

**WORLD 6**  
WOMAN WITH KNIFE SHOT DEAD IN WEST BANK

**MONEY 7**  
CAIT ASKS GOYAL TO DIRECT CCI PROBE INTO AMAZON, FLIPKART

**SPORT 8**  
BARBORA WINS FRENCH OPEN TITLE

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## 'One earth, one health' united bid: Modi to G7

PM calls for equitable distribution of resources to fight Covid; US for G7 efforts to compete with China on developing world infra outreach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the world battles the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday called for "One Earth, One Health," in apparent reference to collective effort to meet the challenge and equitable distribution of resources. He made this appeal while participating in the virtual ongoing G-7 summit in United Kingdom.



With the world now urgently needing vaccine to combat the pandemic, French President Emmanuel Macron favoured unhindered raw material supplies to countries like India to produce vaccine in large numbers, sources said.

Chancellor Angela Merkel specifically referred to PM's mantra and conveyed strong support, news agency ANI quoted. Australian PM Scott Morrison referred to his discussions with PM Modi earlier about TRIPS waiver and conveyed strong support of Australia.

Modi also spoke on ways to come out of the pandemic at the earliest. He addressed the

outreach session on Saturday and will speak again on Sunday morning.

He was invited to attend the summit by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Given the situation at home, Modi opted to participate in the prestigious meet virtually.

Modi had taken part in this event in 2019 when France chaired the G-7. India participated then as a "Goodwill Partner" and Modi participated in the sessions on "Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans" and "Digital Transformation".

Stronger", "Building Back Together" and "Building Back Greener".

Meanwhile, according to news agency AP, the United States plans to push democratic allies to publicly call out China for forced labour practices as the Group of Seven leaders gathered at a summit where they will also unveil an infrastructure plan meant to compete with Beijing's efforts in the developing world.

The provocative proposal is part of President Joe Biden's escalating campaign to get fellow democratic leaders to present a more unified front to compete economically with China in the century ahead, according to two senior administration officials who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the plans for the seaside summit publicly.

The officials said Biden wanted G-7 leaders to speak out in a single voice against forced labour practices targeting Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities. Biden hopes the denunciation will be part of the joint communique released

at the summit's end, but some European allies have been reluctant to so forcefully split with Beijing. It may not be clear until the three-day summit ends on Sunday whether the leaders will take that step.

The wealthy nations' leaders were all smiles and unity as they were welcomed to the summit on Friday by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the freshly raked sand of Carbis Bay in southwest England for their first gathering since 2019.

Last year's gathering was cancelled because of Covid-19, and recovery from the pandemic is dominating this year's discussions, with members of the wealthy democracies' club expected to commit to sharing at least 1 billion vaccine shots with struggling countries.

China also loomed large over the meeting on the craggy coast of Cornwall. Biden's proposed critique of China's labour practices was to be raised as the allies unveil an infrastructure proposal dubbed "Build Back Better for the World," a name that echoes the slogan of Biden's poll campaign.

## PIO journalist wins Pulitzer for exposing China's vast infra for detaining Muslims

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Megha Rajagopalan, an Indian-origin journalist, along with two contributors has won the Pulitzer Prize for innovative investigative reports that exposed a vast infrastructure of prisons and mass internment camps secretly built by China for detaining hundreds of thousands of Muslims in its restive Xinjiang region.

Rajagopalan from BuzzFeed News is among two Indian-origin journalists who won the US' top journalism award on Friday.

Tampa Bay Times' Neil Bedi won for local reporting. Bedi along with Kathleen McGrory has been awarded the prize for the series exposing a Sheriff's Office initiative that used computer modelling to identify people believed to be future crime suspects. About 1,000 people were monitored under the programme, including children. Bedi is an investigative reporter for the Tampa Bay Times.

"What Kathleen and Neil unearthed in Pasco County has had a profound impact on the community," said Mark Katches, Times executive editor. "This is what the best investigative journalism can do and why it is so essential."

Rajagopalan's Xinjiang series won the Pulitzer Prize in the International category.

## No GST on key drugs for Covid, black fungus

Tax rates on 14 Covid relief items slashed from 12% to 5%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been waived for two critical drugs against Covid-19 and black fungus Tocilizumab and Amphotericin B. Tax rates have been reduced to 5 per cent on 14 major pandemic relief goods, including testing kits and hand sanitisers, from prevailing rates in the range of 12 per cent and 18 per cent.

The 44th GST Council meeting on Saturday also decided to slash tax rates on medicines and equipment used for the treatment of Covid-19. A notification to this effect will be issued within a day or two. The 5 per cent GST levied on vaccines was left unchanged, following the recent changes in the country's vaccine procurement strategy that puts the Union government in charge of augmenting supplies.

The reduced rates, which Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said were aimed at providing some succour to the people amid the pandemic, will remain effective till September 30, but could be extended further based on later assessments.

Medicine and equipment's used in Covid-19 treatment	Existing GST rate	Reduction in GST rate
Tocilizumab, Amphotericin B	5 %	Nil
Anti Coagulants like Heparin, Remdesivir (Any other drug recommended by the health ministry and department of pharma for covid treatment)	12 %	5 %
Medical Grade Oxygen, Oxygen Concentrator/ Generator including personal imports, Ventilators, Ventilator Masks/Canula/Helmet, BiPAP Machine, High flow nasal canula (HFNC) device	12 %	5 %
COVID testing kits, Specified Inflammatory Diagnostic Kits namely D-Dimer, IL-6 and LDH	12 %	5 %
Hand Sanitiser, Temperature check equipment, Gas/Electric furnaces for crematorium including their installation	18 %	5 %
Pulse Oximeters including personal imports,	12 %	5 %
Ambulances	28 %	12 %

based on later assessments. The decision to slash tax rates was based on a recommendation of a Group of Ministers, headed by Meghalaya Deputy Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, and would remain effective till September 30, 2021.

The GST rate on COVID-19 drug Tocilizumab and black fungus medicine Amphotericin B will be reduced to nil from the existing 5 per cent. The GST rate on Remdesivir and anticoagulants like Heparin is lowered from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The GST rate on ambulances has been cut to 12 per cent from 28 per cent. Tax on medical grade oxygen, oxygen concentrator (including personal imports), ventilators, BiPAP machines and high flow nasal cannula (HFNC) devices has been cut to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

## CAPSULE

### TERRORISTS KILL 2 COPS, 2 CIVILIANS IN SOPORE

Jammu: Two policemen and an equal number of civilians were killed while three cops and another civilian received critical injuries in a daring strike by a group of three motorcycle borne terrorists in the Arampora area of Sopore town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. According to police, two local and one foreign terrorist belonging to the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba terrorist outfit were suspected to be behind the attack.

### 5 SHOWROOMS DAMAGED IN FIRE AT DELHI MARKET

New Delhi: Five showrooms were damaged in a fire that broke out in a market area here, officials said, adding no injuries were reported.

### COVID IN MADHYA PRADESH

Dist	Total Cases	Fresh Cases
Bhopal	122607	93
Indore	152437	96
Gwalior	53027	2

## Pvt hospitals used 17% of 1.85 cr jab doses in May: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the people, at least in the urban areas are hankering for the Covid-19 vaccines to protect themselves from deadly virus, Government data shows that only 17 per cent of the 1.85 crore doses were utilised by private hospitals last month, leaving a massive stock unused.

As per the Union Health Ministry statement issued earlier this month, a total of 7.4 crore doses were made available across the country in May, out of which 1.85 crore doses were earmarked for private hospitals. However, the Government data showed that only 22 lakh doses were utilised.

Experts feel that the huge stock lying with the private hospitals could be due to the

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	2,94,24,006 (+65,455)
DEATHS:	3,70,168 (+3,061)
RECOVERED:	2,80,15,044 (+1,11,734)
ACTIVE:	10,27,271
MAHA:	58,98,550 (+10,697)
K'TAKA:	27,57,324 (+9,785)
KERALA:	26,86,630 (+13,832)
TN:	23,39,705 (+15,108)
DELHI:	14,30,884 (+213)

high prices of vaccinations and vaccine hesitancy.

## Eriksen taken to hospital after collapsing at Euro 2020

AP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark midfielder Christian Eriksen was taken to a hospital on Saturday after collapsing on the field during a match at the European Championship.

The governing body of European soccer said Eriksen has been stabilised and the Danish soccer federation said he was awake.

"Christian Eriksen is awake and is undergoing further examinations at Rigshospitalet," the Danish federation wrote on Twitter.

The Euro 2020 match between Denmark and Finland was suspended after Eriksen was given urgent medical attention on the field near the end of the first half.

He was treated for about 10 minutes after collapsing. He was then carried off on a stretcher.

## War histories to be declassified

Rajath approves policy on archiving to provide people authentic account

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday gave the nod for declassification of war or military operations' histories to provide people an authentic account. However, it has the discretionary powers to withhold any information considered sensitive.

It means, some major events like the India-China war in 1962 chronicled in the Henderson Brooks report will not be made public as of now and will remain classified, sources said here.

Moreover, the new policy for declassification before the 25 years cap will be for inter-

national consumption first and later a committee may decide to publicly release whole or parts of it, considering the sensitivity of the subject, officials said.

The requirement of having war histories written with clear cut policy on declassification of war records was recommended by the Kargil Review Committee, headed by K Subrahmanyam, as well as NN Vohra Committee in order to analyse lessons learnt and prevent future mistakes.

Giving details, officials said Defence Minister Rajath Singh approved the policy on archiving, declassification and compilation of histories of wars and operations by his Ministry.

The objective behind this move was that timely publication of war histories will give people an accurate account of the events, provide authentic material for academic research and counter the unfounded rumours, the Ministry said.

## SAD, BSP reignite ties to fight Punjab Assembly elections

BSP to contest 20 of 117 seats

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) on Saturday announced an alliance to contest the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections together. An announcement was made jointly by SAD president Sukhbir Badal and BSP national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra at the SAD head office in Chandigarh.

The SAD-BSP had entered into an alliance long back for the 1996 Lok Sabha polls and won 11 out of 13 seats in Punjab.

Terming the alliance as historic, the SAD chief Sukhbir



SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal felicitates BSP secretary general Satish Chandra Mishra during a joint press conference at the SAD head office in Chandigarh on Saturday. PTI

Badal said it is not just limited to the 2022 Assembly elections, but would continue in future also. Both the SAD and the BSP have the same ideology and have always worked for the welfare of the farmers, poor and labourers.

## BJP seeks Sonia, Rahul's replies on Digvijaya's 'Art 370 rethink' remark

### Cong 1st love is Pak, both share same views on Kashmir: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy over the Congress "Clubhouse" chat of former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, the BJP on Saturday said the Congress' first love is Pakistan and "both share same views on Kashmir." The BJP demanded answers from Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi on Singh's comment on the restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Rahul's message to Pakistan. The Congress will help Pakistan in grabbing Kashmir.

Lashing out at the Congress, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the Congress should change its name from Indian National Congress to Anti-national Congress which he alleged "not only siding with Pakistan but also with China to show India down."

"What do Sonia and Rahul think about Digvijaya's Clubhouse statement? Is this Congress' stand too? We demand Rahul to hold a Press conference and clarify," Patra said. He alleged the Congress and Pakistan are in the same page on the Kashmir issue and article 370.

"Today an important topic going on in TV channels is 'Clubhouse'. We all have seen through TV channels how the veteran leader of the clubhouse -- Singh is spewing venom against India outside and how he is agreeing with Pakistan's demands.

## State BJP seeks NIA probe against Raja Sabha MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

While huge uproar was created nationwide over the statement of former Chief Minister of MP and Raja Sabha member Digvijaya Singh for his statement of 'reconsidering reinstating Article 370 in J&K', Madhya Pradesh unit president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) VD Sharma on Saturday, demanded NIA probe against Singh. In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sharma demanded an NIA probe against Singh.

