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India rejoices at Chanu's feat

21-year-long wait for weightlifting medal at Olympics ends Mother in tears as Mirabai



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

PTI TOKYO

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

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

The diminutive iron lady

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

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

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

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

sports 'good luck' earrings

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

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

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

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

coach Vijay Sharma andthe support staff for their continuous hard work, motivation and training," she added.

Continued on Page 4

silver medal and Saikhom Ongbi Tombi Leima has struggled to stop her tears from flowing ever since.

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

Continued on Page 4

Could not have asked for a happier start to Tokyo2020! India is elated by Mirabai Chanu's stupendous performance. Congratulations

to her for winning the Silver medal in weightlifting. Her success motivates every Indian

Heartiest congratulatio to Mirabai Chanu for starting the medal tally for India in the Tokyo Olympics 2020 by -Ram Nath Kovind

Better safe than sorry: Embassy to Indians in Af

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

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

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

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

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

'Avoid travel as Af situation dangerous'



voys, official vehicles of Government and Ministries, high ranking officials, law enforcement agencies, it cautioned.

Indians were also asked to refrain from going to crowded markets, shopping complexes, restaurants and other public places. All essential movement may please be kept as discrete as possible, it said.

It also advised traveling outside the main cities should be strictly avoided. Moreover, all Indian nationals arriving in Afghanistan are advised to register with the Embassy

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

BATLA HOUSE CONVICT ARIZ KHAN MOVES HC

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

ARMY JAWAN DIES IN Jammu/Hamirpur: A 27-year-

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

GOLD SMUGGLING: INDIGO. SPICEJET STAFF ARRESTED

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

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

But no standing allowed in Metro

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

lines by the Delhi Disaster open with 50 per cent seating Management Authority



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

Cinema halls, theatres and The latest unlock guide- multiplexes will be allowed to capacity from July 26, while

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

The order also directed that number of people allowed at marriage functions and last

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

On April 20, the city had reported a record 28,395 cases. On April 22, the case positivity rate was 36.2 per cent, the highest so far. At 448, the highest number of deaths was reported on May 3.



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

CBI raids 40 locations in fake arms licence case

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

PNS JAMMU

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

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

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



issued by the ČBI headquarters, "CBI had registered two cases on the request of J&K Government and further notification from Government of India, and taken over the investigation of two FIRs i.e No.18 of 2018 dated 17.05.2018, earlier registered at Police Station Vigilance Organisation Kashmir (VOK), and FIR No. 11 of 2018 dated 17.05.2018 of Police Station Vigilance Organisation Jammu (VOJ) on the allegations of bulk issuance

of arms licences in the erstwhile

State of J&K during the period 2012 to 2016". The CBI collected documents about the issuance of these arms licences allegedly spread over 22 districts of J&K. tenure.

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

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who served as DM in three districts of Reasi, Udhampur and Kathua during the said period of investigation, posted a tweet confirming the raid at his residence. "With reference to media reports I've to confirm that CBI did search my residence & found nothing incriminating in the ongoing arms licence probe. Media friends may note the probe covers 4 years across all dists. I am

fully answerable to CBI for my

tenure," Dr Shahid Iqbal wrote

giving details of total arms

licences issued during his

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

human rights and democracy

question, yes, you're right; I will

tell you that we will raise it, and

we will continue that conver-

sation, because we firmly

believe that we have more val-

ues in common on those fronts



Thompson, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, told reporters during a conference call ahead of the . "We believe India is going

to be a really important part of continuing those conversations and building strong efforts on those fronts in partnership as we go forward," Thompson said in response to a question. India has previously reject-

ed criticism by foreign Governments and human rights groups on allegations that civil liberties have eroded in the country.

89,000 moved to safety; relief ops continue TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

More than 89,000 people were evacuated from the rain-ravaged coastal Konkan region and several parts of western Maharashtra as multi-

ple agencies continued rescue and relief operations in the flood-affected areas of the State on Saturday. Despite a let-up in the rain in most parts of the State,

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

Chief Maharashtra Minister Uddhav Thackeray visited Talai village in Mahad Continued on Page 4 | taluka of Raigad district where

in rain-ravaged Maha more than 50 people were killed in a massive landslide on Friday. He assured the affected people that the State Government would, apart from giving compensation to the affected families, undertake rehabilitation of the displaced

Massive evacuation

people across the coastal Konkan region and other parts of the State. As many as 89,333 people were rendered homeless as they were evacuated in various flood-affected districts of

coastal Konkan region and several parts of Western Maharashtra. Sangli district in western Maharashtra bore maximum

brunt of the flood situation arising from the heavy rain battering the region for the past four days While 40,573 people have been evacuated to safer places in Sangli district, the neigh-

bouring Kolhapur district

accounted for the evacuation of

40,882 people. As many as

2,681 marooned people were

shifted to safer places in Thane

district, there were evacuation

ation in Kolhapur district. The authorities have sounded high alert and deployed more teams to face any eventuality. Earlier in the day, the State Disaster Management Authority pegged the current rain-flood toll at 76, while another 59 have gone missing and 38 others were injured in the floods, landslides and other

rain-related tragedies.

Ratnagiri (1200), Raigad (1000), Satara (734) and Pune

district and heavy discharge

from the Koyna dam, rivers in

the district, including the

Panchgana breached the dan-

ger mark and contributed to

inundation in many areas in

Sangli and Kolhapur districts.

On its part, the district admin-

istration evacuated people from

low-lying areas with help of NDRF and local teams.

the discharge of huge volumes of water from Almatti dam is

contributing to the flood situ-

Apart from the heavy rain,

Due to heavy rainfall in the

Continued on Page 4

'Playing an asura came with challenges'

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

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

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

■How did you come on board the project?

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

■What are the challenges that come with playing Shivaay?

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

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

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

How did you get into acting?

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

■Was it tough to do the ad?

It was tough. I had no acting background.

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

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

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

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

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



SPICY CINNAMON COFFEE WITH ORANGE ZEST

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

- ♦3 tbsp ground coffee
- ◆2 tspn grated orange zest
- 2 tspn chopped crystallized ginger Pinch of cinnamon powder
- ♦3 cups hot water
- Whipped cream, cinnamon sticks and/or additional orange zest, optional

Preparation:

Combine the coffee, orange zest, ginger



and cinnamon; pour into a Frenchpress and brew it for

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

PARISIAN CHOCOLATE COFFEE

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

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

In a medium saucepan over medium-

high heat, whisk together the milk, cream and sugar and heat until bubbles start to form on the outer edge. Do not boil

Remove from heat and add in chopped chocolate, let set for 2 minutes, then whisk until a rich chocolate color

♦Pour hot coffee into two mugs, half each cup. Top it with hot chocolate to the coffee and finish off with whipped cream and chocolate shavings Note: Store in temperature of 20 degree C and humidity less than 5 per cent, away from foreign odours, for up to three weeks

Courtesy: Abdul Sahid Khan, Head Trainer, Lavazza India

my fans see me like that. They know me in

VIRENDRA SAXENA IS BACK ON THE SMALL SCREEN

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

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



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

daughter. He firmly believes that Lakshmi has both his and his wife's values instilled in her and that their small family is only weaved in happiness Talking about making a comeback on

charm and shares a great bond with his

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

NEW KHATARNAK CHALLENGE FOR KHILADIS

Colors' much-awaited stunt-based reality show, *Khatron* Ke Khiladi is back with bang as it has already captivated the viewers with its darr, dare and endless drama. This season is bigger, better, and wilder as we are back in Cape Town, "Yeh

Hai Darr aur Dare ka battleground, welcome to Cape Town". Khatron ke real khiladi and the master of action. Rohit Shetty, and the makers of the show have left no stones unturned to make the show better than ever. In the

upcoming episode, Rohit Shetty will give another interesting challenge to the contestants to win the K medal. The winner will get

the golden opportunity in the future challenges to skip one of the tasks and also choose any other contestant to perform the same on their behalf

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

asks rapid-fire questions to

Divyanka, she starts to slow

down and gradually drown in

to perform the task wherein

they will stand around each

The thrill and fun didn't

end here, as the episode also

witnessed Divyanka flinching.

In this task, as Rohit Shetty

other just like a Mexican

the water! Curious? Who will win the K- Medal among Vishal Aditya Singh, Divyanka Tripathi &

CENTURY OF CELEBRATION

Adding to the monsoon cheer and continuing to spread the Khushiyon Wali Feeling, Wagle Ki Duniva - Navi Peedhi. Nave Kiseev has continued to entertain the audience. To celebrate 100 episodes and to thank the viewers for declaring it the 'best show on television currently'. lead actors Sumeet Raghavan, Pariva Pranati and new entrant Anju Jadhav, who comes in as Sumeet's new tough boss, engaged in a candid

Delighted by the

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

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

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

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

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

swapping

was exciting

■How was your experience working with

Britannia Good Day?

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

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

It is a beautiful opportunity for me. He is someone I have seen him as a fan. He is an icon for a lot of us, over the years. I remember watching Kuch Kuch Hota Hai. I remember watching his interview on Doordarshan after the film. In our memory, it is always a magical moment when we meet a person we have seen on TV in real life. So, it is a magical moment for me. Someone I have seen giving interviews as a kid, today I am getting to see them work in real life. ■What made you guys come up with the idea of swapping. And how difficult or fun was it for you?

The idea itself is fun. As an artist I would like to say that image is for under confident people who are not sure of themselves. Protecting image is something you do when you are very insecure. I assume Karan as well as me, though we are two distinguished personalities, we have full faith in what we do in our separate fields. Thus, we didn't refrain from looking like someone else. The experience of swapping was so exciting that there was no second thought about doing it or not.

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

I think his access to Shah Rukh Khan and all the actresses in the world. I am a huge Shah Rukh Khan fan and somebody who can be in his first circle is something that I would like to exchange. I can give him my cricket gang from Bombay in exchange for it, or my Anvar Kranti from Chacha Vidhayak Hai Humare. So, he can give me Shah Rukh Khan and I can give him Anvar Kranti. How do you think your

fans will react when you swap your personality?

Î think first of all I have no fans, all of them are my friends. And everything is fine in front of friends. Max to max, they will make fun of me and there is no harm in it. And I do not think that

many different avatars. They know that I am a musician, I have played *sitar* for 21 years of my life and I do stand-up comedy. So, I **Protecting image** keep doing things which are pole apart, in my life. The people who know me are not do when you are know me, I am not affected by them. very insecure. I ■While Karan and you are both writers, you both have very different personalities. assume Karan as Did you take any time to prepare or study well as me, though each other's personality to execute this we are two distinguished Of course, I saw some of his interviews and tried to understand how he talks. personalities, we Secondly, as an iconic figure, I somehow have full faith in knew how he talks to a certain extent. But yes, some days before the shoot I tried to what we do in our understand how he works. And as an artist, separate fields. I am not a very good mimic but I can Thus, we didn't imitate. So, I was just trying to look at the refrain from looking

kind of mannerisms I can pick, and what will look nice. There are some things which you like someone else. pick, but they do not look good on you. So, The experience of the idea was to pick things which will look okav on me. ■You have been one of the most popular

faces in Indian stand-up comedy. $\bar{\mathbf{Do}}$ you think that now we have a wider audience to appreciate your field of art? I feel even when the audience was less,

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

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

Stage is different from a virtual platform. It is like meeting someone you love in person and talking to them on video call. They are exactly two very different

things. The affection is there of course, but the warmth is definitely missing. That hype, that rush of being on stage is definitely not there, though, the rush of

good conversations is always there on an online platform. But not as great as what it is on stage. It is

like asking somebody that how do they feel catching the scent of biryani as compared to actually getting to taste it. Of course, having biryani is more satisfying than just getting to

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REPUBLIC DAY VIOLENCE AND NORTHEAST RIOTS

LG sends cops' PP panel demand files to MHA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Lieutenant Governor's office on Saturday forwarded a file of the Delhi Cabinet rejecting Delhi Police's proposal to set up panels of public prosecutors for the Republic Day violence and northeast riots to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) due to difference of opinion.

Last week, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government had rejected police' proposals and thus setting a stage for a fresh round of confrontation with the Centre and the office of Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal. "The matter has been reserved for the consideration of the President of India due to the difference of opinion between the L-G and the elected AAP Government. The file of Cabinet decision received by the L-G office was forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday for further action," a

Delhi Government official said. "It has been recommended that the 11 special public prosecutors in Republic day violence-related cases and three others in northeast Delhi riots cases, proposed by the Delhi Police be immediately appointed in view of the gravity of the two matters," he said.

This is the first time the L-G has reserved any matter for consideration of the President, owing to the difference of opinion with the Arvind Kejriwal dispensation, since the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021, came into force in April this year," the government official added.

Last year, in a similar way, the L-G had used his special powers to give effect to the appointment of Delhi Police's special prosecutors in cases related to northeast Delhi riots of 2020 that claimed over 50 lives besides resulting in injuries to hundreds of persons and extensive damage to private and public property.

The Delhi Cabinet, in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on July 16, had observed that "a free-and-fair trial of these cases



would not be possible by a panel of lawyers selected by the city police itself," rejecting L-G's recommendation of special public prosecutors suggested by Delhi Police.

The Delhi Government had in July 2020 also rejected the proposal of the Delhi Police for the appointment of special prosecutors in the riot's cases. The LG had overturned the Delhi Government's decision and directed its home department to grant approval to the Delhi Police's proposed panel of

Baijal had rejected the cabinet decision by exercising his special power under Article 239AA(4) of the Constitution by reserving the matter of appointment of public prosecutors, for consideration by the President of India.

The Delhi Government has already protested with the LG over his use of "veto power" in matters relating to subjects of its domain. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in a letter to Baijal last Saturday had

stated the Constitution has given "veto" power to the LG to reserve any matter on which he disagrees with the decision of the elected Government, for consideration of the President. "However, the Constitution

bench of the Supreme Court has stated that the LG will use it occasionally and under extraordinary circumstances," Sisodia had said referring to an apex court verdict in 2018 that among other things empowered the elected Government in Delhi of decision making in all matters except police, land and public order. In April this year, howev-

er, Delhi"s lieutenant governor became the effective in-charge of the national Capital with the Centre notifying a new law making it clear that the elected government will now have to seek the opinion of the L-G before any executive decision.

The Union Home Ministry's notification giving effect to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 came into effect from April 27.

LG's interference insult to people, BJP should respect democracy: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

While the Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Saturday rejected the Delhi Cabinet's decision to reject the police's proposal to set up pan-els of public prosecutors in farmers' case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the L-G's interference in everyday work is an insult to the people of Delhi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) should respect democracy.

"Delhi people formed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) with a historic majority and defeated the BJP. Let BJP run the country and let 'AAP' run Delhi," Kejriwal added.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Central Government's antifarmers conspiracy would be exposed in Court. "Fearing that Central Government's anti-farmer conspiracy would be exposed in Court, LG rejected the panel of lawyers decided by the Delhi Cabinet," Sisodia said, "Overturning cabinet's decisions like this is an insult to the people of Delhi, BJP should respect democracy.

"It was decided in the Delhi Cabinet on July 19 that lawyers would be appointed by the Delhi Government with respect to the farmer agitation cases going on in the Court. However, the Lieutenant Governor reversed this decision of the Delhi Government on Saturday and sent the file to the President."

"As per the Constitution, the Chief Minister of the elected government of Delhi has

been given the right to appoint lawyers. Overturning the decision of the Delhi Cabinet by the Lieutenant Governor is entirely against the Constitution. If the appointment of lawyers is also to be done by the Lieutenant Governor, what will happen to the rights of the Government elected by the people as per the constitu-

"The Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court, including 5 senior judges, had clearly stated in its order that the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has only two powers.

Either the LG can agree with the decision of the elected Government and act accordingly, and if the LG disagrees, then he may send his disagreement to the President. The Supreme Court had also said in its order that the Lieutenant Governor has been given the power to refer a matter to the President only in extraordinary circumstances and not in every case."

Sisodia alleged that the

Centre is violating the constitutional rights of the elected Delhi Government. "Centre needs to read the constitution and reflect that if the government elected by the people is not being allowed to function, then what is the need to hold elections, and what is the need for the constitution? This shows the unconstitutional and undemocratic attitude of the BJP-led Central Government,"

Questioning the Central Government, the Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia asked, 'What is the intent behind rejecting the panel of lawyers decided by the Delhi Government?

he added.

The Central government is afraid that the panel of lawyers appointed by the CM will expose the conspiracy led by the Central government against the farmers in Court." While advising the Centre, Sisodia said that the Central Government should stop interfering in the matters of farmers and the Delhi Government.

Security guard in southwest Delhi



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 41-year-old security guard for allegedly killing a person who used to harass his daughter in southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur area. Police said that the accused was caught by police on the weekly hours of Saturday while he was trying to dispose of the body in a cart rickshaw.

The accused has been identified as Surmesh, a resident of Mahipalpur and native of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh (UP). He was working as a security guard with NS Security for the last four year.

According to Ingit Pratap Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southwest district, at head constable Vinod Kumar from the PCR unit spotted Surmesh carrying the body on a rickshaw and nabbed him.

"The deceased has a tattoo on his left arm and a parking slip of IGI airport was found in

his pocket. He was later identified as Santosh Kumar Jha (25), a resident of Mahipalpur and native of Muzaffarpur in Bihar. He was a driver in a courier company," said the

"Interrogation revealed that Jha was harassing the daughter of Surmesh for the last three years. He used to follow her whenever she went out. On Thursday, Jha came to the house of the accused in a drunken condition and started arguments with him. During these arguments, they both went to the ground floor and entered a vacant room," said the

"During heated arguments, Surmesh gave a fist blow to Jha and strangled him with gamcha that Jha was carrying with him. He kept the body in a room in the basement where he was working as security guard and on Saturday, he was trying to dispose of it and was caught. Accused has been arrested and is being produced in the court,"

"No complaint was received against Jha for harassing the daughter of the accused. Further investigation is in progress," he said. Surmesh has a wife, one daughter and

Teen girl abducted, sold for ₹50K by held for killing man social media friend, victim rescued



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

he Crime Branch of Delhi Police has rescued a 16vear-old girl from Bhind in Madhya Pradesh (MP) who was sold there for marriage by a person whom she met on a social media application.

The accused, identified as Rajeev Garg, a resident of Bhind, was also arrested on Thursday.

