private hospitals in the national capital approached the High Court demanding a steady supply. Several hospital administrations in different states have alleged that the shortage of oxygen resulted in the death of several patients.

ATS arrests three for running human trafficking racket

Lucknow: Sleuths of the Anti Terrorists Squad (ATS) claimed to have busted a gang involved in human trafficking racket involving Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in the country. They arrested three members of the gang on Tuesday and claimed that the group was involved in human trafficking, especially of women and children, to settle them in cities like Ghaziabad, Noida and Delhi through forged documents.

According to an official communiqué, the ATS sleuths were getting information for some time that an international gang was illegally bringing citizens of Bangladesh and Myanmar, especially women and children, to India to settle them in cities like Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi.

During investigation, it was found that the leader of this international human trafficking gang was Muhammad Noor alias Noorul Islam, who was illegally luring Rohingyas and Bangladeshi women into marriage, and men and children to work in factories, the release stated. After bringing them to India, they were settled on the basis of coded forms.

According to the information given by the police, these human traffickers exploited the victims, including women and children financially, physically and mentally. It also came to light that the human traffickers were earning a huge amount of money from this work. The ATS investigation revealed that Noor Muhammad was going to Delhi by train (Brahmaputra Mail) along with some Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals when the probing team boarded five persons, including two girls and interrogated them in Ghaziabad. Besides Islam, the other two arrested were identified as Rahmatullah and Safiurrehman alias Safiullah, all hailing from Myanmar. **PNS**

Maha rain-flood toll reaches 209

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The rain-flood toll in Maharashtra climbed further to 209 on Tuesday, even as 43 roads in various rain-flood ravaged areas of Maharashtra remained submerged in water and the number of people evacuated went up to 4,34,185.

Seventeen more bodies were recovered during the day, taking the total number of people killed in the rain-related mishaps to 209.

Raigad accounted for a maximum of 95 deaths, while there were 45 deaths in Satara district of western Maharashtra. The death tally in other places comprised: Ratnagiri-35, Thane-14, Kolhapur-7, Mumbai-4, Pune-3, Sindhudurg, Wardha and Akola-2 each. The authorities pegged the number of injuries at 50, while eight persons were still reported missing.

Though there was let up in the rains, as many as 19 -- 16 teams belonging to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and three belonging to the Indian Army -- continued with their rescue and operations in various parts of the coastal Konkan region and western Maharashtra. Till Tuesday evening, the rescue and



relief teams shifted as many 4,34,185 people in the flooded areas of the state to safer places.

As many as 1351 villages were affected by the rains and consequent floods. Satara bore the maximum brunt of the heavy rains, as many as 420 villages were affected. While 411 villages in Kolhapur district were affected, the authorities pegged the number of villages affected in Sangli district at 104.

Meanwhile, as many as 308 relief camps are functioning in various affected areas. Kolhapur accounted for maximum of 296 relief camps involving 40,688 evacuated people, followed by Sangli -- 43 camps (2,06,611 people), Satara -- 29 camps (2902 people), Ratnagiri -- 16 camps (695 people).

UP ex-CM Kalyan Singh critical: Yogi visits hospital

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh is in life support as his condition is critical, according to a medical bulletin by the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Tuesday.

The 89-year-old BJP veteran was admitted to the ICU of the hospital on the evening of July 4 due to an infection and reduced consciousness.

"Kalyan Singh's health status is still critical. He is on life saving support system. He has been on continuous dialysis. His clinical parameters are being closely monitored by the expert consultants," the bulletin said.

His condition is being closely monitored by senior doctors of the critical care medicine, cardiology, nephrology, neurology and endocrinology departments, a doctor said.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath visited the veteran leader on Tuesday and enquired about his health status. Earlier, Singh was undergoing treatment at the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences here. **PTI**



A worker cleans a huge idol of Lord Shiva during Shrawan month, in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI



FIRST COLUMN THE GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX

Companies will have to pay a minimum tax regardless of the jurisdiction they operate from



KINNARRY THAKKAR

It was a historic event when 130 nations representing over 90 per cent of global GDP agreed to a global minimum tax (GMT) of possibly 15 per cent on corporations for a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the globalisation and digitalisation of the economy. These countries are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which has been working towards preventing tax base erosion and profit shifting by companies that setup their businesses in low-tax jurisdictions to avoid payment of higher taxes. Nothing can prevent companies from engaging in such arrangements but the tax authorities became part of a global race to the bottom to compete which jurisdiction could lower their corporate tax rate most to check revenue leakage. The outcome was a double whammy: Companies still avoided taxes by locating in the jurisdictions that won this race and consequently, the tax authorities kept losing on their revenue collections. The digital companies felt the negative impact



strongly as their headquarters would be in a low-tax jurisdiction and consumers all over the world; they would thus pay tax only in the low-tax jurisdiction thus hurting the tax revenues of all other jurisdictions. To overcome this problem, several countries levied a digital services tax and collected a percentage of revenue from corporations on certain transactions. In India, an equalisation levy of six per cent for 'any specified service' provided by a non-resident in some cases and of two per cent on a non-resident e-commerce operator subject to certain criteria is presently applicable. Such measures are adopted in retaliation of the tech giants exploiting the tax treaties or doing 'treaty shopping' that puts a hole in the coffers of the State.

As a result, there is a strong consensus to make the companies pay a minimum amount of tax irrespective of the location in which their businesses are headquartered. This will deter the companies from designing a complex web of corporate layers for shifting their tax base to low-tax jurisdictions and avoid tax in the country of consumption. The solution to the problem of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) was enunciated by OECD that provided for a framework in a pillar-wise approach as mentioned below. Pillar one proposes the reallocation of taxing rights in the jurisdictions where customers and/or users are located. Pillar two presents a global anti-base erosion mechanism to stop the shifting of profits to low tax or no-tax jurisdiction facilitated by new technologies and ensure a minimum level of tax being paid by multinational enterprises. The proposed rules aim to annihilate the idea of shifting profits by leaving no added advantage for the corporations in doing so. This will also encourage positive competition among companies by creating a level playing field that is otherwise distorted by the ability of only a few big international corporations to setup businesses in tax havens. The G-20 and the EU have supported this framework, but countries like Barbados, Estonia, Ireland, Hungary, among others, which are tax havens or low tax jurisdictions, have not signed up to the deal for various reasons. The proposed rules shall override the present digital services tax. Also, laws such as the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) of the US to discourage profit shifting shall have to be aligned with the proposed Inclusive framework. The proposed regulation is a giant step towards an efficient global system of taxation. Concerns of all stakeholders must be considered and addressed to formulate and implement an effective policy framework. The G-20 meeting this October will decide on the agreement and its implementation plan. The rules may take effect in 2023.

(The writer is Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, University of Mumbai, Mumbai. The views expressed are personal.)

Afghan conundrum and the road ahead

The responses can range from total to moderate military support or maybe a combination of various strategies but India won't certainly be indifferent



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

The Taliban taking over Kabul or establishing a parallel regime in Afghanistan will involve the issue of legitimacy via its recognition. Strongly related to this, the message from Russia to India is clear, "it's up to India to analyse the situation and go ahead according to the current realities". The new strategic alignment of Pakistan-China-Russia is already in a process that will have a destabilising effect on the countries of South and Central Asia. With these developments, India might then have to rethink beyond its traditional strategies.

In this context, the entire debate would shift upon India's decision for the Afghan forces and the strategic developments that might follow. India might decide to help the Afghan Air Force with the Strategic Partnership Agreement (2011) being the main guiding principle. The responses can range from total military support to a moderate one or maybe a combination of various strategies, but certainly, the Indian government will not be indifferent because security is at stake.

Irrespective of the decision that would be taken, certain challenges are coming up for the government. An increase in cross-border terrorism with new forms of hybrid warfare, a sharp increase in drugs and human trafficking, especially affecting Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, and an increase in the propaganda warfare by the adversary working in tandem with the existing and the emerging Violent Non-State Actors (VNSA). The fate of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan is also in jeopardy. All these challenges are interlinked. An India-centric approach is required to deal with them.

First, at the diplomatic level, even though Russia might look to stand with Pakistan, strategic overlaps with Russia can be used for the furtherance of India's interests. As we understand that geopolitics is neither black nor white, how well the current strategic agreements are used to extract leverages would depend upon the government apart from the developments that will follow. India should exercise its strategic leverage with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries to tighten its noose around Pakistan in the future. The role of OIC in the coming few days would be of immense importance to India. The policy of exposing and isolating Pakistan should continue at a regional and international level. There can be no better platform than FATF and UNGA.

There is also an opportunity for India to reinvigorate its strategic relations with Iran and find new commonalities to cooperate. Iran's initial euphoria of the US exit may soon end as it might find the Taliban committing atrocities on the Shia minority in Afghanistan. Many hardliner clerics in Tehran have still not forgotten the 1998 killings of Iranian diplomats.

The upcoming refugee problem in the wake of the establishment of an Islamic emirate is going to open up new challenges for



INDIA SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENCE SYSTEM THAT IS CAPABLE OF RETALIATING TO THE EMERGING HYBRID WARFARE TECHNIQUES THAT ARE REDRAWING THE BATTLE LINES. TURKEY AND CHINA ARE THE MAIN SUPPLIERS OF DRONES TO PAKISTAN. COLLABORATIVE THREATS EITHER IN A PROXY WAR OR A MILITARY CONFLICT CANNOT BE RULED OUT

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal)



Iran. The Taliban have already taken control of Islam Qala, a military post on its border with Afghanistan. Here, an opportunity for India is open. It is through an independent Iran policy that India can deepen its strategic stronghold. Another geopolitical twist, a positive one, can be a possibility if pursued. Given the geographical proximity of India to both Afghanistan and Iran, the dynamics of the situation are well understood. The US has to accept the region's geopolitical realities. History is full of examples of states having multiple allies who probably don't see eye to eye.

The role of the UN has to be called upon as sincere joint efforts are required. India should first approach the UNSC and in case of conflicting interests, the task of maintaining normalcy and peace should be discussed in the UNGA. Having an understanding that there would be a lack of unanimity in the UNSC to protect Afghanistan and its people, India cannot let the region be sucked into chaos and anarchy. For this, sooner or later, India has to take the lead for an "emergency special session" of the UNGA. This session can be called by India and its allies under Resolution 377A (V) that provides for a 'Uniting for Peace'. India must remind the international community of its primary duty to maintain peace and security and should request recommendations to act collectively to restore the peace of the region under a unified command. The UN has provisions in case the UNSC fails to "discharge its responsibilities".