Intensifying its attack on the Congress party over leaked audio of Digvijaya Singh's Clubhouse chat, the BJP on Saturday said that it was a part of the 'toolkit' mentioned a few

days ago. In a letter to the Union Home Minister, State BJP president VD Sharma said that this is not the first time Digvijaya Singh has supported Pakistan or terrorists. In the past in Batla House case and on other occasions too he backed anti-nationals.

Thus, a probe be co ducted against Singh to know his links with Pakistan or extremists, he demanded.

Notably, in the Clubhouse chat, a Pakistani journalist asks that after the removal of Narendra Modi, what will be India's Kashmir policy. Digvijaya Ji thanks the journalist and says that the Congress Government will reinstate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir," Sharma said.

## Pilot lands in Delhi, Cong says all well

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Disgruntled Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Saturday met Rajasthan incharge Ajay Maken and AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal in an effort to iron out the differences between him and the party for over a year now against Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

While Pilot has remained tightlipped since he landed in Delhi on Friday evening, Maken ruled out any differences and that both have been talking and meeting regularly. "I am speaking to Pilotji on a regular basis. Had he been angry, he would not be speaking to me," Maken, a former Union Minister, said.

Maken mentioned that vacant positions in the Rajasthan Cabinet, boards and commissions would be filled



soon and leaders of the party are engaged in resolving the issues.

### Wider anti-BJP alliance must: NCP

Mumbai: A day after election strategist Prashant Kishor met NCP chief Sharad Pawar, a spokesperson of the party on Saturday said there is a need to have a "wider alliance" of political parties against the ruling BJP ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha.

## None from outside Saudi can perform Haj this season

AP ■ DUBAI

Saudi Arabia announced on Saturday this year's Haj pilgrimage will be limited to no more than 60,000 people, all of them from within the kingdom, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The announcement by the kingdom comes after it ran an incredibly pared-down pilgrimage last year over the virus, but still allowed a small number of the faithful to take part in the annual ceremony.

A statement on the state-run Saudi Press Agency quoted the kingdom's Haj and Umrah Ministry making the announcement. It said this year's Haj, which will begin in mid-July, will be limited to those ages 18 to 65. Those taking part must be vaccinated as well, the ministry said.

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is honoured to



host pilgrims every year, confirms that this arrangement comes out of its constant concern for the health, safety and security of pilgrims as well as the safety of their countries," the statement said.

In last year's Haj, as few as 1,000 people already residing in Saudi Arabia were selected to take part in the Haj. Two-thirds were foreign residents from among the 160 different nationalities that would have normally been represented at the Haj.

# 'Our responsibility was to land right with the sequel'

JD METHEJIA, producer of Sony SAB TV's *Wagle Ki Duniya* – Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kisse, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how this series is different from the original, the challenge he is facing and why he chose the same starcast

**I understand that you are reading a script. Is it for a new project?**

No-no. *Wagle Ki Duniya- Nayi Peedhi, Naye Kisse* requires that we come up with a new storyline every day. We have tried to ensure that none of the stories in the series go beyond one episode. Out of the 78 episodes that have aired till now, there have been only a couple that have run into the second part. At the end of the day the creative writer has to send the storyline for the next day. That is what keeps me busy in the evenings.

**What are the challenges you are facing having to shoot outside of Mumbai?**

*Wagle...* as a show is all about daily trials and tribulations of the common man, we never expected to be at the resort, where we are shooting, for more than 15-29 days; it has now been 49 days. Then there is the whole thing of creating daily stories. We have based our show on real-life issues of the common man. To put out stories every day is not an easy task. Also, it is not possible for a middle-class family to afford to stay in the resort for such a long time. We have to work around these constraints and bring out the essence of the show that is all about morals, values, emotions and principles.

**What makes *Wagle Ki Duniya* so popular?**

The series is all about the common man and his trials and travails. People sitting at home identify with what is happening in *Wagle's* world. People find a connection with the actors and feel that what the characters are going through in reel life is something that they face everyday — problems at the workplace, kids have problems at home and the wife having to deal with household issues. These are small things but it makes what we call life — a common man's life. The show is about how a middle-class man thinks and people find a connection with the thinking that has been shown.

**How is this series different from the 1988-90 show?**

Here, the series takes a leap. While some of the cast is the same, there are new characters. This adds a new dimension to the show while keeping the essence of the original show that had 18 episodes. We wanted to showcase *Wagle's duniya* in the new setting. I call this show TV-web — a combination of TV show and web series.

**How did the idea to revisit the show come up?**

A few of us were working for a new show for the channel keeping in mind middle and higher middle class. Neeraj Vyas, business head of SAB TV called me at night and asked me what I thought of *Wagle Ki Duniya* of 1988. I told him it is an excellent idea. The next morning, I called Usha Laxman. She told me that she was about to call me with regard to 18 episodes that she had. I told her that why not do new episodes. She asked how we would do it without RK Laxman. I told her that we will begin with zero.

**Why choose the same cast?**

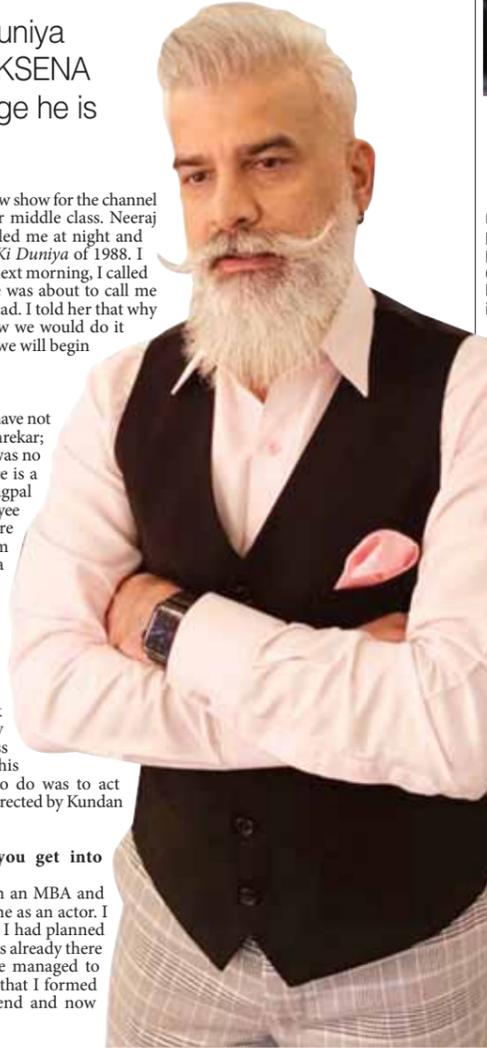
There was no way that we could have not taken Anjan Srivastav and Bharti Achrekar; they are the original *Wagles*. There was no reason not to take them. Since there is a leap, we couldn't take Dushyant Nagpal instead opted for two kids — Chinmayee Salvi and Sheehan Kapahi. Then there is Sumeet Raghavan; we wanted him to be there; then there is Pariva Pranati.

**Were there any apprehensions since the series takes a leap and is set in present times?**

No, we had no apprehensions. We have a wonderful team and we knew that this new series would work as well. We have worked on so many shows that talk about middle-class issues, we knew people would love this too. The only thing that we had to do was to act responsibly. The original show was directed by Kundan Shah; we had to land right.

**You are an actor. How did you get into production and directing?**

It was always on the cards. I am an MBA and when I left my job, I gave myself time as an actor. I had written a letter to myself where I had planned my life. Production and directing was already there on the cards. I am glad that I have managed to remain true to the letter. I am glad that I formed Hats Off Productions with my friend and now business partner, Aatish Kapadia.



## PLAN YOUR STAY AT HOME SUNDAY



### SWEET MOMENTS

Coffee mousse without cream, as good as that of the bar. Soft, creamy and tasty. The mousse coffee without cream is a pudding perfect for those little pauses in mid-afternoon or a cold dessert after lunch on a stay at home Sunday. Easy to make, ready in less than five minutes and as good as that of the bar. Do not you believe it? Let us move on to the recipe immediately.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 200 ml of soluble iced coffee
- 100 ml of cold water
- 200 ml of semi-skimmed milk
- 5 teaspoons of sugar
- Coffee

#### METHOD

Prepare the coffee and pour it into a bowl. Add sugar and water, mix. Put the mixture in the freezer to cool, remember that it must be well frozen.

Now let's move on to milk.

Pour the cold milk into a bowl, start mixing, with the help of an electric whisk, until you get a very frothy mixture.

Take the coffee from the fridge, shake it hard to make it super creamy.

Add the frothy coffee to the frothed milk. Keep stirring for a few minutes until everything is smooth.

Store the coffee cream in a container and place it in the freezer to freeze.

### GO FOR NO-BAKE TART

The no-bake tart with berries is the ideal dessert for a tasty snack, to end the meal with a sweet flavor and to surprise someone on the most refined occasions. Find out how to prepare a no-bake tart, and make a good impression in no time with your guests.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 500 gram wild berries
- 220 gram chocolate biscuit
- 150 gram white chocolate
- 100 gram butter
- 200 ml fresh cream
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

#### METHOD

Crumble 220 g of chocolate biscuits, put them in the mixer, blend them and pour 100 g of melted butter over a very low heat. Blend for a few seconds until you get a homogeneous mixture (if you do not have the mixer on hand, collect the cookies in a paper bag and pound them with a meat mallet). Now, line a mold with baking paper, pour the biscuit and butter mixture, compact it with the back of a spoon to cover the bottom and part of the walls. Put everything in the freezer,



and prepare the cream for the filling.

Chop 150 g of white chocolate, melt it in a double boiler, turn off and let it cool. Whip 200 ml of fresh cream with a spoon full of icing sugar. Then add the melted chocolate cream with soft movements from the bottom up.

Pour the white chocolate mousse into the chocolate chip cookie shell. Spread it with a spatula; place the washed berries on top.

Then put the no-bake tart with berries in the fridge for at least a couple of hours, so that the chocolate mousse is slightly firmer. When serving, distribute the fruit with the remaining icing sugar.

— By Girish Chandra, Beverage Training Manager, Lavazza India

## TELLY TALE

### SHOCKING TWIST

Trouble knocks at the doorsteps of Garima and Susheela again, with their father getting missing suspiciously. Sony SAB's show *Kaatelal & Sons* is gearing towards a shocking twist where Garima and Susheela's Mama would kidnap Dharampal so that the girls' dream to open their salon comes to a halt again. The audience would see how the girls will put their entire energy to find their father in the upcoming episodes.

Garima and Susheela try their best to seal the deal for their salon, but the problems are not coming to an end. Both the sisters had to return before signing the agreement as they are informed that their father is missing. Both begin the investigation and start questioning everyone before finding out



their Mama is involved in their father's kidnapping. They get furious and try to come up with a plan to save their father.

However, when Mama gets to know the girls have an idea about his mission, he plans a brutal attack on them.

Will Garima and Susheela find their father and how will they get out of this troubled situation?

Jiya Shankar who essays the role of Susheela said: "The upcoming track would be very interesting for the viewers to watch how Garima and I leave no stone unturned to find our father. We might fight with our parents, but we put our entire energy to get them out of those situations whenever they are in difficult situations, and that's what makes a father and a daughter relationship so special."

Megha Chakraborty who essays the role of Garima said: "The upcoming track has all the right ingredients to make you excited as well as anxious. Susheela and I do everything possible to find our kidnapped father in a terrific sequence of events that promise to be full of excitement."