According to Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police 29, the girl told her parents that she was going to one of her friends' house and when she did not return, search was made by her family and later a case was registered at Ranhola police station next day under

kidnapping). The call detail records of the victim were scrutinized and police focused on a mobile number whose location was found to be in Etawah in UP and Gwalior and Bhind in MP. The location of that mobile number was in Delhi on the day when the girl went missing. Its movement was followed and police apprehended Garg on Thursday from Bhind," said

"On his instance, the vicnear bus stand, Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. Enquiry revealed that the victim had created an ID on a social media application where she came into contact with Garg through his ID that he had created in the name of

Mahi Garg," said the DCP. "The interaction between

them started and the girl had no idea that the person on the other end was a man with nefarious designs. One day, when she came to

know that her virtual friend is a male and not a female, she stopped talking to him and later blocked his mobile number when he tried to contact her," said the DCP.

"After sometime, Garg called her from some other number and emotionally exploited her to continue friendship and unblock his phone number," said the DCP adding that he also convinced her to meet him at Madhuban Chowk.

"On May 29, the girl went to Madhuban Chowk and met Garg who abducted her and took to Bhind to sell the victim. The victim was subjected to physical and sexual assault by Garg and he had sold her to one Ram Mohan, a resident of Bhind, for Rs 50,000 and she was forced to marry him," said

"Garg has remained in in a dowry case. Mohan is a tenant of Garg and is at large. Efforts are on to trace him. Victim and Garg were brought to Delhi and handed over to local police for further necessary action," said the DCP.



Car runs over labourers on roadside, six injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Six labourers, who were sitinjured after a speeding car hit them in north Delhi's Narela area. Police said a manhunt has been initiated to nab the driver who fled from the spot after the incident.

The injured have been identified as Narender (43), Sharad (40), Sanjay (35), Sunil (30), Nand Lal (32) and Sukhdin (21).

According to a senior police official, information was received at Narela Industrial Area police station regarding the accident following which Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was dispatched for the spot."On spot, police team found that all the injured persons were shifted to MV Hospital. One accidental Baleno car was found at the spot. Enquiry revealed that the car was coming from Narela side and going towards Bawana which got disbalanced due to over speed and the vehicle hit the labourers sitting near roadside green area," he said. "Medico-legal cases of the victims have been collected and a case under section 279 (rash driving) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Îndian Penal Code has been registered," he said.

AAP: NMC gives eviction notice to shopkeepers near Gaffar market STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

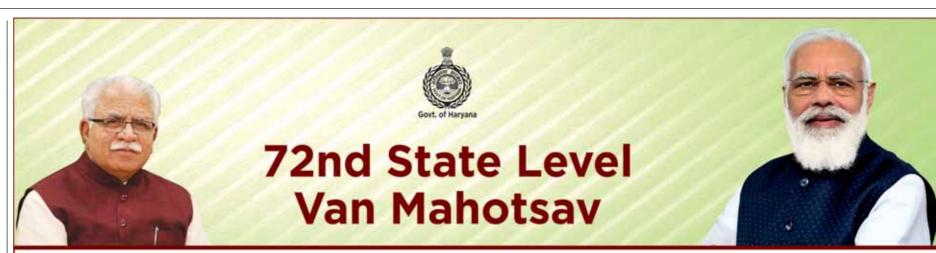
am Aadmi Party (AAP) Aam Aaum 1 m., accused the north municipal corporation of demolishing areas around Gaffar Market to reconstruct complexes and to sell it afresh while evicting the existing shopkeepers.

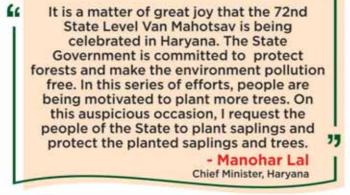
AAP chief spokesperson

Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the north corporation wants to evict shopkeepers who were given a lease of 99 years in 1976 and reconstruct it with a new builder who will sell these shops to new people instead.

The corporation did not carry out maintenance for 40 years and now served an eviction notice to empty the market within three days. MCD and DDA construct market complexes at various places and the shops in these markets are given on lease for 99 years. Ideally, these leases are converted into freehold deeds. However, the MCD in connivance with big builder mafias is coming up with a new technique," he said.

He further added, "The most astounding thing in this situation is that the MCD wants to evict the shopkeepers who were given a lease of 99 years. There are about 39 such markets in Delhi and the MCD is making a similar plan for all these markets. This is being done so that the BJP can fill hundreds of crore rupees in their pockets before leaving the MCD."







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

- Narendra Modi Prime Minister

Protect Trees, Save Environment Forests Department, Haryana 📍 Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana 📵 www.prharyana.gov.in | 📢 🗇 🚅 @DiprHaryana

Mob fury in Bihar town over custodial death

Several cops injured, woman constable dies

constable died after being run over by a vehicle here while trying to quell a mob which in protest against a custodial death indulged in heavy stone-pelting and fired gunshots in the air, leaving many police personnel injured.

The busy Jehanabad-Arwal highway remained jammed for hours on account of the trouble that erupted in Parasbigha police station area of the district, said Sub Divisional Police Officer, Jehanabad, Ashok Kumar Pandey.

The mob was furious over the death of one Govind Manjhi who was arrested some time back for engaging in liquor trade. He had been remanded to judicial custody and lodged at a jail in the adjoining Aurangabad district, he said.

Notably, sale and consumption of liquor is completely banned in Bihar where the Nitish Kumar Government had brought in a stringent prohibition law six years ago.

"Manjhi died at the jail on Friday. As the news reached here, residents of his village squatted on the highway blaming the death on physical torture. When a police party tried to assuage them, they took

Pandey.

The SDPO said the constable, Kanti Devi, "was hit by a vehicle while she was engaged in the operation and she succumbed to injuries while being rushed to a hospital".

"The agitators indulged in heavy stone-pelting and fired a few shots from unlicensed firearms. Several police personnel have received grievous injuries. We have arrested five people in this connection. A heavy deployment of police is in place to keep the situation control".



9 die in Guj LPG cylinder explosion

Ahmedabad/Bhopal: At least nine persons, including four children, have died after suffering grievous injuries in the explosion of an LPG cylinder and resultant fire in a room on the outskirts of Ahmedabad in Gujarat, police said on Saturday.

The deceased belonged to Madhya Pradesh, a senior officer said.

The incident occurred on the night of July 20. While eight victims - labourers and their family members - died in the last couple of days during treatment, another one succumbed to injuries on Saturday morning, he said.

"Leakage of gas from an LPG cylinder had triggered explosion and fire, in which 10

persons, including children and women, suffered severe burn injuries.

The incident has claimed the lives of nine of them so far. They were undergoing treatment at the civil hospital," inspector P R Jadeja of Aslali police station said.

The labourers and their family members were sleeping in the small room when the gas from their cylinder started

leaking.

When their neighbour knocked on their door to alert them about the leakage, one of the labourers got up and switched on the light, which triggered a spark and led to the explosion due to the concentration of gas, another police official said.

Man gets 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for raping minor



Bahraich (UP): A local court here has sentenced a man to 10 years' imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹30,000 on him for raping a 13-year-old girl over 14 years ago.

The FIR in the case was lodged on October 17, 2006, against Lav Kumar, alias Badkau, of Sarwantara village under the Rupediha police station, additional government advocate Girish Chandra Shukla said on Saturday.

The trial was going on in the court of Additional Sessions Judge (POCSO Act) Nitin Pandey.

On Friday, the court pronounced its verdict and sentenced Kumar to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment.

In case he fails to pay the fine, the convict will have to undergo further imprisonment for one year, the advocate

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based private jet operator.

The company violated DGCA rules multiple times by not complying

with NSOP norms. Sequence of violations observed from 2018 to

2020, according to reports. engine shut downs, poor maintenance

and non-adherence to FDTL norms (Flight Duty Time Limitations)

which amassed upto 264 times, are few. april-2020, pilot flying

aircraft without licence, that too with an onboard political- VVIP is

it not violation of DGCA rules? What action initiated by DGCA

it is also given understood that, VSR Ventures maintains multiple

technical log books enable them to manipulate data showing low

flying hours, a fact- check with ATC data unveils the truth. the

reports further vindicates pilots did not meet even aviation rules

for instance, no justification for grant of NSOP on one occasion

but aviation company violated on several instances, according to

information, maintenance of aircraft is only on paper but not carried

out in physical, it is given understood, company indulged into financial

irregularities by tax evasion, accepting cash transaction, are to say a

few, it is high time that a forensic investigation on all activity be

probed from all corners of 'VSR' activities, which only evades doubts

among people, and the feelings that 'our skies are unsafe places'

knowing gross violation of safety norms by the operator.

as rain batters K'taka Bengaluru: Nine people have

Nine dead, 3 missing

died and three were missing in Karnataka so far, with torrential rains battering several parts of coastal, malnad and northinterior region of the state, causing flood like situation and landslides, officials said on

A total of 31,360 people have been evacuated from low lying areas, while 22,417 people are taking shelter in 237 relief camps that have been opened Government.

According to data shared the State Disaster Management Authority, 283 villages in 45 taluks have been lashed by rains, affecting a population of 36,498.

Among the deaths reported since July 22, four are from Uttara Kannada district, two from Belagavi and one each Čhikkamagaluru, Dharwad and Kodagu.

Landslides have occurred

at seven locations in Uttara Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, three in Kodagu and one each in Shivamogga and Hassan dis-

Over 2,600 houses have been damaged, and 78 animals have died in rain-related inci-

An estimated 58,961 hectares of agricultural crops and 1,962 hectares of horticulture crops have been damaged due to rains and floods, which has also damaged over 555 km of road, more than 3,500 electric poles and 342 transform-

According to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Dharwad, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu districts received widespread heavy to extremely heavy rains on Saturday. PTI

Nadda addresses Goa BJP leaders, asks them to ensure relief for flood-affected

PTI ■ PANAJI

 $B^{\mbox{\scriptsize JP}}$ national president JP Nadda, who is Ooa, a two-day visit to Goa, on Saturday addressed Members of Parliament, MLAs and functionaries from the party here and asked them to ensure that people affected by the floods caused by heavy rains over the past few days are taken care of. Nadda, who arrived in the State in the

afternoon, was welcomed by chief minister Pramod Sawant, state unit chief Sadanand Shet Tanavade and others.

"In his address, Nadda asked leaders to ensure that the party organisation manages to reach those affected by the floods. He also appreciated the state government's Covid-19 vaccination drive," a functionary

On Sunday, Nadda will visit the Mangueshi Temple at 8.30 am, and then attend a tree plantation event with Sadguru Brahmeshanandacharya Swami at Tapobhumi in Kundai at 9.15 am.

At 10.30 am, he will visit a vaccination centre at Don Bosco High School here, and at 3:15pm, he will address a press conference, the party functionary informed.

Students failing in Bengal higher secondary examination hold protests

Kolkata: Several Class 12 students who have been declared failed by the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE)blocked roads and ran-Education

sacked furniture of a school during protests across the state on Saturday. Of the 8,19,202 candidates,

97.69 per cent have passed this year.

The agitating students said with no exams having taken place this year due to the COVID-19 situation, they were baffled by the evaluation process. They wondered how some examinees were declared as having passed while some others were declared unsuccessful.

An evaluation method had been worked out this year based on marks obtained by an examinee in the Madhyamik (class 10 examination) and class 11 annual test.

Some of the agitators even proceeded to the residence of Education Minister Bratya Basu but were dissuaded by the police, an officer said. An official of the WBCHSE said its president Mahua Das was holding talks with the heads of several schools on the issue. Officials said, irate students of

Inda Krishnalal Sikshaniketan in Paschim Medinipur district barged into the classrooms of their educational institute and damaged furni-ture demanding they be declared as Protests were held at Hariharpara in Murshidabad district

of nearby Saratpur Bidyalaya burnt tyres in the middle of a road during a road blockade. Unsuccessful candidates also blocked roads at Habibpur in Malda district, and at Madhyamgram Chowmatha in North 24 Parganas district on similar grounds.

where the unsuccessful candidates

"Since there was no examination this year, we should be declared as passed. Or everyone must be declared as failed," a protesting girl student was heard screaming in

UP to provide free WiFi in every city from August 15

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government will provide free WiFi facility to the youth of the State from August 15 this year.

Under this initiative by the State Government, people especially the youth will be able to avail free WiFi facility across all 75 districts, offices, municipal councils, 17 municipal corporations and 217 public places in the State.

On the instructions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the urban development department officials are now busy with the campaign to provide free WiFi facility to the people.

Divisional Commissioners, District

Magistrates and Municipal Commissioners have been instructed to provide the facility at major public

They have been instructed to make sure the hotspots for WiFi services are identified so that from August 15, people in the state can get the free facility at every bus station, places near the railway stations, tehsils, courts, block offices, registrar offices and main markets in each city of Uttar Pradesh.

Blinken: Will discuss human rights in India...

The Government has asserted that India has well established democratic practices and robust institutions to safeguard the rights of all.

The government has emphasised that the Indian Constitution provides for adequate safeguards under various ensuring the protection of human rights.

Thompson asserted that the relationship with India is a strong one that has endured through administrations of all colours and stripes in the United States and will continue to do so.

"We are looking forward to this oppor-**VIP PRIVATE JETS OR FLYING COFFINS** tunity for the Secretary Whether General Aviation Industry in India complying with to talk with Prime mandatory rules as recommended by DGCA2 The answer is no Minister Narendra when one focus into the affairs of VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd., a Delhi Modi, with External

continue to pursue the myriad areas of common interest that we have," he said. "I think it's fair to say that we see

the relationship continuing at a very high level, and India will. Of course. Remain an incredibly important partner," he said.

our global comprehensive strategic partnership, and I think by virtue of the President making the Quad and our partnership with India very high priorities right at the outset of this administration, it sets the tone for what we think we can achieve and accomplish with them, and with our other partners as well. So. I would expect to continue the dialogues that we've had on all those fronts," Thompson

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Better safe than sorry: Embassy to Indians in Af

The Indian companies in Afghanistan were advised once again to make special security arrangements in respect of their Indian employees deployed at project sites. Special attention was drawn to members of the Indian media travelling to Afghanistan to cover events through ground reports. Media persons covering events on the ground was advised to establish contact with the Indian Embassy for a personalized briefing including specific advice for the locale they are traveling

The Ministry of External Affairs on July 12 had said after the evacview of intense fighting near Kandahar city.

Describing the pull out of the India-based personnel as a tempo rary measure, the Ministry had said the consulate continues to operate through the local staff members.

"The safety and security of our personnel is paramount. The consulate general of India in Kandahar has not been closed. However, due to the intense fighting near Kandahar city, India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being," Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said.

There were reports that at least two foreign missions in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of northern Balkh province, have closed their operation in view of the escalating violence in the region.

Mother in tears as Mirabai sports 'good luck' earrings

From Page 1

"I was in tears seeing it and also during the moment she won the medal. Her father (Saikhom Kriti Meitei) was also in tears. Tears of joy. All her hard work has led to the success. Chanu ended India's 21-year

wait for a weightlifting medal at the Olympics by clinching a sil-

ver medal in the 49kg category to open the country's account on Saturday. The 26-year-old lifted a total

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

India rejoices at Chanu's feat

From Page 1

Her smile shone the brightest during the entire performance on Saturday but also hard to miss were the Olympic rings' shaped earrings that she was sporting, which were a gift from her mother.

"I would like to thank my family, especially my mother for a lot of sacrifices and believing in me," she The gold went to China's Hou

Zhihui with an effort of 210kg records in all three categories (snatch, clean and jerk and Total). "I've tried many times to beat

her. I failed one attempt (on clean & jerk) but I was trying very hard to beat her," Chanu said.

Aisah Windy Cantika of Indonesia took home the bronze with an effort of 194kg (84kg+110kg).

Considered her weakness in the run up to the marquee event, Chanu attempted 84kg in her first snatch attempt. The Manipuri took her time and cleanly heaved the bar-

bell.

She lifted 87kg in her next attempt and raised the weight to 89kg, which was 1kg more than her personal best of 88kg that she had lifted at the national championship last year.

However, she was unable to bet ter her personal best and settled for 87kg in the snatch event only behind leader Zhihui, who created a new Olympic record with an effort of

The Chinese lifter also holds the

world mark (96kg) in the category. In the clean and jerk, world

record holder Chanu lifted 110kg and 115kg in the first two attempts. However, she was unable to raise 117kg in her final attempt, which would have been an Olympic

record but it was enough to fetch her a medal and open India's account. The diminutive Mannipuri

broke down after realising that she has secured a medal and hugged head coach Vijay Sharma in jubili-

She later broke into a punjabi bhangra too to celebrate the historic podium finish. Delighted by her achievement,

not even a face mask could hide Chanu's smile that spread ear to ear at the medal ceremony, where there was a bit of confusion among the As per COVID-19 protocols

laid out for the Games, the winners were supposed to be social distanced and not pose for a group photograph as per the Games protocols. But the three medallist con-

gratulated each other and came together to get pictures clicked before being asked to distance by an official.

An Olympic medal was long overdue for the Indian, who has proved her mettle as a fighter in the international arena time and again.

Her cabinet includes a coveted world championship gold medal, two Commonwealth Games medals -- silver in 2014 and gold in 2018 and an Asian Championship

GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

E-mail: uttarkhandwrd@gmail.com, Website: www.iriroorkee.res.in

Office of Executive Engineer (Procurement Officer-I) SPMU, NHP, Irrigation Research Institute Roorkee-247667

e-Tender Notice No. 1/PO-1/SPMU/NHP/2021-22, Dated 24.07.2021 Executive Engineer (Procuretnent Officer-I), SPMU, NHP, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item wise rates for the following work through e-

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender form (Rs.)		Period of completion
1	2	3	4	5
	Supply. Installation. Testing, Commissioning computer, printer. etc. in SWIC Building in Roorkee under National Hydrology Project (NHP)		90 Days	03 months
Key Dates				
1	Date of calling		24.07.2021	-
2	Date of online publication		26.07.2021	4.30 PM
3	Documents downloads start date		26.07.2021	5.00 PM
4	Pre-bid meeting date		06.08.2021	11.45 AM
5	Bid submission start date		16.08.2021	03.30 PM
6	6 Bid submission end date		26.08.2021	03.00 PM
7	7 Physical Submission of bid security and cost of bidding document		26.08.2021	03.00 PM
8	8 Date of opening of Technical bid		26.08.2021	03.30 PM
For further details please log on to www.uktenders.gov.in				

Manager, N.E.Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites website https://ireps.gov.in.