All the international legal issues

such as re-arming and unlawful diplomatic recognition to the Taliban, suppression of the human rights of women, children, and religious minorities, and diversion of fundamentalists should be discussed in the UNGA to expose countries like Pakistan. This will also set the tone for India's leadership and the expansion of the UNSC. Additionally, to secure the lives and dignity of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan, the government may think of evacuating them at the earliest before a full-fledged war breaks out.

Second, at a tactical level, hybrid warfare against India will deepen and broaden. New weapons and tactics utilised by the proxy militia will call for measures that favour coercive policies. The use of drones and rockets by terror groups to avoid casualties in physical attacks has already been initiated. To counter such an emerging threat, India can expand the horizons of its 'offensive defence'. It may incorporate the policy of 'deterrence by denial' through disallowing the terrorists to assemble and execute attacks against India. Of course, it has its own risk of substantial escalation when states are using VNSA. The evolving strategic communication and the military-civil interface through the media to let the world know about India's political will, intentions and interests will surely play an important role.

India should strengthen its defence system that is capable of retaliating to the emerging hybrid warfare techniques that are redrawing the battle lines. Turkey and China are the main suppliers of drones to Pakistan. Collaborative

threats either in a proxy war or a military conflict cannot be ruled out. Here, a two-way approach may be adopted. Apart from strategic purchases of anti-drone platforms from the allies such as the US, Israel, France, and Germany, long-term collaboration may be pushed forward to counter the asymmetric warfare. AI is another thrust area. For instance, the US alone has around 140 projects based on AI, the knowledge of which is available in the public domain. This can be of immense help to the Indian forces. Simultaneously, indigenous R&D in defence manufacturing especially in AI technologies should be boosted for surveillance and tactical capabilities.

There are various new areas of AI that India has not yet explored. These include bio-inspired surveillance systems, AI face recognition cameras in sensitive areas, tools using AI algorithms to counter cyber-attacks, and overlook security issues such as indoctrination, sale of narcotics, and small arms through the darknet. All these measures will help the forces and will ensure efficiency in the changing times. However, the focus on AI and other technologies should not distract the government from developing new warfare platforms such as anti-submarine warfare capabilities and short-range tactical weapons to defeat the conventional threats for there are possibilities for simultaneous provocations on the border. Given the current scenario and the shifting sands, India has to strive for itself and there is no one better than India to think about the national interests.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

DURING FESTIVALS AND GAIETY, DO REMEMBER THAT CORONA IS NOT YET GONE FROM AMIDST US. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGET CORONA-RELATED PROTOCOLS.

— PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI



HAD YOU UNDERSTOOD THE COUNTRY'S 'MANN KI BAAH', SUCH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE STATE OF VACCINATIONS. #WHEREAREVACCINES

— CONGRESS LEADER
RAHUL GANDHI

Yediyurappa out, but still crucial for BJP in Karnataka

If the BJP high command handles him well, BSY, being a mass leader, could still mobilise the Lingayat vote for the party

July 26 happened to be the second anniversary of Chief Minister Yediyurappa's rule in Karnataka. However, it turned out to be an occasion for an emotional farewell speech after he announced his resignation. Though BSY, as he is known in the State, resisted pressures, the high command had decided that it was time for a younger leader to take over.

Yediyurappa is now 78 and well over the party's prescribed age limit of 75 years to hold public office. He will not lead the party in the next assembly polls in 2023, as he would be over 80 by then. Karnataka is the southern gateway for the BJP. It has become the third pillar along with Congress and JD



KALYANI SHANKAR

(The writer is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.)

(Secular) and Yediyurappa had a big role in that.

Unfortunately, though he came to power four times, he has not completed a single term. BSY quit reluctantly as the high command had worked out his exit plans with minimum damage to the party.

Incidentally, the RSS, too, wanted a younger leader to take over. Karnataka has produced many important RSS leaders - from RSS chief, the late K. S. Sudarshan, HV Seshadri to present-day leaders like Dattareya Hosbole, B.L. Santosh, and C.R. Mukund.

Yediyurappa has been an asset as well as a liability to the party. BSY was a shrewd manipulator who knew how to snatch power from the



opponents, be it the Janata Dal coalition or Congress. He was adept at using age-old tricks of defection and lure of money. Even in the 2017 polls, the BJP did not get a simple majority. To keep BJP out, the Congress and the JD(S) formed a government with the JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy as Chief Minister. Yediyurappa pulled down this government in 2019 and became the chief

minister for the fourth time.

Why is Yediyurappa important for the BJP? First of all, there is no Lingayat leader to match him in the state, either in Congress or the JD(S). The BJP also did not develop the second rung of leadership.

Secondly, crucial caste politics favour him. Lingayats are the State's single-most significant community, (17 per cent). Of the 500 mutts in the state, most are headed by Lingayats, followed by Vokkaliga mutts. The community can tilt the balance in as many as 90-100 of the State's 224 assembly constituencies. The seers, who received support financially and otherwise from the chief minister, openly supported BSY.

The Lingayats traditionally supported the Congress but moved away in the seventies only to return briefly. But they withdrew their support after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi abruptly sacked popular Lingayat chief minister Veerendra Patil. In the 1994 assembly elections, the community voted against Congress. This was the time when BSY emerged as the face of the Lingayats. Barring 2013, the BJP always had more than 30 Lingayat MLAs in the House - 32 in 2004, 39 in 2008, and 38 in 2018.

Yediyurappa has risen from the RSS ranks and been a seven-term MLA between 1983 and 2013. He joined the RSS when he was barely 15 and cut his political teeth in the Jana Sangh. A mass leader

who installed the first BJP government in South India in 2008, BSY continues to have his own place in the State, despite the corruption charges, nepotism, and voices of dissent.

His meteoric rise in Karnataka was checked in the wake of a land scam that cost him the chief minister's job. He walked out of the BJP in 2012 to float his outfit, the Karnataka Janta Paksha (KJP), which dealt a severe blow to the BJP in the 2013 assembly elections.

The return of Yediyurappa consolidated the Lingayat vote base again in the 2014 general elections. While dealing with him, the BJP leadership had to keep this in mind. For the fourth time, he took over as the chief minister

in July 2019 after engineering defections of 18 MLAs from Congress and the Janata Dal (S). By then he had already crossed 76 years and like before, was facing corruption and nepotism charges from his party detractors.

With the chief minister drumming up support from the mighty Lingayat mutts, the BJP cannot ignore BSY because holding Karnataka is critical for the party before the 2023 Assembly polls or the 2024 General elections.

BSY's innings may be over but if the BJP high command handles him well, being a mass leader, he could still mobilize the Lingayat votes. His successor has a tough job ahead, taking everyone along in a state where factionalism always prevailed.

Biden: US combat mission in Iraq to end this year

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said on Monday that the U.S. combat mission in Iraq will conclude by the end of the year, an announcement that reflects the reality on the ground more than a major shift in U.S. policy.

Even before Biden took office, the main U.S. focus has been assisting Iraqi forces, not fighting on their behalf. And Biden did not say if he planned to reduce the number of troops in Iraq, now about 2,500.

The announcement comes on the heels of Biden's decision to withdraw fully from Afghanistan nearly 20 years after the U.S. launched that war in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Together, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have heavily taxed the U.S. military and kept it from devoting more attention to a rising China, which the Biden administration calls the biggest long-term security challenge.

For years, U.S. troops have played support roles in Iraq and

in neighboring Syria, which was the origin of the Islamic State group that swept across the border in 2014 and captured large swaths of Iraqi territory, prompting the U.S. to send troops back to Iraq that year.

Speaking to reporters during an Oval Office session with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Biden said his administration remained committed to a partnership with Iraq — a relationship that has been increasingly complicated by Iranian-backed Iraqi militia groups.

The militias want all U.S. troops out of Iraq immediately and have periodically attacked bases that house American troops.

Dan Caldwell, a senior adviser to Concerned Veterans for America, said U.S. troops will remain at risk.

"Regardless of whether their deployment is called a combat mission, U.S. troops will remain under regular attack as long as they remain in Iraq," Caldwell said in a statement.

"An American military

presence in Iraq is not necessary for our safety and only risks the loss of more American life."

Biden said the U.S. military will continue to assist Iraq in its fight against the Islamic State group, or ISIS. A joint U.S.-Iraq statement said the security relationship will be focused on training, advising and intelligence-sharing.

"Our shared fight against ISIS is critical for the stability of the region and our counterterrorism operation will continue, even as we shift to this new phase we're going to be talking about," Biden said.

The shift from a U.S. combat role to one focused on training and advising the Iraqi security forces was announced in April, when a joint U.S.-Iraqi statement said this transition allowed for the removal from Iraq of any remaining U.S. combat forces on a timetable to be determined later.

It did not specify what combat functions the U.S. was engaged in then, nor did Biden get into such specifics on Monday.

US Prez's first visit to intel agency to contrast with Trump's

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is making his first visit to an agency of the US intelligence community, looking to emphasise his confidence in national security leaders after his predecessor's incendiary battles against what he often derided as the "deep state".

Biden is scheduled Tuesday afternoon to visit the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees the 17 US intelligence organisations. The White House said in a statement that Biden intends to express "admiration for their work and underscore the importance for our national security of intelligence collection and analysis free from political interference".

President Donald Trump visited the Central Intelligence Agency on his first full day in office, praising the agencies but also airing personal grievances. Standing in front of CIA's memorial wall with stars marking each of the officers who

have died while serving, Trump settled scores with the media and repeated false claims about the size of his inauguration crowd.

The relationship between the intelligence community and the president "went downhill from that very day," said Glenn Gerstell, who then served as general counsel of the National Security Agency and stepped down last year.

Trump would go through four permanent or acting directors of national intelligence in four years and engaged in near-constant fights with the intelligence community.

In particular, he was angry about its assessment that Russia had interfered on his behalf in the 2016 presidential campaign and its role in revealing that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Biden, an action that ultimately led to Trump's first impeachment. Trump eventually fired the inspector general at the national intelligence office - the internal watchdog who brought that pressure to light.

Trump inaugural chair: I'm '100% innocent' in lobbying case

New York: The chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee pleaded not guilty on Monday and said he was "100 per cent innocent" of charges that he secretly lobbied the U.S. On behalf of the United Arab Emirates.