### TWENTY YEARS OF GADAR AND LAGAAN



20 years ago, two truly path-breaking films of Indian Cinema, *Lagaan* and *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*, released at the box office on the same day. 20 years later, the viewers will witness that historic moment again as Zee Bollywood celebrates the glorious two decades of Ashutosh Gowariker's spirited *Lagaan* and Anil Sharma's fearless *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha*, films that created a legacy with their record-breaking footfalls. *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* was the first movie produced by Zee Studios. These movies shaped the face of Indian cinema with their unabashed stories, iconic characters, remarkable music and unmatched dialogues. These movies have been proudly passed down generations as two of the most exceptional entertainers of all times. Along with Zee Bollywood, Zee Hindi movie cluster has come together to relive the nostalgia of these two epic movies. On June 15, *Gadar: Ek Prem Katha* will simulcast on

Zee Bollywood and Zee Cinema HD at 7:30 pm. On the same day, *Lagaan* will simulcast on Zee Bollywood & Pictures HD at 11 am. Additionally, the documentary *Chale Chalo* (Making of *Lagaan*) will be showcased on &explor HD and Zee Classic, June 15 at 2 pm and 5 pm respectively.

*Lagaan* was a movie that made its mark in not just Hindi Cinema, but World Cinema too. The National Award-winning documentary *Chale Chalo* highlights the making of this masterpiece, showing us the struggle and belief that went behind Ashutosh Gowariker's dream project. The Oscar-nominated, *Lagaan*, is an imposing success story laced with the director's unwavering vision and Aamir Khan's faith. Made on a then-unprecedented budget of approximately 25 crores, *Lagaan* is a story of perseverance and inspiration which also reflects through its team's conviction. The movie production went through multiple challenges like gathering a crowd of 10 thousand local people for the cricket match sequence, shooting under severe weather conditions, limited supply of water-electricity, transforming a building into a hotel in a small village in Gujarat for accommodation of the cast, A.K. Hangal braving his injury to finish shooting his part, and even Ashutosh Gowariker directing from a cot after suffering a slipped disc. All this brought out the warriors in each one who were part of the movie and pushed them forward with clear focus. A lot of such interesting tables will be unravelled in the documentary.

### RUN POOJA RUN



Zee TV's popular fiction show, *Kunkum Bhagya* has been an audience favourite courtesy its intriguing plot and the authentic portrayal of relatable characters like Abhi (Shabbir Ahluwalia), Pragya (Sriti Jha), Rhea (Pooja Banerjee), Ranbir (Krishna Kaul) and Prachi (Mugdha Chapekar). While the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown 2.0 continues, the whole wedding drama between Abhi and Tanu has kept the viewers at the edge of their seats. However, it looks like there are more interesting twists coming up with Ranbir and Prachi's wedding being finalised.

During the upcoming episodes, you will see Rhea dressing up as a bride for her wedding with Ranbir. Like every bride, she will dress up elegantly in a beautiful red *lehenga*. While

dressing up wasn't hard, Pooja found it difficult to run in a 25 kg *lehenga*. For a sequence, the actress had to run in her wedding outfit and seems like she was exhausted after the whole day of shoot. While, the team could have opted for cheat shots, Pooja wanted the sequence to look genuine and shot for it with full vigour and excitement.

Talking about the difficulties she faced, Pooja Banerjee who plays the role of Rhea in *Kunkum Bhagya* revealed: "For the wedding sequence, I had to dress up as a bride. While I was excited about wearing the designer red *lehenga*, getting into the dress and running in it was tough. To be honest, the outfit was very heavy, it was almost 25 kgs. On top of it, there was the wedding jewellery. In fact, it also took me nearly two to three hours every day to get in and out of the look. To climb up and down the stairs to go to the *Kunkum Bhagya* set and then having to run for several sequences was a task, but I wanted it to look real and hence, I gave my best. I feel all my hardwork was worth it and I have to say, I felt wonderful and pretty in the bridal outfit. The whole wedding sequence was fantastic to shoot, and I can't wait for our fans to see the twists and turns that will take place."

While Pooja seems very excited for the wedding sequence of her on screen character Rhea, will it be a happily ever after for Ranbir and Rhea? Or is there a new twist in the tale?

## WATCH OUT FOR

IMDb (www.imdb.com), the world's most popular and authoritative source for movie, TV and celebrity content, today unveiled the most popular Indian films and web series of the year so far. Rather than base its rankings on box office, small statistical samplings or reviews from professional critics, IMDb determines its list based on IMDbPro data on the page views of IMDb users in India.

IMDb Most Popular Indian Movies and Shows of 2021, so far\*

**Master (streaming on Prime Video):** An alcoholic professor is sent to a juvenile school, where he clashes with a gangster who uses the school children for criminal activities.



**Aspirants (streaming on TVF):** It is the story of the journey of three UPSC (public service competitive exams in India) aspirants and their friendship against all odds.

**The White Tiger (streaming on Netflix):** An ambitious Indian driver uses his wit and cunning to escape from poverty and rise to the top. An epic journey based on the New York Times bestseller.



**Drishyam 2 (streaming on Prime Video):** A gripping tale of an investigation and a family which is threatened by it. Will Georgekutty be able to protect his family this time?



**November Story (streaming on Disney Plus Hotstar):** A celebrated crime novelist suffering from Alzheimer's is found at a murder scene with no memory of what happened. Now, it is up to his daughter to save him.



**Karnan (streaming on Prime Video):** Karnan, a fearless village youth, must fight for the rights of the conservative people of his village, due to the torture given by a police officer.

**Vakeel Saab (streaming on Prime Video):** Three girls find themselves accused of attempt to murder after escaping molestation. Their only hope is an alcoholic lawyer who agrees to take up the case.



**Maharani (streaming on Sony Liv):** A political drama set in Bihar of 1990's.

**Krack (streaming on Aha):** Krack is an action film which follows Veera Shankar, a hot headed police sergeant, who forms a vicious rivalry with notorious crime figure, Katari Krishna.

**The Great Indian Kitchen (streaming on Prime Video):** After marriage, a woman struggles to be the submissive wife that her husband and his family expect her to be. The story follows her journey, as she changes herself and, even more so, changes the household.



\*These 10 movies and web series released theatrically and/or online in India between January 1 and June 3, 2021 generated the most IMDb page views in India within a four-week post release window, based on IMDbPro data. All of the titles have an IMDb user rating of 7 or higher and are available to stream online, based on data from June 7, 2021. IMDb users can add these and other titles to their IMDb Watchlist at <https://www.imdb.com/watchlist>.

# 300-bed Covid Care Centre inaugurated at Budhni

CM says corona under control in State, urges people to remain cautious

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated 300-bedded temporary Covid Centre at Budhni in Sehore district. Chouhan said that we only pray that no one may need to come to this hospital and the third wave of corona does not come.

to take all precautions to prevent a possible third wave of corona. For this, everyone will have to wear a mask, follow a distance of two yards and it is necessary to get the vaccine of Covid. Nevertheless, if there is a crisis, we have to prepare for it, only for this the hospital has been built.

Chouhan said that we are conducting about 80 thousand tests daily, out of which more than 1500 tests are being done daily in Sehore. Corona is under control but don't be careless. Due to negligence, the second wave of Corona hit and there will be serious consequences if we do not learn even now. He said that the government entrusted the responsibility to the Management



Crisis Group and the public, as a result of that we could control Corona.

The Chief Minister said that the system of Crisis Management Groups in Madhya Pradesh from district to village and ward level is being seen as a model to fight against corona in the country. The government will continuously do more and more tests, treatment will be provided immediately after the identifica-

tion of the patient. With this we will be able to eliminate Corona soon. Chouhan said that the Kill Corona campaign will continue. The Crisis Management Group will make the public aware about the prevention from Corona. Do not crowd, get vaccinated, apply mask, keep distance, people have to follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

Chouhan said that people should show restraint and patience. If the third wave is to be stopped, then the public will have to cooperate. We can stop this only with everyone's cooperation. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that vaccination must be done. The vaccine itself gives protection against this epidemic. Chouhan

thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his heart for the decision to conduct the vaccination at the national level. He said that at the time of need of oxygen, the central government airlifted and sent oxygen to the state. Chouhan said that under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have been able to stop the second wave of corona virus.

Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that Madhya Pradesh has succeeded in controlling corona under the able leadership of Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The model of Crisis Management Group of Madhya Pradesh is exemplary. Cooperation Minister Arvind Bhadauria also addressed.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan along with Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan after inaugurating 200 bed Covid hospital at Agasod, Bina Refinery at Bina, Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

# Bhopal Crime Branch arrests 3 drug peddlers, seizes cannabis worth ₹12L

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal crime branch seized a pick up van and arrested three drug peddlers involved in illegal drug trafficking, over 1 quintal of Cannabis worth Rs 12 lakh was recovered from the accused. Acting on a tip off three accused were arrested who were carrying drugs which were worth Rs 12 lakh while pick van worth Rs 20 lakh was seized.



with mango in the vehicle and it was kept hidden by the accused under the culvert in the field near the village of Inamuddin. The three accused had come to sell drugs at new bypass road village Dobra village to sell at high prices.

Carrying in two sacks in a bolero pickup vehicle accused were moving from new bypass via Sehore Doraha road towards village Dobra.

After the information was received a special team of

police station crime branch was formed. To confirm the information, after reaching the village Dobra near the new culvert, a pick-up bolero van bearing registration number MP04-GB-5408 was tracked.

Inamuddin is resident of Dohara, Nisaruddin is a resident of Aishbagh and have been booked for several major offences by different police stations of the state capital.

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Illicit relationship was the reason behind murder of Ratlam district president of Bahujan Samaj Party two days ago at Bagedi river on Malodha Road in Bhatpachalana, said Superintendent of Police Satyendra Kumar Shukla while addressing media persons.

On Thursday, Samarth Chauhan, the district president of Bahujan Samaj Party Ratlam, was found brutally murdered near the Bagedi river on

# On Thursday, Samarth Chauhan was found brutally murdered near the Bagedi river on Malodha Road in Bhatpachalana

Malodha Road in Bhatpachalana.

The police had recovered the body lying in pool of blood of BSP leader Samarth Chauhan after the family members filed a missing report on the information.

During the investigation, when the police checked the call details of the deceased Samarth Chauhan, it was found that he had been messaged on WhatsApp from the number of a woman and was called to meet him on the banks of the Bagedi river at 11.30 in the night.

On this, when the police investigated the woman, it was found that Samarth Chauhan had an illicit relationship with the woman, to which the former lover of the woman had objections.

He had also stopped the deceased Samarth Chauhan for this and instructed him to stay away from the woman but Samarth did not agree.

The accused, the former lover of the woman, planned to kill Samarth and installed the woman's WhatsApp on his mobile and started messaging the deceased and called him to meet at night on the banks of the river Bagedi and killed Samarth Chauhan and dumped his body in the river.

# Punjabi Sahitya Akademi pays tribute to Guru Arjun Dev on his martyrdom day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the Gamak series Punjabi Sahitya Akademi remembered and paid tribute to the fifth Guru of Sikh Panth Arjun Dev on the eve of his martyrdom day.

Before the presentation, the director of the Academy, Neeru Singh Giani, presented the introduction of the speakers and singers. Honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Spirituality Department, Usha Thakur, while paying tribute to Guru Arjun Dev, everyone remembered the virtue of Guru Dev.

and principles to Guru Dev and asked him to receive the blessings of life philosophy. In the form of lectures, the first of the speakers, Shri Ratanjit Singh Sherry, Indore, kept the aspects of the personality of Guru Arjun Dev in his language, while the second speaker Shri Gurvinder Singh Gill, in his speech, revealed the messages of humanity in the speech of Guru Dev.

In the form of presentation of Gurmat Sangeet, special sabads of Gurbani dedicated to Guru Arjun Dev were sung in classical and traditional style by Hazuri Ragi Bhai Gurudev Singh Virka of Amritsar in the form of Kirtan.



