

WORLD 6
XI MEETS TOP MILITARY
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INDIA IN EXCITING PHASE
OF GROWTH: PAYTM CEO**SPORT 8**
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India rejoices at Chanu's feat

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



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

PTI

PTI ■ TOKYO

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

debut.

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

The diminutive iron lady

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

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

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

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

Mother in tears as Mirabai sports 'good luck' earrings

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

confused she had felt during her debut at the biggest stage.

There was none of those nerves to be seen on Saturday, just a very composed and focussed athlete who knew she was destined for the podium.

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

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

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

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

—Narendra Modi
—Ram Nath Kovind

Better safe than sorry: Embassy to Indians in Af

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

'Avoid travel as Af situation dangerous'



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

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

It also advised traveling outside the main cities should be strictly avoided.

Moreover, all Indian nationals arriving in Afghanistan are advised to register with the Embassy.

CAPSULE

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

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

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

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

But no standing allowed in Metro

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The latest unlock guidelines by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

AP

CBI raids 40 locations in fake arms licence case

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

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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



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

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

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

Massive evacuation in rain-ravaged Maha

89,000 moved to safety; relief ops continue

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

While 40,573 people have been evacuated to safer places in Sangli district, the neighbouring Kolhapur district accounted for the evacuation of 40,882 people.

As many as 2,681 marooned people were shifted to safer places in Thane district,

there were evacuation of people in other districts like Ratnagiri (1200), Raigad (1000), Satara (734) and Pune (263).

Due to heavy rainfall in the district and heavy discharge from the Koyna dam, rivers in the district, including the Panchgana breached the danger mark and contributed to inundation in many areas in Sangli and Kolhapur districts. On its part, the district administration evacuated people from low-lying areas with help of NDRF and local teams.

Apart from the heavy rain, the discharge of huge volumes of water from Almatti dam is contributing to the flood situation in Kolhapur district. The authorities have sounded high alert and deployed more teams to face any eventuality.

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

‘Playing an asura came with challenges’

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

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

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

■ **How did you come on board the project?**

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

■ **What are the challenges that come with playing Shivaay?**

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

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

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

ego clashes.

■ **How did you get into acting?**

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

■ **Was it tough to do the ad?**

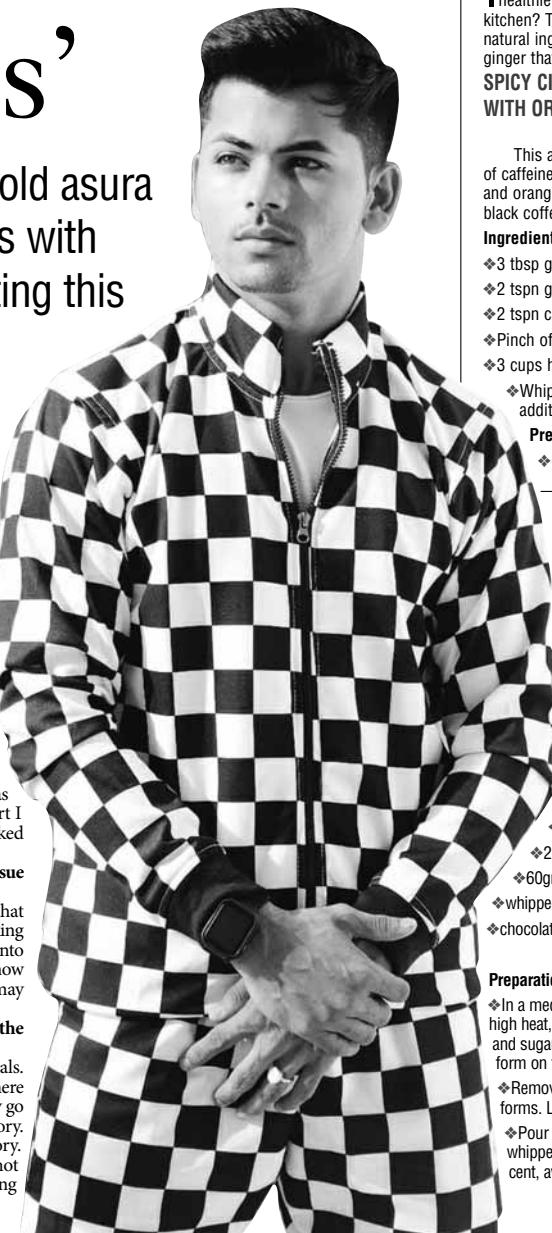
It was tough. I had no acting background. I have never taken any classes. It was difficult to face the camera, well-known actors and memorise dialogues and deliver them with emotion was so alien to me. This made me nervous. But I was determined that since I was offered to play a part I would do it to the best of my abilities. So, I worked really hard.

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

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

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

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



Plan Your Sunday

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

SPICY CINNAMON COFFEE WITH ORANGE ZEST

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

Ingredients:

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

Preparation:

- ◆ Combine the coffee, orange zest, ginger



and cinnamon; pour into a Frenchpress and brew it for

4-5 minutes.

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

PARISIAN CHOCOLATE COFFEE

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

Ingredients:

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

Preparation:

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



Courtesy: Abdul Sahid Khan, Head Trainer, Lavazza India

TELLY TALE

VIRENDRA SAXENA IS BACK ON THE SMALL SCREEN

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

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



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

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

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

NEW KHATARNAK CHALLENGE FOR KHILADIS

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

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

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

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

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



asks rapid-fire questions to Divyanka, she starts to slow down and gradually drown in the water!

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

CENTURY OF CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ **How was your experience working with Britannia Good Day?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

■ **How do you think your fans will react when you swap your personality?**

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

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



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

■ **While Karan and you are both writers, you both have very different personalities. Did you take any time to prepare or study each other's personality to execute this better?**

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

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

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

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

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

Expand cooperative banks to tribal areas: CM Baghel



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday said there is a need to expand and strengthen the cooperative movement in the state.

