

OPINION 6
WHEN POLITICOS PASS
THE BUCK TO MILITARY**WORLD 8**
BIDEN: US COMBAT MISSION
IN IRAQ TO END THIS YEAR**AVENUES 10**
UPSKILLING AND
RESKILLING IS MUST

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 28 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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OSAKA OUT
OF TOKYO
OLYMPICS
12 SPORTMamata meets PM; chai pe
charcha with Sonia todayBengal CM on
mission to unite
Opp leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Apart from Sonia, Mamata is scheduled to meet top



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

Opposition leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Om Prakash Chautala, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and political strategist Prashant Kishor.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

ers' agitation and Pegasus spyware controversy.

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

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

However, it was the Pegasus issue that has dominated proceedings in both the Houses so far. As soon as the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha resumed their sessions, the Opposition members began raising slogans in support of their demands for a probe.

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

Assam-Mizoram border
row has roots in 1875
Frontier Regulation1,318 sqkm forest
reserve on border is
bone of contention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

At the centre of the conflict is the 164.6-km inter-State bor-

der that separates Assam and Mizoram, with the three Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj sharing a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram. Mizoram, earlier referred to as Lushai Hill, shares borders with three States of Tripura, Assam and Manipur besides a 722-km border with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The India-Myanmar border in Mizoram is open, and an unhindered movement of people from both sides has reportedly led to a spurt in cross-border smuggling. The Free Movement Regime between India and Myanmar allows people living along the border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without visa.

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

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

Rakesh Asthana
named Delhi CP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

BJP boycotts
Tharoor-led Parl
panel meeting

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP members on Tuesday boycotted the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology (IT) led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, saying that the agenda of the meeting should not be made public.

The Committee is likely to question top Government officials, including from the Home Ministry, on allegations related to phone tapping of many using Pegasus spyware on Wednesday. There are 32 members in the committee.

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Hockey, boxing bring some cheer to India

PTI ■ TOKYO

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

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

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

BSY's Man Friday is K'taka new CM

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

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Antibody weakens 2-3 months
after both doses: Lancet studyResults based on
immunisation
with Pfizer and
AstraZeneca jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Institute of Health Informatics in a statement.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Detailed report on P5

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Union Government had expressed confidence that it would soon be able to vaccinate children between 12 and

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

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

Continued on Page 2



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

But perhaps the shooters can take a leaf out of the men's hockey team's book and find a way out of their current misery. Hammered 1-7 by

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

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TOKYO 2020					
OLYMPICS: JULY 27 MEDAL TALLY					
RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Japan	10	3	5	18
2	USA	9	7	8	24
3	China	9	5	7	21
4	ROC	7	7	4	18
5	Great Britain	4	5	3	12
6	Korea	3	2	5	10
7	Australia	3	1	5	9
8	Canada	2	3	3	8
9	France	2	2	3	7
10	Kosovo	2	0	0	2
39	India	0	1	0	1

Kundra earned ₹1.17 cr from porn app in five months, cops tell court

Mumbai: Raj Kundra earned at least ₹1.17 crore between August and December last year from his business of production and online distribution of porn films, Mumbai Police told a court on Tuesday, seeking another extension of his custody.

The magistrate's court, however, remanded Kundra (45), who is married to Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty, in judicial custody for 14 days. The Bombay High Court, meanwhile, refused to give him any urgent temporary relief. "Interrogation of Ryan Thorpe, another accused in the case, revealed that revenue from Hotshots (an online app or platform through which alleged porn content was made available) was ₹1.17, 64,886 (USD 1,58,057) between August and December 2020," the remand plea of the police said.

This revenue was earned from the app on Apple store and the police have sought information from Google too, it said. The app had more users on Google Play than the Apple store before it was removed, so he must have earned much more revenue, the police claimed. The investigators also wanted to scrutinize the documents recovered from nine files seized from Kundra's office during a search on July 24, the remand application said.

While the statement of a woman (who

alleged that she was tricked into acting in a porn film) was recorded on July 26, more victims were likely to come forward, the police told the court.

But the court, which had granted one extension of the custody earlier, rejected the police's plea and sent Kundra in judicial custody for 14 days. His lawyers Abad Ponda and Subhash Jadhav then filed a bail application, contending that he should be released as investigation was over. The application will be heard in due course. Kundra was arrested on July 19 by the Mumbai police's crime branch.

He had plans to sell 119 adult films to a person for USD 1.2 million, the police had claimed during an earlier remand hearing. The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to give urgent relief to Kundra. Justice A S Gadkari directed the police to file their reply by July 29 in response to a petition filed by Kundra challenging his arrest.

His lawyers argued that the police failed to follow the procedure. They should have first issued a notice to him, asking him to be present to record a statement, instead of arresting him directly, advocates Ponda and Jadhav said. Prosecutor Aruna Kamat Pai said a notice was issued to him. **PTI**

Child-trafficking racket busted in Odisha, 7 held

Rourkela: A child-trafficking racket has been busted here with the arrest of seven persons, and a one-and-a-half year-old girl rescued from their clutches, a senior police officer said on Tuesday.

All seven, including five women, hail from "well-to-do families" that operate businesses of their own in the steel city, Bikram Keshari Bhoi, the additional superintendent of police (ASP), Rourkela, said. The eighth member of the racket, also a woman, is at large, and the police are on the lookout for her, he said. "This has been a real revelation ... We are not going to

leave anything to chance and find out all about this illegal activity. We will investigate every possible angle that might be involved, including organ trade," Bhoi asserted.

He said that the police, after initial investigation, have found out that the gang "sold the children to people in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh".

The matter came to light when a 40-year-old woman, a resident of Timber Colony here, lodged a police complaint, claiming that two local women took her granddaughter away after promising to pay her money, but did not cough up any. **PTI**



After taking over as the Governor of Haryana, Bandaru Dattatraya had a courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday and discussed in detail the developmental and public welfare schemes being run in the State.

Over 60 tourists rescued from Himachal's Kinnaur

Shimla: Over 60 tourists stranded in two villages of Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district after multiple landslides on July 25 were evacuated to safer places on Tuesday evening, a senior official said.

The tourists were rescued after the blocked Sangla-Chhitkul road was opened for their evacuation, state Disaster Management Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said.

The road has been closed again until the clearance to open it is given by the Public Works Department and the team from the Geological Survey of India, Mokhta said.

Sixty to 80 tourists were stranded in Chhitkul and Rakshak, the last villages of the Bapsa valley, as the Sangla-Chhitkul road was closed for traffic after the landslides, he said.

The district administration was facing difficulty in clearing heavy boulders from the road. Owners of apple orchards were objecting to the boulders being dumped near their orchards located down the road, Mokhta added.

Nine tourists were killed on Sunday after heavy boulders fell on their tempo traveller near Basteri in Kinnaur. Multiple landslides triggered by rains occurred near Basteri on the Sangla-Chitkul road, resulting in the collapse of a bridge and damage to some vehicles. **PTI**

Mandsaur spurious liquor death toll rises to six; Govt sets up SIT

Bhopal/Mandsaur (MP): The Madhya Pradesh Government on Tuesday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the spurious liquor incident in which six persons have died so far in Mandsaur district.

The committee, headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Rajesh Rajora, includes Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) GP Singh and Inspector General (IG), Railways, MS Sikarwar, as members, as per the order issued by Home Department Secretary D Sreenivasa Verma.

The state government has constituted this SIT to inquire into the incident of death of six persons after alleged consumption of 'poisonous liquor' from all aspects, the order said.

On Tuesday, the death toll in the spurious liquor incident rose to six with the death of three more men during treatment, officials said. Four others are undergoing treatment at various hospitals.

"Three more men, two of them 40-year-old and another 35-year-old, died during treatment at different hospitals," Pipila Mandi police station in-charge



OP Tantwar had said earlier in the day.

He said those undergoing treatment had reportedly purchased liquor from a dhaba (roadside hotel) and a liquor outlet.