Rescue operation in progress after a huge tree fell down after strong winds followed by rain in Bhopal on Saturday. More than six persons were reportedly buried under the tree. Pioneer photo

# Heavy rainfall in 24 hrs in parts of State, warning given

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The spell of heavy rainfall in the evening continued to be witnessed in the State capital while heavy rainfall was witnessed at several places in the state in the past 24 hours.

The Met department issued warning of Very heavy rainfall would be witnessed in Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Chhindwara, Seoni, Mandla, Balaghat districts while warning of heavy rainfall and thundery activities would be witnessed in Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Hoshangabad, Betul, Sagar, Rewa and Satna districts.

Warning of thundery activities and lightning has been issued for Shahdol, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior and Chambal divisions and Singrauli, Sidhi, Katni, Panna, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Bhopal, Rajgarh and Harda districts.

Devi and Nasrullahganj recorded 11 cm of rainfall, Rehli and Rehti recorded 8 cm of rainfall, Raisen recorded 6 cm of rainfall, Timarni, Budni, Itarsi, Bhopal, Niwadi recorded 5 cm of rainfall in the past 24 hours.

Sheopur was the hottest place at 42.6 degree Celsius on Saturday. Guna recorded day temperature 41.6 degree Celsius.

Bhopal recorded day temperature at 36.9 degree Celsius. Weather conditions remained cloudy on Saturday and heavy downpour was witnessed in the evening.

During the day hot and humid weather conditions prevailed. The cloudy conditions would be witnessed on Sunday.

Bhopal and Hoshangabad divisions recorded significant dip in the temperatures.

Most of the places in Sagar, Bhopal and Hoshangabad divisions recorded rainfall.

# IN BRIEF

## CM MOURNS DEATH OF KUTTY MENON

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has condoled the death of Kutty Menon. Chief Minister Chouhan has said that today we all have lost a true protector of nature in the form of Padma Gandhian, environmentalist Kutty Menon. Menon was engaged in the campaign to serve the environment and save the greenery of the earth for life. He will always be in our hearts through his virtuous deeds. Kutty Menon gave a new direction to advanced farming, horticulture and animal husbandry with his hard work and dedication at Kasturba Trust Indore. He became the model of organic farming in the state. Kutty was also honored with the Jannalal Bajaj Samman. Chief Minister Chouhan has paid humble tributes on his demise.

## CHOUHAN WELCOMES UNION PETROLEUM MIN

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan welcomed Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the State Hangar. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan reached Bhopal by plane to go to Bina. Chief Minister Chouhan and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan left for the inauguration of Covid Hospital at Bina in Sagar district.

## CM PLANTS SAPTAPARNI ON RESIDENCE PREMISES

Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan planted Saptaparni sapling in Smart Park. Chief Minister Chouhan plants a sapling every day in fulfillment of his resolve. Saptaparni is an evergreen medicinal tree, which has great importance in Ayurveda. It is useful in healing wounds, jaundice, malaria and curing debility.

# Father held for raping daughter for 9 years

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chhola Mandir police have grabbed a 36-year-old father for sexually assaulting his 17-year-old daughter for past nine years; case was registered on Friday after victim and her mother lodged complaint.

Police said that the accused was caught after complaint was lodged by the victim and her mother on Friday after accused father had gone for work.

Shocking mother was aware of the atrocity with victim but was threatened by accused of life. In the night on June 10 accused sexually assaulted her and when victim's mother opposed he assaulted her and thrashed her. On Friday afternoon after

accused left for work victim along with mother approached police and lodged complaint. In the complaint victim stated that she was sexually assaulted by her father for the past nine years and when she was reported atrocity to her mother she opposed but was beaten brutally and continued his atrocity.

The accused works as a cook with a hotel and escaped from the spot after complaint was lodged.

After the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case of sexual assault and sections of the POCSO Act and have started further investigation. The victim left studies and used to live at home during which she was targeted by her father.



Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Girish Gautam on Saturday visited houses of those employees of Vidhan Sabha, who lost their lives recently and handed over letters of appointment on compassionate grounds to their family members. Pioneer photo

# Indore DC reviews Covid preparations at Alirajpur

Inquires from villagers about their measures against Covid

PNS ■ INDORE

Indore divisional commissioner Pavan Sharma on Friday visited Alirajpur district and attended the meeting held at collector office, Alirajpur.

He reviewed the medical facilities available there to fight corona including isolation

wards, covid care center, availability of beds and oxygen, and installation of CT scan machine in district hospital.

Later the commissioner interacted with people of different villages, and visited village Kanwada and Umri in Jobat Janpad area.

Commissioner inquired from villagers what measures they are taking to save themselves from corona and also explained to them the importance of masks, social distancing, hand wash and hand sanitizing, and encouraged the villagers above 18 years to get vaccinated.

Commissioner Pavan Sharma also reviewed the status of Ayushman Bharat scheme cards which are being distributed to villagers.

Alirajpur collector Surbhi Gupta, CEO, Alirajpur Jila panchayat Sanskriti Jain, SDM Jobat Shyamveer Singh, SDM, Alirajpur Lakshmi Gamad, SDM Sondwa Devkinandan Singh, SDM Chandra Sekhar Azad Nagar Kiran Anjana, CMHO Dr Prakash Dhoke and civil surgeon Dr K C Gupta were present during the inspection of commissioner.



A road filled with silt at a market after rain at Lalita Nagar, Kolar locality in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**P.W.D. (Maintenance) Division No. 2 Bhopal**  
**Short Tender Notice**

NIT 03 of 2021-22 Bhopal, Date 08/06/2021

Online Tender for mentioned below are being invited. The Tender have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal [www.mptenders.gov.in](http://www.mptenders.gov.in) Tender details are as below:-

S. No	Tender No.	District	Nature of work	Name of work	Call No.	Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2021_PWD/RB-145965_1	Bhopal	Civil Work & Electric Work	Proposed ICU/HDU and oxygen bed work at district hospital Bhopal	First	88.10

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for Purchase and Submission of document on line is 18/06/2021 up to 17:30 PM. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in news paper.

Executive Engineer  
P.W.D. (Maint.) Division  
No. 2 Bhopal

G-13256/21 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

**कार्यालय क्षेत्र संचालक, पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी ( म.प्र. )**  
टेंडर क्रमांक/स्टोर/2020-21/2754 सिवनी/दिनांक 04.06.2021

**संक्षिप्त निविदा विज्ञापन**

सर्व साधारण को सूचना प्रकाशित है कि, पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी ( म.प्र. ) में निम्नलिखित सामग्री क्रय हेतु निविदा सोलरबैट लिफ्टफे में दिनांक प्रथम चरण 15.06.2021, द्वितीय चरण 17.06.2021, तृतीय चरण 21.06.2021 को दिन के 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है तथा निविदा उसी दिन सायं, 4.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदाकारों/व्यक्तियों के समक्ष खोली जायेगी, एवं किसी भी चरण में न्यूनतम 03 निविदा प्राप्त हो जाने पर आगामी चरण की निविदाएं स्वयंभू निरस्त जावेगी। सामग्री का विवरण निम्नानुसार है -

क्र.	सामग्री का नाम एवं विवरण	अनुमानित मात्रा
01	<b>ई गस्ती वेब समाधान ( संच )</b> ई गस्ती वेब समाधान (प्लेटफॉर्म) के लिए विशेष विवरण (Specification) जो विवरण उपकरण (Reporting Tool) कार्य करें भूमिका आधारित वाहन सूची प्रबंधन प्रणाली संभित वाहन और वाहन चालक गाइडों की सूची वाहनों के मार्ग को ट्रैक करें और तेज गति असामान्य स्टॉप और विचलन को रिपोर्ट करें। ओटीपी एक्सेस के साथ प्रमाणिकरण और प्राधिकरण (Authentication and Authorization) प्रदान करें। वेब एप्लिकेशन में सफ़री मार्गों के लिए मार्गचित्र के एक के उपर रखा (Overlap) की सुविधा होनी चाहिए। <b>मोबाइल ऐप के लिये</b> वन अमल द्वारा क्षेत्रीय गतिविधियों को एंड्रॉइड आधारित मोबाइल ऐप के आधार पर ट्रैक करना। एंड्रॉइड ऐप में निम्नलिखित मुख्य विशेषताएं होनी चाहिए। 1. ऐप को पार्क अमल की आवश्यकता के अनुसार उपयोगकर्ता मैत्रीपूर्ण (User friendly) एवं वन अमल की आवश्यकता के आधार पर रचित (Design) होना चाहिए। 2. ऐप उपयोग से जी.पी.एस. के माध्यम से चले ना कि सेल टावर से। 3. किसी भी दुरुपयोग से बचने के लिए ऐप का फोल्ड पर एकर क्लिक एवं डेटा को कूट लेखन (Encrypt) करना चाहिए। 4. ऐप को इंटरनेट का उपयोग किये बिना वास्तविक समय अपडेट के लिए सर्वर के साथ संचालन करना चाहिए। 5. ऐप में ऑफलाइन कार्य करने की सुविधा होनी चाहिए जहाँ नेटवर्क की उपलब्धता ना हो। 6. ऐप द्वारा ई गस्त के अलावा अन्य सभी एप्लिकेशन को अक्षम (Disable) करना चाहिए। 7. ऐप द्वारा वाहन को तेज गति वाहन ठहराव स्थल (Stoppages) और विचलन (Deviation) पार्क की रूप फाइल/पर्यटक मार्गों के साथ वास्तविक समय में रिपोर्ट प्रदर्शित होना चाहिए।	01 Nos.

**नोट-** उपरोक्त दरों में सभी टैक्स परिवहन आदि शामिल होना चाहिए जो गंतव्य तक पूरा और आपूर्ति करते हैं।

उप संचालक  
पेंच टाइगर रिजर्व, सिवनी ( म.प्र. )

G-13229/21 **दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।**

# Migrant workers return as 2nd wave subsides

IAN S ■ PATNA

As the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic subsides, migrant workers across different States have started returning to work leaving their native villages. The Government has assured about providing employment to the workers who have returned to the cities for resuming employment.

After the onset of the second wave of coronavirus and the imposition of lockdown across the country, the migrant workers had returned to their native villages fearing a repeat of the chaos and apathy faced last year.

However, due to the gradual opening of businesses in big cities the migrant workers have again started coming back to the cities.

Train tickets are being sent by mill owners to several migrant workers living in Muzaffarpur and other districts of north Bihar. The workers living in Sakra block of Muzaffarpur district have left for Mumbai, Delhi and other places.

The migrant workers say that when they returned to the cities, they thought they would find some job but they are not getting the kind of jobs in which they are skilled. They say



that in some areas employment is being provided under the MNREGA scheme but it is not possible for all people to get work under it.

Niranjan Kumar of Charpokhari village in Bhojpur district says, "At present, farming and agriculture is almost at a standstill. Work is expected to be available only at the time of planting. However, so many people have returned from their native villages that there is no possibility of getting fair wages in agriculture. Money is available working outside their native villages."

In Gopalganj district, at present a large number of migrant workers are not returning to the cities but many who had returned were called by their owners. However, there are many workers across villages who fear a third wave of

the coronavirus. Such labourers say that they will venture outside but hearing about the danger of a third wave they will have to return again to their native villages.

They say that they are looking for work in their native villages but if they fail to get any work then they will have to move to cities to feed themselves. The migrant workers of Gopalganj, Bhojpur, Kaimur are moving towards Punjab for farming.

It is a relief that the situation is not as bad as last year. After the second wave of Covid-19, many migrant workers who returned to their native villages are still in search of work.

Last year, migrant workers were called back for work by sending interstate buses from many big cities.