Tom Barrack, 74, wearing a black mask to protect against the coronavirus, appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court for the first time, days after he was freed on \$250 million bail following his arrest in California. His lawyer entered his plea for him.

"As you'd expect, the system is working. I think what you'll find is that ... over time, you'll all see that I'm 100per cent innocent," Barrack said as he left the courthouse.

Prosecutors say Barrack used his multidecade friendship with Trump to influence the Republican's policy, starting when Trump was a candidate in 2016 and continuing after he was sworn in as president.

AP

At first Jan 6 hearing, police to detail violence, injuries

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats are launching their investigation into the January 6 Capitol insurrection Tuesday with a focus on the law enforcement officers who were attacked and beaten as the rioters broke into the building — an effort to put a human face on the violence of the day.

The police officers who are scheduled to testify endured some of the worst of the brutality. They were punched, trampled, crushed and sprayed with chemical irritants. They were called racial slurs and threatened with their own weapons as the mob of then-President Donald Trump's supporters overwhelmed them, broke through windows and doors and interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's presidential win.

"We're going to tell this story from the beginning," said Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democrat who sits on the new House panel that is investigating the attack. "The moral center of

gravity is these officers who put their lives on the line for us."

Testifying will be Capitol Police officers Harry Dunn and Aquilino Gonnell and Metropolitan Police officers Michael Fanone and Daniel Hodges. In previous interviews, Dunn has said that attackers yelled racial slurs and fought him in what resembled hand to hand combat as he held them back. Gonnell, an Iraq veteran, detailed surgery on his foot and injuries from which he struggled to recover. Fanone has described being dragged down the Capitol steps by rioters who shocked him with a stun gun and beat him. Hodges was beaten and crushed between two doors, and his bloody face and anguished screams were caught on video.

The panel's first hearing comes as partisan tensions have only worsened since the insurrection, with many Republicans playing down, or outright denying, the violence that occurred and denouncing the Democratic-led investigation as politically motivated.

Winds feed California's largest fire as blazes scorch West

Indian Falls (US): It could be days before officials will be able to assess the damage done to a small town by California's largest wildfire, one of dozens of blazes scorching lands across the US West.

Over the weekend, the massive Dixie Fire roared through the remote Northern California community of Indian Falls. The blaze had already levelled at least 16 houses and

other structures, but a new damage estimate wasn't immediately available because flames were still raging in the mountain area on Monday.

"Fire behaviour has been so unpredictable, it hasn't been safe for inspectors to go in to work," said Mitch Matlow, a fire spokesman. "Until things settle down, we won't know the extent of what's burned." AP

With virus surge, US to keep travel restrictions for now

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States served notice on Monday that it will keep existing Covid-19 travel restrictions on international travel in place for now due to concerns about the surging infection rate because of the delta variant.

It was the latest sign that the White House is having to recalibrate its thinking around the coronavirus pandemic as the more infectious variant surges across the U.S. And a

substantial chunk of the population resists vaccination.

It was also a reversal from the sentiment President Joe Biden voiced earlier this month when he said his administration was "in the process" of considering how soon the U.S. Could lift the ban on European travel bound for the U.S. After the issue was raised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to the White House.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the restrictions would continue for now.

"Driven by the delta variant, cases are rising here at home, particularly among those who are unvaccinated, and appears likely to continue in the weeks ahead," she said.

The rising cases also are causing the administration to take a closer look at policies on wearing masks. On Monday, the Department of Veterans Affairs became the first first major federal agency to require its health care workers to get COVID-19 vaccines.

US pays \$4 bn to Afghan forces; Who is watching?

Islamabad: The US and NATO have promised to pay \$ 4 billion a year until 2024 to finance Afghanistan's military and security forces, which are struggling to contain an advancing Taliban. Already, the US has spent nearly \$ 89 billion over the past 20 years to build, equip and train Afghan forces.

Yet America's own Government watchdog says oversight of the money has been poor, hundreds of millions of dollars have been mis-spent and corruption is rife in the security apparatus.

Monitoring where the future funding goes will become virtually impossible after August 31, when the last coalition troops leave. Here is a look at some of the issues:

US SPENDING SINCE 2001
Nearly USD 83 billion has been spent to build, equip, train and sustain Afghanistan's National Defence and Security Forces, which include the military, national police and the elite special forces.

That figure covers a wide range of items. For example, the US spent nearly USD 10 billion for vehicles and aircraft. It spent USD 3.75 billion on fuel for the Afghan military between 2010-2020.

AP

16 injured, five missing in explosion at German chemical hub

Berlin: An explosion at an industrial park for chemical companies shook the German city of Leverkusen on Tuesday, sending a large black cloud rising into the air. At least 16 people were injured and five remain missing.

Germany's Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance classified the explosion as "an extreme threat" and asked residents to stay inside, turn off ventilation systems and keep windows and doors closed, German news agency DPA reported.

Later on Tuesday, however, the Cologne fire department tweeted that measurements of the air's pollution "do not show any kind of abnormality." They said the smoke had gone down but that they would continue to measure the air for toxins.

The city of Leverkusen said in a statement that the explosion at the Chempark site, about 20 kilometers (13 miles) north of Cologne on the Rhine river, occurred in storage tanks for solvents. It said four people were severely injured and 12 less seriously. Five people are missing.

Currenta, the company operating the chemical park, said the explosion happened at 9:40 a.m. at the storage tanks of their waste management center and then developed into a fire.

"Sirens were operated to warn residents and warning alerts were sent," Currenta said in the statement.

Police in nearby Cologne said a large number of officers, firefighters, helicopters and ambulances from across the region had been deployed to the scene. AP

Guilty verdict in first trial under Hong Kong security law

HONG KONG: The first person to be tried under Hong Kong's sweeping national security law was found guilty of secessionism and terrorism on Tuesday in a ruling closely watched for indications of how the law will be applied as China tightens its grip on the city long known for its freedoms.

Tong Ying-kit was charged with inciting secession and terrorism for driving his motorcycle into a group of police officers last year while carrying a flag bearing the banned protest slogan "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times." Rights groups condemned his conviction, and many are bracing for further such trials since more than 100 people have been arrested under the legislation — part of Beijing's increasing crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong following months of anti-government protests in 2019.

Tong, a 24-year-old restaurant worker, pleaded not guilty to the charges, arguing the slogan itself does not call for secession. He now faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, but his lawyers are expected to argue for a lighter punishment at his sentencing hearing Thursday.

The new national security legislation not only resulted in the charges against Tong, but it also spelled out how the trial would be conducted. The

proceedings, which ended July 20, were held in the Hong Kong High Court with no jury, under rules allowing the exception from Hong Kong's common law system if state secrets need to be protected, foreign forces are involved or if the personal safety of jurors needs to be protected. Trials are presided over by judges handpicked by Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam.

Reading the verdict, Justice Esther Toh said Tong "committed terrorist activities causing or intended to cause grave harm to the society" in pursuit of a political agenda.

His behavior was an act of violence aimed at coercing the central and Hong Kong governments and intimidating the public and carrying the flag constituted an act of incitement to secession, she said.

Tong did not speak during the reading of the verdict. He waved to his parents and others in the gallery as he was escorted from the chamber.

Tong's defense lawyer has said it's impossible to prove that Tong was inciting secession merely by having used the slogan.

The defense also said there is no evidence that Tong committed the act deliberately, that he tried to avoid crashing into officers and that his actions couldn't be considered terrorism since there was no serious violence or harm to society. AP



इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

(ERSTWHILE ALLAHABAD BANK)

BRANCH : SAM LUDHIANA, 165-INDUSTRIAL AREA A, CHEEMA CHOWK LUDHIANA

WILFUL DEFAULTER

Ref.No: SAMB/WD-Not/SatiaSyn/2021-22/120

DATED: 07.07.2021

To,

1. M/s Satia Synthetics Ltd. Ist Address:- Vill Lubanianwali, Firozpur Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. IInd Address:- At Street No.6, Dharmpura, Samrala Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141008. IIInd Address:- At 613-615, Navrang House 21, K G Marh, New Delhi-110001. IVth Address:- At SCO No.90-92, Sector-8C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. 2. Sh. Anil Satia S/o Bal Raj Satia. Ist Address:- R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. IInd Address:- At House No.44, Sector-8 A, Chandigarh-160008. 3. Sh. Suresh Kumar Singla, House No. 52, Young Dwellers Society, Sector-49A, Chandigarh-160049 4. Sh. Sanjeev Sethi 10, Maqbool Road, Amritsar, Punjab-143001. 5. Sh. Birendra Singh Kushwah R/o House No. 94/2, Adesh Nagar, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. 6. Sh. Kulbir Singh Patwa House No. 712, Sector 85, Chandigarh-160008. Guarantor(s): 7. Sh. Ankit Satia S/o Anil Satia Ist Address:- R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. IInd Address:- At House No. 124, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008. 8. Smt. Saloni Satia W/o Anil Satia. Ist Address:- R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. IInd Address:- At House No. 44, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008. 9. Sh. Akhil Satia S/o Anil Satia, Ist Address:- R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. IInd Address:- At House No. 44, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008.

Dear Sir,

SUB: M/S Satia Synthetics with SAM Ludhiana Branch-Classifying as Wilful Defaulter show cause notice

This is per the direction of Wilful Defaulter Screening Committee (WDSC) issued Vide its Order/decision dated 13.05.2021 and in terms of the findings of the said Screening Committee wherein the Committee Observes as under:

That, the first of you is the borrower company in which second to sixth of you are the Directors and seventh to ninth of you are the guarantors has availed credit facility under Consortium Banking from our bank. The aforesaid borrower company i.e. M/s. Satia Synthetics Ltd. was sanctioned credit facility of Rs 13.00 Crore on 23.03.2017 on the terms and conditions stipulated in the sanction letter & in the documents executed by all of you in pursuance thereto through Our Kalsi Nagar Ludhiana Branch. The limit sanctioned to the company are secured by Hypothecation and Equitable mortgage of Assets as mentioned below:

NATURE OF SECURITY	NATURE OF CHARGE
All Current Assets of the Company (both Present as well as future) including Stocks and book debts)	Hypothecation 1st Charge with Other lenders
Fixed Assets of the Company (both Present as well as future) and EM of Property which is in the name of Company with total area 192.95 Kanal (or) 24.1188 acre at Village Lubanianwali, Firozpur Road, Muktsar, Punjab as per Various Deeds Mentioned: 1. Sale Deed No. 85 dt 07.04.1997. 2. Sale Deed No. 2357 dt 20.11.1996. 3. Sale Deed No. 2341 dt 18.11.1996.4. Sale Deed No. 2342 dt 19.11.1996. 5. Sale Deed No. 2484 dt 04.12.1996. 6. Sale Deed No. 3113 dt 31.01.1997. 7. Sale Deed No. 62 dt 04.04.1997.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders
EM of Kanal Plot Situated at Muktsar in the name of Sh. Anil Satia.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders
EM of 32 Kanals 8 Marlas (4.05 Acre) of land in the name of Smt. Saloni Satia Situated at Village Lubanian Wali.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders

The aforesaid borrower company was requested to pay interest and other charges and also the instalments of the principal in accordance with the terms of the sanction ticket and loan agreements executed by the borrowers guarantors. However, the borrower has failed for payment of dues and committed default in performing the conditions in the loan agreement, causing thereby classification of the account as NPA as per RBI guidelines.