Along with farmers, labourers and cattle owners, tribals from forest areas should be linked with cooperative banks, he said. It can

help everyone to earn bank facilities. Baghel was addressing virtually the investiture ceremony of Nawaz Khan, the newly appointed Chairman of the District Cooperative Central Bank at Rajnandgaon, an official communication said. The Chief Minister announced construction of co-operative bank buildings in village Manpur and Mudhipar (Khairagarh) in Rajnandgaon district. Each

building will cost Rs 36 lakhs.

He added that his government is making all efforts to ensure continuous supply of chemical fertilizers despite a fall in supply from the Central government.

More farmers should adopt organic farming, horticulture and pulse production using vermicompost, he said, adding that this would provide better price in the market.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday greeted weightlifter Mirabai Chanu for winning the country's first silver medal in Tokyo Olympics. Mirabai won in the 49 kg category. Pioneer Photo

Sack everyone holding fake caste certificate

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The General Administration Department (GAD) in Chhattisgarh on Saturday ordered the immediate sacking of state government employees holding fake caste certificates.

A Sarva Adivasi Samaj delegation had called on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and sought immediate action against government employees who got employment with fake Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes certificates.

The delegation also raised the issue with Industries Minister Kawasi Lakhma.

The GAD circular has been issued to all government departments, the

Chairman of the Chhattisgarh Revenue Board, Bilaspur, all Divisional Commissioners, all the heads of the departments, all District Collectors and all the CEOs of the district panchayats.

It said that those whose caste certificates are found to be fake by a scrutiny committee must be terminated from service, an official communication stated.

Before the termination, the departments should file a caveat in the Chhattisgarh High Court.

The Advocate General should be asked for speedy hearing of all cases where employees have approached the High Court and no stay has been issued. Where a court stay or adjournment has been received, the case should be reviewed.

C'garh Higher Secondary results today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education (CGBSE) will declare the Higher Secondary and Higher Secondary Vocational Main examination 2021 results on July 25 at 12 noon.

School Education Minister Dr Premsai Singh Tekam will release the results virtually.

CGBSE Secretary Prof V.K. Goyal said in a statement that the 12th Board exam results will also be available on the website <https://www.cgbse.nic.in> and <https://results.cg.nic.in> after the release function.

Anganwadi centres to reopen from July 26



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government is set to reopen Anganwadi centers from July 26 (Monday), it was announced on Saturday.

The centers were closed on March 22 and dry rations were delivered at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries due to Covid-19, an

official statement said. On July 20, the government decided to open all the Anganwadi centers in two shifts. Children aged 3 to 6 years, pregnant women and beneficiaries of the 'Suposhan Abhiyan' will be allowed to come to the Anganwadi, it said.

No more than 15 persons can be in a building at one time.

Four Naxalites surrender



STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Four Naxalites, including two accused of triggering a blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada in 2015 killing five policemen, surrendered on Saturday, police said. The four, including a woman, gave themselves at the Kirandul police station, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said. Of the four, Bhima Markam alias Pandu (40) and Lalita Tamo (27) were involved in blowing up a vehicle with an improvised explosive

device (IED) in Cholanar area on April 13 in 2015, leaving five policemen dead. The other two, Motu Markam (40) and Baman Ran Kunjam (31), were wanted for a 2013 attack on a polling team as well as other incidents, the officer said. All four were active Jan Militia members in the Malangir Area Committee of the Naxalites' Darbha divisions, one of the most dreaded formations of the outlawed group in Bastar, he said. The number of Naxalites surrendering as part of a police campaign since June last year now stands at 386.

Two arrested for murder of woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ MAHASAMUND

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday arrested a man who murdered his wife but claimed she committed suicide in a village in Mahasamund district, police said. One more person was taken into custody for concealing evidence in the case. Mahasamund Superintendent of Police Divyang Patel identified the two as Radheshyam Nayak (22) and his accomplice Rajesh Nayak (33). On July 13, Radheshyam killed his wife Sushila (25). Later, both the men fabricated a suicide story. Police learnt that there were



frequent fights between Radheshyam and Sushila. Radheshyam eventually confessed his involvement in the murder. Radheshyam told the police that he had rows with Sushila over an extramarital affair, her failure to get pregnant, a miscarriage as well as other issues. On

July 13, after a heated argument, Radheshyam strangled Sushila with her saree. Later, he hanged her on the roof top in the house and fled from the spot.

Rajesh Nayak found Sushila hanging and took her to a hospital where she was declared dead.

Bastar malaria positivity rate slips to 0.87 percent

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Under the Malaria Free Campaign, the positivity rate for malaria in Bastar division in Chhattisgarh has fallen to 0.87 percent.

The positivity rate in the first, second and third phases were 4.6 percent, 1.27 percent and 1.04 percent respectively. The state has recorded a steady slide in number of malaria cases during the drive, now in its fourth stage.

The Health and Family Welfare Department and the National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh, jointly run the drive. The target is to check malaria among some 20.43 lakh population in 21 districts.

Health Department and Director of National Health Mission Dr. Priyanka Shukla said in a statement that surveyors in Bastar division have so far reached 210,174 houses and tested 100,658 people for malaria.

The fourth phase, which began on June 15, covered seven districts of Bastar division.

Dr Shukla said at present the second phase of the campaign is on in five districts of Surguja division and the first phase in nine other districts.

After reaching 3.16 lakh houses and conducting 14.30 lakh tests across the state, 9,392 patients were found positive.



Covid-19 positivity rate falls to 0.39 percent

Chhattisgarh's Covid-19 positivity rate has further fallen to 0.39 percent. After 30,450 samples were tested, 118 people were found positive in the state, the Health

Department said. The present number of Covid patients in the state is 3,046. Between July 17 and 23, the average rate of corona infection in Chhattisgarh was 0.58 percent.