🔘 NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice Dy.CME/Repair for Chief Workshop

open tenders through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work S.N.-1. E-Tender Notice No. IREPS Tender No. 12-MWS-GKP-2021-22, Name of work: "D-Check Schedule Maintenance of 12 Nos Cummins make D.G. Sets of 06 Nos. Power Cars", Estimated cost ₹ 5,47,17,411.36, Earnest Money Zero, Cost of Tender Forms: Zero Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00. Hrs, Date: 24.08.2021 Period of Contract: 180 Days S.N.-2, E-Tender Notice No. IREPS Tender No. 10-GKP-MWS 2021-22, Name of work:
"Overhauling (E-Check) of Power
car No. 14869 Engine make
Greaves", Estimated cost:
₹ 1,09,93,355.18, Earnest Money:
Zero, Cost of Tender Forms: Zero,
Last date of tender submission: Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00. Hrs, Date: 24.08.2021 Period of Contract: 180 Days Note: . The details of above tende are also available on Indian Railway CPRO/Mech-19

About any passenger amenity comp SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

Massive evacuation...

From Page 1 The toll estimated by the

SDMA is a conservative one. Unconfirmed reports said the number of deaths had crossed 100 and the final toll might be much more.

Giving an overall picture of the rain and flood situation in coastal Konkan region and western Maharashtra, a senior state government official said, "Mahad and Poladpur in Raigad, Chiplun and in Ratnagiri in Konkan region and districts of Satara, Kolhapur and Sangli have been badly affected both by rains and consequent flood. We are witnessing flood situation in Thane and Palghar districts."

In an effort to deal with the flood situation, the Disaster Management, Relief & Rehabilitation authorities deployed teams of the National Disaster Response Force "DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN" (NDRF) and the State Disaster

Response Force across all the affected districts. As many as 890 villages have been affected by the floods.

A total of 25 NDRF teams plus 8 on standby, 3 units each of Indian Army and Indian Coast Guard, 7 of Indian Navy and 1 of Indian Air Force have been engaged in the rescue operations nonstop since the past over 24 hours.

According to official reports, heavy rainfall led to the breaking of the banks of Savitri river, resulting flooding in Mahad and Poladpur towns. The whole town of Mahad was completely cut off and was not accessible by road. Many people were stranded on roof tops and upper floors of the houses.

Owing to overflow of Savitri river water onto the bridges, rescue teams could not reach the said regions. There landslides in the villages of

Tayle, Sakharsutarwaadi in Mahad taluka and Kevnale in Poladpur taluka.

In Ratnagiri district, Chiplun and Khed towns have been completely inundated due to discharge from the Koyna dam and subsequently the Koltewadi dam leading to the rise in the levels of the Vashisti

The two towns were cut off due to land routes being inundated. The bridge over the Vashisitiriver on the Mumbai Chiplun route was washed

Thousands of people were stranded on roof tops and upper floors of the houses as the water levels rose to over 15 to 20 feet in many places. NDRF and Coast Guard teams were deployed. Helicopters of the Airforce were also deployed for rescue and air dropping of food and water packets.

Relief camps have been set up at three locations where all arrangements were made for the rescued people. "One col-

patched for relief efforts. Coast Guard teams were also dispatched to the spot. More than 1000 people were safely evacuated by the various response teams," the State Government official said. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Food and Civil Supplies

umn of the Army was also dis-

Minister Chhagan Bhujbal announced that the State Government provide free foodgrains and kerosene to the people in the flood-affected regions of the State. Talking to media persons at Nashik in north Maharashtra, Bhujbal said the State

Government would provide 10 kg wheat, 10 kg, five kgs dal and five litre kerosene to each family, as per a government policy of March 2019. The kerosene will help

people cook their meals since many areas are still waterlogged and without electricity and other fuels supplies due to the floods since the past three days," he said.

Executive Engineer, (Procurement Officer-I) पुत्रांक ९९/अधि०अधि-1/एस०पी०एम०यू०/एन०एच०पी० SPMU. NHP, Irrigation Research Institute. Roorkee दिनांकः 24/07/2021

Booster shot with 2nd gen vax needed: AIIMS



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

secured the best pass percentage for the Class 10th and Class 12th exam results followed by the Western region in Class 10th results and Northern region for Class 12th results. While the pass percentage for the Southern region in ICSE results is 100 per cent, it is 99.91 per cent for ISC exams.

pass percentage of 100 percent. În ISC Class 12 results, Delhi has also recorded 99.93%.

in West Bengal for ICSE is 99.98 per cent and it is 99.63 per cent for ISC Class 12th. As many as 39,520 and 26,859 students have enrolled for Class

ICSE declares Class 10th, 12th Boards' results



PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

The CBSE is scheduled to declare the results any day next week.

The Southern region has

Delhi NCR has recorded a

The overall pass percentage

Cong appoints new State chiefs in Assam, Manipur

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In another appointment, Loken Singh was appointed interim president of the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee with immediate effect till a full-time chief is named.

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

Also, the party named Arya Kumar İnanendra as chief organiser for the Odisha

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

IANS NEW DELHI

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

lives on the line, Government admits no timeline, classic case of missing spine.

He tweeted with the hashtag of #WhereAreVaccines.

His remarks came a day after the government said that no fixed timeline can be indicated at present for the com-



pletion of the vaccination drive. The Government said it is expected that beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021.

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati

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

She said that in view of the dynamic and evolving nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, "no fixed timeline at present can be indicated for the completion of vaccination drive".

Pawar said, "However, it is expected that beneficiaries aged 18 years and above will be vaccinated by December 2021."

recorded 99.93%.

Delhi-NCR has

recorded a pass

percentage of

100% in Class X.

In ISC Class 12

results, Delhi has

10th ICSE and ISC Class 12th exams respectively. Odisha has recorded a pass

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

are appellate remedies available under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to an aggrieved party. The petition is dismissed," the bench said. The apex court was hear-

ing a PIL filed by one Ashok Surana seeking to declare that

cannot act as an appellate authority to the decisions of this court and find flaws so as to circumvent the "rule of law" laid down.

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

constructive res judicata (matter decided) applies to the decisions of this court and is a fundamental rule which

"Declare that the rule of

sidelined or overruled.

sustains the rule of law in ensuring finality to litigation," the plea said. Surana submitted that the NCLT has misinterpreted the judgments of this court and, hence, the invocation of the urisdiction

under Article 32 is sought to

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Therefore, a red warning has been issued over the subdivision for the day, as it instructs the residents to 'take action' to protect themselves rough Meanwhile, since the beginning of the monsoon period on June 1, both Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have received below-average rainfall.

"Further reduction in rainfall intensity is very likely along the west coast, including Konkan, Goa and adjoining interior Maharashtra, during the next 24 hours," the IMD said. "Fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls

very likely to continue over west coast, including Maharashtra, on July 24 and isolated heavy falls thereafter," it said. Extremely heavy rains have killed scores of people in Maharashtra over the past few days, submerging several areas and damaging property.

The National Disaster

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

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

with the state administration.

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

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

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

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

SC to hear plea on premature release from jail

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

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

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

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

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks," the bench said.

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

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

able.
"However, for the first 10, 2012, there was a substantial change/departure from the said policy wherein it stipulated that such prisoners who facing imprisonment would have to undergo actual sentence of 20

years with a total sentence of

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

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

Ban on sharp synthetic/nylon kite flying thread including popularly

known "Chinese Manjha"

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

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

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

Any breach of the above directions may be reported to the office of the following.					
S. No.	Designation	Email ID	Helpline Number		
1.	The Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police	cp.snshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in	100		
2.	The Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD	divcom@nic.in	1077		
3.	The Chief Wildlife Warden, GNCTD	ccfgnctd@gmail.com	1800118600		
4.	The Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal	commr-northdmc@mcd.nic.in	155304		
	Corporation				
5.	The Commissioner, South Delhi Municipal	commissioner-sdmc@mcd.nic.in	155305		
	Corporation				
6.	The Commissioner, East Delhi Municipal	commissioneredmc@gmail.com	155303		
	Corporation				

Note:-

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

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

Sd/-

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

DIP/Shabdarth/0174/21-22

Three terrorists killed, jawan hurt in Bandipora

militants were killed while an Army jawan was injured in an encounter in Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Shokbaba forest in the Sumblar area of Bandipora in north Kashmir following inputs about the presence of militants there, they said.

The officials said as the forces were conducting searches in the area, the militants fired

The forces retaliated, ensuing an encounter in which so far three militants have been killed, they added.



Srinagar-based PRO Defence Col Emron Musavi said an Army personnel suffered injuries in the gunfight. He said the injured jawan has been evacuated and is undergoing treatment.

The officials said the identity and group affiliation of the slain ultras are being ascer-

The operation is in progress and further details are awaited, they said.

BSF lodges protest with Pak over drone in first meeting

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

day after Jammu & Kashmir police shot Aday after Jammu & Rasinini poince since Aday after Jammu & Rasinini poince since after a few after a IED in Kanachak area of Jammu, senior officers of the Border Security Force of Jammu frontier Saturday lodged a strong protest with their Pakistani counterparts during their first sector commander level meeting after the declaration of ceasefire agreement by DGMOs on February 24/25, 2021

The meeting was held on the request of Pakistan Rangers in the Suchetgarh area. The BSF delegation was led by Surjit Singh, DIG, Border Security Force and

Pakistan Rangers delegation was led by Brig Murad Hussain, sector commander Pakistan Rangers, Sialkot Sector. According to a BSF spokesman, "During

the meeting, Commanders of both the border guarding Forces, discussed various issues with main emphasis by BSF delegation on Pak Drone activities, terrorists activities by Pakistan from across the border, digging of



tunnels by Pakistan and other issues related to Border management. A very strong protest was lodged by BSF delegates against drone activities by Pakistan authorities in the Jammu Area"

According to a BSF spokesman, "It was decided to re-energize instant communication between field Commanders, whenever required, to resolve the ops matters. Meeting was held in a cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere and both sides agreed for expeditious implementation of the decisions taken in the earlier DG level talks and committed to each other to maintain peace and harmony at the International Border".

BJP set to field all its veterans in upcoming UP Assembly polls

PNS LUCKNOW

Gearing up for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has prepared a mega plan and if sources are to be believed, the party is set to field all its veterans in the upcoming polls.

The ruling party leaders who are certain to contest the elections include Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma and BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh, cabinet minister Mahendra Singh and others.

The BJP holds an over-

whelming majority of 312 seats in the 403-seat UP Assembly at present and aims to win over 300 plus seats in the next polls.

Well-placed sources in the BJP said in Lucknow on Saturday

that Yogi Adityanath, currently a member of UP Legislative Council, would contest the poll from any constituency of his home district Gorakhpur. Similarly, other MLCs like Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya would contest from Sirathu seat of Kaushambi, and Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma from one of the Assembly constituencies of Lucknow and minister Mahendra Singh from Pratapgarh.

In 2019, Keshav Prasad Maurya was elected to the Lok Sabha from Phulpur constituency while Dinesh Sharma was elected twice as Mayor of Lucknow.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently kicked off the UP poll campaign by praising Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Covid-19 handling during his recent visit to his Lok Sabha constituencv. Varanasi.

Kerala's co-operative bank accused of embezzlement as customer commits suicide

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

t a time when the AGovernment of Kerala is on a warpath with the Union Government over the latter's decision to set up a Ministry of cooperate affairs which the former alleges to be a blatant encroachment into the rights of the State, suicide of a senior Congress leader in Thrissur district over the irregularities in Karuvannur Cooperative Bank has come as an embarrassment to the ruling Left Democratic Front.

Officials of the State Cooperative Department, in their preliminary investigation has come across financial impropriety to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore in the bank. The

Registrar of Cooperative Department on Thursday night dissolved the director board of the Bank and appointed an assistant registrar as administrator. The director board of the Bank was full of CPI(M) nom-

T M Mukundan, a 59-yearold Congress leader, committed suicide by hanging in his house on Thursday. According to family members, Mukundan resorted to the extreme measure following the receipt of a revenue recovery notice from the Bank.

According to family members, Mukundan had availed loan worth ₹25 lakh in lieu of 16.5 cents land and a house. "But the revenue recovery notice says the loan amount was ₹80 lakh and interest. He was summoned

by the Bank authorities and asked to settle the loan without delay. We were in the process of disposing a property to settle the loan but of late the Bank authorities started to torment him with threats," said a close relation of Mukundan.

But the Bank officials state that Mukundan had availed loan amount of ₹50 lakh on 2018 March 3. "He stood security for another person for ₹30 lakh. Since the borrower failed to pay back ₹30 lakh, the responsibility of paying the amount fell on Mukundan, said a Bank official. They also disclosed that Mukundan had agreed to repay the loan arrears February 2021 itself.

Investigation has been ordered into how the ₹25 lakh

loan availed by Mukundan shot up to ₹80 lakh and why he was not given the 'breathing space' to pay back the loan despite the assurances made by him to the

Though the manager of the Bank had informed the Cooperative Department authorities about the shady deals carried out by the director board members in 2016 itself, a CPI(M) leader who was also the minister in the previous LDF government (2016-2021) got the manager dismissed citing indiscipline and financial impropriety. Investigating officials told The Pioneer that the Bank was a conduit for money laundering. By Saturday morning, the probe agencies including police and cooperative department have

found that the many cooperative banks in the State were actively engaged in money laundering and embezzlement to the tune of more than ₹10,000 crore.

Karunakaran Nambiar, all India general secretary of Sahakar Bharati told The Pioneer that Cooperative Banks in Kerala were being used for money laundering and hoarding of black money.

"Since provisions like Know Your Customer (KYC) were not applicable in these Cooperative Banks, they are ideal avenues for money laundering and violation of all financial regulations. Besides Banks, the cooperative sector in the State itself is enmeshed in financial embezzlement," said

Village along Indo-Bangla border in Assam gets 1st women self-help group

on Covid-19 duty has inspired the women of a remote village along the Bangladesh border in Cachar district of Assam to form their first selfhelp group (SHG) which would now provide them the linkage to Government welfare

Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli had visited the minority-dominated Tukergram revenue village (Puran Basti), bordering Bangladesh, under Harinagar Gaon Panchayat of Katigorah Development Block, for Covid-19 testing and vaccination awareness on June 11, an official statement said on Saturday.

During the visit, Jalli noticed that women of the area aspired to do developmental works but were not organised to that extent, it added. She then asked them to form a SHG, comprising marginalised women of that area, so that they

Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) and supported through various Government schemes, 'Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran

This led to the formation of the first SHG in the area, named 'Pally Unnayan SHG', on Thursday, the statement further said.

Expressing her happiness at mobilising these women to enable them to avail benefits under government schemes, Jalli said, "I am optimistic that skilling and handholding under ASRLM would enable them access to income generating platforms through activities like goat rearing, milk farming, etc.

"Most importantly, they are now in a position to plan for their families on financial matters as well, which paves the way for them to emerge as role models of women empowerment among their community and area.

Covid-19 cases continue unabated in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Despite strict regulations slapped on movement of people across the State, Saturday saw 18,531 new persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 in Kerala out of the 1.55 lakh samples tested during the last 24 hours.

A release issued by the Health Minister's office said

that 98 patients succumbed to the pandemic taking the death toll till date to 15,969. The State's average Test Positivity Rate (TPR) showed 11.91 peracross Kerala which have TPR of 15 per cent and above. Dr P Gopikumar, secretary,

Indian Medical Association's Kerala wing told The Pioneer that the home quarantine and isolation of persons tested positive was no more paying the desired results. "The virus causing Covid-

19 detected during the second wave of attack has been found to be more powerful than the earlier version. Now what has happened is that the other members of the family where the patient is put in quarantine or isolation too get afflicted with the pandemic and this



Gopikumar

the State Government to shift all the persons who test positive to either community living centres or First Line Treatment dearth in Kerala.

"Ill not go to the extent of telling that the situation was alarming. We, the IMA has asked the Government to reschedule the lock down mode and allow shops and business establishments to function on all days. But the crowd restrictions' should be enforced strictly," said Dr Gopikumar.

But senior Government physicians said the situation in Kerala was a cause for concern. "It has been found that the pandemic is spreading much faster than the initial phases. Kerala has become an epicenter of

does not augur well," said Dr Covid-19 and there are no restrictions on movement of He said the IMA has asked people, Public transport, especially buses and whatever trains that ply are filled to capacity. There is no reduction in traffic blocks even in small towns, physician in Ernakulam.

Both Dr Gopikumar and the Government physician were on the same page regarding their word of caution to people in other States who are planning to visit the State. Kerala is not safe for a holiday trip. It is safe and better to postpone the scheduled journey to the State lest the travelers end up as victims of the pandemthey said in unison.

There are four districts in the State each showing more than 2,000 new Covid-19 cases on Saturday while there were three districts each logging more than 1,000 cases.

UP administers record 10.06L doses of Covid vaccine in a single day

PNS LUCKNOW

Pipping another record in Covid vaccination on Friday, Uttar Pradesh administered as many as 10.06 lakh doses of the vaccine in a single day, taking the total number of jabs given till date to a whopping 4.38 crore.

A top State Government official said, "We have surpassed our previous best performance in Covid vaccination which was around 10.03 lakh doses on July 6. The State Government is sparing no effort to trace every case and contain the transmission of coronavirus infection and is now focusing on the importance of the vaccine to prepare itself in a better way against the anticipated third wave of Covid-19. Also, Uttar Pradesh has administered the maximum number of first doses to people in the age group of

Meanwhile on Friday, the state also witnessed the sharpest decline in the number of active Covid-19 cases with the caseload standing at 932, a decrease of 99.6 per cent from its peak capped at 3.10 lakh cases on April 30. In the last 24 hours, over 2.55 lakh samples were tested, taking the total number of Covid tests conducted in the state to 6.37 crore. Besides, the positivity rate also slumped to 0.02 per cent, the lowest in the country.

The total number of fresh novel coronavirus infections detected in the last 24 hours in the State was just 42 while during the same period, 99 Covid-19 patients recovered across the state.

Where other States have been witnessing a surge in fresh coronavirus infections (daily cases in the range of 14,000-3,000), Uttar Pradesh has restricted the daily case count below 50. In what comes as a big relief, none of the 75 districts of the state reported fresh coronavirus cases in double digits.

2,174 Covid-19 cases, 18 deaths reported in AP Nellore 246, Prakasam 233, West

ed 2,174 fresh cases of coronavirus, 2,737 recoveries and 18 deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday.

The total positives stood at 19,52,513, a health department bulletin said.

The active cases slide to 22,358 after a total of 19,16,914 recoveries and 13,241 deaths, it said.

East Godavari added 418 fresh cases to its count while Chittoor reported 329, Krishna 248, SPS Godavari 209, Guntur 132 and Visakhapatnam, 103. Five districts reported less than

90 cases each, with Kurnool logging just eight in a day. Krishna had five fresh fatalities, Chittoor four, East Godavari, Prakasam and West Godavari two

each and SPS Nellore, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam one each.