The Status of the account is enumerated hereunder:

(Rs. In Crores)

S.No.	DATE OF NPA	DUES ON 26/05/2019
1.	31.03.2019	12.28+MOI

In view of the default committed by the borrower, the case was examined by the WDSC on 13.05.2021 with a view to ascertain Wilful default on the part of borrowers/ guarantors as per the guidelines laid down by the RBI. It was Observed by the screening committee that the guarantors had committed various Wilful irregularities/default as detailed borrowers hereunder and accordingly meets the criteria to be classified as wilful Defaulter in terms of the guidelines laid down by the RBI. The irregularities/default/evidences as extracted out by the screening committee and directed to be communicated to the borrowers guarantors calling for their submission as to why they should not be declared as wilful defaulter as per RBI guidelines are enumerated as under:

Cause of Action: Diversion of funds -2.1.3(b) read with 2. 2.1(a), 2. 2.1(c) and 2. 2.1(d)

Evidences/Events of Wilful Default:

1. During the FY 2016-17, the company was not able to generate sufficient cash flow fromn operating activities even to meet its interest obligations. During FY 2016-17 and FY 2017- 18 additional short term borrowing of Rs. 11.42 crores and Rs. 2.65 crores was availed. The borrower company has utilized the 2. above amounts towards payment of finance costs and investing in Long-Term Assets instead of utilization towards Working capital.

Variation in Stock & Book Debts statement submitted to Bank and Audited Balance Sheet

(Rs. In Crores)

CLASSIFICATION	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18			
	STOCK STATEMENT 28.03.2016	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2016	STOCK STATEMENT 31.03.2017	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2017	STOCK STATEMENT 31.03.2018	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2018
STOCKS	106.22	128.38	127.57	154.66	139.04	139.04
DEBTORS	42.00	40.80	42.06	42.70	41.73	44.87
CREDITORS	48.64	70.58	55.58	90.40	91.86	110.32
TOTAL DRAWING POWER	91.97	80.29	107.96	102.87	116.58	70.98
OUTSTANDING FROM BANK	91.14	91.14	102.57	102.57	105.22	105.22
OVER DRAWINGS		(10.85)				(34.24)

Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 28.03.2016 is Rs 41.75 Crores. Whereas in audited financials it is only Rs. 13.41 Crores. Drawing Power computed as per the financial statements is Rs. 80.29 crores only. Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 31.03.2017 is Rs. 41.70 crores whereas in audited Financials It is only Rs. 25.35 crores. 1 he borrower has shifted creditors of Rs. 1646 crores to "other Liabilities in March 2017 and thereby reducing the value of Creditors and has not declared the same for the purpose o Computation of drawing power. Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 31.03.2018 is Rs. 41.73 crores whereas in audited financials It is only Rs. 20.85 crores he borrower did not declare correct value of creditors in the monthly stock statement submitted to bank. Drawing Power Computed as per the financial statements is Rs 70.98 crores only. The Borrower Company was operating current account With Punjab National Bank bearing Current Account No. 1696002100000650 which is outside the consortium bank.

SUM OF DEBIT	SUM OF CREDIT				
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
0.01	2.78	13.10	0.01	2.78	13.10

* On perusal of Book of Accounts, it is observed that receivables from 8 parties constitute more than 80% of Total Receivables. The borrower has not provided supporting documents for sales invoices like Lorry Receipts and Transport Documents.

* Majority of the sales are made to related parties, proprietor and partnership firms for which proper supporting documents evidencing movement of goods were not enclosed with sales invoices. In case or related party 1.e, M/s. TC Terrytex Ltd. it is observed there are 2 way transactions i/e., considerable sales and purchases are made with the company. It is observed that in some instances supporting documents were deficient and not satisfactory.

*In case of Shakti I Trading Company Rs. 1.48 crores Is receivable since FY 2015-16 and the same is grouped under "Cotton Supplier Advances during FY 2015-16 but subsequently the same has been regrouped as Receivables" in FY 2017-18. The reason for giving such advance where no goods were received against the same remains unexplained

It is observed that the Waste percentage increased from 9% during FY 2015-16 to 17% during FY 2017-18.

In view of the above, in terms of Diversion of funds -2.1.3(b) read with 2.2.1(a), 2.2.1(c) and 2.2.1(O) of the RBI Master Circular No. No. RBI/ 2015-16/100 DBR. No. CID. BC. 22/20.16.003/2015-16 dated 01.07 2015, each of you are required by the WDSC to show cause as to why each of you should not be declared a wilful defaulter for the reported diversion / Siphoning of funds/reasons specified hereinabove.

Please ensure that your reply should reach us on or beFore 29.07.2021 tailing which the committee would be constrained to proceed further in the matter based on the evidence on record treating as if you have no reason/explanation to offer in rebuttal.

BRANCH MANAGER

FOR WILFUL DEFAULTER SCREENING COMMITTEE (WDSC)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that membership No 168 held by Mrs Sarita Khanna W/o Mr Ashok Kumar Khanna of Flat No A-203, Fakhri-ud-din Memorial CGHS Ltd, Plot No-16, Sect-10, Dwarka, New Delhi have reported loss/misplace of her share certificate. The society is in process of issuing duplicate certificate to her after completion of all formalities, still the public at large is herein informed that if there is any claimant against the above said share certificate, may approach to Society in their office within 15 days failing which the duplicate certificate will be issued to her. Amajeet-General Secretary FMCGH Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles. VEHICLES FOR SALE 1) ASHOK LEVLAND ECOMET 1212- REG. NO. HR74A1718-YOM -2012 2) CB. ALECOMET1214 REG. NO. UP25CT6923-YOM-2018 3) EICHR. VECVVE1075FB REG. NO. UP45T2205 YOM -2012 4) EICHR. VECVVE1059FB REG. NO. DL1MA2627 YOM -2019 5) TATAMOTORSTATA Xenon REG. NO. HR38Y6433 YOM -2018 6) EICHR. VECVVE1110CHTK REG. NO. HR69C2416 YOM -2018 7) TATAMOTORSTATALP709C REG. NO. DL1LAA7908 YOM -2017 8) SML SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LY0901-YOM- 2017 9) TATA 709 REG. NO. HR67C3436-YOM -2018 10) EICHER1075 REG. NO. DL1LAC2230-YOM -2019 11) TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAE4137-YOM -2020 12) TATAACE REG. NO. UP15ET8750-YOM -2020 13) TATA MOTOR ACE REG. NO. DL1LY3711-YOM -2017 14) SARTAJ_XM REG. NO. UP14GT9539-YOM -2018 15) VE1114FB- REG. NO. HR55AG3024-YOM -2019 16) ACE_ZIP_GD REG. NO. DL1LAB5528-YOM -2018 UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: RAJESH ANTIL / NITESH MATTHUR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO.9711173320 /7838225565



The importance of making a conscious learning effort to possess the right attitude, upskilling to tap industry demand and re-skilling further to stay relevant in the job is immense, says DIYA JAIN

The strain of COVID-19 has impacted our lifestyle in many ways — learning, working, and traveling have all been hindered. As the promise of a swift recovery wanes, most institutions across India are adopting an online mode of teaching. Most workplaces continue to employ phytical models of working, whereas some organisations have allowed their employees to work remotely. It would be an understatement to say that the pandemic has changed how academia and businesses operate!

Amidst all this doom and gloom, let's focus on the bright side. Technology is constantly evolving and automation is catching up in most of the industries across the globe. On one hand, the vaccination drive is gaining momentum, on the other, the infection positivity rate is going down drastically.

India still has one of the youngest populations in the world, putting it in a unique sweet spot wherein the working-age population is more than non-working age. Leveraging the demographic dividend and adoption of digital technologies has put us in a prime position to embark on a journey of rapid growth.

As more and more students join the workforce, the one question that threatens to derail us from our journey is "Are India's graduates employable?" "Do they have the relevant skills required by the industry?"

Traditionally, educational institutions have laid greater emphasis on the academic and theoretical development of students, leaving a long-

lasting effect in terms of a lack of development of employable skills including core technical skills, communication skills, and other workplace skills.

Graduate-level curriculum in India, in particular, does not emphasize on behavioural and soft skills. A graduate who has finished his/her course and may have secured an excellent academic rank might still lack oratory skills, knack for presentation, motivation, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

This has also been highlighted in the India Skills 2021 report published by Wheebox in association with CII. As per the report, only 45.9 per cent of graduates in India are found unemployable.

Having the right mix of hard and soft skills is important for a successful career. Today, employers value attributes such as integrity, reliability, teamwork, and a positive attitude as much as core technical skills in candidates. In most organisations, the responsibilities and KPIs defined for job roles, require an employee to work with different stakeholders across functions. While many of these skills are learned on the job, there are certain skills everyone should learn before starting their careers.

Investing in continuous learning and upskilling is essential for one to be productive, innovative, and marketable in today's recessionary job market.

The importance of making a conscious learning effort to possess the right attitude, upskilling to tap indus-

HAVING THE RIGHT MIX OF HARD AND SOFT SKILLS IS IMPORTANT FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAREER. TODAY, EMPLOYERS VALUE ATTRIBUTES LIKE INTEGRITY, RELIABILITY, TEAMWORK AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AS MUCH AS CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS IN CANDIDATES

try demand, and re-skilling further to stay relevant in the job is immense, given further the demand-supply mismatch. In India, the number of students applying for a job out-weighs the number of open positions by a factor of 10x.

Upskilling to differentiate yourself from your peers is as necessary for sustenance as securing basic education qualifications and degrees, if not more.