Three killed in road accidents

STAFF REPORTER ■ JANJIGIR-CHAMPA

A bike rider and his friend were crushed to death by a Bolero and an elderly man came under the wheels of a truck in separate road accidents in Chhattisgarh's Janjigir-Champa district on Saturday, police said.

The Bolero hit the bike on which Sagar Basod (22) and friend Prakash Kumhar (20) were travelling towards Baloda village to buy fish, Janjigir-Champa Superintendent of Police Prashant Kumar Thakur said.

Kumhar died instantly and Basod was declared dead by doctors. In another accident, an elderly man was run over by a speeding truck when he was jogging early on Saturday near Budgahan village, the officer said.

The victim was identified as Harihar Das (75).

'Divyang' word to be used in all Govt schemes

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The General Administration Department (GAD) has said that the word 'Divyang' will be used in place of 'disabled' (Viklang) in all schemes for the welfare of the disabled in Chhattisgarh.

The GAD has issued the order based on a Central government notification under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. The circular has been sent to all the administrative departments, heads of departments, Divisional commissioners, Collectors, Commissions and board offices.

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड बीजापुर (छ.ग.) (जल जीवन मिशन)

“ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट निविदा सूचना”
एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत निर्धारित श्रेणी डी या उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निविदा क्रमांक क्रमशः 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 तक तथा सिस्टम नंबर क्रमशः 80101, 80102, 80103, 80104, 80105, 80106 के लिए e-procurement (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदाएं डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि 05.08.2021 है। निविदाओं की कुल लागत रु. 172.31 लाख है।
उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्यों की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्चोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 24.07.2021 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालन अभियंता
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकी खण्ड
बीजापुर
G- 62270/5 Ryp/Dtd 23.07.21

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING SERVICE DN. DANTEWADA DISTT.SOUTH BASTAR DANTEWADA (C.G.)

Expression of Interest
Memo No./ 806/SAC/RES/2021, Dantewada/Date- 20/07/2021

Here by inviting Expression of Interest from reputed registered Contractors for "Branding/event management & Decoration Interior of Dantewada District" Under Rural Engineering Service.

Further details, terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering Service Division Dantewada.

Last date of obtaining form 30/07/2021
Last date of Submission of form 05/08/2021 5:00 PM
Date of opening EOI 06/08/2021 3:30 PM

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL ENGINEERING SERVICE DN. DANTEWADA
DISTT.SOUTH BASTAR DANTEWADA (C.G.)

G- 62289/4 Ryp/Dtd 24.07.21

कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा संभाग जगदलपुर, जिला-बस्तर (छत्तीसगढ़)

“ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 1 (प्रथम बार)”
क्रमांक/1727/व.ले.लि./ग्रा.या.से./2021-22 जगदलपुर, दिनांक 20/07/2021
छत्तीसगढ़ के राज्यपाल की ओर से लोक निर्माण विभाग छत्तीसगढ़ में एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत “सी” एवं उच्च श्रेणी में पंजीकृत सविल ठेकेदारों से ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा के निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु प्रतिशत दर पर ऑन लाइन निविदा दिनांक 06.08.2021 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रुपए लाख में)	मैन्युअल दस्तावेज कार्यालय में पहुंचने की अंतिम तिथि
1	2	3	4
1	मुख्य सड़क चोकावाड़ा चौक से नगान तक आर.सी. सी नाली निर्माण कार्य 3.00 कि.मी. विकास खण्ड जगदलपुर	114.91 लाख	दिनांक 10.08.2021

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञप्ति, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी वेबसाईड <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में दिनांक 23.07.2021 से देखी जा सकती है।

(डी.पी.देवांगन)
कार्यपालन अभियंता,
ग्रामीण यांत्रिकी सेवा, संभाग जगदलपुर
जिला-बस्तर (छ.ग.)
G- 62310/4 Ryp/Dtd 24.07.21

Three terrorists killed, jawan hurt in Bandipora

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

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

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

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



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

The officials said the identity and group affiliation of the slain ultras are being ascertained. The operation is in progress and further details are awaited, they said. **PTI**

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

Silchar: A visit by their deputy commissioner on Covid-19 duty has inspired the women of a remote village along the Bangladesh border in Cachar district of Assam to form their first self-help group (SHG) which would now provide them the linkage to Government welfare schemes.

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

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

could be brought under the fold of Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) and supported through various Government schemes, like 'Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana'.

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

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

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

BSF lodges protest with Pak over drone in first meeting

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A day after Jammu & Kashmir police shot down a Pakistani drone fitted with a 5kg IED in Kanachak area of Jammu, senior officers of the Border Security Force of Jammu frontier Saturday lodged a strong protest with their Pakistani counterparts during their first sector commander level meeting after the declaration of ceasefire agreement by DGMOs on February 24/25, 2021.

The meeting was held on the request of Pakistan Rangers in the Suchetgarh area.

The BSF delegation was led by Surjit Singh, DIG, Border Security Force and Pakistan Rangers delegation was led by Brig Murad Hussain, sector commander Pakistan Rangers, Sialkot Sector.

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



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

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

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

The BJP holds an overwhelming majority of 312 seats in the 403-seat UP Assembly at present and aims to win over 300 plus seats in the next polls.

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

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

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

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

Man gets 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for raping minor

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

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

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

On Friday, the court pronounced its verdict and sentenced Kumar to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment. In case he fails to pay the fine, the convict will have to undergo further imprisonment for one year, the advocate added. **PTI**



Hindu devotees take a holy dip in the Ganga river on the occasion of the Guru Purnima festival at Phaphamau in Prayagraj on Saturday

PTI



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

PTI

Covid-19 cases continue unabated in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

A release issued by the Health Minister's office said that 98 patients succumbed to the pandemic taking the death toll till date to 15,969. The State's average Test Positivity Rate (TPR) showed 11.91 per cent while there are 271 places across Kerala which have TPR of 15 per cent and above.