Five districts did not report any Covid-19 toll in a day.

Sikkim registers 225 new corona cases, 1 fresh fatality

people tested positive for the infection, while one fresh fatality pushed the Himalayan state's coronavirus death toll to 330, a health bulletin

West Sikkim district reported the highest number of new cases at 81, followed by East Sikkim (72), South Sikkim (71), and North Sikkim (one). Sikkim now has 2,849 active cases, while 21,380 people have recovered from the disease, and 264 patients have migrated to other states so far, it said. The recovery rate among the coronavirus patients in the state stands at

The Himalayan state has tested over 1.87 lakh samples for Covid-19 thus far, including 1,972 in the last 24 hours, the bulletin said, adding the positivity rate now stands at 11.4 per cent.

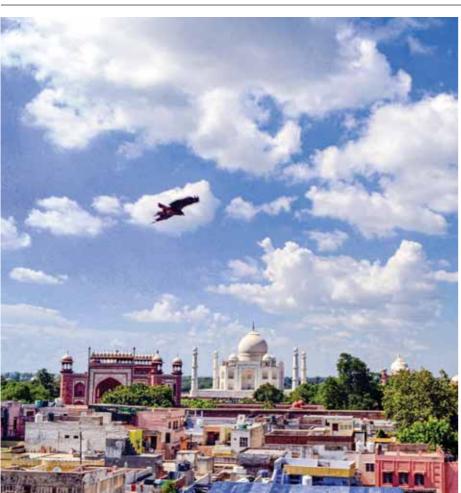
Study on to restore elephant corridors: TN Govt to HC

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Government has informed the Madras High Court that a comprehensive study is being undertaken with the assistance of World Wildlife Fund to ensure that elephant corridors and habitats in the Nilgiris area, if invaded, are restored to the forests and the animals.

International experts are also part of the inititiave, the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy was told on Friday when a PIL Muralidharan and another

Recording this, the bench adjourned the matter till September 2 with a direction to the state government to file within four weeks, an affidavit indicating the status of the area, the manner in which it was in use and its present

Earlier, the petitioner informed the court that one of the areas considered as a corridor was restored as it was later discovered to be a habitat and the restoration of the same was also upheld by the Supreme



Shilpa defends husband Kundra, says Hotshots app not pornography but erotic

▲Kundra is innocent, actress tell cops

Resigns from Kundra-owned industries

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

 $B^{
m ollywood}$ actress Shilpa Shetty has defended her businessman-husband Raj Kuinde, whjo has been named as a "key conspirator" in the scam involving the producing and streaming of pornographic films on mobile and other Apps, by saying that Kundra's HotShots App did not have pornographic content and that all content was of bold and erotic in nature.

Shilpa, who was questioned by the Mumbai Crime branch sleuths on Friday evening, distanced herself from husband's firm M/s Viaan Industries Ltd, of which Kundra is the owner and she used to be the co-owner, while Pradeep Bakshi Bakshi — a British citizen, who is married to Kundra's sister — is the Chairman of Kenrin Ltd.,

In defence of herself and her husband, Shilpa – who has made come back into films through "Hungama 2" released on an OTT platform, reportedly told the police that "content on Raj Kundra's App was not pornography but erotica. He is innocent' Kundra, who was arrested

on July 19, was on Friday remanded in police custody till The crime branch sleuths of the Mumbai police have

seized 48 TB worth of images

and videos, most of which is

During their investigations, the investigators have traced a record of transactions - from an account in Yes Bank registered to Mr Kundra to one in the United Bank of Africa.

They suspect money was accrued from the sale of pornographic content. A sum of ₹ 7.5 crore has been seized so

Following a raid conducted on February 4 this year by them on a private bungalow at picturesque Madh Island at Malad (west) in north Mumbai where a porn film was being shot, the Malwani police registered a case in pornographic movie racket. It was a tip-off from an affected woman who approached the police with her grievance that led to the

After initial investigation, the Mumbai Police handed the case to the Property Cell of Crime Branch-CID for further probe during which the name of United Kingdombased Pradeep Bakshi, the brother-in-law of Kundra, sur-

Meanwhile, Kundra has moved the Bombay High Court challenging his arrest and seeking dismissal of the lower court's order on extending police custody on that distinction. His petition also claims he

was arrested after being summoned to the police station "under the garb of recording his statement' On their part, the Mumbai

Crime branch sleuths have uncovered the conspiracy behind the making and streaming of pornographic videos through an app called "Hotshots" and also OTT platforms by putting up advertisements on social media plat-

The investigators have also recovered the messages from as WhatsApp group run by Kundra to deal with money accrued from the porn movies

produced by them. The group was named "H AAccounts" and had Kundra as its admin with four other members: Pradeep Bakshi, Rob Digital Marketing Hotshot, Raw Evans. They have found some incriminating messages relevant to the case being investigated by

The distribution and marketing strategy adopted by Kundra and team was to send the videos produced in Mumbai through an application to Kenrin Production in the UK to avoid legal issues in India. Kenrin Production would edit and upload the pornographic films Hotshot. Kenrin was allegedly funding the porn film production through agents based in India. The HotShots app ---

described as the "world's first 18+ app" showcasing some of the hottest models and celebs globally in exclusive photos, short films and hot videos (implying soft-to-hard porn) – was removed from mobile platforms. Similarly, Apple and Google have removed the app because of the pornographic content in it.

In all, eleven persons including Kundra, his aide Ryan John Tharpe and Kamat, have been arrested in connection with the pornography racket. They are: TV actress Gehna Vashisht (32) Yasmin Baig Khan alias Rowa Khan (40) Monu Joshi (28) Pratibha Nalavade (33) Atif Ahmed (24), Shaan Banerjee alias Dipankar Khasnavis (38), Bhanusuryam Thakur (26) Tanvir Hashmi (40) and Umesh Kamat (39). Model-actress Gehana

Vashisth, while Yasmin Rowa Khan was the producer-director. Kamat was the frontman for Kundra. Pratibha was the graphic designer, Joshi was cameraman. Gahna and Kamat were

both involved in producing and shooting porn, writing scripts; they also sent copies of their scripts to Kundra. In a related development,

Gehna - who is currently on bail - has claimed that she was arrested wrongly in the case. "Those videos are just adult videos. They are of erotic nature. None of them falls under the category of porn," she said.

On their part, the investigators are examining call records on her phone and information on her laptop both of which they seized.

A view of clouds hovering over the Taj Mahal in Agra on Saturday

Peace in Af possible only through political solution: US

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

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

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

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



BANDITS KILL 4 IRANIAN TROOPS NEAR PAK BORDER

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

14 KILLED IN WAREHOUSE FIRE IN CHINA

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

US AIRSTRIKE IN SOMALIA IS 2ND THIS WEEK

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

Millions sleep well at night due to technologies like Pegasus: NSO

Jerusalem: Amid the raging controversy over its surveillance software Pegasus, Israeli cybersecurity company NSO Group has defended itself by saying that millions of people around the world sleep well at night and walk in the streets safely due to such technologies available with intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

The company also stated that it does not operate the technology nor does it have access to the data collected by its clients.

The alleged use of the Pegasus software to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, politicians and others in a number of countries including India, has triggered concerns over issues relating to privacy. Politicians, rights activists and journalists were among those targeted with phone spyware sold to various governments by the Israeli firm, according to an interna-

tional media consortium. "Millions of people around the world are sleeping well at night, and safely walking in the streets, thanks to Pegasus and similar technologies which help intelligence agencies,' spokesperson for NSO said. PTI

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

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

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

support to the Government in matically diminished in terms of its capacity to attack anyone from Afghanistan," he said. We're going to make sure

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

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

Senior American military

Nawaz Sharif faces flak for meeting Afghan NSA Mohib in UK

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

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

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

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

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

Blinken said Afghanistan would become a pariah state, if the Taliban took it by force.

"It would not get the assistance that it's looking for and that the Taliban says it wants if it has any responsibility for the country. It would not get the support from the international community that it says it wants. We're actively engaged in diplomacy because there is no military solution to this conflict that's been going on for more than 40 years in Afghanistan, and we're working to try to bring that to an end," he said

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

Washington while quoting diplomatic sources.

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

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

Pakistan deploys regular troops along Afghan border: Report

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

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that Pakistan Army soldiers have replaced the Frontier Constabulary (FC), Levies Force and other militias from the frontline positions, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The US and NATO are on the verge of completing their final troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

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

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

Ahmed said the situation not only demanded containment of the influx of refugees from Afghanistan but also the entry of armed army personnel and militants into Pakistan.

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

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

Meanwhile, sources in the armed forces told the newspaper that the most serious challenge in the current scenario was not just the inflow of refugees or any infiltrators in the garb of refugees but the movement of Afghan army personnel or Taliban fighters. "We have seen that more

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

"But Taliban's presence in

he first went to Nyingchi, a

strategically located town close

to the border with Arunachal

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

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

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

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

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



Plumas County, Calif. on Friday

Xi meets top military officials in Lhasa

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

of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, met top officials of the Tibet Military Command of the People's Liberation



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

Xi, 68, made his first visit Friday due to the sensitivities

Pradesh, and also called for to Tibet as President from "fully strengthening the work of Wednesday to Friday. But his training soldiers and war important visit was kept under preparation," the Global Times wraps by China's official media

It was the first time in recent years, a top Chinese leader visited the Tibetan bor-

the politically sensitive Himalayan region on Friday by meeting "representatives of

"Xi met with representa- ern Ladakh.

and preparedness in all aspects and make contributions to the lasting stability, prosperity and development of Tibet," the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. However, the CPC-run tabloid Global Times said that

Tibet, calling for efforts to

Xi in his meeting with the PLA representatives "stressed that the local troops should fully strengthen the work of training soldiers and war preparation and contribute positive strength to promote the longterm stability and prosperity of

Biden stumps for McAuliffe in early test of political clout

AP ARLINGTON

President Joe Biden led the kind of campaign rally that was impossible last year because of the pandemic, speaking before nearly 3,000 people in support of a fellow moderate Democrat whose race for Virginia governor could serve as a test of Biden's own strength and coattails.

Biden motorcaded across

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

federal government. The president stood before an enthusiastic and largely unmasked crowd who gathered around a park pavilion and

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

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

Registrar



India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, Ist Floor, Lodhi Road,



**NATA 2021

EXAMINATION NOTICE: NATA-2021

Subject:- Announcement of Third Test of NATA-2021

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

As per the Regulations of 2020, all candidates need to qualify an Aptitude Test conducted by the Council (i.e. NATA) for admission to B.Arch. course. Therefore, all candidates who have passed in any other aptitude test in Architecture conducted by other authorities shall also be required to qualify NATA in order to be eligible for admission to the B.Arch. course. As per NATA 2021 Brochure, a candidate shall be allowed to appear for NATA 2021 only for a

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

The NATA portal shall also be opened shortly to facilitate the students to register for Third NATA Test. The NATA-2021 Brochure with details of registration & other important dates for Third test shall be soon uploaded on the websites www.nata.in and www.coa.gov.in. The eligible candidates desirous to take admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree course

are advised to register themselves for Third Test of NATA-2021.

July 25, 2021 New Delhi

UJVN Limited CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd, Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok

Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following works:NIT No. 06/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Operation and Maintenance of UJVNL Officer Transit Camp and office of General

Manager (SHP) at Maneri Bhali-II Colony, Rishikesh. NIT No. 07/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Annual Civil Maintenance & Repair Works of Virbhadra Barrage Premises at

NIT No. 08/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage :- Annual Maintenance & Repair Works of Afflux Bundha, Silt Ejector and Appurtenant Structure Virbhadra Barrage at Rishikesh.

NIT No. 09/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage: Annual Upkeep Works of the Office of General Manager (CDH&NP) at New Hydel Colony, Estimated Value of Tender:- Rs.9.90 Lakh, Rs. 17.94 Lakh, Rs. 24.70 Lakh & Rs. 7.19 Lakh respectively.

Date of availability of bid document on website: - 26 July, 2021 from

Last Date for Submission of Tender: - 17 August, 2021 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST).
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents

can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Chintels India Limited is in the process of undertaking of developmen of a Group Housing Colony in Sector 109, Gurugram, over an area measuring 10.41875 acres in the revenue estate of village Babupur in accordance with the provision of Licence No.250 of 2007 dated 02-11-2007 granted by the Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of plot/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred

And whereas the assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights for the said colony is now proposed to M/s Almond Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd.

And whereas the o/o Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh has required seeking of any objections against the assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence as a pre -condition for

Accordingly, vide this public notice, objections are hereby invited from any of the

allottees in the said colony on the proposed assignment of Joint Developmen Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence. Any allottee having any objection may file his objection in the o/o Senior Town

Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram, Haryana or in our corporate office within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence.

Place: Gurugram For Chintel India Limited Dated: 25.07.2021 Authorised Signator

Pradesh. On Thursday, Xi went to Nyingchi Railway Station, learning about the overall design of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and how the Lhasa-Nyingchi section has been operated since June 25.

der town. From there he went to the provincial capital Lhasa by the recently launched highspeed train. He wound up his visit to

strengthen military training

Xi's first visit to Tibet took place amidst the current India-

JUSTRIDE ENTERPRISES LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1967PLC004704 Reg. Off.: Flat No.133, C4E, Pocket No.11, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058; limited@gmail.com; Website; www.justrideenterprises.in; Contact; 8800300490 NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that the 54"Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Justride Enterprises Limited ('Company') will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10:00 AM through video conference (VC) / other audio- visual means (OAVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations) read with General Circular Nos.14/2020 (dated 8" April 2020), 17/2020 (13*April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5*May 2020) and 22/2020 (dated June 15, 2020), respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circular/s") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12"May 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Members at a common venue. In compliance with the said MCA Circulars read with the SEBI Circular dated 12th May, 2020, electronic copies of the Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year ended on 31th March, 2020 have been sent on July 24, 2021 to all the members, whose email IDs are registered with the Company/ Depository participant(s). Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the 54" AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circular/sand SEBI Circular. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available on the website of the Company www.justrideenterprises.in, website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ('CDSL') www.evotingindia.com and on the website(s) of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com respectively, where the Company's shares are listed.

Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not

registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the Member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz., Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, utility bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2019-20 along with AGM Notice by email to justridelimited@gmail.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their er

The notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join the AGM rough video conference (VC) / other audio- visual means (OAVM)

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. Monday, August 09, 2021, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of CDSL. All the members are

The Ordinary Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by

The remote e-voting shall commence on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 09:00 AM (IST); The remote e-voting shall end on Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 05:00 PM (IST);

The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Monday, August 09, 2021 and a person who is not a Member as on the cut off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only;

Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the Notice of AGM and holding shares and eligible to vote, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If such a person is already registered with CDSL for a-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote

Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL after the aforesaid date and lime for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again: c) the facility for voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM: and d) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM:

case of any queries including issues and concerns related to remote e-voting and voting at AGM,

you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAOs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of CDSL at www.evotingindia.com or call on toll free no.: 022-23058738 and 22-23058542-43 or send a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact Mr. Rakesh Dabi, 57, Manager (CDSL) Cented at the logical contact of the contact contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai -400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058542/43, who will also address the principles. address the grievances connected with the voting by electronic me By order of the Board of Directors

Date : July 25, 2021

Surya Kumar

AGR dues no subject matter | India in exciting of any future litigation: SC

¬he Adjusted Gross Revenue The Adjusted Gloss Revenue (AGR) related dues payable by telecom majors, including Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, cannot be a subject matter of any future litigation, the Supreme Court has said.

A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao stated this while dismissing the plea of telcos seeking rectification of alleged errors in the calculation

The top court said the dispute relating to AGR has been pending in courts for a very long period of time and the dues payable by TSPs (Telecom Service Providers) cannot be the subject matter of any future

It said there is no room for any doubt from the perusal of the earlier judgement dated September 1, 2020 with respect to this court entertaining any application for altering the AGR dues of the TSPs.

The court said that issues concerning the ambit of proceedings under Section 18 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 in relation to spectrum, the manner in which payment has to be made by and liabilities apportioned between the TSPs in case of spectrum sharing and spectrum trading, "with which we are not concerned in these Applications",

were also dealt with in its seek recalculation and reassessjudgment dated September 1,

The telecom companies had pleaded before the apex court that arithmetical "errors" in the calculation be rectified and claimed there were cases of duplication of entries.

Though these applications appear to be innocuous at first blush, the end result of the relief sought by the applicants in the guise of correction or rectification of the defects or arithmetical errors in the calculation of AGR dues, would be recalculation which would amount to the AGR dues, as specified in the order of this Court dated July 20, 2020, being altered.

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

The apex court said the order dated July 20, 2020 makes it clear that there is no scope for any recalculation/re-computation of AGR dues.

"Even at the time of passing of the order dated July 20, 2020, an attempt was made to

ment, as recorded in the order, which was rejected by this

Court outright," the bench The top court in September last year had given a time period of 10 years to telecom service providers struggling to pay Rs 93,520 crores of AGR-related dues to clear their outstanding amount

During the hearing on the applications on July 19, the bench had referred to an earlier order passed by the apex court in the matter and observed that it said no reassessment of AGR-related dues can be done.

to the government.

One of the lawyers representing a telecom firm had contended that they were not blaming the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for it as there are arithmetical entries and they want to place the entries before the department so that they can re-consider it.

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

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

PTI MUMBAI

 $T^{\text{he country is in an exciting}}_{\text{phase of growth and the}}$ economy is expected to add USD 2.5 trillion in the next 5-10 years, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said on Saturday.

"If this country's economy is USD 2.5 trillion today. In next 5-10 years, you will see another USD 2.5 trillion. It took 70 years for us to make it USD 2.5 trillion ... Now only in 10 years all that history will be recreated and doubled.

"It's an amazing, inspiring moment for us to be in India and lucky to be in India," Sharma said while speaking at a 2-day virtual youth conclave organised by IMC Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He said one should never

hesitate to do what they feel very strongly about even if it seems small.

"When somebody makes

you feel that you're solo.. That's just the way you handle the



And once you are a success, all these adversities will become the folklores, so you should never feel bad about it," he

Meanwhile, Arin Capital Chairman Mohandas Pai in another session of the conclave said, new business models can come up as the wide distribution network is no longer the limiting factor for businesses.

"So your business models can come up, you can start a business and produce something in India and sell to the whole world cheaply," he added.

He said through technology the disadvantage and advantage of starting a business in any country no longer exist.

India will continue to attract high foreign investments: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday expressed confidence that India will continue to attract high foreign direct investment (FDIs) in the current financial year.