One may then wonder, how to evaluate one's own skills and know what is required by the recruiters. Are there some easy ways to do it?

One way to find one's level of employability skills is by taking the job fitment and aptitude tests available on the internet. Most of these good assessments give you a detailed report of your skill index and areas of improvement, if one selects the answers honestly. These self-assessments help the test taker in making an informed decision about the right career path she/he wants to pursue. A well-structured job-fitment test acts as a career guidance and provides insights to the test takers about their strengths and unique skill sets.

Another way is to study the job descriptions available on job portals. A well-defined job description lists the knowledge, skills, and attributes required to perform the job. Find the job description of the role one wants to take up, make a list of topics, skills, and attributes required and then analyse where one stands. This will help the students to focus on the skills and attributes they need to work on.

So, what do the students need to do to upskill and re-skill in order to stay ahead in the race?

First, try to find the area of interest and find out the niche in which one wants to make a career. Second, join several online industry-oriented certificate courses to learn the latest technologies and industry best practices. Thirdly, apply for internships in companies that are in the industry where you finally want to land up. Fourth, make a good LinkedIn profile, connect with industry practitioners, follow the best minds in the industry, watch out for what they are talking about, participate in online discussions, and write articles and post them. Fifth, subscribe to podcasts, vodcasts, newsletters, to stay updated about the industry and professions, and finally, find a good mentor who can guide you throughout your career.

Once you start working, make sure you don't lose out on learning. As you spend more time in the role, you start realising what skills, knowledge and attributes are required to grow in that path.

At that junction, make a list of additional skills you need to build yourself, and work on them consciously. Join training programs available in your company, and focus on gaining skills for particular job functions or roles. These programmes within the companies have well-defined learning outcomes to be achieved in a specified time period, and are designed to give the trainees a head start in their job profiles.

The writer is founder, Safejob

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.

— Dr David M Burns

DIPLOMA, UG & PG COURSES

Sanskriti University, Mathura invites online applications for admission to diploma, under graduate, and post graduate programmes in Engineering, Management & Commerce, Education, Special Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Designing, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism & Hotel Management, Medical & Allied Sciences, Basic & Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, and Nursing courses.

Eligibility: Applications are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (Class XII) from any recognised Board of Education such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE/CBSE, or equivalents. For Admission to diploma programmes, Students are required to have passed the Class X examination from any state or central board like CBSE/ICSE.

How to apply: Applicants seeking admission are required to fill an online application form available on www.sanskriti.edu.in. The submission of the Application Form can be done online or in-person at the University by depositing ₹1000. For online submission, visit this link: <https://www.sanskriti.edu.in/register>. The admission prerequisites will be in accordance with the various regulatory bodies as amended from time to time.

Last date to apply: July 31, 2021.

BSC & MSc COURSES

Lakshya Bhartee Institute of International Hotel management, Delhi invites applications for admission to its three years BSc programme in Hotel management and two years MSc programme in Hotel management.

Eligibility: For BSc in HM applicants must have



passed Class XII from a recognised central/state board or from a recognised university and for MSc in HM Applicants must completed graduation from a recognised university.

How to Apply: Admission forms can be purchased from admission office of LBIHM, Pitampura, Delhi or can apply online by visit www.lbiim.com.

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

Delhi College of fire and safety Engineering invites applications for admissions to its one year certificate course in Fire Technology & Industrial Safety Management, one year six months course in health safety environment and six month certificate course in fire fighting.

The study of this programme is incorporated to train candidates to gain knowledge about the preventive measures to be applied during times of emergency.

Eligibility: This full time diploma course has been thoughtfully designed for those who have recently passed Class X or Class XII from any recognised board and want to work in fire & Safety management industry can enroll for these courses.

How to apply: To apply please visit www.dcfse.com or the application forms brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi College of fire and safety Engineering, Mundka, New delhi-110041.

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

Trip to a foreign land

Studying abroad can be an expensive affair. SUMEET JAIN lists ways how students can manage to live this dream

Studying in a great university abroad is no longer just a fad, or something reserved for those with deep pockets. Thanks to the growing appeal of a global career and lifestyle, the increased spending power of the middle class and the boom in student financing options.

The pandemic doesn't seem to have slowed India from becoming the second largest country to send international students to various countries abroad. According to a release by Common App in January 2020, the number of international student applicants were up by 10 per cent (of which Indian applicants were up by 28 per cent) as compared to 2019-2020 levels.

So how are all these students funding their study abroad dream? Between tuition fees, accommodation, living and travel expenses, the whole thing can be twice as expensive as planning an Indian wedding!

Self-financing: According to opendoorsdata.org, more than 85 per cent of the total international students choose to bootstrap their education abroad. Some students choose to dip into family savings and assets to fund their education, at least partially and cover the rest through scholarships and part-time work. But this leaves the whole family at risk without a Plan B.

Secured/collateral-based education loan: Many banks, both public and pri-

vate, and NBFCs offer education loans against a collateral of a certain value like a house/land etc. This is a systematic and structured approach and has many advantages such as tax saving benefits. The loan repayment usually kicks in six months after the degree is completed, irrespective of whether you have a job or not, and must be completed within seven years of finishing the degree. So, this is a factor that students must consider before signing up for one.

The difference between banks and NBFCs is that banks usually cover about 85-90 per cent of expenses such as tuition fees, lodging, travel, lab fees etc, whereas NBFCs offer 100 per cent Cost of Attendance (CoA) coverage. Similarly, banks may also have an upper limit on the sanctioned loan amount for large amounts such as over ₹20-₹30 lakh, depending on the course and university you select. NBFCs have no such cap on loan amount. However, banks may also offer concessions on interest rates for women, which NBFCs don't.

Unsecured/collateral-free education loan: Another option is to opt for unsecured education loans offered by many financial institutions that require no collateral. This is given based on your financial status, for example, your credit score. However, since this is riskier to the lender, it may be more tedious and expensive as you may be charged a high-

er interest rate for the same loan amount. Students may also not get any favourable repayment terms for the same reason. Many banks and NBFCs require you to pay interest while you study.

International financial institutions: A trending option among students is educational loans from international financial institutions. They may provide loan amounts in foreign currency with or without a cosigner/collateral. They calculate interest rates based on the loan applicant's future repayment potential rather than historic data, and hence can also provide lower interest rates than banks or NBFCs.

SIP: This option depends on how early you start and is more suitable for working professionals rather than students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies.

A systematic investment plan or a SIP is a great way to both invest and save for salaried professionals. The frequency of investment is based on the discretion of the candidate to allow them a flexible approach. SIPs have gained a lot of traction over the years in the field of financing the educational endeavours of post-graduate students.

The key to remember is that every student is different. So, it is important to weigh the pros and cons of each option before proceeding further.

The writer is Co-founder, Yocket

Social sector is dynamic

When one hears of someone volunteering in the social sector, the immediate reaction is to always congratulate the individual on choosing to give back to society, on being a change-maker. However, when the same individual announces a full-time job in the social sector, this news is met with hesitation, trepidation and sometimes even rebuke and criticism. What causes this sudden change in perception, and is this shift validated?

Unfortunately, there are several myths associated with the social sector that set it in a bad light not just for donors, partner organisations but also for those looking to make a career in social work. Some of these myths are that there is no growth in this sector, it is a waste of time, there are no returns, the money is negligible and the work is dreary. However, if one does take out the time to talk to someone who has worked in this sector for a while, they are sure to get a clearer picture of what the sector actually comprises of, and what actually lies in store for those who want to enter the world of social work.

One of the prevalent assumptions is that there is no advancement in the social sector, that it is an area worth

Many volunteer in the social sector, however working professionally in the same sphere is not considered viable due to myths surrounding the work, says

DR GEETANJALI CHOPRA & PARUL KAMRA



investing only a small amount of time in order to boost resumes.

However, there is immense potential to develop and evolve in the social sector. It offers space to grow not just professionally but personally as well, for you get the best of both worlds- desk jobs as well as field work. Further, this sector itself is always growing, taking into account the varied requirements of beneficiaries across demographics. Since the sector itself is never stagnant, growth always

accompanies it.

Several people also assume that there are no exciting opportunities available to social workers. However, the sector is extremely dynamic purely based on the fact that the work is directly related to people in need. Since humans themselves can't possibly be put into black and white categories, the work too has to adapt itself to situations and the issues it brings up. Each day brings with itself new challenges, and new opportuni-

ties to bring about change. No two days are the same while working in the social sector, making it a vibrant and lively professional sector.

What seems to be the most pressing and overarching myth related to working in the social sector is that there is no adequate recompense or rewards, that there is no money for a social worker. While it is true that most NGOs cannot offer salary brackets that are possible at a corporate job, this does not mean that the salaries are meagre. Further, International NGOs have extremely attractive pay packages, and these come with several perks as well. Depending on qualifications, the returns can be extremely rewarding. Of course, what makes the work even more fulfilling are the blessings one receives from the beneficiaries, something that no amount of money can ever give.

The social sector is as enterprising, as exciting, and as rewarding as any other professional sphere. The myths surrounding this sector are exactly that- baseless. The world is your oyster when it comes to social work. No matter how you engage with it, it always gives back multifold.

The writers are from Wishes and Blessings NGO

VIT-AP inks MoU with Entuple Technologies

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Entuple Technologies and the School of Electronics and Engineering, VIT-AP University was held virtually on the July 22, 2021.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, VIT-AP University after signing the MoU with Entuple Technologies, said their aim is to impart skill and capabilities to the students in VLSI and RF Communication technologies and enable them



to build their career in this emerging field. This will also provide an opportunity to the students, scholars, and faculty members to carry out research and to develop several

advanced applications using VLSI and RF Technologies.

Further, Entuple Technologies will provide internships and job opportunities to selected students.

Mehta SD D, Director-sales, Entuple Technologies said that with this collaboration can conduct free Webinar/workshop, Faculty Development Program (FDP), Short Term Training Programs (STTP), Training cum Internship Program, Career Builder Programs in association with Entuple technologies. These programs are aimed at providing industry skills in campus and boost competency and employability of students.

Department of Physical Education and Sports Science at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur organised the 'Volleyball Achievers Award 2021' and honoured eight of its students for getting placed in Government and private jobs. Of this, four girls have been selected to Indian Railways under the sports quota.

The chief guest for the event was SRMIST's Deputy Registrar and Director (Institute of Hotel Management) Dr Antony Ashok Kumar.