Dr P Gopikumar, secretary, Indian Medical Association's Kerala wing told The Pioneer that the home quarantine and isolation of persons tested positive was no more paying the desired results.

"The virus causing Covid-19 detected during the second wave of attack has been found

to be more powerful than the earlier version. Now what has happened is that the other members of the family where the patient is put in quarantine or isolation too get afflicted with the pandemic and this does not augur well," said Dr Gopikumar. He said the IMA has asked the State Government to shift all the persons who test positive to either community living centres or First Line Treatment Centres for which there are no deaths in Kerala. "I'll not go to the extent of telling that the situation was alarming. We, the IMA has asked the Government to reschedule the lock down mode and allow shops and business establishments to function on all days. But the crowd restrictions should be enforced strictly," said Dr Gopikumar.

But senior Government physicians said the situation in Kerala was a cause for concern. "It has been found that the pan-

demio is spreading much faster than the initial phases. Kerala has become an epicenter of Covid-19 and there are no restrictions on movement of people, Public transport, especially buses and whatever trains that ply are filled to capacity. There is no reduction in traffic blocks even in small towns," said a senior Government physician in Ernakulam.

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

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

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

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

A top State Government official said, "We have surpassed our previous best performance in Covid vaccination which was around 10.03 lakh doses on July 6. The State Government is sparing no effort to trace every case and contain the transmission of coronavirus infection and is now focusing on the importance of the vaccine to prepare itself in a better way against the anticipated third wave of Covid-19. Also, Uttar Pradesh has administered the maximum number of first doses to people in the age group of 18-44 years."

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

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

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

2,174 Covid-19 cases, 18 deaths reported in AP

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh reported 2,174 fresh cases of coronavirus, 2,737 recoveries and 18 deaths in 24 hours ending 9 am on Saturday.

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

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

East Godavari added 418 fresh cases to its count while Chittoor reported 329, Krishna 248, SPS

Nellore 246, Prakasam 233, West Godavari 209, Guntur 132 and Visakhapatnam, 103.

Five districts reported less than 90 cases each, with Kurnool logging just eight in a day.

Krishna had five fresh fatalities, Chittoor four, East Godavari, Prakasam and West Godavari two each and SPS Nellore, Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam one each.

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

Sikkim registers 225 new corona cases, 1 fresh fatality

Gangtok: Sikkim's Covid-19 tally rose to 24,823 on Saturday as 225 more people tested positive for the infection, while one fresh fatality pushed the Himalayan state's coronavirus death toll to 330, a health bulletin said.

West Sikkim district reported the highest number of new cases at 81, followed by East Sikkim (72), South Sikkim (71), and North Sikkim (one).

Sikkim now has 2,849 active cases, while 21,380 people have recovered from the disease, and 264 patients have migrated to other states so far, it said. The recovery rate among the coronavirus patients in the state stands at 87 per cent.

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

Study on to restore elephant corridors: TN Govt to HC

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

International experts are also part of the initiative, the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy was told on Friday when a PIL petition from animal activist Muralidharan and another came up.

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

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

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

▲Kundra is innocent, actress tell cops

▲Resigns from Kundra-owned industries

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

In defence of herself and her husband, Shilpa — who has made come back into films through "Hungama 2" released on an OTT platform, reportedly told the police that "con-

tent on Raj Kundra's App was not pornography but erotica. He is innocent".

Kundra, who was arrested on July 19, was on Friday remanded in police custody till July 27.

The crime branch sleuths of the Mumbai police have seized 48 TB worth of images and videos, most of which is adult content.

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

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

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

her grievance that led to the raid.

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

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

His petition also claims he was arrested after being summoned to the police station "under the garb of recording his statement".

On their part, the Mumbai Crime branch sleuths have uncovered the conspiracy behind the making and streaming of pornographic videos through an app called "Hotshots" and also OTT platforms by putting up advertisements on social media platforms.

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

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

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

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

In all, eleven persons — including Kundra, his aide Ryan John Tharpe and Kamat,

have been arrested in connection with the pornography racket. They are: TV actress Gehna Vashisht (32) Yasmin Baig Khan alias Rowa Khan (40) Monu Joshi (28) Pratibha Navalade (33) Atif Ahmed (24), Shaan Banerjee alias Dipankar Khasnavis (38), Bhanusuryam Thakur (26) Tanvir Hashmi (40) and Umesh Kamat (39).

Model-actress Gehana Vashisht, while Yasmin Rowa Khan was the producer-director. Kamat was the frontman for Kundra. Pratibha was the graphic designer, Joshi was cameraman.

Gahna and Kamat were both involved in producing and shooting porn, writing scripts; they also sent copies of their scripts to Kundra.

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

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

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED
Registered Office: 27b/c, C-27, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051
Branch Office: Plot No. 8, 1st Floor, W.H.C Road, Shankar Nagar, Nagpur, Maharashtra - 440010

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notices to the borrower(s) as detailed hereunder, calling upon the respective borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices with all costs, charges and expenses till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the same. The said borrower(s) co borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) co borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereunder in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act/rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned along-with. The borrower(s) in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties, will be subject to the charge of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., for the amount specified therein with future interest, costs and charges from the respective dates. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Details of the borrowers, scheduled property, outstanding dues, demand notices sent under section 13(2) and amounts claimed there under, date of possession is given herein below:

Name and address of the borrower/co-borrower loan account no., loan amount	Details of the immovable property	1. Date of possession 2. Demand notice date 3. Amount due in Rs.
Mr. Rohit Sethi & Mrs. Roma Sethi All At: House No. 104, B Block, Sai Vihar Apartment, Daldai Seoni Road, Opp. Electric Office, Moha, Daldai Seoni, Raipur- 492007. Loan Account No.: 4547SH59478047 & 4548SL59475614 & 4547SH59475737. Loan Sanctioned Amount: Rs. 23,17,000/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Seventeen Thousand Only) <td>Schedule "A": All Piece And Parcel Of The Property Being Part Family Unit No D-1, (104) On The First Floor In Block II Carpet Area 650 Sq Ft In "Sai Vihar" Block "1", "2" & "3" Situated At Daldai Seoni Near Dubey Colony 1/2 Km. Away From Main Road Under Municipal Corporation Ward No.26 Kushi Bhai Thakre Raipur C.G. North By: Coordinate, South By: Block III, East: Open Space, West By: Flat No. E-1. The Flat public And Parcel of Land Comprised In Land Bearing Kh No. 673/6 & 683/1 Total Area 37122 Sq Ft Covered By "Sai Vihar" Block "1" "2" & "3" Condominium. Village Daldai Seoni Raipur Founded In The: North: Sellers Land, South: Main Road, East: Sellers Land, West: Others Land. Name of the Mortgagee: Mr. Rohit Sethi</td> <td>1. 20.07.2021 2. 20.01.2021 3. Rs. 26,04,488/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only) due and payable as of 20.01.2020 with applicable interest from 21.01.2020 until payment in full.</td>	Schedule "A": All Piece And Parcel Of The Property Being Part Family Unit No D-1, (104) On The First Floor In Block II Carpet Area 650 Sq Ft In "Sai Vihar" Block "1", "2" & "3" Situated At Daldai Seoni Near Dubey Colony 1/2 Km. Away From Main Road Under Municipal Corporation Ward No.26 Kushi Bhai Thakre Raipur C.G. North By: Coordinate, South By: Block III, East: Open Space, West By: Flat No. E-1. The Flat public And Parcel of Land Comprised In Land Bearing Kh No. 673/6 & 683/1 Total Area 37122 Sq Ft Covered By "Sai Vihar" Block "1" "2" & "3" Condominium. Village Daldai Seoni Raipur Founded In The: North: Sellers Land, South: Main Road, East: Sellers Land, West: Others Land. Name of the Mortgagee: Mr. Rohit Sethi	1. 20.07.2021 2. 20.01.2021 3. Rs. 26,04,488/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only) due and payable as of 20.01.2020 with applicable interest from 21.01.2020 until payment in full.

Date: 25.07.2021
Place: Raipur

For Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited,
Authorized Officer

For Any Query Please Contact Mr. Dipendra Rathod (+91 9860338348) & Mr. Gurpal Singh (+91 9592212114)

Booster shot with 2nd gen vax needed: AIIMS



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



better overall efficacy," Dr Guleria said.

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

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

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

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

ICSE declares Class 10th, 12th Board results



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10th ICSE and ISC Class 12th exams respectively.

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

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

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

Cong appoints new State chiefs in Assam, Manipur

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In another appointment, Loken Singh was appointed

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

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

Also, the party named Arya Kumar Jnanendra as chief organiser for the Odisha Pradesh Congress Seva Dal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

He tweeted with the hashtag of #WhereAreVaccines.

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



pletion of the vaccination drive.

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

Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati

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

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

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

SC to hear plea on premature release from jail

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

and Gujarat have received below-average rainfall.

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

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

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

with the state administration.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ban on sharp synthetic/nylon kite flying thread including popularly

known "Chinese Manjha"

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

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

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

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

Note:-

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

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

Sd/-

Dr. K.S. Jayachandran

Special Secretary (Env.)

DIP/Shabdarth/0174/21-22

Peace in Af possible only through political solution: US

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior American military

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

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

"It would not get the assistance that it's looking for and that the Taliban says it wants if it has any responsibility for the country. It would not get the support from the international

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

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

Pakistan deploys regular troops along Afghan border: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

entry of armed army personnel and militants into Pakistan.

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

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

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

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

"But Taliban's presence in

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBE TROTTER

BANDITS KILL 4 IRANIAN TROOPS NEAR PAK BORDER

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

14 KILLED IN WAREHOUSE FIRE IN CHINA

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

US AIRSTRIKE IN SOMALIA IS 2ND THIS WEEK

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

Nawaz Sharif faces flak for meeting Afghan NSA Mohib in UK

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

Washington while quoting diplomatic sources.

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

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



Firefighters light a backfire to stop the Dixie Fire from spreading near Prattville in Plumas County, Calif. on Friday

Xi meets top military officials in Lhasa

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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



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

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

Xi, 68, made his first visit

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

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

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

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

"Xi met with representa-

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

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

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

Biden stumps for McAuliffe in early test of political clout

AP ■ ARLINGTON

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

Biden motorcaded across the Potomac River Friday night

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

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

night. He emphasized that he shared the same vision as McAuliffe about the need for greater public investments in order to drive economic growth. But Biden was also focused on the political stakes. "You're not gonna find anyone, I mean anyone, who knows how to get more done for Virginia than Terry," Biden said. "Off-year election, the country's looking. This is a big deal."