Earlier, three persons died at Khakhrai village in the Mandsaur district on Saturday and Sunday after consuming liquor purchased from a local grocery shop. The exact cause of their deaths was not yet clear. Meanwhile, a 25-year-old patient told reporters that he had purchased liquor from a dhaba and started feeling uneasy after consuming it.

Another patient, a 23-year-old man, admitted in the Mandsaur district hospital, said he had purchased alcohol from a liquor outlet but suffered a blurred vision after drinking. **PTI**

5 more test positive for Zika in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Five more persons including two minors, tested positive for Zika virus taking the caseload to 56, of which 8 are active, State Health Minister Veena George said on Tuesday.

The five who tested positive were aged 38, 17, 26, 12 and 37 and were residents of Anayara, Pettah, Karamana, Poojappura and Killipalam, respectively, in Thiruvananthapuram, a state government release said.

The virus was confirmed in tests conducted at the virology lab of the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. **PTI**

‘Creating mindset which refuses to accept dowry need of the hour’

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Creating a mindset which refuses to accept the practice of dowry is the need of the hour, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said on Tuesday. He was addressing a meeting of Vice Chancellors at the Raj Bhavan here to discuss varsity level campaigns against the dowry system.

The Governor also lauded the LDF government's move to posting Dowry Prohibition Officers in all districts and at state level and the decision to make employees sign an undertaking on not taking or giving dowry.

"What we need is to take public awareness to such a level that social sanctions are built against dowry.

The fear of such a social stigma

should deter people from demanding or giving dowry," the Governor said. Pointing out that Universities have a great role in the matter, he suggested two affidavits from students against dowry one at the time of admission and the second while receiving the degree.

"Social evils begin in the mind. Defence against them should also begin in the minds. The mission of universities is to mould minds," he said.

Suggestions from VCs included sensitization by including the topic in the compulsory modules and mandatory non-credit and MOOC courses, conduct of awareness programmes in colleges, formation of Social Justice Forums, linking of anti-dowry affidavit with the National Academic Depository. **PTI**

Dalit girl commits suicide over harassment in MP

Tikamgarh: A 16-year-old Dalit girl allegedly committed suicide after being harassed by some boys at a village in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh district, police said on Tuesday. The incident occurred in Tanga village under Jatara police station, about 45 km from the district headquarters, on Monday evening, an official said.

The girl allegedly consumed some poisonous substance at her home, following which her condition deteriorated and she was admitted to the district hospital and later taken to Jhansi Medical College, where she died during treatment on Tuesday afternoon, Jatara police station in-charge Trivendra Trivedi said. **PTI**

BSY's Man...

From Page 1

Over last six decades eight of the 20 Chief Ministers of Karnataka hailed from the Lingayat community.

The decision to appoint a relatively "newcomer" to the party, who is not a hard-core Hindutva leader, is seen as a very pragmatic step that placed faith on a leader who could shift and shuffle well in the turbulent and divided BJP State unit with at least 17 former Congress-JDS MLAs keeping the Government afloat.Besides Covid-19, Bommai will need all skills to keep all factions happy when he forms his Cabinet shortly. Bommai started his political career with the Janata Dal and worked with senior leaders, including HD Devegowda and Ramakrishna Hegde.

He left the Janata Dal (United) and joined the BJP in 2008 and thus, interesting carries a "secular past".

BJP boycotts Tharoor...

From Page 1

It has the maximum members from the ruling BJP.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey said the agenda of the meeting should be given to the members in advance, but was not given and the meeting was held at a time when both the Houses are in Session. The agenda of the meeting was to review of the functioning of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in the context of the draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

"As per rules, confidentiality should be maintained. Agenda became public before the meeting. The agenda should be fixed with the consent of committee members. We've boycotted the meet," said BJP MP Zafar Islam. The face-off the BJP MPs and the Committee chairman is not new as the two sides have had several run-ins in the past over Facebook and Twitter issue and 4G connection in Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the 32-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on

IT is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, for which the listed agenda is "Citizens' data security and privacy", according to a notification issued by Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Officials of the Ministry of Information Technology, Home and Communications have been summoned to the meeting.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 4 pm. Both the houses of the Parliament have not been allowed to function for the six consecutive days on Tuesday as the government and the opposition locked horns on the issue of Pegasus snooping.

Tharoor said the subject of Citizens Data Privacy and Security is an approved agenda item of the committee and it was under this item that we had earlier discussed the Pegasus issue in November-December last year. "So it's a continuing issue.

There would be other questions as well, as this is not necessarily the only issue. But, for many of us in the committee this is perhaps the most important issue," Tharoor added.

Assam-Mizoram...

From Page 1

However, clashes in 1994, 2006, 2018, 2020 and the latest one on Monday at Lailapur, Cachar, between the two sides have flared up tensions in the area. In 1994, tensions escalated in Vairengte, 130 km from Aizawl, Capital of Mizoram, when a skirmish broke out between the police personnel of the two States, but the crisis was averted with the intervention of the Union Home Ministry.

The North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, provided for the creation of States of Manipur and Tripura and the formation of Meghalaya. The Act also provisioned the formation of the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh - by the reorganisation of the then existing State of Assam.

The Barak Valley, comprising the Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj districts, is the southernmost tip of Assam. Cachar is surrounded on three sides by the hill ranges of Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya, and also shares an international boundary with

Bangladesh.

Mizoram was originally a part of undivided Assam. It was first created as a Union Territory in January 1972 when it was separated from Assam, and later acquired statehood in 1987. The Mizo community is the dominant tribal community inhabiting Mizoram and covered under the Schedules Tribes. Post-Independence, the border issue between Assam and Mizoram has existed for the last 50 years when the UT of Mizoram was formed in 1972.

The Mizoram Peace Accord signed in June 1986, between the Centre and the Mizo National Front (MNF), ended the two decades long Mizo insurgency, leading to the grant of statehood to Mizoram. However, the boundary issues that remained suppressed earlier escalated into border disputes after the creation of a separate State of Mizoram.

While Assam recognises the map and boundary drawn by the Survey of India in 1933, both sides have attributed border skirmishes to perceptual differences over an imaginary line.

Covid immunisation of 12-18 yrs...

From Page 1

This will be a big step in breaking the chain of transmission and also reopening schools across the country amid warnings of a possible third wave of Covid, according to medical fraternity. Earlier this month, Dr NK Arora, who heads the National Expert Group on Vaccines, had said that vaccination for children will start by September with the Zyklus vaccine for 12 to 18-year-olds. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Zyklus Cadila's candidate are testing vaccines for children. The results of the Covaxin trials are expected by September, AIIMS chief Randeep Guleria has said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
Notice No. 01/2021 Dated : 27.07.2021
Detailed Notification for Engagement of Apprentices for Apprenticeship Training under Apprentices Act-1961, has published on 27.07.2021 vide our Zonal Notification No. RRC/NCR/01/2021. Desirous candidates are advised to visit our official website www.rcprpyj.org for further details and filling up online application in this regard.

Chairman
Railway Recruitment Cell,
Aliahabad

851/21 (P)
f North central railway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPNCR

Hockey, boxing ...

From Page 1

It was a tremendous fightback after a loss that could have easily scarred them for the entire Games.

Instead, India produced a spirited performance against world No.9 Spain and scored through Simranjeet Singh (14th minute) and Rupinder Pal Singh (15th and 51st) to record a comfortable win in their third Pool A match at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

Any talk of fight by an Indian in these Games would be incomplete without the table tennis veteran A Sharath Kamal. The 39-year-old took a game off the reigning Olympic and World champion Ma Long of China.

It wasn't enough to fetch him a victory as he bowed out in the men's singles third round but it did show the tremendous athlete that Sharath has been for several years.

"It was the best three games and probably the best match and best tournament I ever played," Sharath told PTI.

6th day of...

From Page 1

Addressing a meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary party, Modi accused the Congress of not only detailing Parliament proceedings but also not allowing other Opposition parties to resolve the impasse in Parliament.

The Congress had not allowed the Prime Minister to introduce his new council of Ministers on July 19 in the Lok Sabha when Parliament session had commenced.