# 2 cops, 2 civilians killed in Sopore terrorist attack

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Two policemen and an equal number of civilians were killed while three cops and another civilian received critical injuries in a daring strike by a group of three motorcycle borne terrorists in the Arampora area of Sopore town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday.

According to police, two local and one foreign terrorist belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist outfit were suspected to be behind the attack. The policemen were deployed in the area to strictly enforce Covid-19 protocol.

A massive manhunt to track down the footprints of local terrorists were launched soon after they ran away after hitting the target.

The terror strike took place at a time when peace talks centering around the Kashmir issue started gaining currency and the stakeholders were weighing their options on whether to grab the opportunity or not. Earlier, Rakesh Pandita a BJP councillor from Tral area of Pulwama was killed in cold blood on June 2.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range Vijay Kumar who reached the spot told reporters, "the terrorists targeted police naka set up in the Arampora area to strictly

enforce Covid-19 protocol". Kumar said, motorcycle borne terrorists targeted the policemen from behind leading to critical injuries. Policemen also retaliated against the fire. "Two policemen and two local civilians succumbed to their injuries in the Sopore hospital".

Among the injured cops, ASI Mukesh Kumar has been referred to a Srinagar hospital for specialized treatment. Another injured police man has been identified as SPO Danish. Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha and leaders of several other mainstream political parties condemned the terror attack on the police party.

According to a police spokesman, "at around 12.00 p.m. unidentified terrorists fired indiscriminately upon a police party which was performing Covid enforcement duties at main market Sopore". In this terror incident, "four policemen and four civilians received bullet injuries who were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Among the injured police personnel, Ct Showkat Ahmad & Ct Waseem Ahmad succumbed to their injuries and attained martyrdom. Two civilians identified as Manzoor Ahmad Shalla resident of Shalimar Colony Sopore and Bashir Ahmad resident of Mahrajpora Sopore also succumbed to their injuries".

# ₹40L relief to family of martyred BJP leader Rakesh

PNS ■ JAMMU

Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday sanctioned an ex gratia amount of ₹ 40 lakh to the family members of Rakesh Pandita killed by terrorists in Tral, Pulwama on June 2.

Conveying condolences to the family members of the deceased President of Municipal Committee Tral, the Lt Governor said that the whole administration stands with the family of late Rakesh Pandita in this hour of grief.

During his visit to their home in Jammu Lt Governor assured the bereaved family of stringent action against the perpetrators, and informed them that a high-level investigation has already been initiated. He added that the terrorists involved in this heinous act of violence will be brought to justice soon.

Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Jammu accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

# Kingpin of IL&FS held in Chennai, sent to judicial custody for 15 days

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI:

Ravi Parthasarathy (69), chairman of the high profile Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) was arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Tamil Nadu Police on Friday and a Chennai court remanded him to judicial custody for 15 days.

Ravi Parthasarathy, a close associate of former Finance Minister and Congress strongman P Chidambaram, and his company IL & FS have been slapped with crimes ranging from cheating to criminal breach of trust in the repayment of deposit amount of Rs 200 crore invested in debentures by the complainant company 63 Moons Technology Private Ltd. The company 63 Moons Technology Private Ltd is one of the many companies/individuals who were taken for a ride by the IL&FS and its directors by offering attractive interests on the investments made by the former in their Non Convertible Debentures of 1,000 and 2,000 having face value of Rs 10 lakh each. The 63 Moons Technology invested Rs 200 crore in the NCDs when the IL&FS directors showed them highly inflated balance sheets as well as high ratings from reputed credit rating agencies.

In 2018, the IL&FS and its Mumbai based subsidiary IL&FS Transportation Network India Ltd defaulted on the payment of interest on debentures, the aggrieved company filed cases against the former. Investigation by Enforcement Directorate and Serious Fraud Investigation Office brought to light the role of key management personnel in mismanaging the lending business.

The Economic Offences Wing of Tamil Nadu Police had arrested Ramchand Karunakaran and Hari Sankaran in connection with the case. There are 21 accused in the case including Ravi Parthasarathy.

Parthasarathy had approached the Madras High Court seeking anticipatory bail and this put brakes on the efforts of Chennai Police to bring him to book. The EOW officials said that the IL&FS group which consists of more than 350 companies was used as a vehicle to perpetuate fraud. The EOW further stated that the aggrieved depositors and investors of IL&FS and ITNL can come forward with their claims.

The IL&FS was launched with fanfare as a road construction finance company and grew to boast 347 subsidiaries and had amassed debt pile of Rs 91,000 crore by the time the crisis broke out.

# K'taka police arrests 38 illegal immigrants from Sri Lanka

IAN S ■ MANGALURU

In a major crackdown on human trafficking, the city crime branch police have arrested 38 Sri Lankans who had migrated illegally to India.

The arrests were made on Friday, following raids on several locations in Mangaluru and its surrounding localities.

According to Mangaluru police commissioner N. Shashi Kumar, the illegal immigrants had allegedly been promised jobs in Canada, before being trafficked to India. After shipping them from Sri Lanka to Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu on March 17, the traffickers had shifted the immigrants to Karnataka, to evade heightened scrutiny during the Tamil Nadu assembly polls.

In Mangaluru, the illegal immigrants had been claiming to be daily wage workers and fishermen from Tamil Nadu. The police commissioner said that a tip off from Tamil Nadu police, had led to the raids.

Six local persons have also been arrested on charges of sheltering the illegal immigrants.

# 'Move to build resorts in Lakshadweep ill-conceived'

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

The controversy over the proposals by Praful Patel, the administrator of the Lakshadweep Islands is much ado about nothing and it is likely to blow over in a few weeks' time, according to experts keeping a close watch over the developments in the archipelago.

"The administrator and officials in charge did not apply their minds properly when they drafted the reforms meant to develop the islands," N Sathyamurthy, security expert based in Chennai who focuses on the developments in Sri Lanka, Lakshadweep and Maldives told The Pioneer.

Sathyamurthy pointed out that the move to build resorts in Lakshadweep with the intention of making the archipelago similar to that of Maldives was an ill-conceived proposal. "Maldives islands function based on Sharia Law. The five star resorts in the atolls do not serve liquor. It is a crime to carry liquor to Maldives and there is every chance of you getting prosecuted if caught with liquor," said a frequent traveller to the islands on condition of anonymity.

He said there are Star grades hotels and resorts that offer liquor. "But they are all



uninhabited islands. During the months of Ramazan, the visitors are advised to stay indoors and no food will be served in the eateries," he added.

According to Sathyamurthy, it is another thing that resorts are built in the uninhabited areas. "The mission to launch resorts in islands inhabited by the local population does not augur well," he said.

Businessmen in Kochi and Kozhikode said that the move by the Island administration to make use of Mangalore Port for trading activities to the islands instead of Bepore was long overdue. "The trade unions controlling the workers of Bepore Port are to be blamed for the move. Kerala workers are militant and strike work at the drop of a hat. The islanders

are at the mercy of the Port workers in Bepore," said a trader in Kozhikode who has business dealings with the islands.

Meanwhile the agitators themselves are making faux pas while issuing statements against the administration. A struggling movie artist in a bid to catch public attention alleged during a channel discussion that the administrator was using bio weapon to kill the islanders. A group of criminal petitions have been filed against the artist in various courts of the State and this forced her to make a volte-face. The wannabe star tendered a public apology and blamed the media for distorting her comments. But the allegation made by her has gone viral and chances are that the issue may snowball into another controversy.

# Tamil Nadu logs 15, 108 new cases of Covid-19

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI/KOCHI:

Tamil Nadu logged 15, 108 new cases of Covid-19 on Saturday as the Directorate of Health and Preventive Medicine tested 1.82 lakh persons across the State. The pandemic claimed 374 lives taking the death toll in the State to 29,280 till date.

The total lockdown in the State has started yielding results as the number of new cases registered every day show a decrease. Chennai, which used to be a hotspot, recorded 989 new cases on Saturday while the industrial hub of Coimbatore tested 1982 new cases making the district top the table. Its neighbors Erode (1353) and Tirupur (844) continued to be areas of concern for the administration as these three districts constitute the main industrial and business hub of Tamil Nadu.

Test Positivity Rate in the State too has shown a remarkable climb down from 13 per cent to 9 per cent in the week that ended Friday.

Situation in neighboring Kerala remained critical despite the fall in the number of new cases diagnosed with the pandemic. While 13,832 persons tested positive on Saturday across the State, 171 succumbed to the pandemic. Though the average TPR across the State showed 12.72 per cent, the powers that be were reluctant to describe the situation as normal. Kerala's test to isolate the COVID affected remained low as on Friday the State had tested 1.08 lakh samples.

# Aligarh 1st district to win lease deed in Centre's Defence Corridor project

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Aligarh has won the progress of UP Defence Industrial Corridor by being the first district in the map of India to get its first lease deed done in the most awaited project of the Central Governments. UPEIDA got the first lease deed done in Aligarh in the Defence Corridor that is being developed in five districts of UP. The first lease deed was done with Aligarh's Allen & Elvon Private Limited (drone maker). In Khair tehsil, the officers of UPEIDA gave the certificate of land on lease for 30 years. More investors will have lease deeds done in the next week. Aligarh had taken a steady lead in the Defence Corridor project.

The UP Defence Industrial Corridor projects were announced in Aligarh in August 2018. In this, including the Defence Minister, the Chief Minister, the Minister of State for Defence and ambassadors from abroad had come. The administration had seen land for this in Khair's Andla. The construction agency of the Defence Corridor, UPEIDA, had put the final seal on the land. The CEO of UPEIDA also visited Andla once. Defence corridors are being developed in Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Chitrakoot in UP.

Apart from UP, the central government had announced the second defence corridor in Tamil Nadu. So far in Tamil Nadu and UP, the first lease deed has been done in Aligarh. In Tamil Nadu also, no investor's lease deed has been done yet.

MP Satish Gautam, DM Chandrabhushan Singh and FIM played an important role in advancing the Defence Corridor in Aligarh. It is a matter of pride for Aligarh that the first lease deed of Defence Corridor in India was done here and the records were handed over. On this occasion, UPEIDA's ACEO Shrichandra Verma, OP Pathak, Sanjay Singh, Sanjay Chawla, Dhandev Vadra, Dhan Jeet Vadra, Mukesh Jain were present.

UPEIDA's ACEO Shrichandra Verma, Chief Engineer Sanjay Singh, Land teaching officer Omprakash Pathak, Sanjay Chawla came to get the first lease deed done in the Defence Corridor. Handed over a 30-year lease of land in Khair tehsil to Dhanjeet Vadra, MD of Aligarh-based company Allen & Elvon Private Limited, which makes drones for the army. UPEIDA is currently doing lease deed for 30 years, but it will be renewed twice with a total tenure of 90 years. UPEIDA has allotted 8 hectares of land to Allen & Elvon. Next week some more investors will have lease deed and possession will be given to the investors. The investor had to deposit the registration fee and 20 percent of the land.

In Andla, Khair, 14 companies have invested more than Rs 1400 crore with UPEIDA to make defence equipment. In this, land has been allotted to 14 companies. Anchor Research Lab and Allen & Elvon have been allotted maximum 8 hectares of land. Land ranging from 0.2 hectare to 5 hectare has been given to the investors.

# World day against Child Labour: No hope for Aligarh kids

PNS ■ ALIGARH

The observance of June 12 as child labour elimination day brings no hope for betterment to about 22,000 child laborers employed in Aligarh's lock and hardware units and hotels and dhabas.

Notwithstanding the Supreme Court's order forbidding the employing a children as labours, the District administration and the labour department of Aligarh have failed to take effective steps to impose a ban on child labour in various lock and hardware units in Aligarh.

About 5000 lock and hardware units are functioning as semi-organized and tiny groups in industrial estate and in the city especially in Muslim populated areas here.