The special guests for the event were SRMIST's Director

SRMIST students shine



Students who got placed pose with their awards along with the dignitaries of SRMIST

(Career Centre) N Venkata Sastry, Associate Director Campus Life & Ladies Hostel

Dr E Poovammal and Managing Director Sri Vinayaga Timbers, Tambaram T

Purushothaman.

A documentary on the Women's Volleyball Journey 2020-21 was released on the occasion.

Volleyball women's team coach Om Prakash elaborated on how the students are trained, how their diets are monitored, their workout sessions, and so on.

T Purushothaman who has been a patron of the sports wished the team many more laurels in the upcoming tournaments.

PHARMA SHOWS THE WAY

Due to the present pandemic, there are lucrative options in the pharmaceutical industry, says **PROFESSOR RANA SINGH**

The present pandemic has brought the entire world to its knees and the whole world has observed the adverse catastrophe of this global pandemic. As the healthcare sector across the globe is growing, it has opened great career opportunities to thousands of students of pharmaceutical science because the rate of growth of the pharmaceutical sector is interlinked and is directly proportional to the growth of the healthcare sector.

According to IBEF, Indian pharmaceutical sector supplies over 50 per cent of global demand for various vaccines and states that we are the largest provider of generic drugs globally.

In the present scenario the demand for medicines is increasing day by day, so the employment in the pharma sector is also rising. According to sources of government statistics, over 300 institutions impart diplomas or degrees to nearly 20,000 students in India every year. Indian pharmaceutical industry is one of the largest pharma industries in the world and this widens the scope of pharma studies in India and abroad.

As per the report of Indian Economic Survey 2021, in the next decade the domestic market is expected to grow three times. The pharmaceutical industry is valued at \$41.7 billion. Our domestic pharmaceutical market is estimated at \$41 billion and likely to reach \$65 billion by 2024.

In India, Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is the regulatory body which has been designing the education Regulations pertaining to pharmacy which outlines the conditions to be followed by pharmacy colleges. The PCI grants approval to universities and colleges to run various programmes. It has well-defined standards, norms and guidelines.

As compared to other countries, the prices of medicines in India are amongst the lowest in the world. Although having some of the medicine's lowest prices in the world, leading firms of India also have the capacity to not only serve the Indian market for essential drugs but also supply their drugs to the world.

Price fluctuation and policy environment: Price fluctuation and policy environment are

With the help of AI, companies can gather information regarding targeting audiences and create unique marketing strategies for them. This way they can understand the needs and convert leads into revenues

the challenges created by unexpected and frequent domestic pricing policy changes in India. One of the biggest challenges is analysing the shifting customer behaviour and fluctuating prices, due to this vague environment of innovations and investments has created in Industry. According to The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliances (IPA), to produce affordable patients' drugs, the Government and stakeholders work together.

Paucity of proficiency in the innovation space: Due to limited government Supported research ecosystem the pharmaceutical companies have been slow to grow in the innovation space. To overcome this hurdle Government needs to invest in research and development initiatives and talent in order to expand India's innovation.

A talent pool with advanced skills is limited in India as compared to other countries. There is also a huge gap between the college curriculum and industry's requirements. Clinical trials should also be supported and subjectivity in certain regulatory

decision-making removed.

Generic market exporting: Just like any other industry, the pharmaceutical industry is also a sales-driven industry. With the help of AI technology, companies can gather information regarding targeting audiences and create unique marketing strategies for them. This way they can understand the needs of the market and can convert most leads into revenues. AI can help in protecting the success or failure rate of the marketing strategy.

Effect of external market: More than 50 per cent of pharma ingredients are dependent on other countries like China. Slight changes in policies can bring a big difference in the production of medicines and equipment. Due to growth in the pharma industry in India, both directly and indirectly, Government needs to make India a life sciences innovation hub to promote innovation by creating a research ecosystem and expanding and upskill the talent pool to handle complex technologies with advanced resources.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Sanskriti University

Tips to crack CAT

Many engineers take the Common Admission Test each year. But they make mistakes. **SUMIT SINGH GANDHI** shares must-follow dos in order to ace this exam

The Common Admission Test (CAT) is a national-level examination conducted by The Indian Institute of Management (IIM). It is a mandatory exam for seeking admission into IIM or other prestigious B-schools. More than half of the candidates appearing for CAT have an engineering background. This makes the competition quite serious. Here are some must-follow tips for engineers.

Work hard for the VARC section: The VARC section is a big hurdle for the Engineering students as they do not focus much on the English language as a subject during their graduation. But, if studied well this section will not trouble you much.

Master the DILR section: The only way to score well in this section is to practice as much as possible. This section can be solved using various tricks which you will know when and how to apply only when you have solved enough problems. This section is quite easy once you know the techniques.

Improve your calculations: Calculations are an extremely important factor in solving both the Quantitative Ability section. Improve your accuracy and try achieving the right answers in the first attempt to save maximum time. Practice solving mentally instead of using a virtual calculator. You will see a difference in your calculations if you practice religiously.

Get a complete idea about the sections: You need to have the maximum idea about all the sections. Make sure you know everything like the number of questions in each section, marks allocated to the sections, topics covered in the sections, the marking scheme, etc. Knowing all of this will make the process ahead easier and less complex.

Avoid rote learning: Mugging up will land you in trouble. One should focus on concepts and understand them thoroughly. It is not at all advisable to choose to mug-up technique. Understanding the whole concept helps one to remember things for a longer period and on the other side mugging up never stays for a longer period.

Practice makes perfect: No matter how good or bad you are at the topics, one thing that can make you score



Sumit Singh Gandhi, CEO, CATKing Educare

well in CAT is practicing. You need to keep practicing the questions regularly. Buy enough practice material and make sure you solve most of it. Make sure you know most of the concepts. Practicing every day will be of extreme help. Solve all the previous years' question papers and the available sample papers. Solve mock tests to be even closer to being perfect.

Do not start preparing at the last minute: Start studying well in advance. Starting from the beginning will not pile up all the work. You can study at your own pace and understand concepts properly. This will result in having a lot of time for preparation. If you start preparing at the last moment then you will have a chance of not covering the entire syllabus. You will have to finish the entire syllabus in a few days which may result in creating confusion.

Do not prepare without a plan: You need to have a plan. You need to make a timetable of how you will be studying and how much syllabus you will complete within a day. Also, make sure you decide how much you will practice each day after finishing up with the portion. Make strategies on how you will appear for the paper. Make daily targets and work hard to complete them.

If you are at a stage in your career where you are feeling stagnated? Or if you feel that you are going on a journey but your ultimate destination is unknown to you? Or if you have to drag your soul to the work every day with a lot of effort? Then you could be going through a mid-career dilemma, the first thing you should do is stop worrying about it and acknowledge it, a lot of working professionals go through it and there is nothing wrong with you.

Perhaps there are certain questions in your mind related to various aspects of your life and you need to simply answer them to march ahead with confidence. Let's look at the top 5 reasons why working professionals go through mid-career dilemmas?

■ Am I in the right job? Am I missing something? One of the most common puzzles that working professionals have in their mind is I in the right job? Am I missing something? Though there is no perfect answer to this question not answering this question at all often leads to a mid-career dilemma.

■ The fear of missing out or FOMO refers to the feeling or perception that others are having more fun, living better lives, or experiencing better things than you are. It affects self-image; self-esteem and leads to feelings of restlessness, false comparison, and anxiety. What we see of others in social media may also one of the reasons why

MINDIT

people often feel fear of missing out and it could be one of the reasons that lead to mid-career crisis.

■ Downplaying own skills, knowledge and competence: In order to achieve the best result in the shortest span of time a lot of working professionals start copying and focusing on what skills, knowledge and competence they do not have and start acquiring those without realising that in the process they are downplaying their own skills, knowledge and competence and by the

time they realize that they have not used their own capabilities the opportunities which in front of them vanish and they are not able to course correct at the right time. This could be one of the main reasons that lead to a mid-career crisis.

■ Self-confidence has taken a hit: Self-confidence is one of the most vulnerable elements of any individuals, life and it can often get a blow due to various reasons such as making mistakes, not able to cope with the new manager, peer pressure, work

environment or due to a change in the job expectation. Lack or drop in self-confidence for a long period of time creates doubts both various aspects and it could be one of the key factors that lead towards the mid-career dilemma.

■ Fear of humiliation among more successful colleagues: Each and every working professional wants to be successful in life and they strive for success each day of their life; similarly, each organization has a very defined framework to judge the individuals based on the performance and behavioral competencies required.

A few are able to score well on those parameters and move ahead in the career

while other stays at the same point and due to lack of reasoning and explanation are given to the individuals who have not been able to score well around those parameters a lot of doubts get created in their mind and this often leads to a feeling of humiliation and ultimately becomes one of the key contributors that causes a mid-career dilemma.

Mid-career dilemma is a very common point that can come to a professional's life at any stage after working for three-five years in a professional environment but it is important to understand the key reason that is leading towards the mid-career dilemma.

The writer is Abhishek Joshi, Executive Coach, Learning and Development Expert



is September 28, 2021.

The Griffith University is offering RTP International Fee Offset Scholarships for international students. Scholarships fully cover the HDR me tuition fees.

Eligibility: Applicant must: Not be a domestic student, as defined as being a student who is an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident or holder of an Australian Permanent Humanitarian visa or a New Zealand citizen and be commencing or enrolled in HDR programme. Not be awarded to a candidate who is in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset HDR programme tuition fees.

Admission requirement: Must have previous degree.

Language requirement: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

How to apply: New applicants must follow the process for submitting an online application. Visit: <https://www.griffith.edu.au/research-study/apply>

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this

Applications are invited for the need-based aid offered by the Case Western Reserve University for international students for the academic year 2021-2022.

Eligibility: Applicants can apply to study any bachelor or master degree programme offered at Case. Applicants must meet all the following/given criteria: Be international first-year or transfer students enrolled in a programme at Case.

Supporting documents: The students are required to present the following documents to the university:

High school results
Admission essay
Admission requirements: The applicants must have completed high school graduation to be accepted in any programme at Case.

Language requirement: The applicants are required to attain minimum scores in English language proficiency tests.