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

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


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

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

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



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



NATA 2021
EXAMINATION NOTICE: NATA-2021
Subject:- Announcement of Third Test of NATA-2021
The Council of Architecture is pleased to announce that the Third Test of National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2021 shall be conducted on September 3, 2021.
As per the Regulations of 2020, all candidates need to qualify an Aptitude Test conducted by the Council (i.e. NATA) for admission to B.Arch. course. Therefore, all candidates who have passed in any other aptitude test in Architecture conducted by other authorities shall also be required to qualify NATA in order to be eligible for admission to the B.Arch. course.
As per NATA 2021 Brochure, a candidate shall be allowed to appear for NATA 2021 only for a maximum of two times. Therefore, candidates who have not appeared in either one or both tests of NATA are eligible to register and appear for Third NATA Test. Further, those candidates who, after registering themselves for NATA, could not appear or remained absent in the either one or both tests of NATA due to any reason, may also register for Third NATA Test.
The NATA portal shall also be opened shortly to facilitate the students to register for Third NATA Test. The NATA-2021 Brochure with details of registration & other important dates for Third Test shall be soon uploaded on the websites www.nata.in and www.coa.gov.in.
The eligible candidates desirous to take admission into 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. degree course are advised to register themselves for Third Test of NATA-2021.
July 25, 2021
New Delhi
Registrar



UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 533
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Date: 24.07.2021)
For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd, Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for the following works:-
NIT No. 06/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Operation and Maintenance of UJVNL Officer Transit Camp and office of General Manager (SHP) at Maneri Bhalil Colony, Rishikesh.
NIT No. 07/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage:- Annual Civil Maintenance & Repair Works of Virbhada Barrage Premises at Rishikesh.
NIT No. 08/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage :- Annual Maintenance & Repair Works of Afflux Bundha, Silt Ejector and Appurtenant Structure Virbhada Barrage at Rishikesh.
NIT No. 09/2021-22/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage :- Annual Upkeep Works of the Office of General Manager (CDH&NP) at New Hydell Colony, Pashulok-Rishikesh.
Estimated Value of Tender:- Rs.9.90 Lakh, Rs. 17.94 Lakh, Rs. 24.70 Lakh & Rs. 7.19 Lakh respectively.
Date of availability of bid document on website:- 26 July, 2021 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST)
Last Date for Submission of Tender:- 17 August, 2021 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST).
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"
Executive Engineer (Civil)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, Chintels India Limited is in the process of undertaking development of a Group Housing Colony in Sector 109, Gurugram, over an area measuring 10.41875 acres in the revenue estate of village Babupur in accordance with the provision of Licence No.250 of 2007 dated 02-11-2007 granted by the Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.
And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of plot/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees).
And whereas the assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights for the said colony is now proposed to M/s Almond Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd.
And whereas the o/o Director General, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of any objections against the assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence as a pre-condition for allowing such a proposal.
Accordingly, vide this public notice, objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence.
Any allottee having any objection may file his objection in the o/o Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, Gurugram, Haryana or in our corporate office within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed assignment of Joint Development Rights/Marketing Rights in the licence.
Place: Gurugram For Chintel India Limited
Dated: 25.07.2021 Authorised Signatory

JUSTRIDE ENTERPRISES LIMITED
CIN: L74899DL1967PLC004704
Reg. Off.: Flat No.133, C-4E, Pocket No.11, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058;
Email ID: justdelimited@gmail.com; Website: www.justrideenterprises.in; Contact: 8800300490

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION
Notice is hereby given that the 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Justride Enterprises Limited (JEL) will be held on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10:00 AM through video conference (VC) / other audio-visual means (OAVM), to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed thereunder and the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (Listing Regulations) read with General Circular No.14/2020 (dated 8th April 2020), 17/2020 (13th April 2020), 20/2020 (dated 5th May 2020) and 22/2020 (dated June 15, 2020), respectively, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/CHOP/2019 dated 12th May 2019 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circular"), without the physical presence of the Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz., Aadhar Card, Driving Licence, Election Card, Passport, utility bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2019-20 along with AGM Notice by email to justdelimited@gmail.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their email address with their Depository Participants.
The notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM and join the AGM through video conference (VC) / other audio-visual means (OAVM)
The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date i.e. Monday, August 09, 2021, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary Business as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic voting systems of CDSL. All the members are informed that:
1. The Ordinary Businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM will be transacted through voting by electronic means;
2. The remote e-voting shall end on Sunday, August 13, 2021 at 09:00 AM (IST);
3. The remote e-voting shall end on Monday, August 15, 2021 at 05:00 PM (IST);
4. The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Monday, August 09, 2021 and a person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only;
5. Person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the Notice of AGM and holding shares and eligible to vote, can follow the process for generating the login ID and password as provided in the Notice of the AGM. If such a person is already registered with CDSL for e-voting, existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote;
6. Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by the CDSL after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is casted by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend it subsequently; c) the AGM shall not be entitled to cast their vote again; d) the facility for voting through electronic mode shall be made available at the AGM; and e) a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM.
In case of any queries including issues and concerns relating to remote e-voting and voting at AGM, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of CDSL at www.evotingindia.com or call on toll free no. 022-23058738 and 22-23058542-43 or send a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdsl.com or contact Mr. Rakesh Dahi, Sr. Manager, (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Future, Malafial Mill Compounds, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdsl.com or call on 022-23058542/43, who will also address the grievances connected with the voting by electronic means.

By order of the Board of Directors
For Justride Enterprises Limited
Sd/-
Surya Kumar
(DIN: 07966100)

Date : July 25, 2021
Place : New Delhi

AGR dues no subject matter of any future litigation: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

were also dealt with in its judgment dated September 1, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

seek recalculation and reassessment, as recorded in the order, which was rejected by this Court outright," the bench said.

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

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

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

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

India in exciting phase of growth: Paytm CEO

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country is in an exciting phase of growth and the economy is expected to add USD 2.5 trillion in the next 5-10 years, Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said on Saturday.

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

"It's an amazing, inspiring moment for us to be in India and lucky to be in India," Sharma said while speaking at a 2-day virtual youth conclave organised by IMC Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

He said one should never hesitate to do what they feel very strongly about even if it seems small.

"When somebody makes you feel that you're solo. That's just the way you handle the



adversity.

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

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

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

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

India will continue to attract high foreign investments: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

He said India has received highest ever FDI in the Covid-impacted 2020, in contrast with a shrinkage in investment inflows globally.