In this reference the Prime Minister also pointed out the Congress' boycott of last week's all-party meeting to review the Covid-19 situation, and said the party had also prevented others from attending.

"Expose this behaviour of the Congress and some Opposition parties in front of the media and the public", Modi told MPs in the meeting.

In the last Parliamentary party meet he had said the Congress is in the "coma" and not being able to digest BJP's political progress. He had than

sought BJP MPs to "expose lies of the Congress".

Modi also spoke in the meeting about the "Azadi Amrit Mahotsav" launched by the Union Government to mark the 75 years of India's Independence and sought their active participation and not reducing it to a "sarkari event".

Reflecting Modi's ideas, JP Nadda asked party MPs to ensure that Central Government schemes reach the public affected by the Covid-19 and spread vaccine awareness among people.

The BJP has been trying to limit the political damage done by the April-May second-killer-wave of the Covid-19 and asking all its leaders to play a proactive role on vaccination and infrastructure building ahead of the anticipated third-wave of the pandemic in the country in August-September.

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

Parliament.

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

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

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

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

Mamata meets PM; chai...

From Page 1

She will also meet leaders of the BSP and the RJD. After her meetings, the West Bengal CM is also planning to host a dinner for the leaders, sources added without divulging much detail of the timing and venue. Mamata met senior Congress leaders Kamal Nath, Anand Sharma, and Abhishek Singhvi and on Tuesday.

This is the first of her series of meetings with senior political leaders after her Assembly poll victory in Bengal.

Nath said he had come to congratulate Mamata for her victory in the recent Assembly elections. "The strategy for 2024 will be discussed with Sonia. Mamata will meet Sonia," said Nath.

"We have not discussed any strategy. That will be discussed by the leader of our party. We just discussed the current situation and the issue of rising prices," Nath told media when asked about the meeting.Nath said Mamata's victory in the Assembly polls has sent a message across the country.

Mamata also met another senior Congress leader Anand Sharma during which Sharma is reported to have told her that there cannot be a non-BJP front without the Congress as it is a national political party with a pan-India presence. Mamata's visit is part of her efforts to cobble up a national front against the BJP. Before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Mamata is preparing to play an important role at the national level. The TMC said their party supremo is also to visit Parliament to meet other political leaders.

PADMA AWARDS

Delhi Govt will nominate healthcare workers: CM



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will only nominate the names of healthcare workers for the Padma Awards this year, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister thanked all the doctors and other healthcare workers who relentlessly gave everything they could to save lives during one of the biggest crises humanity has ever seen. He also asked Delhiites to recommend names of doctors and healthcare workers who deserve to be recognised.

"The Government is seeking recommendations of names of doctors and healthcare staff from the people of Delhi for the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan awards. The people can send in the

names of the doctors and healthcare workers with a description of why they think the name they have recommended deserves the honour to padmaawards.delhi@gmail.com by August 15, 2021," he said.

"The last date to send recommendations to the Central Government is September 15. People need to send their recommendations to us by August 15, so the screened names could be sent on time to the Centre," he added.

"A Search and Screening Committee has been formed under Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to screen and decide the names that will be recommended to the Central Government," he said.

"We want the doctors and health workers to be felicitated with the Padma Awards this year in recognition of their work and as a gesture of grat-

itude towards them. Many doctors and health workers contracted Covid-19 and lost their lives while saving people from the virus. The whole country and humanity are indebted to them," he said.

"I know many doctors and health workers who did not go home for days and worked day and night to save our lives. It's time to honour them and show our gratitude towards them," Kejriwal said.

The Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards are given for distinguished and exceptional achievements and service in different fields and disciplines such as art, literature and education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service, trade and industry.

Everyone without any distinction of race, caste, occupation, position or sex are eligible for the awards. However, Government servants, including those working with PSUs - except for doctors and scientists -- are not eligible for the awards.

The nominations are placed before the Padma Awards Committee, constituted by the Prime Minister every year.

There is no cap on the number of awardees. Also, the States can make any number of recommendations for the awards.

Rain brings waterlogging, traffic snarls in city



Commuters ford the waterlogged Ring Road in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri



Rainwater almost covers a car on Ring Road in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following heavy rainfall in the national Capital on Tuesday morning, there was waterlogging in several parts of the city including Pragati Maidan and Dhaula Kuan, affecting vehicular movement in the city.

Several areas across the city including key stretches like Mathura Road, Moti Bagh,

Vikas Marg, Ring Road, Rohtak Road, Sangam Vihar and Kirari witnessed waterlogging.

Due to the flooding, there were traffic snarls at ITO, underneath the Moti Bagh metro station, the Dhaula Kuan underpass, near Pragati Maidan, Mathura Road, Vikas Marg, Ring Road near the IP Flyover, Rohtak Road.

Public Works Department (PWD) officials said water-

logging complaints were being dealt with on a priority basis.

"Morning rain was of high intensity so a few areas of the city witnessed waterlogging. Our field staff is on the ground and we are closely observing the situation," a PWD official said.

The Delhi Traffic Police took to Twitter to inform commuters about waterlogging and the areas where traffic movement had been affected.

"Traffic is affected near Qutab Minar Metro Station towards 100 Foota carriageway due to waterlogging," DTP tweeted.

"Traffic coming from Badarpur towards Mehrauli has been diverted towards Mathura Road due to waterlogging near Pul Prahladpur," it tweeted.

In further tweets, DTP said traffic is affected near Okhla Mandi, from Tamil Sangam Marg towards R K Puram and from Hyatt Regency to R K Puram Sector-12 near CNG pump.

A senior police official said traffic has also been affected in Dhaula Kuan.

CP highlights traffic woes to DTP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Commissioner Balaji Srivastav on Twitter highlighted the issue of traffic congestion near the Rail Bhawan en-route to Parliament on Tuesday, to the Delhi Traffic Police (DTP).



"Daily heavy traffic jam en-route to Parliament near Rail Bhawan. Needs attention at senior levels of DTP @dtp-traffic and proper traffic management," stated the CP's official account on Twitter.

A senior traffic official, however, cited the ongoing construction work and a breakdown of a DTC bus at Red Cross road on Tuesday morning, as the reason for the heavy traffic jam witnessed in the area.

"Deep sewer work is being carried out at Red Cross road, so half of the road is blocked and only the other half of the road is available for vehicular traffic" said the senior traffic official.

"If one needs to reach the Parliament, Red Cross is the only road available because Parliament Street beyond a point is one way.

So the traffic comes from the Red Cross road and takes a right turn towards Parliament Street,

he said, citing that other roads such as Rafi Marg and Rajendra Prasad road are also one way.

"On Tuesday morning, at the starting of the Red Cross rail Bhawan, the local police had put up a picket for checking and on the other end, the breakdown of a DTC bus led to traffic jams at the Rail Bhawan area," the traffic police official said.

To decongest the roundabout at Rail Bhawan, the traffic police said they had already diverted the buses approaching the road but traffic cannot be diverted completely because the MPs also move through the same road to reach Parliament Gate no. 2.

Khattar inaugurates Hyundai Motors' India HQ in G'gram



PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the newly established South Korean automobile major Hyundai Motor 'India Headquarters' of the company here in Gurugram on Tuesday. Hyundai Motors India Managing Director & CEO Seon Seob Kim was also present at the event.

According to the company

statement the Hyundai Motor India has invested over \$ 4 Billion in India in the last 25 years. The company has 17 regional offices and 2499 customer touch points across India.

According to Kim, the management is expecting to build to more officials beside the headquarters by 2023 with cost over 2,000 crore in Gurugram.

The corporate headquarters in Gurugram has total

built-up area of 28000 Square metres and around 364 employees are working here in the Gurugram office. The office has also equipped with 14 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points for their staff.

The building is situated just off the Delhi-Jaipur national highway in Sector 29 in Gurugram.

The company also expressed its desire to set up its state-of-the-art facility in the state. The Chief Minister told reporters that Haryana is a fast-growing State in the industrial sector and for setting up industries in the state, a single-window system has been created, on which all approvals can be easily obtained. "India is performing well in the ease-of-doing-business and the ease-of-living index and Haryana is considered the fastest in both these respects. Haryana is one of the favourite destinations for global investors," Khattar said

at the event, adding that Hyundai placed a major role towards development in the automobile sector and also progress for humanity in Gurugram.