According to study of Sociology Department of Aligarh Muslim University, commissioned by Geneva based institute of child labour found that child labour was rampant in six of 16 processes, said Dr. Noor Mohammad, a prominent Sociologist and ex Chairman of Sociology Department of Aligarh Muslim University.

According to Nagar Nigam Survey, of one lakh workers are



employed in Lock and Hardware units in Aligarh, of whom nearly 22,000 are children. These most of the children are Muslims. According to a detailed survey study. It was found that the children had been doing all sort of work in these units about 2,300 children were employed in plate cutting, 2500 in body drilling, 2170 in the manufacturing of lock machines, 2700 in casting, 2500 in the lock fitting process, 1500 in the washing of locks, 2200 in key manufacturing, 1100 in the designing of locks, 5670 in electroplating polish, 1900 in packing and 7000 in other related processes.

18 years old Mujeeb is doing work in one electroplating

plant in Bhujpura area lost childhood in hazardous fume of chemicals, even this day, getting education is a mirage, for earning little sums, they pay a heavy price in terms of their health by working in closed room under unhygienic conditions.

12 year old Rafique of Shahjamaal, suffers from frequent breathlessness after inhaling dust generated from electroplating polishing machine.

13 year old Ramesh of Surendra Nagar succumbed to nickel ailments of lungs when he was working at cutting machine now he is under treatment in TB Chest Department of J.N. Medical College.

# 5 children drown to death in Saharsa

IAN S ■ SAHARSA (BIHAR)

A pall of gloom descended on Bihar's Saharsa district on Saturday morning after five children died due to drowning in the Basti area of the district.

The children had gone to take bath in a pond when they slipped into deep water and drowned. All the children were aged between 8 and 14 years.

A police officer said that five children had gone to a nearby pond to take bath. While taking bath, one of them slipped into deep water and started drowning. The others too went into deep water in order to save him, but unfortunately all of them drowned.

Sadar police station in-charge Sanjeev Kumar told IANS that the deceased have been identified as Golu, Arif, Israfil, Mohammad Gulab and Abu Bakr.

He said the police reached the spot after getting information about the incident. With the help of local people, all the bodies have been fished out of the pond and sent for post-mortem.

# 80% in Patna unaware of clean air action plan: Survey

IAN S ■ PATNA

Majority of the people in Patna are not aware of air pollution, according to a survey conducted by the Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) the report of which was released on Saturday.

The report said that 80 per cent of the people are not aware of Patna's Clean Air Action Plan, an initiative launched by the Bihar government in 2019.

Nearly 55 per cent are not satisfied with the steps taken by the respective departments and enforcement agencies to control air pollution in the city, it said.

The report indicated that 88 per cent of the people do not have an idea where to go and lodge any complaint on polluting sources or subsequent violations.

"The main objective of this public survey was to gauge the mood and perception of the people on air pollution and its impact on public health. This study also presents the overall awareness of the people on various initiatives taken by the state government to contain air



pollution," said Ankita Jyoti, Senior Programme Officer at CEED.

The survey was conducted in March and April this year in the Patna urban agglomeration area covering suburban and central regions with directly interviewing cross-section of people to get a representative view of the city.

The major findings clearly state that 96 per cent of the people do see air pollution as a major factor impacting their health, especially risks like asthma, respiratory diseases and breathing-related disorders.

The survey also pointed out that 80 per cent of the people are completely unaware

about the government initiatives to contain the rising air pollution in the city.

Nearly 65 per cent of the people indicated that there must be a better and regular communication strategy on air quality-related information.

The results of the survey strongly favour the significant role of issuing health advisories because scientific evidences also suggest that air pollution is strongly linked to health risk.

Nearly 90 per cent of the respondents are of the view that regular health advisory is critical to reduce the exposure level especially during high pollution days.

# Telangana CM's surprise visits to review village, town progress

IAN S ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu will personally make surprise visits from next week to check the progress of Palle and Pattana Pragathi programmes (village and town progress), including the functioning of Panchayati Raj and municipal officers all over the State.

Rao will also hold a review meeting with additional collectors and district panchayat raj officers (DPOs) on Sunday at pragathi bhavan on various programmes being implemented in the State.

"There is a decrease in coronavirus cases in the State and the positivity rate has fallen to 4.7 per cent; another round of Palle and Pattana Pragathi programmes would be launched in the state," he said in a high level review meeting of these programmes on Friday.

According to the CM, Telangana brought in new Panchayat Raj and Municipality Acts to support rural and urban areas in a big way.

# Diggy's clubhouse remarks on Art 370 draw BJP's ire

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not new to controversies, senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh on Saturday triggered yet another one with his comments in a clubhouse conversation that the revocation of Article 370 and stripping Jammu and Kashmir of statehood was an "extremely sad" decision and his party will have a "relook" at the issue.

The BJP came out hard, saying the Congress' first love is Pakistan and "both share same views on Kashmir." The BJP also demanded answers from Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on the comment of Singh, considered close to the Congress first family.

Replying to a query from a Pakistani journalist, Singh said: "Democracy was not there in Kashmir when they revoked article 370. Then 'insaniyat' was not there because they had put everyone behind bars. And Kashmiriyat is something, which is basically the fundamental of secularism. Because in a Muslim majority state, there was a Hindu king, and both worked together. In fact, reservation in government services was given to Kashmiri Pandits." The conversation leaked leading to a full blown attack by the BJP.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh tweeted saying: "Congress' first love is Pakistan. Digvijaya Singh conveyed



Rahul Gandhi's message to Pakistan. Congress will help Pakistan in grabbing Kashmir."

The BJP conducted a presser and its spokesperson Sambit Patra said the Congress should change its name from Indian National Congress to Anti-national Congress which, he alleged, is "not only siding with Pakistan but also with China to show India down."

"What do Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi think about Digvijaya's Clubhouse statement? Is this Congress' stand too? We demand Rahul Gandhi to hold a press conference and clarify," Patra said. He alleged the Congress and Pakistan are in the same page on the Kashmir issue and Article 370.

Patra referred to the past comments of Congress leaders Rahul, P Chidambaram, Shashi Tharoor and Hari Prasad to say that Congress was always backing Pakistan's stand and "in its hate for Modi, Congress has turned anti-national."

"Today an important topic going on in TV channels is 'Clubhouse'. We all have seen

through TV channels how the veteran leader of the clubhouse — Digvijaya Singh is spewing venom against India outside and how he is agreeing with Pakistan's demands. This is the same Digvijaya Singh, who had told the Pulwama attack just an accident, he had called the 26/11 attack a conspiracy of RSS and also tried to give clean chit to Pakistan at that time," said Patra.

"In the clubhouse, a Pakistani journalist asks this question that after the removal of Narendra Modi, what will be the Kashmir policy. Digvijaya ji thanks that journalist on such a question and says that if Modi ji is removed from power and Congress government comes then he will re-establish Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Patra claimed that Digvijaya Singh was a 'stage-manager' for the discussion, alleging that the Congress leader had himself asked the Pakistani journalist to ask such a question. "It's all part of that toolkit. I request the Congress party to change its name and change INC to ANC (Anti National Club House). People who hate Modi ji have also, in turn, started hating India," he said.

BJP IT Cell chief Amit Malviya shared a clip of the alleged clubhouse chat of the Congress, wherein Singh is purportedly hinting at a possible return of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, when his party returns to power.

# CBI, MEA launch legal battle against Choksi in Dominica High Court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have sought to implead in the habeas corpus petition filed by fugitive Mehul Choksi's lawyers by filing two affidavits in the Dominica High Court. Choksi is an accused in the multi-crore PNB Scam.

According to officials, the CBI will focus on establishing criminal culpability of Choksi, his fugitive status, the pending warrants, Interpol Red Notice and the charge sheets against him. The External Affairs Ministry will argue that Choksi continues to be an Indian citizen.

The affidavits, if admitted, will pave the way for noted lawyer Harish Salve to plead India's case in Dominica, they said.

The Dominica High Court has denied bail to fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi in the case of illegal entry into the island country after his mysterious disappearance from neighbouring Antigua and Barbuda where he is staying as a citizen since 2018, local Caribbean media reported.

The high court on Friday (local time) gave the ruling by



concluding that Choksi was a "flight risk", did not have any ties with Dominica and the court could not impose any conditions which will stop him from leaving the country, news outlet AntiguaNewsroom said. Choksi had approached the high court after the magistrate had rejected his bail petition.

Choksi's lawyers had filed a habeas corpus petition calling his arrest illegal and alleging that he was abducted, tortured and handed over to Dominica authority to deny him rights available to him in Antigua and Barbuda as a citizen. CBI and External Affairs Ministry is going to implead in this petition by claiming India's demands to hand over the fugitive.

The 62-year-old diamondaire, who has an Interpol Red Notice against him, had mysteriously gone missing on May 23 from Antigua and Barbuda where he has been staying since 2018 as a citizen after fleeing from India.

He was detained in the neighbouring island country of Dominica for illegal entry after a possible romantic escapade with his rumoured girlfriend.

# Covid Delta variant spreads fast in household setting: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Infectious Delta variant (B.1.617.2) first discovered in India and now making rounds across the countries, particularly the UK, spreads fast in a household setting, according to a study by Public Health England, a UK Government health organisation, thus decoding why several households have reported multiple cases of Covid-19 infection this time as compared to mostly single cases in families in the earlier wave.

The report noted that the Delta variant is fueling the Covid-19 second wave in many parts of India including south Indian states and spurt in cases in some countries like the UK. However, the report said that those vaccinated do not show severity of infections, thus calling for an increase in global vaccinations.

While other variants mostly infect one person in a household, the Delta infects more than one. This explains why several members in many families were down with Covid-19 this time. The Public Health England has compared the transmission rate of the Delta variant in a household setting with that of the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7), which is also a variant of concern. The Alpha variant was first discovered in the UK.

"Overall, we found increased household transmission of Covid-19 associated

with B.1.617.2 compared to B.1.1.7. These findings show households are important settings for rapid transmission of the lineage B.1.617.2. With household settings being an important factor in wider community spread, strategies to prevent transmission in these settings are vital to control the Covid-19 pandemic," the PHE study said.

It noted that there is a 64 percent increase in the odds of household transmission associated with infection with B.1.617.2 variant compared to B.1.1.7. "This study provides early real-world evidence of the effect B.1.617.2 variant on household transmission. The findings support existing evidence that B.1.617.2 has a substantially increased transmissibility advantage over the B.1.1.7 variant," the PHE researchers said.

This study also found evidence of increased household transmission among households with an index case of Asian ethnicity," the researchers added. They said households are high risk settings for transmission of Covid-19 and are an important factor in wider community spread. "By assessing the extent to which B.1.617.2 results in onward transmission to household members compared to B.1.1.7, we can assess the relative transmissibility of this variant, and provide information vital to the national and international pandemic response," they added.

# Amity varsity scientist gets DRDO award



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A senior scientist from Amity University has bagged the first prize in the Dare to Dream 2.0 innovation contest organized by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). Dr. Shivani Verma of Amity Institute of Space Science & Technology (AISST) submitted an innovative concept "AI Based detection of a person based on physiological parameters" based on identification of a person using physiological parameters with innovative way of data and information fusion. The concept was submitted under Life Science Technology Domain.

The DRDO launched a Dare to Dream 2.0 innovation contest under "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" in August 2020 where in participants were invited to submit innovative ideas on emerging technologies to promote the individuals and startups for innovation in defence and aerospace technologies.

Verma under the guidance of Dr M.S. Prasad, Director (AISST) has developed an intelligent inferring recognition system based on physiological parameters of a person with built-in high accuracy of recognition.