He said India has received

highest ever FDI in the Covidimpacted 2020, in contrast with a shrinkage in investment inflows globally. In 2020-21, FDI into the

country grew by 19 per cent to USD 59.63 billion. Total FDI, including equity, re-invested earnings and capital, rose 10 per cent to USD 81.72 billion during 2020-21 as against USD 74.39 billion in 2019-20.

'This year, we are very confident that we will continue this streak of seven continuous years of historic highs in our foreign investments," Goyal said at the CII-Horasis India Meeting webinar.

Similarly, he said, India's exports too are recording healthy growth and would reach USD 400 billion by the end of the current financial

During July 1-21, export crossed USD 22 billion and it is "poised to cross USD 32-33 billion by end of the month (July), which means our run rate is on track to achieve USD 400 billion of exports target for the first time ever".

Further, he said that cur-



rently India is in talks with 16 countries including the UK, the EU, Australia, Canada, and several countries, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the UAE for trade agreements. and ASEAN members. With some countries, Under such agreements,

India is working for early hartwo trading partners signifivest agreements which will cantly reduce or eliminate allow the country to quickly import/customs duties on the maximum number of goods identify areas of mutual interest and progress negotiations traded between them. faster towards a comprehensive Talking about vaccination, economic partnership agreehe said the government had permitted the private sector to ment, or FTAs, the minister said. "We have focused our procure 25 per cent of Covid-19 vaccines but efforts on a few very promising agreements where I can clearly see huge comparative advantages for India to get market access and the ability to trade both in goods and services in a much bigger way. The UK, EU, Australia, Canada, UAE are

they are not buying. "CII should take a lead and get all of you to ensure that you take that 25 per cent vaccines... Some industry group said we will do one crore vaccinations...Nobody

has gone to Bihar, North East, Jharkhand to run campaigns to remove vaccine hesitancy," he

Open air travel for inoculated passengers: IATA

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

"Vaccination and testing have a role to play in the recovery of international trav-

el. It is not an option to wait for vaccines to be widely available before reopening borders. The global vaccine roll-out is likely to take time," said Conrad Clifford, IATA's Deputy Director General and Regional Vice President for Asia Pacific.

not have access to vaccines or are unable to be vaccinated for various reasons.'

not sustainable to maintain a zero case load approach, especially with scientists believing that Covid-19 will end up

According to Clifford, it is

becoming endemic.

"That's why testing is the alternative for those who do

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Sitharaman on Saturday}}^{\text{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ said honest taxpayers deserve to be recognised for dutifully paying their due share of taxes and appreciated the Income Tax Department for successful implementation of various reforms.

In her message to the I-T Department on the 161st anniversary of Income Tax Day, she complimented the department for continuing to work towards simplifying its procedures and processes, and making its functioning hasslefree, fair and transparent.

'The minister observed that the honest taxpayers deserve to be recognized for the contribution they are making to the progress of the nation by dutifully paying their due share payers for discharging their compliance obligations despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic," an official state-

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary observed that most of the processes and compliance requirements have been shifted to online platforms and the need for taxpayers to physically visit tax offices has been eliminated or minimized.

He highlighted the fact that the interaction with taxpayers is now characterized by a spirit of trust and respect, relying more on voluntary compliance.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj also complimented the department for having done well in adapting itself to the emergent changes in the economy and having been able to

He also appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the department to reorient its approach towards revenue collection, making its functioning trust-based and taxpayer-cen-

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman J B Mohapatra lauded the tax officers for their collective efforts and effectively fulfilling their twin role as the revenue earning arm of the nation and provider of taxpayer services.

Referring to the larger and far-reaching policy measures like 'Honouring the Honest', Faceless Regime and adoption of the Taxpayers' Charter, he noted that these initiatives have made the departmental functioning more transparent, objective and taxpayer-friend-

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

IANS NEW DELHI

marketing companies Oil marketing companion for pause fuel price revision for seven consecutive days, the longest period in weeks, as the global development on oil production and rising US inventories softened crude and product rates.

However, they stopped short of reducing the retail price of petrol and diesel as more time will be required to study oil price movement before any downward revi-

Already, crude has firmed a bit for last few days and this could prevent price cut by the OMCs.

With no change in prices on Saturday, in the national capital petrol continues to be sold for Rs 101.84 per litre, while diesel remains at the unchanged price of Rs 89.87 a

countries with whom we can

very quickly expand our dis-

cussions and engagements," he

The pump price of fuel has been static since Sunday. It last increased on July 17 with petrol being revised upwards by 30 paisa per litre, while diesel prices remained unchanged. One of the main reasons for pause in fuel price rise is an over 10 per cent fall seen in global oil prices with benchmark crude sliding to \$69 a barrel from a high of over \$77 barrel just a few weeks ago. It had again risen to over \$74 a barrel on strong demand pro-

SBI opens branch in President's **Estate**

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

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI 4th Floor Jeevan Tara Building Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001 OA NO 286/2020 DATE: : 01.07.2021 AXIS BANK LTD. ...APPLICANT VERSUS SANJEEV ARORA & ORS.

DEFENDANT Rajeev Arora, House No. J-13 Govindpuram Block J, PS Kavinagar, Ghaziabad-201002
 Three Platinum Softech Pvt. Ltd. A-169 2nd Floor, Mandawali Fazalpur Ganga Ram New Delhi-92, Also at: C-56/40, Sector-62, Near Fortis Hospital Noida UP-201301

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / hav

..RESPONDENT

instituted a case for recovery of Rs 97,84,026/ (RUPEE Ninety Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand and Twenty Six ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you i the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance i the Tribunal on 10 08 2021 At 10 30 A M Take notice that in default of your appearance of

the day before the mentioned, the case will be nined in your absence

786 | Single Bottle Vacuum Circuit Breaker

787 VRLA Batteries of 48V-200AH

790 LMLA Secondary Cells 2V/200AH

Main LED Signal Lighting Unit Red,

Wire 7 Strand Steel, Galvanised fo

788 AOH Kit for Tapchange

789 Gear Oil Optigear RMO

Yellow, Green

791

792



Work: Upgradation of Platform Surface of Shahdol and Anuppur stations. Provision of toilet with water supply in CSM/SM's Panel room at supply in CSM/SMs Panel room at Vilayatkala, Lorha and Mudaria & Creation of siding facilities for working of heavy duty Rial Grinding Machine (RGM) at Burhar, Nowrozabad, Umaria & Rupond stations under the jurisdictions of Sr. DEN/North, Bilaspur, Tender Value (In Rs.): 1.78.95.635.56/-. EMD (II : 00.00/-. Completion Period 12 Months.

Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11:00 hrs. on 02.08.2021. Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11:00 hrs. on 16.08.2021 The complete information o above e-Tender Notices is available

over websites https://www.ireps.gov.in Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.) 10/106 S.E.C. Railway/BSP

150 Nos.

98 Set

5063 Ltr.

1647 Nos.

5323 Nos.

4594 Kg

18.08.2021

19.08.2021

19.08.2021

19.08.2021

25.08.2021

26.08.2021

30.08.202

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is here by informed that this person namely Tota Ram S/o Kale Ram R/o H.No. B-391,

TOTA RAM

Gali No. 8, S.B.S. Colony, Karawal Nagar, Delhi Age: About 95 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Build: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, wearing blue colour shirt, white colour lower and slipper in

house. In this regard DD No. 78-A dated 10.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this

feet, has been missing since 09.07.2021 from his

missing person may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO - P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-9205832616, 8 Fax: 24368639. 8750870728 Tel.: 24368638/24368641

INDO COTSPIN LIMITED

OFFICE: 78 K.M. MILE STONE, G.T. ROAD, NH-1, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BC NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT -132103

CIN:- LI111HR1995PLC032541 Website:www.indocotspin.com
Email ID:rajpalaggarwai12000@yahoo.com
Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2021

_			(Amo	ount Hs. in Lacs)
ı			YEAR TO DATE	CORRESSPONDING
1	PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS	FIGURES FOR	3 MONTHS
4		ENDED	CURRENT	ENDED IN THE
			PERIOD ENDED	
ı		30/06/2021	31/03/2021	YEAR 30/06/2020
ī				
1		Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited
1	Total Income from operations (net)	150.54	816.08	123.84
4	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary	0.18	4.77	0.37
	activities after Tax			
ı	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	0.18	4.77	0.37
ı	after tax (after Extraordinary Items)			
1	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	420.05	420.05	420.05
1	Reserves (excluding Revaluation			
ı	Reserve as shown in the Balance	0.18	219.15	0.37
	Sheet of Previous Year)			
ı	Earnings Per Share (before	0.00	0.07	0.00
Ī	Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-			
1	each):Basic and Diluted			
1	(in Rupees)			
-	Earnings Per Share (after	0.00	0.07	0.00
_	Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-			
ı	each):Basic and Diluted			
Ī	(in Bunees)			

ii) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed will the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosur Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly Financial Results s available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com, tele. +91-9896034879 For Indo Cotspin Limited

There is no qualification on the un-audit report for the guarter ended 30/06/2021

Bal Krishan Aggarwal
Managing Director DIN:00456219

BRIEFS

Reliance Jio clocks strong subscriber adds in Q1 New Delhi: Jio's gross subscriber additions, though down 14 per cent QoQ, were still healthy at 26.7 million due to continued traction on

valuation for RJio at US\$90bn", the report said.

new JioPhone offer, foreign brokerage, Jefferies said in a report. This along with lower churn, resulted in 14.3 million net additions in Q1. Assuming 0.6m additions on Jiofiber, Reliance Jio added 13.8m mobile subscriber on net basis which surprised positively given 1Q was impacted by Covid. "We expect Jio's subscriber additions to remain robust led by recent capacity additions. JioPhone offers and launch of JioPhone Next", the report said. Jio reiterated that its device and capacity strategy is in place to gain the next 200m subscribers. "We marginally tweak estimates to factor the results and see Jio gain 530m subscribers by Mar-24. Over FY21-24, we expect RJio to deliver 15% CAGR in revenues and 20% Cagr in profits. We maintain our

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

ZEE MEDIA CORPORATION REPORTS ₹9.06 CR LOSS

New Delhi: Zee Media Corporation Ltd on Saturday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹9.06 crore for the quarter ended in June 2021 on account of exceptional items. The company had posted a net profit of ₹12.26 crore during the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal, Zee Media Corporation Ltd (ZMCL) said in a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was up 28.79 per cent to ₹170.18 crore during the quarter under review as against Rs 132.14 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

GO FIRST OPERATES FIRST NIGHT FLIGHT FROM JAMMU TO DELHI New Delhi:Budget airline Go First, formerly known as GoAir, has

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

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

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

decade," he predicted. Reddy, Chairman of Boardof Governors of NIPER-Hyderabad, was virtually

addressing the

Convocation of the institute. The government's encouragement ('Atma Nirbhar Bharat' policy), a lot of reforms in the policy to incentivize the industry and thrust being given to innovation, among others, augur well for the industry, he

said. The Indian pharmaceutical industry worked continuously during the testing times of Covid-19 pandemic second wave to ensure the availability of life saving medicines.

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

IANS MUMBAI

Tndia's key equity indices are Lexpected to maintain caution on the back of rising Covid cases globally as well as the rate decision of the US Fed during the upcoming week. However, expectations of

robust quarterly results along with hopes for an accelerated economic recovery will retain investors' interest in the mar-"US Fed interest rate and

stocks could undergo rotational profit taking.
Furthermore, the week ahead will witness the release

"Nifty has formed lower

top lower bottom on weekly

charts compared to the previ-

ous week. Hence 15,962 resis-

tance becomes an important

determinant of the future direc-

long as this level (15,962) is not

breached, markets, sectors and

Besides, Jasani cited that as

of Q1FY22 corporate results progress in spread of Coronavirus and its variants from ICICI Bank, ITC, Indusind Bank, Axis Bank, will be watched keenly," said L&T, Tata Motors, Kotak Bank, Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Dr Reddys, Maruti Suzuki. Research at HDFC Securities.

conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in. and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in For Principal Chief Materials Manager

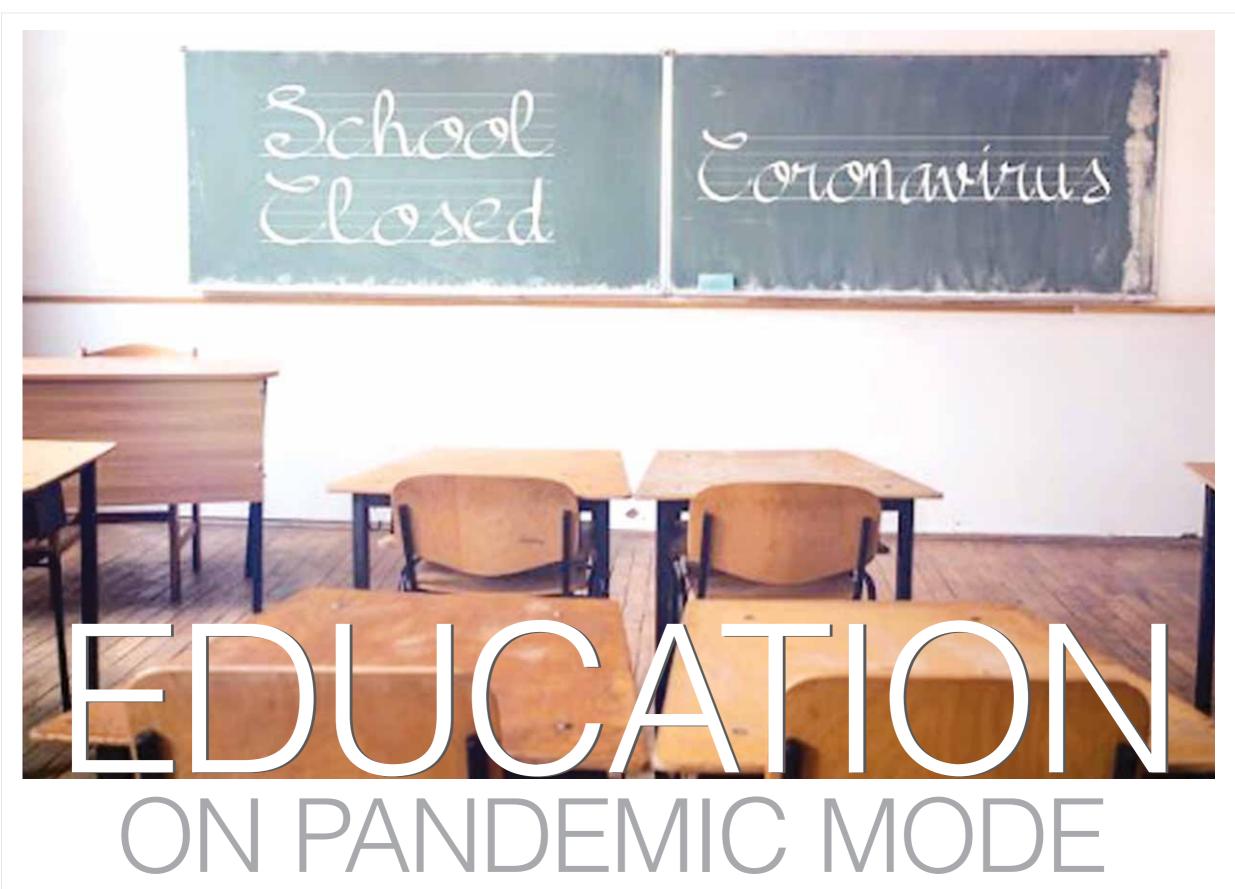
For Registrar DRT-II, Delhi **WESTERN RAILWAY** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/28/2021 Date: 21.07.2021 Short Description of item Quantity 771 Wood Based Resir 1000 Nos. 09.08.2021 09.08.2021 Gear Case Complete 10000 Nos. 773 Washer for Dia 41 mm Pin 09.08.2021 774 Gangway Bridge Mounting Assly 640 Nos. 09.08.2021 775 Set of Connection Strap Assly, for WAP4 306 Set | 09.08.2021 776 Roller Bearing 314 Nos. | 10.08.2021 777 | Filter Assly 18 Nos. 11.08.2021 778 Plug Assly 1315 Set 11.08.2021 779 Track Feed Battery Charger 819 Nos 12.08.2021 780 Tar Plastic Compound 13.08.2021 VRLA Valve Regulated (Sealed) 781 3028 Nos. 13.08.2021 Lead Acid Battery 2V300AH 782 Set of 35 mm NABO Brake Pads 2000 Nos. 13.08.2021 LMLA,Low Maintenance Lead 783 3028 Nos. 16.08.2021 Acid Secondary cells, 2V, 300AH 784 Set of Switches 6 A-250 V 16.08.2021 16 Set 785 R/M Paint Gentian Blue 38620 Ltr. 18.08.2021

Signaling Purpose Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tende

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Education has gone through many changes in the last one-and-a-half-year. However, the question remains unanswered on their permanency. Experts tell MUSBA HASHMI that it is the entire system that needs an overhaul for better results

hoping to open in a few months, but that month never came. It has been more than 18 months into the pandemic, and it remains unclear when physical classrooms will resume — though, it will not become part of history.

cation sector had seen several unprecedented changes during this period. Were these for the better is a question still unanswered.

50:50 SCENARIO

However, the constant to and fro in Boards or school assessment decisions has exposed several fault lines in the education sector. Amid all the noise, students are left confused regarding their future. "The pandemic has, indeed, exposed fault lines and fundamental flaws in the education sector that existed even earlier. We must take this opportunity to not merely sail through the pandemic but to reform the system from scratch based on sound scientific principles of what constitutes good learning," says Dr Jamshed Bharucha, Founding Vice Chancellor, Sai University. He adds that the 50-50 formula on CBSE Boards is an understandable decision under crisis circumstances, but it should spur systemic reform for the future.

However, Bharucha says, "I would be interested to hear the explanation of why Class X and Class XI are given equal weightage, given that students are conditioned to view 11th as less important.

Students should not be penalised for not having taken 11th exams seriously, which has been the cynical message communicated to

them by the system." Prof Dheeraj Sanghi, VC Designate, JK Lakshmipat University, believes that as a short term measure to reduce anxiety and stress in students, this is a welcome move. But this does not address the issue of quality at all.

On the other hand, Dr Sanjay Govind Patil, Associate Dean & Director — RICS School of Built Environment, Amity University, Mumbai, says that it is a much-appreciated step to help break down the syllabus. "I fully vouch for this move because it will break down the entire assessment into small parts; hence, learning will be much better. Students' shortcomings in the previous part exam could be overcome in the next exam through a robust feedback mechanism, thus achieving a better learning outcome," opines Patil.