Speaking at the event Kim said "Gurugram, in particular, is one of India's prominent business and technology hubs. Major global corporations have their corporate fast-growing location here in Gurugram. The building is equipped with all modern facilities".

Keeping a view of an ongoing covid-19 pandemic the company has also adopted all necessary measures to avoid infection.

Kim also asserted that "Future Technology Project is the output of Haryana Government's Ease Of Doing Business policies-of-doing-business & foreign investors and it will continue to create job opportunities for the youth of the state".

Man sleeping outside his home shot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 62-year-old man, sleeping outside his house, was shot dead by some unidentified persons in southwest Delhi's Palam area on Tuesday. The deceased has been identified as Ajeet Singh, a resident of Harizan Basti, Palam extension.

According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call was received at 7.37 AM where the caller said that his father was sleeping outside of his house at Harizan Basti, Palam extension and somebody shot him dead. "Police reached the spot and found the body of Ajeet Singh. The bullet injury was found on the forehead, fired from point blank range. One empty cartridge was found on the bed," said the senior police official.

Cong protests at Shah's house over snoopgate



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress staged a protest at the residence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah against the alleged snooping on top politicians, Union Ministers, journalists, judi-

ary members and other prominent personalities by Israeli firm NSO's Pegasus spyware.

Congress Delhi unit president Anil Kumar along with a large number of party workers gathered at Rajaji Marg and demanded Home Minister's

resignation.

Party workers marched towards Amit Shah's residence shouting slogans such as "Modi Teri Tanashahi Nahi Chalegi, Nahi Chalegi", "Amit Shah Istifa Do, Istifa Do", and were detained and taken to the Mandir Marg Police station.



Congress senior leaders Jai Kishan, Kunwar Karan Singh, Amrish Gautam, Anil Bhardwaj, Vijay Lochav, Veer Singh Dhingnan, Rajesh Jain, Surender Kumar, DPCC vice president Ali Mehndi, Parvez Alam among others were detained. Kumar said that the police action, like snooping on prominent people using the Pegasus spyware, was an attack on the freedom and democratic rights of the people to protest against anti-people, anti-national activities.

Gautam asks officers to finish all pending projects

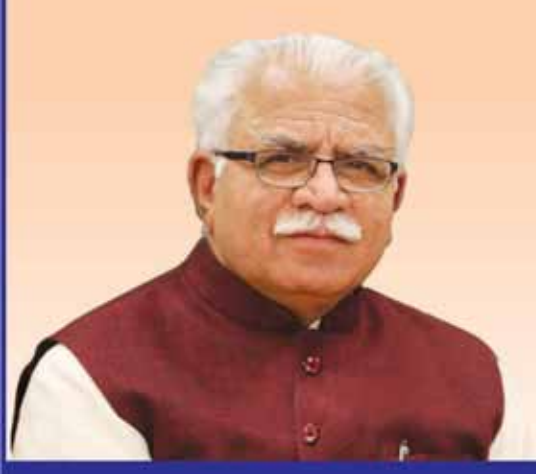
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Tuesday issued a whip to all district officers of Social Welfare Ministry and Women and Child Development Department, asking them to resolve all pending projects in their respective districts in a time-bound manner.

The Minister chaired an important meeting with the district officers and other concerned senior officials of both the department and said that legal action will be taken in case of failure in complying with the order. "I conducted surprise inspections across various district offices in Delhi a few days back and found massive pendency in pension cases dated since 2017. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated from now onwards. Now, every district officer will have to submit a weekly performance report of their respective district offices," he said. Gautam further said the officer in his report has to specify that how many applications were received and how many of them resolved. This report has to be positively submitted every Friday evening and will then be assessed by senior officers of the department," Gautam added. He also ordered the district officers to resolve all cases in a time-bound manner and the reason for rejection should be stated only after following the due procedure.




Govt. of Haryana



Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprise Scheme (PM-FME)

Opening gates for growth of Micro Enterprises in Food Industry



Scheme Benefits


- Subsidy to Food Processing units of individual micro enterprises.
- Subsidy to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Producers' Cooperatives.
- Support for creation of common infrastructure.
- Support for Branding and Marketing to FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives.
- Seed Capital Support of Rs.40,000 for SHG members.

Directorate of MSME, Haryana

Contact us: 0172-2580707 e-Mail: sectoral-cell.msme@hry.gov.in

For more information : <https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/>

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

He said, “There are still 62

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

19 cases after 132 days, according to the government.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

lakh doctors and frontline workers.

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

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

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

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

till that month is going to be consumed/administered.

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

Lok Sabha sees 10 adjournments over phone-tapping row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed 10 adjournments amid continuous protests by Opposition members over the Pegasus snooping row and farm laws. After being adjourned nine times, the Lower House reassembled at 4.30 PM and Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the Chair, took up one matter of urgent public importance.

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

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



farm laws.

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

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

Pegasus row continues to halt RS proceedings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

adjourning the house till 12.00 pm.

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The MHA, to a query

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

Don’t make delay in identifying children orphaned by Covid: SC to States, UTs

New Delhi: Observing that identification of children who have become orphans or lost a parent either due to Covid-19 or otherwise does not brook any further delay, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to file status reports giving particulars about the number of children who have become orphans after March 2020.

The top court said there is a need to ensure the schemes meant for orphans reach the real beneficiaries and not just remain on paper.

A Bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose directed the District Magistrates to issue necessary instructions to the district child protection officers to take assistance of the police, civil society, gram panchayats, anganwadi and ASHA workers for identification of orphans.

The apex court said this is in addition to mechanisms



available in Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and rules.

“The identification of children who have lost both parents or one parent after March 2020 does not brook any further delay,” the bench said.

The Bench also clarified that its order covers all children who have been orphaned during this period due to Covid or otherwise.

“What we are thinking is to take care of all children who have been orphaned whether Covid or not Covid. We cannot restrict the orders passed to only orphans who lost both parents to COVID-19,” Justice Rao said.

The Bench said District

Magistrates are directed to continue uploading the information on Bal Swaraj portal of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

Child welfare committees are directed to complete the inquiry within the time limit specified under Act and provide assistance and rehabilitation to orphans, the bench added.

“All State Governments, UTs are directed to file status reports giving particulars giving the number of children who have become orphan after March 2020. The number of children produced before the child welfare committee and their particular who have been provided with benefits of the schemes by the state governments,” the bench said.

It also directed the states to provide details regarding payment of ₹2,000 monetary assistance given to needy orphans under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme. PTI

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

India-Russia military drill to start on Aug 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining the time-tested long-standing defence between the two countries, India and Russia will take part in the 12th edition of the Indo-Russia Joint Military Exercise (INDRA) at Volgograd city.

The 13-day exercise will start on August 1, 2021. The exercise will entail

conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terrorist groups.

Giving details of the upcoming event, officials said here on Tuesday, 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of the exercise. The Indian Army contingent comprising of a Mechanised

Infantry Battalion underwent rigorous training at different locations in India to refine their drills for participation in the joint exercise.

Exercise INDRA-21 will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries.

The exercise will be yet another milestone in strengthening security cooperation and will serve to reinforce the long-standing bond of friendship between India and Russia.

Dholavira joins UNESCO World Heritage list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreswara/ Ramappa Temple in Telangana, which

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

“As CM of Gujarat, I had

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

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

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

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

COVID-19.