# Covid 3rd wave may not hit kids hard: Lancet



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There appears to be no substantial evidence to suggest that children will be more affected or have greater illness severity due to Covid-19 in the anticipated third wave, according to a new report prepared by the Lancet Covid-19 Commission India Task Force after convening an experts group comprising leading paediatricians to examine the issue of 'paediatric Covid-19' in India.

However, it cautioned, the health system needs to gear up for a paediatric case load with adequate infrastructure, earmarked facilities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care, oxygen availability, appropriate equipment, trained manpower, drugs and injectables among others, all of which are specific to children.

The report authors, which included three doctors from AIIMS, Delhi including Shefali Gulati, Sushil K Kabra and Rakesh Lodha said the infection's symptomatology in children in India appears to be globally comparable.

"Most children with Covid-19 are asymptomatic, and amongst those sympto-

# DCGI OK's trial of Colchicine on Covid patients

New Delhi: The Drugs Controller General of India has given green signal to the CSIR and Laxai Life Sciences Private Limited to conduct clinical trials of Colchicine on Covid-19 patients. Colchicine in combination with standard care is seen as an important therapeutic intervention for Covid infected patients with cardiac co-morbidities and also for reducing pro-inflammatory cytokines, leading to faster recovery. PNS

matic mild infections are predominant. Most children have fever with respiratory symptoms, and often present with gastrointestinal symptoms (such as diarrhoea, vomiting, pain in abdomen) and atypical manifestation compared to adults. The proportion of symptomatic children increases as age increases as does the severity in such age groups," the report stated.

In the absence of a national database on clinical pre-

# IMA to hold stir on June 18 over attacks on doctors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) will hold a protest on June 18 against assault on doctors, with the slogan 'Save the saviours'. This comes days after the apex medical body had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his personal intervention in ensuring 'optimum milieu' for medical professionals so that they can work without any fear.

Citing incidents of doctors and other healthcare professionals being assaulted by the family members and relatives of patients, the IMA, in a statement, asked all its state and local branches across the country to observe the protest by wearing black badges, masks, ribbons, shirts and running an awareness

campaign against violence targeting healthcare professionals. However, no hospital will be closed, it said. The IMA said press conferences will also be organised and they will also meet local NGOs and voluntary service leaders.

It termed "extremely disturbing" a series of violence against doctors in the last two weeks in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and other places. It demanded the implementation of central hospital and Health Care Professionals Protection Act with IPC and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), standardisation and augmentation of security in each hospital, and declaring hospitals as protected zones among others.

"Nine per cent of all hospitalised COVID-19 positive children presented with severe illness, under 10 years of age. The above observations were similar during the two surges of COVID-19 infections India has experienced," the Lancet document said.

On multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children, the report said, risk factors for this condition include obesity, asthma, compromised breathing, developmental disorders, cardiac disease, cancers or immunocompromised children as well as those who have undergone surgeries.

Ugrahan had sparked controversy last year by commemorating the International Human Rights Day on December 10 by holding up posters of detained activists such as Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Sudha Bhardwaj and Gautam Navlakha, among others.

Meanwhile, the screenshot shared by Manjul showed Twitter as saying: "In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that

# Twitter account of BKU Ekta Ugrahan 'restricted' on Sat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Twitter account of Punjab's biggest farmers union Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Ekta Ugrahan, protesting at Delhi's border, was restricted on Saturday. The US-based social media giant also sent notices to cartoonist Manjul, fact-checking website Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair and others to take down certain tweets.

Sources said the Ministry of Electronics and IT was not involved in sending these legal requests to Twitter. It wasn't clear which agencies have flagged these tweets by and for what violations.

Restricting the BKU Ekta Ugrahan handle, Twitter said "Caution: This account is temporarily restricted." "You're seeing this warning because there has been some unusual activity from this account," it said.

This may include seeking legal counsel and challenging the request in court, contacting relevant civil society organisations, voluntarily deleting the content (if applicable), or finding some other resolution," Twitter added.

Twitter has been facing heat for delay in complying with the IT rules that mandate large digital platforms to undertake greater due diligence.

# Yoga buffs to again celebrate int'l Yoga Day from confines of homes



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Like last year, this time too, Yoga and health enthusiasts across the world will be celebrating the International Yoga Day, the seventh in the series, on June 21, within the confines of their homes as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt normal life.

Various Ministries, organisations in the private and government sector and State Governments are holding events to mark the D-Day in a big way, with the Union Ayush Ministry

taking the lead by marking the beginning of a 10-episode series on various aspects of the protocol to be telecast on Doordarshan India from June 11 to June 21. The Ministry also announced launching of a mobile application, "Namaste Yoga", devoted to Yoga, at the curtain raiser event organised online on Friday here.

At the event, Union Ayush Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the series' central message will be "Be with Yoga, Be at Home", which is relevant in these times of health emergency while Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar talked in details about how yoga can become a way to a healthy and happy life.

The series is produced by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).

# Online crossword contest in Patna

PNS ■ PATNA

With cities across the country making a determined fight-back in the face of Covid-19 and the resulting lockdown, it is time to celebrate the indomitable human spirit. To mark a determined progress on the way to normalcy and pay tribute to the resilience of the human mind, an online crossword challenge is being organised on Sunday.

According to a Press statement by the organiser Extra-C, a civil society initiative based in Patna, there will be two categories in the contest - Student

Category and Open Category. A participant may play in only one of the two categories. The day coincides with its eighth anniversary and is named Extra-C Anniversary Crossword test (ExACT).

Chief Operating Officer of Extra-C, Amitabh Ranjan, informed that the challenge will be hosted for an hour on the website www.crypticsingh.com from 11 am on June 13. The Student Category will allow students from schools and institutes of higher education to enter the game while the Open Category with a higher level of difficulty will be open to seniors.

# Smriti urges citizens to report about child labour



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On World Day Against Child Labour, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Saturday appealed to every citizen to report instances of child labour on PENCIL portal or call on Childline 1098.

Reaffirming her commitment towards combatting child labour, Irani said it is with people's participation that it can be ensured that children get a childhood they deserve. "I appeal to every citizen to



"Every child has a right to education and a happy childhood. On World Day Against Child Labour, let us reaffirm our commitment towards combatting child labour. It is with people's participation that we can ensure our children get a childhood they deserve," Irani tweeted.

report instances of child labour on PENCIL Portal <http://pencil.gov.in> or call on Childline - 1098. Because... We owe it to our children - the future of our Nation," she said in another tweet. World Day Against Child Labour observed on June 12 every year aims to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour.

# North India to soon get relief from sizzling heat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Mumbai continues to be lashed with heavy to very heavy rains for the last four days, north India is expected to get relief from the scorching heat soon as the southwest monsoon is expected to cover it in the next two three days except south Rajasthan and Kutch region of Gujarat.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon will arrive in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi by June 14-15. The southwest monsoon has advanced into the northwest Bay of Bengal and some parts of Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Bihar on Saturday.

The IMD said that under the influence of east-west trough, heavy to very heavy

rainfall might occur over Odisha, Chhattisgarh, East Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, coastal and adjoining Ghats' districts of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka during the next 3-4 days. The weather department has also ruled out any heat wave conditions over the country during the next five days.

IMD senior scientist RK Jenamani said the southwest monsoon has already advanced into remaining parts of NW Bay of Bengal, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar and it will cover Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh by Sunday.

The IMD said that Mumbai has measured a total of 641.3mm rainfall so far, thereby surpassing its monthly normal of 493.1mm. Over



500mm of rain occurred over Mumbai in the last four days. Base station Santacruz recorded 107mm in the 24 hours. Mumbai completed a hat trick of century rainfall by registering three digits in the 24 hours rainfall

on 10th June (231mm), 11th June (107mm) and 12th June (107mm).

In Delhi, the expected arrival date of monsoon this time is around June 15 as per the IMD and it should cover the entire country in the next

two-three days except south Rajasthan and Kutch region of Gujarat. The normal onset date of monsoon in Delhi is June 27, however, this time it is likely to arrive about two weeks early due to a number of meteorological factors.

# UK-EU Brexit spat over N Ireland clouds G7 leaders summit

AP ■ FALMOUTH

Turbulence from the divorce between the UK and the European Union provided an unwanted distraction at the Group of Seven summit taking place in southwest England, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson saying on Saturday that post-Brexit agreements will fail if the EU continues to take a "theologically draconian" approach to the rules.

Johnson held meetings with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and the bloc's top officials on the sidelines of the summit he is hosting. Afterwards, the prime minister claimed the EU was not taking a "sensible or pragmatic" approach to post-Brexit arrangements, and he threatened to use an emergency clause to suspend agreed upon rules if the bloc did not compromise.

Britain and the EU are locked in an escalating diplomatic feud over Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK that borders the 27-nation bloc. The EU is angry over the British government's delay in implementing new checks on some goods coming into Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK, while Britain says the checks are imposing a big burden on businesses and destabilizing Northern Ireland's hard-won peace.

US President Joe Biden



Britain's PM Boris Johnson, right, greets German Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of a bilateral meeting during the G7 summit in Cornwall, England on Saturday. AP

has gotten drawn into the spat, raising concerns about the potential threat to Northern Ireland's peace accord.

The new arrangements, designed to keep an open border between Ireland and its northern neighbor, have angered Northern Ireland's British unionists, who say they weaken ties with the rest of the UK. Tensions over the new trade rules were a contributing factor to a week of street violence in April, largely in unionist areas of Northern Ireland, that saw youths pelt police with bricks, fireworks and firebombs.

European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen tweeted after meeting Johnson that Northern Ireland peace was "paramount," and the binding Brexit agreement protected it.

"We want the best possible

relations with the UK. Both sides must implement what we agreed on. There is complete EU unity on this," she said.

Johnson told Sky News at the summit site in Carbis Bay, Cornwall, that "the treaty we signed, I signed, is perfectly reasonable," but he added: "I don't think that the interpretation or application of the protocol (by the EU) is sensible or pragmatic."

The EU says Britain must fully implement the agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, that the two sides agreed and ratified. It is threatening legal action if the UK does not fully bring in the checks, which include a ban on chilled meats such as sausages from England, Scotland and Wales going to Northern Ireland from next month.

# Biden sells G-7 on global tax, but US Congress is a hurdle

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden might have persuaded some of the world's largest economies to hike taxes on corporations, but the US Congress could be a far tougher sell.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Friday that leaders of the Group of Seven — which also includes the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan — agreed with Biden on placing a global minimum tax of at least 15 per cent on large companies. The G-7 leaders, participating in a three-day summit in England, affirmed their finance ministers who earlier this month endorsed the global tax minimum.

"America is rallying the world to make big multinational corporations pay their fair share so we can invest in our middle class at home," Jake Sullivan, the president's national security adviser, said Friday on Twitter.

A minimum tax is supposed to halt an international race to the bottom for corporate taxation that has led multinational businesses to book their profits in countries with low tax rates. This enables them to avoid taxes and encourages countries to slash rates. The minimum rate would

make it tougher for companies to avoid taxes, and could possibly supplant a digital services tax that many European nations are imposing on US tech firms that pay at low rates. Biden administration officials believe the use of overseas tax havens has discouraged companies from investing domestically, at a cost to the middle class.

The President hopes a G-7 endorsement can serve as a springboard for getting buy-in from the larger Group of 20 complement of nations.

The agreement is not a finished deal, as the terms would need to be agreed upon by countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and implemented by each of them. The President needs other countries to back a global minimum tax to ensure that his own plans for an enhanced one in the US don't hurt American businesses.

"It has the potential to stop the race to the bottom," said Thornton Matheson, a senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center.

"It would be a huge sea change in the way things have been going in corporate taxes for the last three decades."

The idea of an enhanced global minimum tax is also an integral part of Biden's domestic agenda, but it faces resistance in Congress.