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

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

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

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

Further, he said that cur-



rently India is in talks with 16 countries including the UK, the EU, Australia, Canada, and the UAE for trade agreements.

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

India has inked FTAs with several countries, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and ASEAN members.

Under such agreements, two trading partners significantly reduce or eliminate import/customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them.

Talking about vaccination, he said the government had permitted the private sector to procure 25 per cent of Covid-19 vaccines but

they are not buying. "CII should take a lead and get all of you to ensure that you take that 25 per cent vaccines... Some industry group said we will do one crore vaccinations... Nobody has gone to Bihar, North East, Jharkhand to run campaigns to remove vaccine hesitancy," he said.

Open air travel for inoculated passengers: IATA

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

According to Clifford, it is not sustainable to maintain a zero case load approach, especially with scientists believing that Covid-19 will end up becoming endemic.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said honest taxpayers deserve to be recognised for dutifully paying their due share of taxes and appreciated the Income Tax Department for successful implementation of various reforms.

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

"The minister observed that the honest taxpayers deserve to be recognized for the contribution they are making to the progress of the nation by dutifully paying their due share of taxes... She also lauded tax-

payers for discharging their compliance obligations despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic," an official statement said.

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

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

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

collections.

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

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

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

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

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

SBI opens branch in President's Estate

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

PTI

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

OA NO 286/2020
DATE : 01.07.2021

AXIS BANK LTD.
...APPLICANT
VERSUS
SANJEEV ARORA & ORS.
...RESPONDENT

TO:
DEFENDANT
1. Rajeev Arora, House No. J-13 Govindpuram Block J, PS Kaveri Nagar, Ghaziabad-201002
2. Three Platinum Softech Pvt. Ltd. A-169 2nd Floor, Mandawli Fazzalpur Ganga Ram New Delhi-92. Also at: C-5640, Sector-62, Near Fortis Hospital Noida UP-201301

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 97,84,926/- (Rupee Ninety Seven Lakh Eighty Four Thousand and Twenty Six Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 10.08.2021 At 10.30 AM

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

By Order of the Tribunal
For Registrar
DRT-II, Delhi

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISCELLANEOUS WORKS

Sri. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-51-21-22, Date. 19/07/2021.

Work: Upgradation of Platform Surface of Shahdol and Anuppur stations. Provision of toilet with water supply in CSM/SM's Panel room at Vileykalga, Lorna and Mudaria & Creation of siding facilities for working of heavy duty Rial Grinding Machine (RGM) at Burhar, Nowrozabad, Umaria & Rupond stations under the jurisdictions of Sr. DE/North, Bilaspur.

Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,78,95,635.56/- EMD (In Rs.): 00.00/- Completion Period: 12 Months.

Start date of Submission of Tender: From 11:00 hrs. on 02.08.2021. Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11:00 hrs. on 16.08.2021

The complete information of above E-Tender Notices is available over websites <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divt. Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPR/10/106 S.E.C. Railway/BSP
f South East Central Railway @SecRail

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

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

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

E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641

SHO - P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi
Tel. No. : 011-9205832616, 8750870728

DP82/INE21

BRIEFS

Reliance Jio clocks strong subscriber adds in Q1
New Delhi: Jio's gross subscriber additions, though down 14 per cent QoQ, were still healthy at 26.7 million due to continued traction on new JioPhone offer, foreign brokerage, Jefferies said in a report. This along with lower churn, resulted in 14.3 million net additions in Q1. Assuming 0.6m additions on JioFiber, Reliance Jio added 13.8m mobile subscriber on net basis which surprised positively given 1Q was impacted by Covid. "We expect Jio's subscriber additions to remain robust led by recent capacity additions, JioPhone offers and launch of JioPhone Next", the report said. Jio reiterated that its device and capacity strategy is in place to gain the next 200m subscribers. "We marginally tweak estimates to factor the results and see Jio gain 530m subscribers by Mar-24. Over FY21-24, we expect RJio to deliver 15% CAGR in revenues and 20% Cagr in profits. We maintain our valuation for RJio at US\$90bn", the report said.

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

IANs ■ MUMBAI

India's key equity indices are expected to maintain caution on the back of rising Covid cases globally as well as the rate decision of the US Fed during the upcoming week. However, expectations of robust quarterly results along with hopes for an accelerated economic recovery will retain investors' interest in the market.

"US Fed interest rate and progress in spread of Coronavirus and its variants will be watched keenly," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Nifty has formed lower top lower bottom on weekly charts compared to the previous week. Hence 15,962 resistance becomes an important determinant of the future direction."