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Upheaval

India should wait and watch and resist global pressure to move into Afghanistan

It will mean a massive turnaround in India's Afghanistan policy to send its soldiers into the war-torn neighbouring country. No current indication warrants such an approach even though friendly external powers want India to play an active, hard role in Afghanistan. The situation is similar to the one where the Quad members (the United States, Australia, India and Japan) would like India being their active spearhead in containing China. In the western theatre, China has planned joint action with Pakistan to fend off the threat of terrorism in Afghanistan even though the Afghan media has created a perception that Pakistan is aiding the Taliban. Still, China's articulation may convince the West to prefer pulling India into the neighbourhood war. India, thus, already has its hands full trying to ensure that it is not forced into taking sides. India has clarified it is not "aware" of any "invitation" to be part of the American initiative through Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan or the Russia-



US-China grouping on Afghanistan. The relationship between Kabul and New Delhi is shaped by the strategic partnership between the two countries signed in October 2011. It is the basis for their strategic efforts "against international terrorism". India's role is limited to training and equipping Afghan national security forces and executing capacity-building programmes. To go beyond this point will mean freshly assessing its Afghanistan policy that so far translated into India keeping itself out of the conflict but contributing to capacity building with an external power — the Iran-Russia front initially and, later, the United States — maintain-

ing stability. This policy allowed India to keep away from the Taliban.

In the present scenario, however, the Taliban are forcing themselves to be at the centre-stage in Afghanistan, making it impossible to arrive at a resolution without involving them. The situation persuades all parties to decide what kind of contact to have with the Taliban. The other complication is, which of the factions of the Taliban to contact? There is the faction that depends on Pakistan's support while another faction attempts to carve its political space with help from sections in the Middle East. Thirdly, what exactly would a country like India talk to the Taliban about when Pakistan-based terror outfits that are intent on destabilising India are said to be assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan? India will get a fair idea of where the United States, which is in the last stages of withdrawal from Afghanistan, stands on the question of stability in the region when its leadership meets visiting Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. India missed a first-hand briefing on the ground situation in Afghanistan because of the cancellation of the visit of the Afghan Army chief. The situation is not such that India can come to an informed decision about its future action. The external powers are still in the process of firming up their own positions and roles. Till then, India's job is to wait and watch and resist international pressure to move in.

PICTALK



A pet monkey enjoys tea from a plastic cup collected from a roadside garbage box, in Kolkata

PTI

Zapping the virus

In what may be a breakthrough against Corona's spread, a laser device will kill the virus in 50 msecs

Even as the Novel Coronavirus fast mutates into new, deadlier variants since being discovered nearly one-and-a-half years ago, virologists and scientists are scurrying to keep pace and finding more potent ways to eliminate it. According to latest reports, a new laser device has been created in Italy that is apparently capable of obliterating the pernicious virus present within a structure's boundary walls. Work on the machine project, developed by the scientists of the United Nations in collaboration with the scientists of an Italian tech company, the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and Altec K-Laser, a local company that makes laser equipment, respectively, was started last year when Italy was reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic. How does the instrument work? It's quite simple, really. In the device, the air is passed through a laser beam that kills viruses and bacteria. And it is already getting noticed and winning accolades, too. "This device has completely changed the way I think about laser technology. It kills viruses in 50 milliseconds," claims Serena Zakinya, the head of the Cardiovascular Biology Group at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

As a significant precautionary measure, keeping the areas within the boundary walls free from infection has proved to be a major challenge during the pandemic. A virus-free environment within the boundary walls has become a necessity to prevent the spread of the virus. However, there are Doubting Thomases, too. Some scientists say that the laser-based technology will not be safe to kill the virus. A study published in the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* in November linked laser-based devices to the risk of cancer. But the equipment's manufacturers have assured that there is no truth in these reports. They believe that the laser emanating from it never comes in contact with the human skin, so there is no risk of developing cancer. Claiming that it is a recycled product, the Altec founder has said that "our device uses nature against nature". But the one drawback is that though viruses and bacteria can be eliminated in the air, the laser won't be effective if they fall to the floor or any surface. The company, having already bagged a patent for this device which can also be installed in the air-conditioning unit, now plans to take it to the international market.

When politicians pass the buck to military

After decades-long wait, Modi 2.0 appointed Gen Rawat as the CDS in 2019 but the Defence Planning Committee fell short of groundwork



ASHOK K MEHTA

Before the monsoon session of Parliament, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invited two former Defence Ministers for a briefing. He did not dirty his hands but asked the CDS and COAS to brief them. In the UK, it would not happen. Politicians pass the buck to the military. Expectedly, the Army and Air Force have clashed over the transformational reforms underway. CDS Gen Rawat described the IAF as an extension of artillery and a combat support service. Air Chiefs have been kept out of the loop during the 1965 and 1971 wars, reflecting mistrust of IAF which is about air power required for "shaping the battlefield". But boots on the ground are essential.

Rewind: Gulf War I (1991) lasted 44 days: 38 days of aerial bombardment and four-day land offensive. In Bosnia (1995), air power alone won the war in 17 days. Kosovo (1999), air war was 78 days with no ground offensive. The Afghanistan campaign (2001) lasted 65 days with 11 days of ground operations. The Iraq war (2003) lasted 21 days of air and land battle. In Sri Lanka, the IAF performed its modest role effectively. The IAF's sterling performance though was the Balakot bombing — politically and strategically a turning point, marking the threshold of counter-terrorism response. The omission in employing IAF in 1962 was part of the political and military fiasco. Still, IAF insecurities arising from jointness, including rotation of three-star slots by merit, have to be addressed to achieve unification to obviate IAF Chief having to ask the Army Chief to requisition in writing that air support was required during Kargil.

The CDS traces its history to Admiral Mountbatten when he sounded Prime Minister Nehru about its utility. After the 1971 war, Prime Minister Gandhi had informed Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw he would become CDS but nothing came of it. The CDS was resurrected by a 2001 GoM containing 100 recommendations, most of which were implemented except CDS. When an attempt was made to appoint CDS, Air Chief Marshal OP Mehra accompanied by a posse of former Air Chiefs met the President and blocked the enterprise. In 2002, a



CDS actually appeared on the horizon: His office was prepared in South Block, Guard of Honour rehearsed by Delhi Area and NDTV announced Adm Sushil Kumar's elevation. But between the cup and the lip was a slip. The Naresh Chandra Task Force in 2013 revived the CDS in its less truculent avatar: Permanent Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee. But Defence Minister AK Antony sat on the proposal. It was not until Christmas Day 2019 that Modi 2.0 Government issued a gazette notification appointing Rawat as "primus-inter-pares-CDS" — tasking him to implement jointness by January 2023. A Department of Military Affairs was also created under MoD. Appointing a CDS has been an article of faith for the BJP.

Two questions arise from the reform process. First, did GoI do the necessary thinking and research — and who did it — before issuing the gazette notification? Why were the known historical IAF insecurities not addressed by the political authority? Unfortunately, the newly minted Defence Planning Committee under NSA AK Doval merely issued a charter of work to Rawat without the DPC doing any ground-work. Clearly such an epic transformational exercise should have begun by launching an SDSR (Strategic Defence and

THE LACK OF CONSENSUS (WHICH ALL MILITARIES HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME) EMERGED CLUMSILY LAST MONTH DURING A SEMINAR IN WHICH BOTH RAWAT AND AIR CHIEF MARSHAL BHADOURIA SPOKE. IT WAS ONE OF THE UGLIEST PUBLIC SPATS BETWEEN A SERVICE CHIEF AND THE CDS

Security Review), preferably an Integrated Review, on the lines the UK did in March this year followed by enunciating a National Security Strategy. The DPC conveniently left the thinking to CDS, ignoring the inevitable repercussions.

I recall UK Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine explaining to me on the back of an envelope at RCDS London in 1984 how he had rewired the CDS system for unification and whose implementation he ordered in the face of revolt from Service Chiefs. The reforms were ordered top-down without passing the buck.

Modi had announced the appointment of CDS from Red Fort in 2019. The Government simply issued a fiat to CDS on jointness despite knowing opposition to it. This lack of consensus (which all militaries have had to overcome) emerged clumsily last month during a seminar organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council in which both Rawat and Air Chief Marshal Bhadouria spoke. It was one of the ugliest public spats between a service chief and CDS, which has triggered an ill-informed debate. The remedial measure of an Experts Committee headed by CDS with Vice Chiefs of single services for more consultation and discussion is a bad idea: the medicine worse than the mala-

dy. The Defence Minister ought to have intervened and done a Heseltine.