RE-ENERGISE SYSTEM

High-stakes exams, Bharucha says, have no empirical support in research on learning. The learning tends to be transient, devoid of meaningful context, and does not transfer well to the kinds of problems students will have to solve as professionals. Research shows that, if administered frequently — with feedback after each exam and repeated testing of the same material in different ways — exams can be powerful tools for learning, not just for assessment.

'The system has failed students by contin-

n March last year schools' gates were shut, uing to rely on high-stakes examinations. Why should a single mark on a single high school exam be the measure of what you've learned throughout high school? Why should it determine what you can and cannot do in the future? Research on how the brain learns is completely at odds with this system of learning and

> He adds that the CBSE Board decisions for this batch are understandable, but they are band-aids; they should be followed by meaningful steps to re-energise, mentor, and empower students whose education got disrupted and lives thrown into confusion. Most of these students, probably, will adjust and be fine. But, some may fall between the cracks of this rigid system of narrow credentialing and career chan-

TIME TO NURTURE

"The Board should establish a committee consisting of a broad range of stakeholders including students — to hear the concerns of students who have been adversely affected and to propose ways to get these students back on track in life. A nation has a responsibility to ensure that every single child should have a pro-

ductive path forward," says Bharucha.

The Board should also establish a diverse blue-ribbon committee to implement NEP recommendations at the high school level. The goal should be to enable students' unique talents and shortcomings and give them the fundamental cognitive tools to pursue their dreams. Society benefits when all talent is unleashed —

in all its messy but glorious diversity. "There is no empirical basis for forcing students to make irreversible choices between streams. A student may love math and literature, computers and music, biology and economics. It's the unforeseen combinations of ideas that will trigger future innovations - and continuous innovation is what drives economies. We, as educators, are deeply mistaken if we believe we know which branches of knowledge are in the best interests of our chil-

dren to know," adds Bharucha. Sanghi says that the problems of quality in education were well-known much before the pandemic. "I feel that the problems of quality in the school education sector were wellknown much before the pandemic. The Annual State of Education Report (ASER) has been telling us how poorly our students have been performing even with our standards. As far as international standards are concerned, we have not even participated in the Program for International Students Assessment (PISA)," says Sanghi.

TECHNOLOGY MYTH BUSTED

Yet, the pandemic has exposed one myth which was that technology would solve all our problems. "There is no doubt that technology can help, but we have seen during the pandemic that access to technology is limited. We may take pride in having the largest number of mobile phone users with Internet access or the high-



WHEN WE FINALLY OPEN UP, WE MAY NEED TO REDESIGN THE CURRICULUM OF THE NEXT FEW YEARS. MAYBE INTRODUCE SOME FRESHER COURSES. EACH SCHOOL BOARD WILL HAVE TO PLAN THE POST-PANDEMIC SCENARIO CAREFULLY. IT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN THAT THEY NOW WANT TO COVER BOTH — WHAT WAS LEFT DURING THE PANDEMIC AND THE USUAL SYLLABUS OF THE NEXT CLASSES. THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A BURDEN ON STUDENTS - PROF DHEERAJ SANGHI,

VC DESIGNATE, JK LAKSHMIPAT UNIVERSITY skewed, and the poor still has little access to online education. If we want to depend on technology to improve the quality of our education, we will have to seriously think about how underaccess to both devices and data, and perhaps

Being compelled to teach online has highlighted the known weakness of passive forms of learning in which teachers speak and students listen. To keep the attention of students online, teachers have had to make the online sessions more interactive.

"But active and interactive learning should be the norm even in the physical classroom. In a physical classroom, a student can be physically present but mentally absent. Only by having students actively engaged (speaking, solving problems, collaborating, creating) in the classroom can meaningful and enduring learning be optimised. So, let's come out of the pandemic with an agenda for fundamental reform that is more than a temporary crisis fix," says Bharucha.

PLAN FOR POST-PANDEMIC

Since we are amid a pandemic of the kind that hasn't happened in the world for 100 years, Sanghi says, there is going to be an emergency response, and the decisions will change as the trajectory of the virus changes.

"So, confusions will happen, and that would cause anxiety and stress amongst the students. We need to work on two aspects. One, what to do while the pandemic is still a threat, and education will continue to see disruptions. And second, what to do when the pandemic threat has sufficiently faded, and we are back to some normalcy," he says.

In the current scenario, experts believe that we must keep some semblance of education going, at least what is considered as more important aspects of it, so we have reduced syllabus, easier exams, teacher training in online education, access to technology for the poor and

"When we finally open up, we may need to redesign the curriculum of the next few years. Maybe some fresher courses. Each school Board will have to plan the post-pandemic scenario carefully. It should not happen that they now want to cover both — what was left during the pandemic and the usual syllabus of the next classes. That would be too much of a burden on students," opines Sanghi.

BRING HONESTY IN EVALUATION

Experts say that there are many issues in every aspect of school education. And we do need to rethink the whole education process holistically. However, few simple things can improve the quality of education in the short term drastically.

"One idea is to ensure that the marks printed on the board marksheet reflect the educational attainments of the students. And, I am

est per capita data consumption, but all this is not referring to this year's process where you get some marks assigned based on your performance in something completely different. Even in pre-Covid times, CBSE would add lots of marks to the actual marks obtained by the privileged sections of our society can get students.; this is beside the practical marks where the whole country seems to get perfect and an extremely liberal grading. It may be noted that CBSE has the reputation of being one of the best school boards in India. If we can bring in honesty in evaluation by the boards, there will be a lot of pressure within the system to perform better," says Sanghi.

> He adds that the boards cannot be honest since there is competition among the school boards to be more dishonest than the others a race to the bottom. "They justify it on the grounds that if one board tries to be honest, its students will face difficulty in gaining admissions in universities that only look at Class XII marks. Also, if one State board tries to be honest, the pass percentage in that State would go down, leading to political issues. And frankly, there is no political constituency for quality education. There is only a lip service paid to the quality," he says.

MULTIPLE BOARDS REQUIRED

The changes, Sanghi says, should begin with having a large number of school boards. Maybe every district should have one. There may be some school boards that are State-wide and a few which are national. By having 100s of small school boards, it would be possible for some boards to do experiments in improving quality that may succeed, and others could learn from it. Also, political pressures would be lower on individual boards if they all affect a small-

er number of students," opines Sanghi. Second, there could be a few standardised tests in various subjects that would be optional for students. Students will take those tests only if the university they seek considers these test scores as one of the inputs in deciding admissions. "Universities should develop admission strategies that consider multiple parameters (and unlike the popular perception, it is possible to have a completely objective system that considers multiple parameters). If the admissions are based on standardised tests and other achievements of the students, we could start the admission process six months early. Students can be offered admission before the Board exams, and they will then take those exams in a stress-free fashion," adds Sanghi.

Bharucha thinks, "In the future, continuous modes of assessment should be adopted (biweekly or monthly). Research shows that frequent assessment produces more enduring learning than a single assessment at the end; this will not be the last pandemic, nor will it be the last crisis that disrupts our lives. Learning and assessment must both be continuous. At any given cross-section in time, the student, the school, and the Board should know where a stu-

"Decided in **Rio Olympics** itself that I will

prove myself in Tokyo" MIRAB OF A NATION n Olympic medal finally around her neck, star

⚠ Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on Saturday said she can finally take a break at home without worrying about training after managing just five trips to her place in Manipur in the last five

years.
"I have just been home for five days in the past five years. Now I will go with this medal," said Chanu, whose family is based in Nongpok Kakching village about 20 kilometres from Imphal.

"I will now go home and eat food made by my mother," she added

Chanu revealed that after the Rio Games debacle she changed her training and technique completely so that she could redeem herself in Tokyo.

Competing in her second Olympics, Chanu claimed the Silver medal in the 49kg category with a total of 202kg (87kg+115kg). It was India's second Olympic medal in the sport after Karnam Malleswari's Bronze that came 21 years ago

Mirabai Chanu Saikhom competes in the women's 49kg weightlifting event at the 2020 Olympics on Saturday at the Sydney Games.

"My dream of winning an Olympic medal has been fulfilled today. I tried a lot in Rio, put in a lot of effort but it was not my day then. I thought that day only that I will prove myself in Tokyo," Chanu said during a virtual press confer-

Considered a strong medal contender five years ago in Rio as well, Chanu buckled under pressure in the women's 48kg event and failed to log a legit-

"I learnt a lot from that day my training and technique was changed, we put in a lot of effort after that.

"I was very sad after Rio, there was a lot of pressure on me and I got nervous, I couldn't understand anything for days but then coach sir and the federation counselled me, told

me that I have a lot of potential," she added.

Head coach Vijay Sharma revealed he was also under a lot of pressure after the disappointing outing in Rio.

There was a lot of pressure on me after the Rio failure, we failed in a very important competition and we were expected to win then also," Sharma said.

Determined to prove herself in the Tokyo Games, Chanu and Sharma changed the Manipuri's training, employing a more stringent "After that we changed the

training pattern and technique a lot. The result of which we saw in the 2017 in world championship, then we took the in the 2018 Commonwealth Games. We won a medal in the 2019 world championship. We have been

arly.
"The lesson we learnt was that we need a lot of determination and discipline. I worked

with that and Mira partnered

growing and improving regu-

"She hasn't done anything but eat, sleep and train in the last five years. It took us 2.5 years instead of 1.5 for the Olympic qualification because of coronavirus. Overall the

The Manipuri's sole focus for the past five years was on winning a medal at the Olympics and that required several sacrifices including staying away from her family.

result of the journey is that we

are sitting here today with the

The efforts paid off as Chanu went on to win the world championship in 2017 following it with a Gold at the

"Could not have asked for a happier start to @Tokyo2020! India is elated by @mirabai_chanu's stupendous performance. Congratulations to her for winning the Silver medal in weightlifting. Her success motivates every Indian. #Cheer4India #Tokyo2020." **–PRIME MÍNISTER**

"Many Congratulations *@mirabai_chanu* on winning India's first medal at #Tokyo2020. Such An inspiring performance that will be remembered for a long time to come and will inspire generations. Well done." - ABHINAV BINDRA

NARENDRA MODI

"Congratulations for a beautiful opening on medal tally @mirabai_chanu. This Second place medal medal is a morale boost for our Indian contingent. Thank you for a spectacular performance..... jai hind."

— BAJRANG PUNIA

2018 Commonwealth Games. At the 2019 Asian championship she picked up a Bronze in clean and jerk where medals are awarded separately for snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift.

Ahead of the Tokyo Games, the Khel Ratna awardee had created a world record in clean and jerk at the 2020 Asian championship earlier this year.

Chanu hoped her exploits in the international arena and the Olympics win can inspire more girls to take up the sport specially weightlifting.

"There will be change, there are few girls in weightlifting right now but I hope many will be inspired by me and will feel they can also achieve something in the sport."

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

New Delhi: A historic Silver medal and a radiant smile were not the only eye-catching things about Mirabai Chanu on Saturday in Tokyo, her gold earrings shaped like Olympic rings were as strik-ing, a gift from her mother who sold her own jewellery

for them five years ago.

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

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

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

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

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



Family members and neighbours of Mirabai Chanu gather together to watch her lift **@Media_SAl**

atives who lived far came last evening. They stayed overnight with us," Chanu's mother said.

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

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

Chanu was on video call with her family from the weightlifting arena in Tokyo before her event began and she had sought blessings from her parents.
"She (Chanu) rarely

comes home (because of training) and so we have



made a Whastapp group to communicate with each other," said Chanu's cousin Aroshini.

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

"She said 'bless me to win a Gold medal for the country'. They gave their blessings. It was a touching

Amit Shah, NE CMs give standing ovation to Mirabai

Shillong: Union Minister Amit Shah and Chief Ministers of all eight North Eastern states on Saturday gave a standing ovation to Mirabai Chanu who took home India's first Olympic medal in weightlifting at the ongoing Tokyo Olympics, officials said.

Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh broke the news during the meeting which was chaired by the Union Home Minister following which everyone in the meeting gave the standing ovation with pride, they said. Singh also announced a ₹1 crore

package besides other perks an Olympian enjoys besides reserving a special post for the 26 year old Manipur woman.

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

Manika, Mukherjee Manpreet & Co start with win, women's lose off to promising start

Tokyo: India's slim hopes for a table tennis medal in mixed doubles vanished in no time but Manika Batra and Sutirtha Mukherjee made promising starts to their women's singles campaign on Saturday.

nis campaign was disappointing with Sharath Kamal and Manika losing 0-4 to the third seeds Lin Yun-Ju and Cheng I-Ching of Chinese Taipei in the mixed doubles round

However, world number Manika returned to beat 94thranked Tin-Tin Ho of Britain 4-0 in her singles opener while 98th-ranked Sutirtha made strong impres sion on

her Olympics debut with a come from behind 4-3 win against 78th-ranked Linda Bergstrom of

Mukherjee play Portugal's Fu Yu in the second round while Manika takes on Ukraine's Mukherjee showed remark-

able grit to down her Swedish opponent after trailing 1-3 in he best of seven affair. She won 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 9-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-5. Earlier in the mixed

doubles, Sharath and Manika had to make all chances count against a superior oppo-nent from Chinese Taipei but they couldn't do so after leading 5-1 and 5-3 in the first two games. In the end, it was a comfortable 11-8, 11-6, 11-5, 11-4 win for Lin and Cheng.

Tokyo: Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace and veteran goal-

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

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

For the eighth-ranked New Zealand, Kane Russell scored from a penalty corner in the sixth minute before Stephen Jenness (43rd minute) reduced the margin of defeat later in the

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

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



Harmanpreet Singh celebrates with his Indian teammates after he scores a goal against New Zealand during Pool A match

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

"When we watch the video later today, we will be able to find out what we need to get better at and surely there are going to be things we learn from today

@TheHockeyIndia

too," he added.

INDIA WOMEN LOSE 1-5

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

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

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

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

If that was not enough,

there was more agony in store for the Indians as Caia Jacqueline van Maasakker slammed home from their sixth penalty corner in the 52nd

India will play Germany in their next Pool A match on July



Nagal creates history with singles win

Tokyo: Sumit Nagal on Saturday became only the third Indian tennis player to win a men's singles match at the Olympic Games and the first in 25 years, when he edged past Denis Istomin 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-4 in two hours and 34 minutes on court 10 at the Ariake Tennis Centre.

Zeeshan Ali was the first Indian to win a singles match at the 1988 Seoul Games when he beat Victo Caballero from Paraguay.

After that, the legendary Leander Paes won the historic men's singles Bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Games, beating Brazil's

Fernando Meligeni. No Indian could win a sin-

gles match after Paes' heroic feat. 'To lose second set from 5and then comeback in the third set in a weather like this, is not easy. Playing for my country gave me the push," said Nagal after the match.

Nagal now faces a herculean task as he takes on Australian Open runner-up Medvedev.

"I am very excited for this match to play the world number two on a big court. That's why we play tennis for, to live for these moments. I am looking forward to it," he said.

Chirag-Satwik stun World No 3

Praneeth suffers defeat; Sindhu in action today

Tokyo: The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty shocked the world No 3 pair of Yang Lee and Chi-Lin Wang of Chinese Taipei in a thrilling group A match of the badminton competition where the country experienced disappointment in the singles'

event on Saturday.
Chirag and Satwik, the current world No 10, notched up a stunning 21-16, 16-21, 27-25 win over third seeds Lee and Wang, who had claimed back-to-back titles at the Yonex Thailand Open, Toyota Thailand Open and BWF World Tour Finals in Thailand

earlier this year. However, 13th seeded B Sai Praneeth suffered a demoralising 17-21, 15-21 loss to world number 47 Misha Zilberman of Israel in a 41minute men's singles group D



India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty compete against Taiwan's Lee Yang and Wang Chi Lin during their men's doubles group stage match

Satwik and Chirag, who have been working under Danish coach Mathias Boe for the last few months, dished out a tactical superior game and held their nerves in the final moments to emerge victorious during the one hour and nine minute contest, which turned out to be an edge-of-the-seat thriller.

The Indians had five

match points but the Chinese Taipei pair, the 2018 World championship Bronze-medallists, saved all of them before grabbing one themselves but Chirag and Satwik were up to the task and had the last laugh. Satwik and Chirag will next play Indonesian world No

1s Marcus Fernaldi Gideon

and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo

Injured Vikas out

Vikas Krishan stands in his corner during his men's 69-kg boxing match Tokyo: Indian boxer Vikas Krishan (69kg) was outpunched 0-5 and left with a bloodied eye by local favourite Sewonrets Quincy Mensah Okazawa as he bowed out of Olympics on Saturday after fighting with a shoulder injury

in the opening round.

The 29-year-old Vikas sustained a cut below his left eye in

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

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

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

Vikas was the only Indian boxer in action on the day.

On Sunday, six-time world champion M C Mary Kom (51kg) and Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Manish Kaushik will compete in their opening bouts.





Indian shooters fail to fire

multiple heartbreaks on the first day of their competition in the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday, with the biggest disappointment being Saurabh Chaudhary's failure to win a Saurabh medal after topping the qualifi-

Chaudhary could not replicate the form he displayed in the qualifications to finish seventh in the men's 10m air pistol final.

His roommate and friend Abhishek Verma could not make the eight-man finals, settling for the 17th place with 575 in the event that was considered one of India's best bets for a

In the women's 10m air rifle event, first-timer Elavenil Valarivan and Apurvi Chandela, too, failed to qualify for the finals, finishing 16th and 36th respectively, at the Akasa Range.

Following his sensational entry into the finals, a lot of hope were pinned on Chaudhary after a dismal show by the women. But the script did not pan out the way the country's shooting team would have want-

ed it to. The Indian ace shot 137.4 to be eliminated in the seventh place. Things were different in the qualifications though, with

Chaudhar shooting 586 to finish ahead of a world-class field, thanks to a perfect 100 in the fourth series after backto-back 98. Verma was also in con-

staging an excellent rally, but two 8s in the final series dashed his Earlier in the day, world number one Elavenil finished

tention to make the cut after

16th in the qualifications after shooting 626.5 over six series of 10 shots each, while the more experienced Apurvi, who is also the finals world record holder in the event, settled for the 36th place after aggregating 621.9.