Besides, Jasani cited that as long as this level (15,962) is not breached, markets, sectors and stocks could undergo rotational profit taking. Furthermore, the week ahead will witness the release of Q1FY22 corporate results from ICICI Bank, ITC, Indusind Bank, Axis Bank, L&T, Tata Motors, Kotak Bank, Dr Reddys, Maruti Suzuki.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/28/2021 Date : 21.07.2021				
S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D	
771	Wood Based Resin	1000 Nos.	09.08.2021	
772	Gear Case Complete	4 Nos.	09.08.2021	
773	Washer for Dia 41 mm Pin	10000 Nos.	09.08.2021	
774	Gangway Bridge Mounting Assy.	640 Nos.	09.08.2021	
775	Set of Connection Strap Assy. for WAP4.	306 Set	09.08.2021	
776	Roller Bearing	314 Nos.	10.08.2021	
777	Filter Assy.	18 Nos.	11.08.2021	
778	Plug Assy	1315 Set	11.08.2021	
779	Track Feed Battery Charger	819 Nos.	12.08.2021	
780	Tar Plastic Compound	6734 Kg	13.08.2021	
781	VRLA Valve Regulated (Sealed) Lead Acid Battery 2V300AH	3028 Nos.	13.08.2021	
782	Set of 35 mm NABO Brake Pads	2000 Nos.	13.08.2021	
783	LMLA Low Maintenance Lead Acid Secondary cells, 2V, 300AH.	3028 Nos.	16.08.2021	
784	Set of Switches 6 A-250 V	16 Set	16.08.2021	
785	R/M Paint Gentian Blue.	38620 Ltr.	18.08.2021	
786	Single Bottle Vacuum Circuit Breaker.	150 Nos.	18.08.2021	
787	VRLA Batteries of 48V-200AH	110 Set	19.08.2021	
788	AOH Kit for Tapchanger	98 Set	19.08.2021	
789	Gear Oil Oiltogear RMO	5063 Ltr.	19.08.2021	
790	LMLA Secondary Cells 2V/200AH	1647 Nos.	25.08.2021	
791	Main LED Signal Lighting Unit Red, Yellow, Green	5323 Nos.	26.08.2021	
792	Wire 7 Strand Steel, Galvanised for Signaling Purpose	4594 Kg	30.08.2021	
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in				
For Principal Chief Materials Manager				
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INDO COTSPIN LIMITED				
REGD. OFFICE : 78 K.M. MILE STONE, G.T. ROAD, NH-1, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT - 132103 CIN:- L111H1R195PLC032541 Website: www.indocotspin.com Email: indrapalaggarwal12000@yahoo.com Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2021				
PARTICULARS	3 MONTHS ENDED	YEAR TO DATE FIGURES FOR CURRENT PERIOD ENDED	CORRESPONDING 3 MONTHS ENDED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR	(Amount Rs. In Lacs)
	30/06/2021	31/03/2021	30/06/2020	
	Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited	
Total Income from operations (net)	150.54	816.08	123.84	
Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary activities after Tax	0.18	4.77	0.37	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary Items)	0.18	4.77	0.37	
Paid Up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of Previous Year)	420.05	420.05	420.05	
Earnings Per Share (before Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.18	219.15	0.37	
Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/- each): Basic and Diluted (in Rupees)	0.00	0.07	0.00	
NOTE: i) There is no qualification on the un-audit report for the quarter ended 30/06/2021 ii) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com , www.nseindia.com , www.cseindia.com , 91-9896034879 For Indo Cotspin Limited Sd/- Bal Krishan Aggarwal Managing Director DIN: 00456219				
Place: Panipat Date: 24/07/2021				

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

MIRABAI LIFTS WEIGHT OF A NATION

An Olympic medal finally around her neck, star Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu on Saturday said she can finally take a break at home without worrying about training after managing just five trips to her place in Manipur in the last five years.

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

“I will now go home and eat food made by my mother,” she added.

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

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



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

PTI

at the Sydney Games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Determined to prove herself in the Tokyo Games, Chanu and Sharma changed the Manipuri's training, employing a more stringent regimen.

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

growing and improving regularly.”

“The lesson we learnt was that we need a lot of determination and discipline. I worked with that and Mira partnered me.”

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

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

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

“Could not have asked for a happier start to @Tokyo2020! India is elated by @mirabai_chanu's stupendous performance. Congratulations to her for winning the Silver medal in weightlifting. Her success motivates every Indian. #Cheer4India #Tokyo2020.”
—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

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

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

2018 Commonwealth Games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“She had told us she will win Gold or at least a medal. So, everybody was waiting for it to happen. Many of our relatives who lived far came last evening. They stayed overnight with us,” Chanu's mother said.

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

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

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

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



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

@Media_SAI



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

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

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

Amit Shah, NE CMs give standing ovation to Mirabai

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

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

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

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

Manika, Mukherjee off to promising start

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

The start to India's table tennis campaign was disappointing with Sharath Kamal and Manika losing 0-4 to the third seeds Lin Yun-Ju and Cheng I-Ching of Chinese Taipei in the mixed doubles round of 16.

However, world number 62 Manika returned to beat 94th-ranked Tin-Tin Ho of Britain 4-0 in her singles opener while 98th-ranked Sushritha made a strong impression on

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

Mukherjee play Portugal's Fu Yu in the second round while Manika takes on Ukraine's Margaryta Pesotska.

Mukherjee showed remarkable grit to down her Swedish opponent after trailing 1-3 in the best of seven affair. She won 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 9-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-5.

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

Manpreet & Co start with win, women's lose

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

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

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

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

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



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

@TheHockeyIndia

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

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

INDIA WOMEN LOSE 1-5

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

Felice Albers gave Netherlands the lead in the sixth minute before the advan-

tage was evened out by India skipper Rani Rampal in the 10th minute.

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

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

If that was not enough, there was more agony in store for the Indians as Caia Jacqueline van Maasakker slammed home from their sixth penalty corner in the 52nd minute.

India will play Germany in their next Pool A match on July 26.



Nagal creates history with singles win

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

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

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

Fernando Meligeni.

No Indian could win a singles match after Paes' heroic feat. “To lose second set from 5-3 and then comeback in the third set in a weather like this, is not easy. Playing for my country gave me the push,” said Nagal after the match.

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

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

Chirag-Satwik stun World No 3

Praneeth suffers defeat; Sindhu in action today

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

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

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



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

PTI

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

The Indians had five

match points but the Chinese Taipei pair, the 2018 World championship Bronze-medallists, saved all of them before grabbing one themselves but Chirag and Satwik were up to the task and had the last laugh.

Satwik and Chirag will next play Indonesian world No 1s Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo on Sunday.

Injured Vikas out



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

AP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Indian shooters fail to fire

Tokyo: Indian shooters endured multiple heartbreaks on the first day of their competition in the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday, with the biggest disappointment being Saurabh Chaudhary's failure to win a medal after topping the qualifications.

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

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

podium finish.

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

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

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

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

Verma was also in contention to make the cut after staging an excellent rally, but two 8s in the final series dashed his hopes.

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