The IAF's concerns including integrated use of air power have to be addressed, given that IAF has only 30 fighter squadrons. Appointments of CDS and Combatant Commanders of other joint/integrated/unified commands and organisations be made by merit and not in Robins' turn. The concepts of air-land and tri-service battles have to be revised and updated. Joint Professional Military Education should become mandatory for promotion to flag rank. An equivalent of US Goldwater-Nichols Act 1986 will ensure jointness to diminish inter-service rivalry. India was a pioneer in integration through Joint Services Wing/National Defence Academy/Defence Services Staff College/National Defence College. But long ago, the political class responsible for defence of India stopped thinking, leaving it to the military to self-reform. The politician is required to do and say more than "giving a befitting reply".

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEERS SHOULD SHUN POLITICS

Sir — It looks that from Punjab to Karnataka, it is the season of change and a show of assertion by the central leadership of political parties to set their house in order, their sights trained on the upcoming elections. The 78-year-old, four-time Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa who had won his current term by engineering defections and toppling the Congress-JDS Government in 2019, has quit.

To date, Yediyurappa and the BJP have remained synonymous in Karnataka and now he, despite being the only mass leader the BJP had in the State and in the entire south, has now resigned. His exit leaves the BJP without an experienced leader to helm the Government. While the RSS wants to move away from caste equations by picking national organising secretary BL Santhosh, a Brahmin, many in the State BJP are against ignoring the Lingayat community that has been the BJP's mainstay all these years.

The hard fact is that the party cannot do without the support of the Lingayat community, particularly its influential mutt heads. But what is most unfortunate is that the effect of what the seers in Karnataka have said openly has the effect of dividing people on the basis of caste lines and community. If these seers are keen on a life in politics, they should drop the pretence of renunciation and contest elections.

JS Acharya | Hyderabad

INTERSTATE BOUNDARY ISSUE ERUPTS

Sir — The interstate boundary issue in north-eastern States is a perennial problem and six personnel of the Assam Police died at the border with Mizoram while defending the constitutional boundary of the State. The incident came less than two days after Home Minister Amit Shah met with the northeast CMs to resolve the interstate boundary disputes.

Border conflicts have occurred intermittently since Mizoram was carved out of Assam as a Union Territory in 1972 and got Statehood in 1987. Six Assam police personnel were killed in an exchange of fire with their Mizoram counterparts after the

SC view on beggars heartening



As an imminent third wave of COVID-19 looms large, the Supreme Court refused to take an "elitist" view to ban begging and issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi Government on a petition seeking vaccination and rehabilitation of beggars in the wake of the pandemic in India. According to the apex court, no one would like to beg if not for poverty. It observed that people are generally compelled to beg to eke out elementary livelihood due to the lack of education and employment. As it was a socio-economic problem, beggars could not be stopped from begging, it added.

The Supreme Court has made the right

observation regarding beggary in India. On the other hand, many factors are involved in beggary. But it is a fact that beggars are driven by poverty. However, it must be understood that the state of very poor people in the country is equal to that of beggars. As there is no proper enumeration of beggars, it is difficult to deal with the problem. Wandering beggars in the time of the COVID pandemic pose risk to the public. They must not be deprived of their right to COVID testing and vaccination. They must be rehabilitated and vocational training must be provided to them. Also, education must be provided to their children.

In spite of the advancements made by India in different sectors, beggary continues to be a social problem. As the country is striving to achieve world standards in every field, socio-economic measures are needed to solve the begging problem. A comprehensive programme must be developed for this. Philanthropic approach to beggary must be replaced with therapeutic and rehabilitative work.

Venu GS | Kollam

protracted border row between the two northeastern States took a violent turn. The clashes at the border town of Vairengte also left at least 60 persons from Assam injured. The incident comes less than two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the northeast in Meghalaya's capital Shillong for resolving the interstate boundary disputes. However, Assam also harbours border disputes with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Krishnan Subramaniam | Ghaziabad

PUNISH THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS

Sir — During the election campaign season earlier, the leaders of the DMK accused the then AIADMK Government and its Ministers, including then Chief Minister E Palaniswami, of rampant corruption. They even submitted a memorandum to the Governor seeking action against those "corrupt" leaders. They also

SOUND BITE

Your (Sidhu's) win is my win and our win is the party's win. We need to work together in the interest of the State and its people.



Punjab Chief Minister

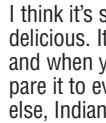
— Amarinder Singh



Our role in Iraq will be... continue to train, to assist and to deal with ISIS but we're not going to be, by the end of the year, in a combat mission.

US President

— Joe Biden



I think it's super delicious. It's tasty and when you compare it to everything else, Indian food competes really well.

MasterChef Australia winner

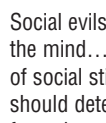
— Justin Narayan



I feel like my attitude wasn't that great because I don't really know how to cope with that (Olympics) pressure.

Four-time Grand Slam winner

— Naomi Osaka



Social evils begin in the mind...The fear of social stigma should deter people from demanding or giving dowry.

Kerala Governor

— Arif Mohammed Khan

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

THE GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX



KINNARRY THAKKAR

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

It was a historic event when 130 nations representing over 90 per cent of global GDP agreed to a global minimum tax (GMT) of possibly 15 per cent on corporations for a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the globalisation and digitalisation of the economy. These countries are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which has been working towards preventing tax base erosion and profit shifting by companies that setup their businesses in low-tax jurisdictions to avoid payment of higher taxes. Nothing can prevent companies from engaging in such arrangements but the tax authorities became part of a global race to the bottom to compete which jurisdiction could lower their corporate tax rate most to check revenue leakage. The outcome was a double whammy: Companies still avoided taxes by locating in the jurisdictions that won this race and consequently, the tax authorities kept losing on their revenue collections. The digital companies felt the negative impact strongly as their headquarters would be in a low-tax jurisdiction and consumers all over the world; they would thus pay tax only in the low-tax jurisdiction thus hurting the tax revenues of all other jurisdictions. To overcome this problem, several countries levied a digital services tax and collected a percentage of revenue from corporations on certain transactions. In India, an equalisation levy of six per cent for 'any specified service' provided by a non-resident in some cases and of two per cent on a non-resident e-commerce operator subject to certain criteria is presently applicable. Such measures are adopted in retaliation of the tech giants exploiting the tax treaties or doing 'treaty shopping' that puts a hole in the coffers of the State.

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

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

Afghan conundrum and the road ahead



NISHTHA KAUSHIKI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

All the international legal issues

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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

— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



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

— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

Yediyurappa out, but still crucial for BJP in Karnataka

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

minister for the fourth time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is founder, Safejob

QUOTE OF THE DAY

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

DIPLOMA, UG & PG COURSES

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

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

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

Last date to apply: July 31, 2021.

BSC & MSc COURSES

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

Eligibility: For BSc in HM applicants must have



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

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

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

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

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

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

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

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

Trip to a foreign land

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIP: This option depends on how early you start and is more suitable for working professionals rather than students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies. A systematic investment plan or a SIP is a great way to both invest and save for salaried professionals. The frequency of investment is based on the discretion of the candidate to allow them a flexible approach. SIPs have gained a lot of traction over the years in the field of financing the educational endeavours of post-graduate students.

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

The writer is Co-founder, Yocket

Social sector is dynamic

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

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

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

Many volunteer in the social sector, however working professionally in the same sphere is not considered viable due to myths surrounding the work, says DR GEETANJALI CHOPRA & PARUL KAMRA



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

accompanies it.

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

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

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

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

The writers are from Wishes and Blessings NGO

VIT-AP inks MoU with Entuple Technologies

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

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



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

advanced applications using VLSI and RF Technologies.

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

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

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

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

The special guests for the event were SRMIST's Director

SRMIST students shine



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

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

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

Purushothaman.

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

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

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



PHARMA SHOWS THE WAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

decision-making removed.