China lead tally with 3 yellow metals

AP TOKYO

roundup of gold medals Afrom Saturday, July 24 at the Tokyo Games:

ARCHERY (MIXED TEAM) An San and teenager Kim

Je Deok paired up to lead South Korea to a Gold medal in the Olympic debut of archery's mixed team event at the Tokyo

On a sizzling Saturday at the Yumenoshima Park Archery Field, they held off Gabriela Schloesser and Steve Wijler of the Netherlands by a tally of 5-3 to bring home yet another archery Gold for South Korea. The country has now captured 14 of 17 Gold medals in archery team competitions since the current format was introduced to the Olympics in

Alejandra Valencia and Luis Alvarez combined for Mexico and knocked off Yasemin Anagoz and Mete Gazoz of Turkey to earn the Bronze medal.

CYCLING (MEN'S ROAD RACE)

Ecuador won its first cycling medal as Richard Carapaz took Gold in the Olympic road race.

FENCING (WOMEN'S EPEE INDIVIDUAL)

Sun Yiwen of China defeated five-time Olympian Ana Maria Popescu of Romania 11-10 in overtime to win Gold in the women's épée fencing competition.

Popescu tied the score at 10 with 3 seconds remaining to go to overtime, but Sun soon scored the winning point in the deciding period. Sun completed her set of Olympic medals after winning individual Bronze and team Silver at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

MEN'S SABRE INDIVIDUAL Aron Szilagyi of Hungary

became the first Olympic fencer to win three individual sabre Gold medals after beating Luigi Samele 15-7 in the men's final. Szilagyi used his fast reflex-

es to build an early 7-1 lead and held off a brief comeback from his Italian opponent before closing out the win.

Szilagyi won Gold at the 2012 London Games and the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

JUDO (WOMEN'S 48-KILO-GRAM)

Distria Krasniqi of Kosovo beat Funa Tonaki in the women's 48-kilogram Olympic judo final.



meter air rifle at the Asaka Shooting Range on Saturday



Japan's first Gold medal at its home Olympics, beating Taiwan's Yang Yung-wei in the men's 60-kilogram judo final.

SHOOTING (WOMEN'S 10-METER AIR RIFLE)

China's Yang Qian won the first Gold medal of the Tokyo Olympics in women's 10-meter

Yang overtook Anastasiia Galashina when the Russian missed the center two rings for an 8.9 on her final shot.

Yang had a 9.8 on her final shot and finished with an Olympic record 251.8. Galashina finished at 251.1.

MEN'S 10-METER AIR PIS-

Javad Foroughi has become the oldest Iranian athlete to win an Olympic medal, earning Gold in men's 10-meter air

Foroughi set an Olympic record with 244.8 points, finishing 6.9 ahead of Silver medallist Damir Mikec of Serbia. China's Pang Wei, the 2008 Gold medalist, took Bronze.

TAEKWONDO (WOMEN'S 49KG & MEN'S 58KG) Panipak Wongpattanakit of

Thailand and Vito Dell'Aquila of Naohisa Takato has won medals of the Olympic taek-







wondo competition.

Wongpattanakit won her first Gold in dramatic fashion in the women's 49-kilogram final, scoring two points on a body kick inside the final 10 seconds for an 11-10 victory over 17year-old Adriana Cerezo of Spain. Wongpattanakit's Gold is only the 10th in Thailand's entire Olympic history.

Dell'Aquila defeated Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi of Tunisia 16-12 in the men's 58kilogram final to claim his first Olympic medal.

WEIGHTLIFTING (WOMEN'S 49 KG)

Hou Zhihui won China's second Gold medal of the Tokyo Olympics with a commanding showing in the 49-kilogram weightlifting category.

Hou lifted a total 210kg,

Colombo: India captain Shikhar Dhawan said the

Like India blood-

"New guys defi-

the last ODI, there was a good opportuni-

nitely have the oppor-

tunity to play. We have

to win the series. In

ty to give some young-

INDIA'S SCHEDULE ON JULY 24 (ALL TIMES IST)

		,
TIME	EVENTS	ATHLETES
05:30 AM	Shooting: 10m Air Pistol Women's Qualification	Manu Bhaker & Yashaswini Deswal
06:30 AM	Shooting: Men's Skeet Qualification Day 1	Mairaj Ahmad Khan & Angad Vir Singh
	Artistic Gymnastics: Women's Qualification	Pranati Nayak
06:40 AM	Rowing: Men's Lightweight Double Sculls	Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh
	Repechage Round 2	
07:10 AM	Badminton: Women's Singles Group Stage	PV Sindhu
07:30 AM	Tennis: Women's Doubles First Round	Sania Mirza & Ankita Raina
07:45 AM	Shooting: 10m Air Pistol Women's Final	
08:35 AM	Sailing: Women's Laser Radial Race 1	Nethra Kumaran
09:30 AM	Shooting: 10m Air Rifle Men's Qualification	Deepak Kumar & Divyansh Panwar
	Sailing: Women's Laser Radial Race 2	Nethra Kumaran
10:30 AM	Table Tennis: Men's Singles Round 2	Sathiyan Gnanasekaran
11:05 AM	Sailing: Men's Laser Race 1	Vishnu Saravanan
12:00 PM	Table Tennis: Women's Singles Round 2	Manika Batra
	Sailing: Men's Laser Race 2	Vishnu Saravanan
	Shooting: 10m Air Rifle Men's Final	
01:30 PM	Boxing: Women's 51kg - Round of 32	MC Mary Kom
03:00 PM	Hockey: Men's Pool A	Australia vs India
03:06 PM	Boxing: Men's 63kg - Round of 32	Manish Kaushik
03:32 PM	Swimming: Women's 100m Backstroke Heat 1	Maana Patel
04:26 PM	Swimming: Men's 100m Backstroke Heat 3	Srihari Nataraj
		LIVE ON SONY TEN & SIX NETWORK





Early exit for judoka Shushila

Tokyo: Indian judoka Shushila Devi's challenge in the Tokyo Olympics came to an early end as she lost her contest to Hungarian Eva Csernoviczki.

Čsernoviczki, a 2012 London edition Bronze medallist, pinned Shushila for a full 20 seconds to claim the Ippon and win the round of 32 match.

Shushila fought hard for a major part of the bout until she committed a small error, which proved to be disastrous for the Indian and cost her the match.

Shushila was the only

sters a chance and give

them a taste of interna-

tional cricket, because

we had already won the

series," Dhawan said

ahead of the first game.

"Now it's a new

course go in with

our best XI first. We will try to

win the first two

matches, and then

according to the

situation, we can

experiment in the

He also feels

last game if need-

ed," Dhawan said.

that the current Sri

Lankan team has

shown a marked

the ODI series.

series, so we will of



their women's - 48kg round of 32 judo match



Inconsistent India lose to Korea, makes QF exit

PTI ■ TOKYO

oing by the rankings it was Ga fair call but tactically appears a mistake as Pravin Jadhav joined Deepika Kumari for archery's mixed pair event instead of Atanu Das and the last-minute pairing fumbled to go out of the medal race at the Tokyo Games, here on Saturday.

Deepika and Jadhav looked completely out of sorts and lost 2-6 to Korea in the quarterfinals despite some below-par shoot-

ing by the top seeds.

The two Korean Olympic debutants, 17-year-old Kim Je Deok and 20-year-old An San won two sets despite scoring only 35 out of a possible 40 showed the below-par shootings by both the teams.

The team think-tank here on Friday made the bold decision to split up the husband-wife combination of Deepika and Das, who had won a World Cup mixed team Gold less than a month back in Paris. The mixed teams are

formed on the basis of scores and on Friday it was Jadhav who was best among the trio finishing 31st, four places ahead of Deepika's 'favourite' partner Das in the ranking round.
Countries, however, have

one-hour time to exercise the option of switching to their best combination but the Indian think-tank chose to be bold. Deepika was already unhap-

py at the surprise decision to rejig the combination.

"I'm a little sad, he (Atanu Das) is not with me in the mixed team. It mattered, as I really wanted to play with him but it did not happen," Deepika said after the first round win against Chinese Taipei.

Archery Association of India (AAI) official Virendra Sachdeva, who is accompanying the team in Tokyo, however

"There was no problem semifinals."

with the coordination as we did really well to bounce back against the Chinese Taipei.

"But archery at the Olympics will remain a mystery for us. We lost the match in the first set only after we failed to win despite the Koreans shooting a poor 35."

'Ît's not the Koreans who won, we lost the match. I've never seen Koreans shoot so poorly that too at the highest Asked about the decision to

leave out Das, he said: "He (Jadhav) earned his place purely based on the ranking score and there was absolutely no favoritism. Our selection committee was neutral and sent our No 1 archer. There's always a first time together."

Deepika and Jadhav looked scrappy in their first match together against Chinese Taipei and trailed 1-3 but the duo seized the momentum with six 10s in the final two sets to storm into the last-eight. Up against the Korean pair,

who were making their Olympic debuts, Deepika failed to notch a single perfect 10 from eight arrows, while rookie Jadhav misfired a six in the crucial fourth set after drilling in three perfect 10s to lose the match. With no women's team in

fray, India now stare at yet another grim prospect as they brace for tougher challenges ahead in the men's team and individual rounds slated next

ROWERS IN REPECHAGE The Indian rowing duo of

Arvind Singh and Arjun Lal Jat qualified for the repechage round after finishing fifth in the men's lightweight double sculls heat on Saturday. Competing in heat 2, the

Indian pair finished with a timing of 6:40.33 in the six-team

Surya, Shaw going to We'll experiment only after ensuring series win: Dhawan **Eng as replacements**

New Delhi: Suryakumar Yadav has received his maiden Test team call-up and he along with opener Prithvi Shaw will be flying to England as replacements sought by the team management after three players were ruled out due to injury. Shubman Gill, Washington

Sundar and Avesh Khan have been forced out from the ongoing tour. The Test series is due to start on August 4. Off-spinner Jayant Yadav

was also supposed to go to UK as Washington's replacement but it has been learnt that as of now only Suryakumar and Prithvi are being sent. A senior BCCI office-bear-

er confirmed the development. "Yes, Prithvi and Surya are

flying to UK from Sri Lanka. Jayant was also supposed to go but there has been some change in plans due to quarantine requirements. Jayant is now not going. Both players will have a bubble to bubble transfer from Colombo to London. Whether they will fly in the middle of the T20Is (Shaw and and Suryakumar are part of team in Sri Lanka) or post that is being worked out," the senior official said.

"But yes, they are our replacement players for Test series in England. They might just leave after the three T20Is but we will get confirmation in another three days. It is understood

that Shaw's form has impressed the team management Mayank Agarwal's current rhythm isn't the greatest. However, with quar-

team management will try antine rules in place, it is not out new faces but only if they clear if Suryakumar and Shaw fit into the best playing XI can make it in time for the first during the upcoming threematch T20I series against Sri Lanka, starting here on Sunday.

ed as many as five newhas a Test hundred. He was also comers in the final ODI, looked upon as a steady net bowler unless Ravichandran Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja suffer from any injury in the long series. But the plan has been shelved for now. Suryakumar's assertive batting could be used during some

Rahane's hamstring injury will keep the team concerned. ʻIn any case, if Ajinkya misses the first Test, it will be KL Rahul who will bat in the mid-

team management is still confident that Ajinkya might be alright before

> However no pacer is being sent right now as already there are seven speedsters in UK for match

Test after completing their hard quarantine. As far as Jayant is concerned, he was considered for his superior batting abilities as he

Dhawan indicated on Saturday that he is not averse to experimenting with new men like Ruturaj Gaikwad, Varun Chakravarthy and Devdutt Padikkal in the coming games, but series win will remain a point in the series as Ajinkya priority.

dle-order in Nottingham. The

the first Test."

Star India batter Jemimah Rodrigues roared back to form with a superb unbeaten 92 off 43 balls to power Northern Superchargers to a six-wicket and net victory over Welsh Fire in the fourth match of The Hundred sessions.

here on Saturday. Rodrigues hit an astounding 17 boundaries and a six as Superchargers chased down a target of 131 in 85 balls after Fire posted 131 for 8 in 100 balls at the Headingley.

The innings gains more significance as Superchargers were reduced to 19 for 4 after 18 balls but Rodrigues' swift counter-attack changed the



Jemi smashes 92 off 43 in The Hundred

course of the match in a flash. Rodrigues had a lean patch through the home series against

South Africa and the recently concluded limited overs matches in England as she was

SL vs India (1st T20I) ive from 8:00pm IST SONY TEN 1. 3 & SIX the last two matches. They

played really well and they are a good team, with a lot of youngsters.
"So I think it will make for a good contest between

the two teams. We have both already played three matches now, so both teams know each others' strengths and weaknesses. That's a good thing, and it will add to the challenge (of the series)." On a personal note,

Dhawan knows that even he is auditioning for a place in the T20 World Cup side.

"It is very important. Of improvement through course, any international "I think the commatch has its own impact, and petition will be good. whenever you perform inter-You saw the Sri Lankan nationally it makes a huge team improve a lot in

Sri Lanka getting better but need depth in batting: Arthur

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur on Saturday said his team is improving fast but needs to have depth in batting. Sri Lanka lost the ODI

series 1-2 to India but the win in the final ODI gave confidence to Arthur. "We are creating depths across all the departments

now. We just have to get that

little bit of consistency and that

same depth into our batting,"

"For numerous reasons we never seem to put our best

Arthur said.

"So, on a personal note, I am really looking forward to

dropped from the playing XI

attacking instincts with some

delectable strokes all round the

wicket as West Indies off-spin-

ner Hayley Matthews was taken

for 29 off 15 deliveries includ-

bowlers as 17 out of the 21 fours

that Superchargers hit came off

her blade. Fittingly, she got the

Brief Scores: Welsh Fire 131/8 in 100 balls (Hayley Matthews

30 off 20 balls, LInsey Smith

3/14) lost to Northern

Superchargers 131/4 in 85 balls

(Jemimah Rodrigues 92 not out

off 43 balls)

Player of the Match award.

She didn't spare any of the

On the day, she showed her

during both series.

ing six boundaries.

batting line up out there. It is being about creating depth for me, but also trying to be consistent. Giving guys clear roles but then allowing them to go out and playing with freedom. We saw a really good example of that in Charith (Asalanka) the other night," added the

South African.

"The growth I have seen in these players has been fantastic and the growth comes from giving them confidence and giving them that consistency that they are going to play. We will see the rewards of that in the future for sure,"

the 53-year-old noted. Arthur also said that the Sri Lankan team learned a "massive amount" from the ODI series against India. 'We are right at the

embryonic stage of this journey and it is about us playing against ourselves every-day we go out on the ground. We have got benchmarks, which we want to meet in every game.
"We are measuring our-

selves and the progression in terms of those KPIs has been outstanding. We are getting better and better," he added.

perform over here and make the World Cup. Then we'll see my place more stronger for how it goes in the future."

BCCI O @BCCI - 5h Great to have you back gents 😊



Indian cricket team bowling coach Bharat Arun, left, wicketkeepe batsman Wriddhiman Saha, top right, and batsman Abhimanyu Easwaran join India's bio-bubble in Durham on Saturday



The entertainer, comedian and actor is back with a new project The Most Epic Max Show. Musba Hashmi chats him up about the concept of the show, what kept him going during the lockdown and his takeaways from it

nday pioneer

■What is The Most Epic Max Show about? My show is about the smaller simple things in life that make you feel epic inside, meaning

that you don't have to do epic things to feel epic. I think it's been a rough year and everybody in the world deserves to feel good about themselves and celebrate the smallest things that bring them joy. I'm coming from a place of not knowing and willing to learn but also willing to fail massively and glo-

> The show's concept is fun. Were there any challenges that you faced while shooting? Any fun instances you'd like to share?

We shot the show during the pandemic when the lockdown had lifted. All of a sudden, the frills that one may usually be used to suddenly went away. Limited crews, people in PPE kits all around me, all trying to create something fun with all cards stacked against them. It was challenging, but I had a great team around me that kept everyone's moral high. I think the fun really came from the limited resources and the creative way we improvised when we

■In every episode you take on a new task, be it making Maggi in less than two minutes or writing the perfect apology. Which episode stood out for you the most?

I don't think there is any one particular episode that was more fun to shoot than the other. But I think the foodie in me enjoyed the ice cream episode the most. I surprised myself with how that turned out. I have my MasterChef application form on standby.



WE SHOT THE SHOW WHEN THE LOCKDOWN HAD LIFTED. ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE FRILLS THAT ONE MAY USUALLY BE USED TO SUDDENLY WENT AWAY. LIMITED CREWS, PEOPLE IN PPE KITS ALL AROUND ME, ALL TRYING TO CREATE SOMETHING FUN WITH ALL CARDS STACKED AGAINST US. IT WAS CHALLENGING. **BUT I HAD A GREAT TEAM** THAT KEPT EVERYONE'S MORAL HIGH



■What can the viewers expect from the upcoming episode?

As the show progresses, I will continue to take on challenges — pushing my creative boundaries — while coming up with innovative techniques and ingenious solutions. Each challenge is either entirely 'Epic' or a complete 'Fail'. Either way, all episodes create a fun learning experience for Snapchatters!

What helped you stay active/fit physically and mentally during the lockdown?
We all struggled with keeping mentally and physically fit in the lockdown. My life went from travelling the world and being in amongst 1000's of people every night to not travelling past my front door and trying to entertain my wife, which I also failed with.

Trying to be creative and knowing that there will be light at the end of the tunnel kept me going. Not losing faith, and trying to just innovate, preparing myself for the day I can pack my suitcase again and be better than when I last unpacked it. That kept me going.

■What is your biggest takeaway from lockdown?

Time! Time to recharge, rethink and revisit some of the things I had only thought of but never had the time and motivation to do.

The biggest takeaway from this challenging phase is that it is important to find happiness in small things. It's not the outcome but the journey that matters. You may either do something out of the box or simply fail; thus, learning from it either way.

Bolly

Punjabi vibes

Actor Arshi Khan, who rose to fame with reality show *Bigg* Boss 14, is all set to feature in upcoming Punjabi song Book Likhda sung by Shok-E. "I'm excited to feature in the

song, these days people enjoy

Punjabi songs not only here but overseas too. After this there are more songs coming soon. I am back in action," says Arshi. The actress recently underwent a image makeover.

Talking about it, she says, "I have always enjoyed a simple look with a stylish aura. But now the lockdown has helped me to experiment with my looks and I'm really enjoying it. I feel like a princess. And of course my audience will witness a new me in the

Music of Book Likhda us given by Jee Pro and lyrics are by Honey Kakowalia. The song is slated to release on August 5. IANS

Big B, Prabhas' new film launched

Actors Amitabh Bachchan, Prabhas and Deepika Padukone's upcoming film with a muhurat' pooja and clap here on Saturday.