How to apply: The students are required to submit their application via the Common Application or Coalition Application. The applicants are required to have set up a CSS profile and apply for the opportunity through the same.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this scholarship is November 30, 2021.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SHINE CONSULTANTS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4a5260
Deadline: August 5, 2021

HR AT KATMUNY TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a2cfd5
Deadline: August 5, 2021

CONTENT WRITING AT VEGA SCHOOLS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a26477
Deadline: August 5, 2021

UI/UX DESIGN AT CETAS IT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/76af51
Deadline: August 5, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT STUFIT APPROACH

Location: Lucknow, Gurgaon, Pune, Mumbai, Noida, Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/dcac98
Deadline: August 5, 2021

FRESHER JOBS

ASSOCIATE RECRUITER AT TALHIVE

Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3-₹5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/d5dd34
Deadline: August 21, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Office, Word & Excel, Recruitment, Client Relationship, English (Spoken & Written)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE AT CAFE TATVA VENTURES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3-₹5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/811aca
Deadline: August 21, 2021
Skill(s): Salesforce, Client Interaction, MS-Excel, Client Relationship

INBRIEF

ONLINE MBA DEGREE PROGRAMME

The Jaro Education has announced the collaboration with Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University)

Centre of Online Learning (DPU COL) to offer a next-generation online MBA degree programme. The UGC approved degree is designed to help participants to develop future-focused competencies, which employers

across the globe look for in potential candidates. The course is designed to equip participants with leadership skills, global awareness and critical and analytical thinking. The two-

year programme is curated for working professionals and will follow a credit system as recommended by UGC.

The pedagogy consists of assignments, formative and summative assessment tests, compulsory domain, generic core courses, specialisation and generic elective courses, project work, and much more.

Following are specialisations:
■ Marketing Management
■ Human Resource Management (HRM)
■ Finance Management
■ IT Management (ITM)
■ Project Management
■ Operations Management
■ Hospital Administration and Health Care Management
■ International Business Management

FREE MASTERCLASSES FOR TEACHERS

To support skill development of the educators of the country especially during such dire times, Aditya Birla

Education Academy (ABEA) has been offering free Masterclasses and Educator Meetup sessions for the last

15 months. This initiative started in April 2020 when teachers were grappling with strategies and tools to teach online.

NEW BTECH COURSE ON OFFER

The Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, is offering unique BTECH programmes with multi-disciplinary breadth aligned with the emerging technology trends. With design thinking and social connect embedded into the curriculum, these programs target to produce 'global

engineers' who will be technology leaders and innovators with empathy and sensitivity for sustainable development. Entrepreneurship education has also been introduced offering an enriching experience in innovation, prototyping, business model formulation and market analysis.

THIRD SLOT OF NRA CET BASED SCHOLARSHIP TEST

The upGrad Jeet has announced the third slot of NRA CET based scholarship test for aspirants who are planning to appear for the yearly competitive exams and secure jobs in the Government sector. The first two slots have been conducted this year. The decision to introduce another slot was inspired by the massive response to

the first two slots.

JeetCET: NRA CET based scholarship test, is an attempt to estimate the expected test pattern and syllabus to give aspirants a direction to prepare better.

Divided into two rounds, learners from the Preliminary round will then appear for Round 2, called the Mains, after which only 3000 learners will be able to make their way to

receiving a six-month subscription of the course for free, while others will receive a 1-month subscription to the NRA CET course. upGrad Jeet has also announced a range of rewards and scholarships amounting to ₹151 crore to acknowledge the hard work of learners, based on the overall potential they demonstrate during the test.

ANALYSIS FOUND A CARBON RISK PREMIUM

A new mathematical analysis conducted by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) and IIM Bangalore has established a relationship between the carbon footprint of companies and the potential risks of investing in these firms.

An extensive data analysis of over 200 of the largest listed companies in the American market was carried out by the

researchers from these top Institutions. The researchers found that most of these companies (71.6%) had shown a decrease in their carbon emissions in the 2016-2019 period. It was found that carbon footprint had a positive correlation with the size of the companies and the revenues. However, the correlation with expenses was found to be slightly less than that with revenue.

VMC LAUNCHES TWO UNIQUE TESTS

It is imperative to say that choosing the right stream (and career has always been a tough task and around 85 per cent of students find it extremely difficult to take the right decision. In an effort to inflate its endeavor of learning and encouraging students to achieve their dreams, Vidyamandir Classes (VMC) in association with Mindler has come up with two new and innovative tests named VMC Disha and VMC Vision.

VMC Disha (Stream Selector) and Vision (Career Discovery) are important initiatives taken by VMC in pursuant to strengthening the school outreach programmes.

These stream and career deciding tests are especially customised for students ranging from classes VIII to XII. While VMC Vision is specially designed for science students of class Class XI and Class XII to make them realise the ideal match for

their careers, VMC Disha is customised for students of class VIII, IX and X in order to make the process of stream selection scientific and accurate for them.

VMC Disha and VMC Vision developed by the industry experts who have been in the field of education since decades, the exemplary tests are based on a Model accredited by the National Career Development Association and the Career Development Alliance, USA.

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

●**Hockey:** India beat Spain 3-0 in Men's Pool A Match.
●**Badminton:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Ben Lane and Sean Vandy (Great Britain) 21-17, 21-19 in Men's Doubles Group A Match.
●**Boxing:** Lovlina Borgohain beat Nadine Apetz of Germany 3-2 in Women's 69kg Round of 16 Bout.
●**Table Tennis:** A Sharath Kamal lost to Ma Long (China) 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 4-11, 4-11 in Men's Singles Round 3 Match.
●**Shooting:** Saurabh Chaudhary/Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Deswal/Abhishek Verma fail to qualify for medal round in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event.
●**Sailing:** Elavenil Valarivan/Divyansh Singh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil/Deepak Kumar fail to qualify for medal round in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.
●**Sailing:** Nethra Kumanan 32nd and 38th in Race 5 and 6 in Women's Laser Radial.
Vishnu Saravanan 23rd and 22nd in Race 5 and 6 in Men's Laser.
KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar 18th in Race 1 in Men's Skiff 49er.

IN FOCUS TODAY

●**Hockey:** India vs Great Britain (Women's)
●**Badminton:** P V Sindhu vs NY Cheung (Hong Kong) and B Sai Praneeth vs M Caljouw (Netherlands).
●**Boxing:** Pooja Rani vs Ichrak Chaib (Algeria).
●**Rowing:** Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls Semifinal 2.
●**Archery:** Tarundeep Rai vs Oleksii Hunbin (Ukraine). Pravin Jadhav vs Galsan Bazarzhapov (Russian Olympic Committee).
Deepika Kumari vs Karma (Bhutan).

Rupinder's
brace hands
India 3-0 win
over Spain
in Olympic
men's hockey

Back to winning ways

India's Mandeep Singh (11) celebrates after Rupinder Pal Singh, right, scored against Spain during men's field hockey match on Tuesday

Tokyo: Dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey overcame a demoralising defeat in the previous match to cruise past Spain 3-0 and inch closer to a quarterfinal berth at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.
Drubbed 1-7 by Australia in their last match, India produced a spirited performance against world No 9 Spain and scored through Simranjeet Singh (14th minute) and Rupinder Pal Singh (15th and 51st) to record a comfortable win in their third Pool A match at the Oi Hockey Stadium.
India, ranked fourth in the world, had earlier defeated

New Zealand 3-2 in their opening fixture. Spain, on the other hand, are yet to register a win in the competition.
Spain drew 1-1 against Argentina before losing 3-4 to New Zealand.
The Indians will next play reigning Olympic champions Argentina on Thursday.
For any team it is always tough to recover from a morale-shattering loss within a day, but India looked more organised and sorted against Spain on Tuesday.
Despite the win, India's chief coach Graham Reid said the team needs to work upon a lot of grey areas, like conceding penalty corners, ahead of their remaining matches.

INDIA'S SCHEDULE ON JULY 28 (ALL TIMES IST)		
TIME	EVENTS	ATHLETES
06:30 AM	Hockey: Women's Pool A Match	India vs Great Britain
07:30 AM	Badminton: Women's Singles Group Match	PV Sindhu
07:31 AM	Archery: Men's Individual 1/32 Eliminations	Tarundeep Rai
08:00 AM	Rowing: Men's Doubles Sculls Semifinals	Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh
08:35 AM	Sailing: 49er Men's Race 2, 3 & 4	KC Ganapathy & Varun Thakkar
12:30 PM	Archery: Men's Individual 1/32 Eliminations	Pravin Jadhav
02:14 PM	Archery: Women's Individual 1/32 Eliminations	Deepika Kumari
02:30 PM	Badminton: Men's Singles Group Match	B Sai Praneeth
02:33 PM	Boxing: Women's 75kg Round of 16	Pooja Rani
LIVE ON SONY TEN & SIX NETWORK		

"Better result today, but a lot of things to work on from an improvement perspective. The fact that we gave too many corners, that's always a concern when that happens. But the team did really well in

terms of defending," he said. "The first quarter was played very well, we could move the ball really well and it was exactly what we planned to do. We struggled a bit in the second and third quarters."

Women need to create and grab chances

Tokyo: Enduring a forgettable campaign, bottom-placed Indian women's hockey team can't afford squandering any more chances if it fancies upsetting defending champions Great Britain on Wednesday.
After a 1-5 drubbing against world number one the Netherlands, the Indians players lifted their game by leaps and bounds to give third-ranked Germany a run for their money before losing 0-2 in their next Pool A match.
But two consecutive defeats have definitely pegged the side back. India created a lot of scoring opportunities against Germany but finishing was lacking from the forward line. On one occasion, Vandana Katariya was denied by the goal post too.
But not converting the penalty stroke was a huge miss.
However, the Rani Rampal-led side can take a lot of heart from its performance against the Germans given that it kept the intensity and fight intact till the final hooter.

With two defeats from as many games, the Indian women are currently lying at the bottom of the six-team Pool A, which is being headed by Netherlands, followed by Germany, Britain, Ireland and South Africa.
But these are still early days with three matches each remaining for all the teams. Top four sides from each pool of six will qualify for the quarterfinals.
Ranked 11th in the world, India stand a chance to make the quarterfinals but for that to happen they will have to outplay seventh-ranked Ireland and South Africa, who are placed 16th.



Indias Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty play against Britains Ben Lane and Sean Vandy during their mens doubles group play stage match

Chirag-Satwik exit despite win

Tokyo: Indian shuttlers Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy emerged victorious against the England pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in their final Group A match but still missed out on qualifying for the quarterfinals at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.
Ranked 10th in the world, the Indians beat world number 18 team 21-17, 21-19 in a 44-minute Group A men's doubles match at the Musashino Forest Plaza.