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

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

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Sanskriti University

Tips to crack CAT

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

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

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

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



Sumit Singh Gandhi, CEO, CATKing Educare

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Am I in the right job? Am I missing something? One of the most common puzzles that working professionals have in their mind is I in the right job? Am I missing something? Though there is no perfect answer to this question not answering this question at all often leads to a mid-career dilemma.
- The fear of missing out or FOMO refers to the feeling or perception that others are having more fun, living better lives, or experiencing better things than you are. It affects self-image, self-esteem and leads to feelings of restlessness, false comparison, and anxiety. What we see of others in social media may also one of the reasons why

MIND IT

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

■ Downplaying own skills, knowledge and competence: In order to achieve the best result in the shortest span of time a lot of working professionals start copying and focusing on what skills, knowledge and competence they do not have and start acquiring those without realising that in the process they are downplaying their own skills, knowledge and competence and by the time they realize that they have not used their own capabilities the opportunities which in front of them vanish and they are not able to course correct at the right time. This could be one of the main reasons that lead to a mid-career crisis.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Admission requirement: Must have previous degree.

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

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

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this

is September 28, 2021.

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

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

Supporting documents: The students are required to present the following documents to the university: High school results Admission essay

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT STUFIT APPROACH
Location: Lucknow, Gurgaon, Pune, Mumbai, Noida, Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d5dd34
Deadline: August 5, 2021

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

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE AT CAFE TATVA VENTURES
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3-₹5.5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/811aca
Deadline: August 21, 2021
Skill(s): Salesforce, Client Interaction, MS-Excel, Client Relationship

INBRIEF

ONLINE MBA DEGREE PROGRAMME

The Jaro Education has announced the collaboration with Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Centre of Online Learning (DPU COL) to offer a next-generation online MBA degree programme. The UGC approved degree is designed to help participants to develop future-focused competencies, which employers across the globe look for in potential candidates. The course is designed to equip participants with leadership skills, global awareness and critical and analytical thinking. The two-year programme is curated for working professionals and will follow a credit system as recommended by UGC.

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

- Marketing Management
- Human Resource Management (HRM)
- Finance Management
- IT Management (ITM)
- Project Management
- Operations Management
- Hospital Administration and Health Care Management
- International Business Management

FREE MASTERCLASSES FOR TEACHERS

To support skill development of the educators of the country especially during such dire times, Aditya Birla Education Academy (ABEA) has been offering free Masterclasses and Educator Meetup sessions for teachers for the last 15 months. This initiative started in April 2020 when teachers were grappling with strategies and tools to teach online.

NEW BTECH COURSE ON OFFER

The Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, is offering unique BTEch programmes with multidisciplinary breadth aligned with the emerging technology trends. With design thinking and social connect embedded into the curriculum, these programs target to produce 'global engineers' who will be technology leaders and innovators with empathy and sensitivity for sustainable development. Entrepreneurship education has also been introduced offering an enriching experience in innovation, prototyping, business model formulation and market analysis.

THIRD SLOT OF NRA CET BASED SCHOLARSHIP TEST

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

JeetCET: NRA CET based scholarship test, is an attempt to estimate the expected test pattern and syllabus to give aspirants a direction to prepare better. Divided into two rounds, learners from the Preliminary round will then appear for Round 2, called the Mains, after which only 3000 learners will be able to make their way to receiving a six-month subscription of the course for free, while others will receive a 1-month subscription to the NRA CET course. upGrad Jeet has also announced a range of rewards and scholarships amounting to ₹151 crore to acknowledge the hard work of learners, based on the overall potential they demonstrate during the test.

ANALYSIS FOUND A CARBON RISK PREMIUM

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

An extensive data analysis of over 200 of the largest listed companies in the American market was carried out by the researchers from these top Institutions. The researchers found that most of these companies (71.6%) had shown a decrease in their carbon emissions in the 2016-2019 period. It was found that carbon footprint had a positive correlation with the size of the companies and the revenues. However, the correlation with expenses was found to be slightly less than that with revenue.

VMC LAUNCHES TWO UNIQUE TESTS

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

VMC Disha (Stream Selector) and Vision (Career Discovery) are important initiatives taken by VMC in pursuant to strengthening the school outreach programmes. These stream and career deciding tests are especially customised for students ranging from classes VIII to XII. While VMC Vision is specially designed for science students of class Class XI and Class XII to make them realise the ideal match for their careers. VMC Disha is customised for students of class VIII, IX and X in order to make the process of stream selection scientific and accurate for them.

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

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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

IN ACTION TODAY

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



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

AP

Back to winning ways

Tokyo: Dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey overcame a demoralising defeat in the previous match to cruise past Spain 3-0 and inch closer to a quarterfinal berth at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.

Drubbed 1-7 by Australia in their last match, India produced a spirited performance against world No 9 Spain and scored through Simranjeet Singh (14th minute) and Rupinder Pal Singh (15th and 51st) to record a comfortable win in their third Pool A match at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

India, ranked fourth in the world, had earlier defeated

New Zealand 3-2 in their opening fixture. Spain, on the other hand, are yet to register a win in the competition.

Spain drew 1-1 against Argentina before losing 3-4 to New Zealand.

The Indians will next play reigning Olympic champions Argentina on Thursday.

For any team it is always tough to recover from a morale-shattering loss within a day, but India looked more organised and sorted against Spain on Tuesday.

Despite the win, India's chief coach Graham Reid said the team needs to work upon a lot of grey areas, like conceding penalty corners, ahead of their remaining matches.

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

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

terms of defending,” he said.

“The first quarter was played very well, we could move the ball really well and it was exactly what we planned to do. We struggled a bit in the second and third quarters.”

Women need to create and grab chances

Tokyo: Enduring a forgettable campaign, bottom-placed Indian women's hockey team can't afford squandering any more chances if it fancies upsetting defending champions Great Britain on Wednesday.

After a 1-5 drubbing against world number one the Netherlands, the Indians players lifted their game by leaps and bounds to give third-ranked Germany a run for their money before losing 0-2 in their next Pool A match.

But two consecutive defeats have definitely pegged the side back. India created a lot of scoring opportunities against Germany but finishing was lacking from the forward line. On one occasion, Vandana Katariya was denied by the goal post too.

But not converting the penalty stroke was a huge miss.

However, the Rani Rampal-led side can take a lot of heart from its performance against the Germans given that it kept the intensity and fight intact till the final hooter.

With two defeats from as many games, the Indian women are currently lying at the bottom of the six-team Pool A, which is being headed by Netherlands, followed by Germany, Britain, Ireland and South Africa.

But these are still early days with three matches each remaining for all the teams. Top four sides from each pool of six will qualify for the quarterfinals.

Ranked 11th in the world, India stand a chance to make the quarterfinals but for that to happen they will have to outplay seventh-ranked Ireland and South Africa, who are placed 16th.



India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty play against Britain's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy during their men's doubles group play stage match

PTI

Chirag-Satwik exit despite win

Tokyo: Indian shuttlers Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy emerged victorious against the England pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vandy in their final Group A match but still missed out on qualifying for the quarterfinals at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.

Ranked 10th in the world, the Indians beat world number 18 team 21-17, 21-19 in a 44-minute Group A men's doubles match at the Musashino Forest Plaza.

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

“We knew the moment Lee Yang/Wang Chi-Lin won,

we don't stand a chance. They won in two games and we won in three. It is quite sad. Unfortunately, even after winning two matches in the group, we don't go through. But that is badminton and have to live with it,” said Chirag.

All three teams finished on same points with two wins each and when the number of games won was considered to identify the qualifiers, the Indians lost.

Chirag and Satwik's straight game loss to the Indonesians on Monday cost them dear.

Moments before the Indian pair stepped on the court, Lee and Wang had completed a three-game win over Sukamuljo and Gideon in the preceding group match, rendering the result of India's contest against Britain inconsequential.

Sharath goes down fighting

Tokyo: Sharath Kamal matched the legendary Ma Long stroke for stroke in the first three games before making a third round exit from the table tennis competition on Tuesday, ending India's medal-less yet impressive run at the Tokyo Olympics.