The film which is directed by Nag Ashwin has been given the working title

Amitabh landed in Hyderabad, as the film's muhurat was held on Saturday, on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. For the muhurat shot, Prabhas sounded the clapboard on Amitabh Bachchan whose portions will be shot in the first

According to the film's production team, Nag Ashwin will be shooting some crucial sequences with Amitabh and few other actors in the first shooting schedule, which commences on Saturday in Ramoji Film City, here. However, Prabhas will join the

Work attire depends on the kind of place one works at. A management professional will almost always be found wearing suits however people working in creative industries can wear smart casuals.

Even when you can wear casuals in your workplace, you will need to make sure they are smart casuals. Then there are certain standard rules for both men and women that are universal. For men big checks on shirts are a no-no. You can not wear white socks with black shoes. Your tie should always be darker than your shirt. Sleeve cuffs of your dress shirt should be exposed about half an inch under the suit jacket. Your belt should be fairly thin and the same colour as your

shoes. Women can start with keeping colour, cut and shape to subtle. Peep toe shoes are not considered office wear. Sleeveless tops should be kept in the casual wear domain

Writer is Devender Kharb, Dean (School of Fashion), World University of Design

Plants require different care during monsoon season. While some like the Pothos are sturdy plants and can survive in any conditions, there are some like the Wandering Jew that need more care. This plant needs bright but indirect light. If the light is too dim. the distinctive leaf markings will fade. Keep the soil slightly moist, but don't



water directly it will lead to rot. Wandering Jews like the soil to be moist, but over water. Stick your finger inside the soil. If it feels dry, add water to moisten the soil

Travel immunity check

With the lockdown restrictions easing, travel and tourism is picking up. However, if not urgent, it is still not advisable to plan a trip. Here is a list of things one should keep in mind before stepping out for that unavoidable trip

oosting immunity has never been a top priority of a majority of people but, it is now! When travelling these days, one might be wondering how to stay safe, healthy and away from the risk of catching an infection. For sure, you would not want to fall sick on a trip, especially on a work trip.

Spending time in railway stations, airports or places where people gather increases the risk of catching flu or cold. Following a healthy routine on a trip is hard and busy schedule, unhealthy food, as well as abnormal sleeping patterns, enhance the prob-lem. From backaches to low immuni-ty and stress-induced headaches, there are many problems that routine travellers face. Fortunately, there are several ways of travel immunity check and to ensure that nothing puts a damper on your trip and you enjoy

HEALTHY DIET

Following a healthy diet in a routine is always a good idea because while you can plan for a foreseen trip, there is nothing you can do for immediate travel plans — for work or personal reasons. When you are on the go, you generally rely on packed food, ready to eat stuff or fast food which interferes with your immune system. On top of it, if you follow an unhealthy diet even in routine and don't provide your body with the nutrition it needs to ensure a stronger immune system, it will make you prone to sickness while you travel.

Your immune system needs regular nourishment and good food to perform efficiently so it is important



to follow a diet that is rich in micronutrients. Also, while you are travelling, make sure to pack some healthy snack like protein bars, dry fruits, diet mixtures etc.

STAY HYDRATED A hydrated body can save you

from stomach infections, dehydration and many other health issues. Make sure you take a particular amount of water intake daily especially in summers. You can also include water based fruits and vegetables in your diet like cucumber,

'It was amazing to

work with Vikas Bahl'

watermelon, orange, musk melon etc.

Even while you are travelling, try to stay hydrated, avoid tapped water and avoid alcohol & caffeine based

GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Getting enough sleep is important to ensure a strong immune system as a lack of sleep increases the chances of getting sick. Try to get good night's sleep a few days before you travel to ensure that you are healthy, active, engaged and safe on your trip. To get a good sleep, avoid using smartphones or gadgets at night and minimise your alcohol & caffeine intake.

EXERCISE

Exercise routine and a healthy diet are directly connected to good immunity. Doing some yoga or stretching exercises in a routine can boost your immunity. You may download a fitness or meditation app to keep yourself motivated. Further, several foods like berries, banana, lemon, kiwi etc in addition to multivitamin supplements help in supporting the immune system.

WATCH WHAT YOU TOUCH

Make sure you don't touch any contaminated surface and even if you have to, wash your hands frequently or sanitise them. Also, avoid touching your face before sanitising or washing your hands. You can also use disinfectant wipes or spray to clean armrests, table top or any other surface you come in touch in routine as well as while you are travelling.

Lastly, being fit, healthy and ensuring strong immunity should be a lifestyle choice and not something you only follow right before or while travelling. The more you fol-low a healthy lifestyle, the less you will have to worry about immunity check before stepping out for a vacation or office trip.

DAYANA ERAPPA, who was seen in her first Hindi venture, Sunflower, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she got this project

♦ How did you end up doing Sunflower — the web series?

This was my first Hindi venture so I was quite excited about it. Like any other actor, I went through a couple of rounds of auditions and finally made it to

How was the experience of working with Vikas Bahl?

It was amazing. Vikas is a great mentor. He lets you improvise and makes it very comfortable and easy for an actor to perform. There's a lot that I learnt from him. I hope to associate with him in the future as well. ❖ What's your role here? How exciting was it to do this genre?

I play Justina. The character shows how every woman can be bold. She speaks her mind out and values that immensely. She is confident and independent. It was easy to identify with this character; I truly have the same kind of beliefs. So, the character's attitude towards life is very similar to mine. I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this pro-

ject and playing this role. I would say that it is among my my favourites till date.

You started as a model, how did acting happen?

When I got a call from Mani Ratnam's office, I came on board for his hit film, Chekka Chivantha Vaanam. Post that, there's been no looking back. I'm glad I transcended to films and I'm looking forward to exploring film industry in various languages. I definitely want to be part of more Bollywood projects as well and look forward to the different roles that I can play. ❖ You have done so many ad

campaigns, what's the best The best part of it is that you get to meet a lot of experienced

thing to take back from each campaing that one does. I've learnt a lot by being part of so

many ad campaigns.

Are you still pursuing mod-

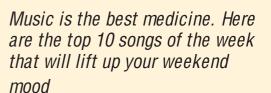
Yes, I still enjoy modelling but I have limited myself to editorials and designer campaigns. It all started with modelling, so I can never dissociate myself from that.

♦ Lots of actors are doing regional films as well. What is the driving force here?

Honestly, for me the driving force is the content. As far as I am getting good scripts that have great content, I will do that whether it's regional cinema or Bollywood. Also I feel, OTT has been great platform for regional cinema. The medium doesn't really matter to me. All that matters is the content and my part. **♦** What next?

I am working on a few projects but I can't really talk about

Sound of . MUSIC



BOLLYWOOD VIBES

Paani Paani (Badshah, Aastha Gill) Param Sundari (AR Rahman, Shreya

Doob Gaye (Guru Randhawa, BPraak) Jo Tum Aa Gaye Ho (Arijit Singh) Number Likh (Tony Kakkar)

ENGLISH VINGLISH

Bad Habits (Ed Sheeran) Peaches (Justin Bieber) Leave The Door Open (Bruno Mars)

Traitor (Olivia Rodrigo) Kiss Me More (SZA)

sunday magazine

New Delhi, July 25, 2021



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

Support system for rural India

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





Watch your thoughts

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



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

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

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

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

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

RECOGNISING PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE

BEHAVIOUR Below are some red flags that can help you

identify a harmless sulking from a hostile one. • Disguised Verbal Hostility: 'I'm Just Saying' a sentence that sounds so harmless can be your partner's coping mechanism developed over the years to express his or her angry feelings without being affirmative about it.

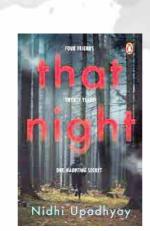
- Disguised Hostile Humour: 'Can't You Take a Joke?' The backhanded compliment or sarcasm could be another powerful weapon often used by a passive aggressive partner, especially in the instances when they are confronted about their demeaning act. Playing a victim card that it was meant to be a joke' is their knee-jerk reaction to avoid any uncomfortable conversations.
- Guilt-Baiting: 'You were taking so long to finish that call with your mom that I started the match instead.' Aggressive passive spouses are an expert at wielding guilt as a weapon to show their disagreement or hostility. They inadvertently or skilfully manipulate and coerce you into an agreement by
- attacking your vulnerable spots Disguised Psychological Manipulation: 'I think you need to go for a yoga class to manage your stress.' Passive aggressive spouse usually have a tendency to change your perception by spinning the whole blame on you for being the inconsiderate or
- the short tempered one. Stonewalling: Avoiding responsibility, duty, and obligations and withdrawing from a relationship is another trick up the sleeves of these individuals. It's their way of maintaining power and control by imposing many hurdles for you to jump through.

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

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

POSSIBLE CAUSES FOR PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

- **Upbringing:** Voicing your strong opinion was(is) often categorised as disrespectful in most Indian households. However, a constant suppression of opinion during the formative years can impact adversely, pushing an individual to find ways to passively channel their anger or frustration.
- Sense of powerlessness: A manipulation in a marriage can often be a side-effect of tussle of power between the partners, especially when one partner feels out of control in a situation or area where his or her spouse is enjoying success. This sense of insecurity can fuel underhanded tactics to sabotage the partner's success and emotional wellbeing, sometimes without even realising it. This power hunger can also manifest into establishing their territories by subtle emotional and physical abuse.



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



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

HOW TO COPE WITH PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE

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

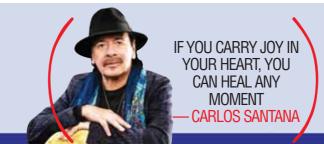
- **Accepting the situation:** It's painful to accept that your spouse is operating within a passive-aggressive pattern, especially, because these individuals have a tendency to manipulate your emotions by displaying sacrifices made by them in a relationship. They usually go an extra length to prove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

- tions, especially when the passive aggressive spouse is acting up. If you can recognise triggers of your own anger and get a control of your reactions, you are less likely to get psychologically manipulated or gaslighted by the partner
- Establishing a healthy channel of commu**nication:** It is important to approach you spouse with vulnerability and empathy as passive aggressive individuals are hypersensitive and often operate from low self-esteem or sense of insecurity. You can help them by wording their angry feelings in a way that it doesn't appear judgmental yet factual. Share with your spouse how his or her behaviour hurts you but do it without placing the blame on them.
- Set healthy boundaries and ground rules: It hurts deeply to accept that your spouse might not have your best interest in mind always. However, it is important to set boundaries to protect yourself from any form of emotional or physical abuse. By drawing a clear list of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour might help you and your partner identify the patterns you've been experiencing. Also, setup consequences for the next time he or she does the same thing and don't back down if they demean you.
- Seek help of a marriage therapist: It never hurts to seek help of a good marriage therapist. With the right approach and professional support, you can overcome passiveaggressive patterns and manipulations in a relationship to build a happier, healthier marriage together.

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

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





India&world 2

New Delhi, July 25, 2021

NEED TO BUILD A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR RURAL INDIA



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

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

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

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

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

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



It is indeed easy and not incorrect to blame the government as state governments with higher expenditure on health had lower confirmed cases of Covid. However, at a time when the government has demonstrated substantial inertia in effectively managing the pandemic in the country, the civil society must (and has!) step up. With management expertise, wide distribution networks in the country, human resources at disposal, the private sector has an especially strong role to play in disaster management in rural India. Corporations hold enormous influence within their domains and communities around their factories and depots that are often located in remote or rural areas. In this context, government effectiveness in rural areas can thus be strengthened by leveraging existing private

sector capacities, reach and core competencies.

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

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

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

THERE IS A NEED
TO EMPHASIZE
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INDIA

world around us. Establishing markets in rural regions and offering affordable products and services to rural India is a market opportunity. For example, Visaka Industries Limited is a Hyderabad based diversified company that manufactures asbestos cement roofing sheets, building products and textile yarn, in ways that established it as a primarily green business. Further, 90% of Visaka's asbestos sheets, 30% of VBoard products, and 20% of its ATUM solar roofing are sold in rural and semiurban parts of the country, thus enhancing the quality of life of rural communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is the CEO of Sustain Labs, a company that transforms companies towards being sustainable and profitable.
She is the author of Indian Instincts: Essays on Freedom & Equality in India, and a Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum

Changing demographic profiles & women

Closing the gender gap in digital inclusion is an urgent priority in the

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

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

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DIVORCE & CHILD CUSTODY

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

pandemic. This involves a special focus on women-owned enterprises under the stimulus programmers, write RAJESH MEHTA & UDDESHYA GOEL for women to escape their condi-

regions.

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

tions, especially in the rural

THE SECOND SHIFT AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

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

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

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



JOB LOSSES AND POVERTY

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

women's employment is at risk in the pandemic globally, compared with 3.8% of men's employment. This is because women are overrepresented in industries that are likely to experience the greatest declines because of the pandemic. These include hospitality and foodservice, retail, education and manufacturing.

As a direct consequence, the pandemic will push 96 million

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

WIDENING ENTREPRENEURIAL

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

THE LOST FUTURE TALENTS

The cascading effect of pandemic-induced economic insecurity is not just the income losses but also the rippling effect of years of education denied to women and girls. Impacts on education and employment have long-lasting consequences that, if unaddressed, will reverse hard-

won gains in gender equality.
According to a UNESCO estimate, a total of 11 million girls may leave school by the end of the Covid crisis; evidence from previous crises suggests that many will not return.

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

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

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

DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

est of the poor.

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

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

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

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EdTech platforms: Same old wine in new bottle?

ing, access to basic education still remains a privilege. However, there exists an inherent paradox where even a good percentage of the educated population find it difficult to have gainful and stable employment. So, given this paradox, how do we expect that educating the underpriv-ileged lot will somehow help them in finding a better livelihood?

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

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

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

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

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

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

The false promise!

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

However, despite these apparent shortcomings, the



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

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

As an integral part of tar-

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

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

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

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

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

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

books into pdf or teaching remotely, it's also about using tech to deliver brand-new learning architecture, opening up the world of education to new audiences, boosting student engagement, while cutting costs to improve access

not just about reformatting

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an educator, former IRS officer & author of upcoming book "The upcoming book "The Current Perspective on INDIAN Do we actually need them? The content and delivery by most of these EdTech platforms are woefully dated, with a minimum collaboration, participation, and feedback from students. EdTech platforms need to find a way to cut through the noise and reach students



across the social

PIYUSH KAMAL

PERSPECTIVE

South Sudan — A decade of Independence

This month South Sudan is celebrating its first decade of Independence, but there is not much to rejoice. Since its separation from mainland Sudan, it has been 15 in 2011. experiencing continued violence. endemic corruption, poverty and underdevelopment.

provides an opportunity to inject land Sudan. fresh initiatives to South Sudan's partition the ongoing peace

MAKHAN SAIKIA

However, the 10th

country's historic

achievement of

Independence

process

anniversary of

Republic of South Sudan was peace process that began with signing of the eement (CPA) in 2005. With the signing of the CPA, the war between the South and the North Sudan came to an end and the peace deal, known as the Naivasha Agreement between Khartoum Central Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement (SPLA/M), led to a historic referendum which took place in Southern Sudan between January 9 and

The main purpose of the referendum was to decide whether the region should continue to remain a part of Sudan or become independent. However, a simultaneous referendum that was supposed to be held in the Abyei region on whether to join South Sudan could not take place due to massive violence. The Referendum Commission published the results of the referendum on February 7, 2011, which showed more than 98.83 per cent people voted in favour of separation from the main-

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

South Sudan became the South suffers from many problems. It's been at war since 1959. July 9, 2011. The birth of the The South does not have the ability to provide for its citizens the culmination of six years of or create a state or authority".

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

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

the earlier system of 10 States. How the Civil War began in South Sudan? The two titans Salva Kiir, the President, and Riek Machar, the former Vice President, were fighting to claim their rights over the fragile nation. This conflict started just after two years of the country's Independence from the mainland Sudan. The vast majority (over 80 per cent) of the people fleeing South Sudan in the past are women and children. And sadly, children make up to the 63 per cent of the total South Sudanese refugees during the

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

In November 2013,

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

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

cent of the civilian casualties

were attributed to inter-com-

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

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

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

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

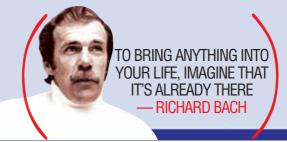
Even barely a year after signing the peace deal in 2019, South Sudan's National Security Service recruited a force of 10,000 fighters in President Kiir's stronghold. These were all apparently violating the peace accord. The Kiir administration is taking very little interest in following the terms and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

However, the 10th anniversary of South Sudan's historic achievement of Independence provides an opportunity to inject fresh initiatives to the ongoing peace process. The idea is to bring back peace, stability and growth that all South Sudanese people deserve today. Notwithstanding the recent signs of tranquillity, the overall implementation of the revitalised agreement is abysmally slow. Nevertheless, the feeble and almost paralysed institutions of State governance throughout South Sudan have directly helped the perpetrators of violence to exploit the existing perennial ethnic and communal cleavages. Entrenched insecurity has prevented the regular cultivation and herd rearing practices of the traditional communities in the countryside leading to food hortage and famine.

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

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































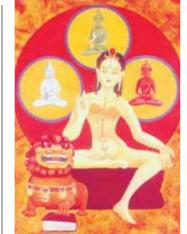




ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 28 Lucky colour Orange Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 22 Lucky colour Grey Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

Lucky number 21 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Caramel Brown **Lucky day** Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour White Lucky day Monday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 10 Lucky colour Silver **Lucky day** Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 31 Lucky colour Red Lucky day Wednesday



ne of friends based in the US,

planetary placements in a horoscope,

wrote: "Everyone has positive as well as

negative thoughts. I believe that good

planets excite positive thoughts. Often, bad planets supersede the influence of

thoughts. Is there any astrological remedy

to contain undesirable thoughts? Does

counselling help?" As thought trends

have bearing on our quality of life, the

I replied. Planets are not doers in their

thought process. Planets are respectively

marked with energy streams of a particu-

regions in the cosmos, with the said plan-

et in the centre. And, energy doesn't have

its own drive. It will work accordingly as

it is applied or responded to. It is some-

thing like electrical energy, which could

equally activate a heating element as well

as an air conditioner. Similarly, planetary

emissions will influence a being, accord-

ing as an individual mind is inherently

framed. There is nothing like a good or

lar character passing through different

own right. They won't define your

You need to change your perception,

good planets and breed negative

question deserves attention.

seeking clarification on interrelation between thought process and

CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 30 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Watch your thoughts

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Turquoise Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 20 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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TEAM AGENDA DESK > NAVNEET MENDIRATTA, CONSULTING EDITOR I ★ LAYOUT AND DESIGN > SATISH CHANDRA JAKHMOLA, SENIOR EDITOR (CREATIVE)