However, they couldn't make it to the knockout stage as they finished third in the Group A behind top-ranked Indonesian team of Marcus Gideon Fernaldi and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo and world number three Yang Lee and Chi-Lin Wang of Chinese Taipei.
"We knew the moment Lee Yang/Wang Chi-Lin won,

we don't stand a chance. They won in two games and we won in three. It is quite sad. Unfortunately, even after winning two matches in the group, we don't go through. But that is badminton and have to live with it," said Chirag.
All three teams finished on same points with two wins each and when the number of games won was considered to identify the qualifiers, the Indians lost.
Chirag and Satwik's straight game loss to the Indonesians on Monday cost them dear.
Moments before the Indian pair stepped on the court, Lee and Wang had completed a three-game win over Sukamuljo and Gideon in the preceding group match, rendering the result of India's contest against Britain inconsequential.

Sharath goes down fighting

Tokyo: Sharath Kamal matched the legendary Ma Long stroke for stroke in the first three games before making a third round exit from the table tennis competition on Tuesday, ending India's medal-less yet impressive run at the Tokyo Olympics.
Following the unprecedented gains made from the 2018 Asian Games, where India won a table tennis medal for the first time ever, the performance of Sharath and Manika Batra in the round of 32 added significantly to the sport's growing popularity.
They both achieved a first by

reaching the third round at the Summer Games.
A less tougher draw in mixed doubles, in which Sharath and Manika were seen as medal contenders, as well as in the men's singles could have seen the Indians scaling new heights.
The way 39-year-old Sharath played against Long has convinced him to think about competing in his fifth Olympics in Paris.
He fought tooth and nail in the first three games against the reigning Olympic and world champion Long before going down 7-

11, 11-8, 11-13, 4-11, 4-11 in 46 minutes.
To have a player like Long under pressure in itself is a significant achievement for the seasoned Indian.
"It was the best three games and probably the best match and best tournament I ever played," Sharath said.
The Chinese great too acknowledged that Sharath made it tough for him.
"It was a tough match. Of course at the Olympics every match, no matter the opponent, no matter the country, it's always tough," said Long.
"I did prepare for difficulties. The third game was crucial. After gutting it out the last two games were better," he added.
With Sharath's defeat, India's challenge ended in table tennis as Manika, Sutirtha Mukherjee and G Sathiyam had already exited the singles competition.

Lovlina makes QFs

Tokyo: Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) advanced to the quarterfinals in her debut Olympic appearance on Tuesday, defeating German veteran Nadine Apetz in a closely-fought last-16 stage bout.
Borgohain, the lone Indian boxer in action on the day, prevailed 3-2 over her rival who is 12 years her senior. Both the boxers were making their Games debut and the Indian became the first from her nine-strong team to make the quarterfinal stage.
The 23-year-old showed great poise in a tense contest to triumph by the thinnest of margins. She claimed all the three rounds on split points.
The 35-year-old Apetz was the first German woman to qualify for a boxing event at the Olympics. She is a two-time world championship Bronze-medallist and a former European champion.



Germany's Nadine Apetz, left, looks for an opening against Lovlina Borgohain during their 69kg boxing match

Borgohain is a two-time World and Asian championships Bronze-medallist and will next face Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen on July 30, who is seeded fourth.
A win in the upcoming contest would assure Borgohain of at least a Bronze medal at the mega-event.
On Wednesday, Asian champion Pooja Rani (75kg) will square off against Algerian youngster Ichrak Chaib.

Shooters poor form continues



Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary during 10m Air Pistol mixed team event

Tokyo: Indian shooters endured yet another forgettable outing at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday as they crashed out in the qualifying stages of the mixed team events in both pistol and rifle.
Considered the team's best bet for a podium finish, the duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker caved in under pressure and failed to qualify for the final of the 10m air pistol mixed team event.
They finished seventh in Qualification 2 after topping the first phase with 582. Both the 19-year-old shooters lost the plot completely when the top eight teams battled it out in the second phase.
The other Indian team in the event, Abhishek Verma and Yashaswini Singh Deswal, failed to clear Qualification 1 and finished in 17th place, having totalled 564 across six series (three each for one member).
The team of Chaudhary and Bhaker totalled 380 across

two series each in the second phase of the qualification.

While the top eight teams make the Qualification 2, the top four pairs in the second phase qualify for the medal rounds.
Later in the day, both the Indian pairs participating in the 10m air rifle mixed team event crashed out in the first qualifications stage, missing out on yet another final after an outing that left a lot to be desired.
The duo of Elavenil Valarivan and Divyansh Singh Panwar finished 12th with a total of 626.5 across three series each, while Anjum Moudgil and Deepak Kumar ended 18th out of 29 pairs with an aggregate score of 623.8.

Indian debacle in Tokyo shocks shooting fraternity, NRAI boss talks of 'overhaul'

Tokyo: The Indian shooting federation on Tuesday promised an 'overhaul' of the coaching staff after the 15-strong contingent's Olympic campaign moved from one disaster to another.
As the country's shooters continued to belie expectations with their horror show here, reliving the Rio 2016 debacle, the head of the sport's national governing body promised a major revamp in coaching and support staff.
"Definitely the performances have not been on expected lines and I have spoken of an overhaul of coaching and support staff," NRAI Raninder Singh said.

Questions are being raised about why the shooters were not able to replicate their excellent showing at the ISSF World Cups at the Olympics.
"I feel something is lacking in getting our shooters prepared for these big occasions, because clearly the talent is there and we have seen it here as well," the NRAI boss said.
However, Raninder said that not all is still lost for the Indian shooting team as it is left with a few more starts.
"Having said that we still have starts left and let's continue to back the team and I am sure we'll get results. Postmortems can wait till after the Games," Raninder said.

Osaka eliminated

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Naomi Osaka suffered a 6-1, 6-4 defeat to Marketa Vondrousova in the third round of the Tokyo Games on Tuesday, crushing her dreams of winning Olympic Gold at home.
Osaka, who lit the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony, struggled in an error-strewn display under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park and was knocked out in 68 minutes.
Vondrousova, ranked 42nd, will go on to face Spain's Paula Badosa or Nadia Podoroska of Argentina.
Meanwhile, Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the third round of the Olympics men's tennis tournament on Tuesday as he avenged last month's Wimbledon loss to Frances Tiafoe.
The Greek third seed downed American Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4 under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park, where all play on outside courts was delayed an hour by morning drizzle.
Tsitsipas, who is also entered in mixed doubles with Maria Sakkari, will play France's Ugo Humbert or Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia for a spot in the quarter-finals.
Also Novak Djokovic added another medal event to his program by entering the mixed doubles draw with Serbian partner Nina Stojanovic.

INDIAN CAMPAIGN OVER

The Indian tennis team's campaign at the Tokyo Olympics officially ended on Tuesday as Sania Mirza and Sumit Nagal could not make the cut for the mixed doubles event due to their low combined ranking of 153.
The entries were to be finalised on Tuesday morning and the cut was expected to be between 50-60. The Indians did not even have faint hopes of getting into the easiest of tennis events at the Games.
Only 16 teams play the mixed doubles event and thus winning just two matches can get a team in the medal round.
Nagal was blown away by Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles competition, while the women's doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina lost its opener from a winning position.

Sailors Vishnu, Nethra at 22nd & 33rd spot

Enoshima: Indian sailors Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan finished way behind the leaders as they ended at 22nd and 33rd spot in the respective events after six races in the Tokyo Olympics here on Tuesday.
Saravanan finished 23rd and 22nd in the fifth and sixth race in the men's laser event while Kumanan was 32nd and

38th in the two races of the women's laser radial event held at Enoshima Yacht Harbour on Tuesday.
Four more races and medal race remain in the competition and the India duo were far behind in the rankings.
Each event consists of a series of races. Points in each race are awarded according to position: the winner gets one

point, the second-placed finisher scores two and so on.
The final race is called the medal race, for which points are doubled. Following the medal race, the individual or crew with the fewest total points is declared the winner.
The medal races of both the women's laser radial and men's laser will be held on August 1 after 10 races each.



Indias KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar compete during the 49er men race of the sailing event at the Enoshima harbour on Tuesday



Carissa Moore of US celebrates winning Gold medal in the women's surfing competition



1. Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz became 1st athlete from Philippines to win an Olympic Gold. 2. ROC artistic gymnastics women's team celebrate after winning Gold medal. 3. Britain swimmer Tom Dean beats Covid twice to win Gold in 200m freestyle. 4. Weightlifter Polina Guryeva wins Turkmenistan's 1st Olympic medal (Silver)

Ind-SL 2nd T20I postponed to Wed as Krunal tests Covid +ve

PTI ■ COLOMBO/NEW DELHI

The second T20I between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo on Tuesday was postponed by a day after Indian all-rounder Krunal Pandya tested positive for Covid-19, forcing him out of the series with seven days of isolation.
However, all his eight close contacts, who were isolated, have tested 'negative' in the RT-PCR tests and will be available for the postponed game which is being held on Wednesday.
As per Sri Lanka's health safety protocols, Krunal will not be able to travel back to India with other members of the contingent on July 30 as he will now have to undergo mandatory isolation and obtain a negative RT-PCR report.
The third and final T20 is scheduled to be held on Thursday.
"Krunal is symptomatic with cough and throat pain.

He is obviously out of the series and will not be able to return with rest of the squad," a BCCI source tracking the developments in Colombo said.
"However the good news is that all his eight close contacts who were identified by the BCCI medical officer (Dr Abhijit Salvi) have tested negative."
For now, the three-match series is on as even if there are a couple of more cases, the Indian team has enough players with negative RT-PCR reports to field a team.
Krunal, who tested positive on Tuesday morning, has already been quarantined.
India are travelling with a 20-member squad plus four stand by net bowlers.
Now, there will be back-to-back matches on Wednesday and Thursday provided there aren't any more players testing positive to affect the balance of the sides which will lead to cancellation.
"Krunal is symptomatic with cough and throat pain.



Pant bats in nets

Durham: Ahead of the gruelling five Test match series against England, the Indian Test team led by skipper Virat Kohli, had a centre wicket training at the Durham Cricket Club here on Tuesday.
Aggressive wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who had joined the Test team after recovering from Covid-19, also batted in the nets.
"Team India back at it and having a centre wicket training at Durham Cricket Club ahead of the five-match Test series against England," the BCCI said in a tweet.