Following the unprecedented gains made from the 2018 Asian Games, where India won a table tennis medal for the first time ever, the performance of Sharath and Manika Batra in the round of 32 added significantly to the sport's growing popularity.

They both achieved a first by

reaching the third round at the Summer Games.

A less tougher draw in mixed doubles, in which Sharath and Manika were seen as medal contenders, as well as in the men's singles could have seen the Indians scaling new heights.

The way 39-year-old Sharath played against Long has convinced him to think about competing in his fifth Olympics in Paris.

He fought tooth and nail in the first three games against the reigning Olympic and world champion Long before going down 7-

11, 11-8, 11-13, 4-11, 4-11 in 46 minutes.

To have a player like Long under pressure in itself is a significant achievement for the seasoned Indian.

“It was the best three games and probably the best match and best tournament I ever played,” Sharath said.

The Chinese great too acknowledged that Sharath made it tough for him.

“It was a tough match. Of course at the Olympics every match, no matter the opponent, no matter the country, it's always tough,” said Long.

“I did prepare for difficulties. The third game was crucial. After gutting it out the last two games were better,” he added.

With Sharath's defeat, India's challenge ended in table tennis as Manika, Sutirtha Mukherjee and G Sathiyan had already exited the singles competition.

Lovlina makes QFs

Tokyo: Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) advanced to the quarterfinals in her debut Olympic appearance on Tuesday, defeating German veteran Nadine Apetz in a closely-fought last-16 stage bout.

Borgohain, the lone Indian boxer in action on the day, prevailed 3-2 over her rival who is 12 years her senior. Both the boxers were making their Games debut and the Indian became the first from her nine-strong team to make the quarterfinal stage.

The 23-year-old showed great poise in a tense contest to triumph by the thinnest of margins. She claimed all the three rounds on split points.

The 35-year-old Apetz was the first German woman to qualify for a boxing event at the Olympics. She is a two-time world championship Bronze-medallist and a former European champion.



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

AP

Borgohain is a two-time World and Asian championships Bronze-medallist and will next face Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen on July 30, who is seeded fourth.

A win in the upcoming contest would assure Borgohain of at least a Bronze medal at the mega-event.

On Wednesday, Asian champion Pooja Rani (75kg) will square off against Algerian youngster Ichrak Chaib.

Shooters poor form continues



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

PTI

Tokyo: Indian shooters endured yet another forgettable outing at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday as they crashed out in the qualifying stages of the mixed team events in both pistol and rifle.

Considered the team's best bet for a podium finish, the duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker caved in under pressure and failed to qualify for the final of the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

They finished seventh in Qualification 2 after topping the first phase with 582. Both the 19-year-old shooters lost the plot completely when the top eight teams battled it out in the second phase.

The other Indian team in the event, Abhishek Verma and Yashaswini Singh Deswal, failed to clear Qualification 1 and finished in 17th place, having totalled 564 across six series (three each for one member).

The team of Chaudhary and Bhaker totalled 380 across

two series each in the second phase of the qualification.

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

Tokyo: The Indian shooting federation on Tuesday promised an 'overhaul' of the coaching staff after the 15-strong contingent's Olympic campaign moved from one disaster to another.

As the country's shooters continued to belie expectations with their horror show here, reliving the Rio 2016 debacle, the head of the sport's national governing body promised a major revamp in coaching and support staff.

“Definitely the performances have not been on expected lines and I have spoken of an overhaul of coaching and support staff,” NRAI Raninder Singh said.

Questions are being raised about why the shooters were not able to replicate their excellent showing at the ISSF World Cups at the Olympics.

“I feel something is lacking in getting our shooters prepared for these big occasions, because clearly the talent is there and we have seen it here as well,” the NRAI boss said.

However, Raninder said that not all is still lost for the Indian shooting team as it is left with a few more starts.

“Having said that we still have starts left and let's continue to back the team and I am sure we'll get results. Postmortems can wait till after the Games,” Raninder said.

Osaka eliminated

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Naomi Osaka suffered a 6-1, 6-4 defeat to Marketa Vondrousova in the third round of the Tokyo Games on Tuesday, crushing her dreams of winning Olympic Gold at home.

Osaka, who lit the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony, struggled in an error-strewn display under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park and was knocked out in 68 minutes.

Vondrousova, ranked 42nd, will go on to face Spain's Paula Badosa or Nadia Podoroska of Argentina.

Meanwhile, Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the third round of the Olympics men's tennis tournament on Tuesday as he avenged last month's Wimbledon loss to Frances Tiafoe.

The Greek third seed downed American Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4 under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park, where all play on outside courts was delayed an hour by morning drizzle.

Tsitsipas, who is also entered in mixed doubles with Maria Sakrari, will play France's Ugo Humbert or Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia for a spot in the quarter-finals.

Also Novak Djokovic added another medal event to his program by entering the mixed doubles draw with Serbian partner Nina Stojanovic.

INDIAN CAMPAIGN OVER

The Indian tennis team's campaign at the Tokyo Olympics officially ended on Tuesday as Sania Mirza and Sumit Nagal could not make the cut for the mixed doubles event due to their low combined ranking of 153.

The entries were to be finalised on Tuesday morning and the cut was expected to be between 50-60. The Indians did not even have faint hopes of getting into the easiest of tennis events at the Games.

Only 16 teams play the mixed doubles event and thus winning just two matches can get a team in the medal round.

Nagal was blown away by Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles competition, while the women's doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina lost its opener from a winning position.



Sailors Vishnu, Nethra at 22nd & 33rd spot

Enoshima: Indian sailors Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan finished way behind the leaders as they ended at 22nd and 33rd spot in the respective events after six races in the Tokyo Olympics here on Tuesday.

Saravanan finished 23rd and 22nd in the fifth and sixth race in the men's laser event while Kumanan was 32nd and

38th in the two races of the women's laser radial event held at Enoshima Yacht Harbour on Tuesday.

Four more races and medal race remain in the competition and the India duo were far behind in the rankings.

Each event consists of a series of races. Points in each race are awarded according to position: the winner gets one

point, the second-placed finisher scores two and so on.

The final race is called the medal race, for which points are doubled. Following the medal race, the individual or crew with the fewest total points is declared the winner.

The medal races of both the women's laser radial and men's laser will be held on August 1 after 10 races each.



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

PTI



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

AP



1



2



3



4

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The second T20I between India and Sri Lanka in Colombo on Tuesday was postponed by a day after Indian all-rounder Krunal Pandya tested positive for Covid-19, forcing him out of the series with seven days of isolation.

However, all his eight close contacts, who were isolated, have tested 'negative' in the RT-PCR tests but as a precautionary measure won't be able to take field on Wednesday.

Since the close contacts are mostly players, India might have to field a depleted side.

As per Sri Lanka's health safety protocols, Krunal will not be able to travel back to India with other members of the contingent on July 30 as he will now have to undergo mandatory isolation and obtain a negative RT-PCR report.

The third and final T20 is scheduled to be held on Thursday.

“Krunal is symptomatic with cough and throat pain. He

is obviously out of the series and will not be able to return with rest of the squad,” a BCCI source tracking the developments in Colombo said.

“However the good news is that all his eight close contacts who were identified by the BCCI medical officer (Dr Abhijit Salvi) have tested negative. But as a precautionary measure can't take the field.”

For now, the three-match series is on as even if there are a couple of more cases, the Indian team has enough players with negative RT-PCR reports to field a team.

Krunal, who tested positive on Tuesday morning, has already been quarantined.

India are travelling with a 20-member squad plus four stand by net bowlers.

Now, there will be back-to-back matches on Wednesday and Thursday provided there aren't any more players testing positive to affect the balance of the sides which will lead to cancellation.



Pant bats in nets

Durham: Ahead of the gruelling five Test match series against England, the Indian Test team led by skipper Virat Kohli, had a centre wicket training at the Durham Cricket Club here on Tuesday.

Aggressive wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who had joined the Test team after recovering from Covid-19, also batted in the nets.

“TeamIndia back at it and having a centre wicket training at Durham Cricket Club ahead of the five-match Test series against England,” the BCCI said in a tweet.

PTI