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# China says opposed to US plans to deploy missiles in neighbouring countries

PTI ■ BEIJING

China is opposed to US plans to deploy missiles and defensive systems in neighbouring countries that could undermine strategic stability and has called for advancing international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes.

Addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva via video link on Friday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed jointly maintaining global strategic stability, abiding by international arms control treaties, addressing the non-proliferation issue via negotiations and improving global security governance in new frontiers.

"China opposes the development and deployment of regional and global missile defence systems by a certain country that undermine strategic stability, and China opposes the deployment of land-based intermediate-range ballistic missiles in the neighbourhood of other countries," Wang said.

Though Wang has not named the US, China in the past has threatened to take countermeasures if the US deploys intermediate-range missiles in Asia opposed Washington's move to deploy the high tech Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) in South Korea over concerns that the American

system will monitor China's missile movements.

In the text of his address posted on the Chinese Foreign Ministry website, Wang said the five permanent members of the UN Security Council should reaffirm the important formula that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, strengthen cooperation in strategic risk reduction and deepen strategic dialogue on a broader range of strategic security issues to enhance strategic trust.

He said China is committed to a policy of not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones unconditionally.

Without disclosing the numbers of China's arsenal of nuclear weapons, he called on the US and Russia to reduce their nuclear weapons.

"China always keeps its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security, and does not compete with any other country in the size or scale of nuclear force," he said.

China so far has not disclosed how many warheads it has, but an assessment by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute put the number at 320, in comparison to Russia's 54,000 or the 70,000 US warheads, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

# GLOBE TROTTER

## BOMBS HIT 2 MINIVANS IN KABUL, 7 DEAD

Kabul: Separate bombs hit two minivans in a mostly Shia neighbourhood in the Afghan capital Saturday, killing at least seven people and wounding six others, the Interior Ministry said. The attacks targeted minivans on the same road about 2 km apart in a neighbourhood in western Kabul, Interior Ministry deputy spokesman Ahmed Zia Zia, said. It wasn't immediately clear what type of bombs were used and no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. The Islamic State group has carried out similar bombings in the area, including four attacks on four minivans earlier this month that killed at least 18 people.

## BRAZIL CRIME GANG LEADER KILLED

Rio De Janeiro: One of Brazil's most wanted criminal suspects was killed in a police operation Saturday in Rio de Janeiro, police said. Wellington da Silva Braga, better known as Ecco, was believed to command so-called militia groups in more than 20 neighbourhoods. The police communications office said a confrontation erupted when officers arrived at a house to try to arrest Braga.

## MAN WOUNDS 13 IN AUSTIN SHOOTING AND ESCAPES

Austin: Someone opened fire in a busy entertainment district in downtown Austin early Saturday, wounding 13 people, including two critically, before getting away, authorities said.

## 5 KILLED; 6 HURT IN RAIN RELATED INCIDENTS IN PAK

Peshawar: At least five people were killed and six others injured in rain related incidents in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Saturday, officials said. The Provincial Disasters Management Authority (PDMA) said that rain along with heavy storm hit many parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa killing five people and injuring six others besides inflicting damages to eight houses. The PDMA also issued travel advisory restraining the people from visiting the hilly areas during the current rainy spell.

# France's Macron says US again Europe's partner

AP ■ CARBIS BAY

French President Emmanuel Macron says it's good that US President Joe Biden is able to lead through cooperation, adding that the United States is "definitely" back as Europe's partner.

Biden and Macron met Saturday as part of the Group of Seven summit in southwest England, where they and other leaders of the world's wealthy democracies are discussing the coronavirus pandemic, the environment, national security, relations with China and economic issues.

Former US President Donald Trump took an adversarial approach with NATO allies, but Macron said Biden has shown that "leadership is partnership."

The desire for cooperation cuts both ways. Biden described the European Union as "incredibly strong and vibrant," which he said not only helps with tackling economic challenges but also provides a backbone for NATO.

# Biden to return diverted border wall money, spend down rest

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Former President Donald Trump's signature border wall project would lose much of its funding as well as the fast-track status that enabled it to bypass environmental regulations under a Biden administration plan announced Friday.

President Joe Biden suspended construction of the wall upon taking office while his administration reviewed the project. That angered Republicans in Congress eager to see it go forward amid an increase in apprehensions of migrants along the southwest border.

The new plan does not cancel the wall project outright, but it's still likely to face opposition in Congress, where many Republicans are eager to promote a project closely associated with the former president.

Biden plans to return more than \$2 billion that the Trump administration diverted from the Pentagon to help pay for the wall and use other money appropriated by Congress to address "urgent life, safety, and environmental issues" created by the construction. It also asks lawmakers not to provide any additional funding for what the Biden team believes is an unnecessary effort.

"Building a massive wall



A pair of migrant families from Brazil pass through a gap in the border wall to reach the United States after crossing from Mexico in Yuma, Ariz., Thursday to seek asylum. AP

that spans the entire southern border and costs American taxpayers billions of dollars is not a serious policy solution or responsible use of federal funds," the Office of Management and Budget said in a statement outlining the plan.

The government has built walls and other barriers along the 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) US-Mexico border for decades to eliminate some of the easier routes of avoiding checkpoints. Trump turned the issue into a centerpiece of his political identity.

Trump vowed to build a

"virtually impenetrable" wall, insisting it would be paid for by Mexico, which never happened. Instead, his administration set aside about \$15 billion through a combination of congressional appropriations and taking the money from the Pentagon and other parts of the government.

The Trump administration built about 725 kilometres of wall, moving quickly and waiving requirements for environmental reviews and medication, though only about 52.84 kilometres were in areas where no barrier previously existed.

# Iran nuclear talks aimed at reset, face major challenges

AP ■ VIENNA

Talks between Iran and global powers restarted Saturday with the goal of trying to restore a landmark agreement to contain Iranian nuclear development that the Trump administration abandoned in 2018. Senior diplomats from China, Germany, France, Russia, and

Britain planned to meet at a hotel in the Austrian capital.

Top Russian representative Mikhail Ulyanov said in a tweet that the talks would allow the participants to "exchange views on how to arrange further work in order to complete the negotiations successfully and expeditiously."

The United States is not

formally part of meetings that launched in Vienna earlier this year. But the administration of President Joe Biden has signaled willingness to rejoin the deal under terms that would broadly see the United States scale back sanctions and Iran return to abiding by the limits on its nuclear activity contained in the 2015 agreement.

# China, US diplomats clash over human rights, pandemic origin

AP ■ BEIJING

Top US and Chinese diplomats appear to have had another sharply worded exchange, with Beijing saying it told the US to cease interfering in its internal affairs and accusing Washington of politicizing the search for the origin of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi and Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a phone call Friday that revealed wide divisions in a number of contentious areas, including the curtailing of freedoms in Hong Kong and the mass detention of Muslims in the northwestern Xinjiang

region. Calls for a more thorough investigation into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19 are particularly sensitive for China because of suggestions that it might have escaped from a laboratory in the central city of Wuhan, where cases were first discovered.

Yang said China was "gravely concerned" over what he called "absurd" stories that the virus escaped from the Wuhan lab. China "firmly opposes any despicable acts that use the epidemic as an excuse to slander China and to shift blames," Yang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

# Oli displaying 'ugly form of lust for power', say Nepal's five former Prime Ministers

Kathmandu: Condemning beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's "undemocratic acts" and his "lust for power," five former prime ministers on Saturday appealed to the country's administration and security agencies to not be involved in such wrong activities that have long term effect on the nation. The former premiers — Sher Bahadur Deuba, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal and Baburam Bhattarai made the joint appeal in a statement.

Prime minister Oli, currently heading a minority government, has continuously been attacking the Constitution of Nepal and undermining the long and arduous struggle of the Nepali people to achieve the federal republic and its rule of law, the Kathmandu Post reported, citing the statement.

"We warn the caretaker government not to do anything or direct others to do anything that would have a long-term impact on the country and people and appeal to the administration and security agencies not to be involved in such wrong activities," they said in the statement.

"He has displayed the ugly form of lust for power that has never existed in Nepal's political history. We condemn such undemocratic acts by Oli," they said.

The statement comes at a time when the Supreme Court started hearing on the case regarding the reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, who lost a trust vote in the House last month. PTI

# Iran hard-liners target sole moderate in Presidential debate

Tehran: Iran's seven presidential candidates offered starkly different views on Saturday in the country's final debate, with hard-liners describing those seeking ties with the West as "infiltrators" and the race's sole moderate warning a hard-line government would only bring more sanctions for the Islamic Republic.

Analysts and state-linked polling put hard-line judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi as the clear front-runner in Friday's upcoming vote, with the public now largely hostile to the relative moderate President Hassan Rouhani after the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

But that didn't stop Rouhani's former Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati from harshly criticizing Raisi, at one point getting up from his chair to hand him a list he described as naming individuals who haven't paid back huge loans from state banks. He again tried to link Raisi to former President Donald Trump, whose decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Iran's nuclear deal has seen the country crushed by sanctions.

"Mr. Raisi, you and your friends have played in Trump's ground with your extremist policies," Hemmati said. For his part, Raisi said he'd make sure the government returns to the nuclear deal.

The deal "would not be executed by you, it needs a powerful government to do this," Raisi said. The election Friday will see voters pick a candidate to replace Rouhani, who is term limited from running again. The vote comes amid tensions with the West as negotiations continue to try and resuscitate the nuclear deal, which saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. AP

# Moscow orders new restrictions as coronavirus infections soar

Moscow: Moscow's mayor on Saturday ordered a week off for some workplaces and imposed restrictions on many businesses to fight coronavirus infections that have more than doubled in the past week.

The national coronavirus taskforce reported 6,701 new cases of infection in Moscow, compared with 2,936 on June 6. Nationally, the daily infection tally has spiked by nearly half over the past week, to 13,510.

After several weeks of lockdown as the pandemic spread in the spring of 2020, Moscow eased restrictions and did not reimpose any during subsequent case increases.

But because of the recent sharp rise, "it is impossible not to react to such a situation," Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said.

He ordered that enterprises that do not normally work on weekends remain closed for the next week while continuing to pay employees. In addition, food courts and children's play areas in shopping centers are to close for a week beginning Sunday, and restaurants and bars must limit their service to takeout from 11 pm to 6 am. AP

# Israeli police say woman with knife shot dead in West Bank

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli police say a private security guard at a checkpoint near Jerusalem shot and killed a woman on Saturday who allegedly planned to carry out a stabbing attack.

The police said in a statement that the guard at the Qalandia checkpoint north of Jerusalem saw the woman with a knife and shot her. Several amateur videos captured by Palestinians at the crossing showed the woman lying on the ground at the Israeli side of the crossing. Police later said she was a 28-year old Palestinian woman.

Qalandia is the main crossing point for Palestinian residents of the West Bank entering Israel, especially those bound for Jerusalem. The checkpoint is operated by private security firms, but Israeli police deploy after violent incidents. The official Palestinian news agency, Wafa, reported that Israeli forces closed the crossing point on both sides.

Starting five years ago, Palestinians launched stabbing and car-ramping attacks against Israelis in the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem, but the attacks have waned in recent years. The Palestinians seek the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority exerts limited self-rule, as part of a future state alongside Gaza and east Jerusalem. Israel says Jerusalem is indivisible. Peace negotiations have stalled for many years.

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Regd. Office : 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001  
AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	31-Mar-21	31-Dec-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-20
	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	6.75	8.64	31.95	37.45
2. Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.57	0.59	23.57	7.19
3. Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-1.57	0.59	23.57	7.19
4. Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-4.66	0.49	24.50	2.73
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	154.48	86.74	-206.18	482.70
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
7. Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)				
-Basic	-0.14	0.01	0.72	0.08
-Diluted	-0.14	0.01	0.72	0.08

Notes:  
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2021 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2021 is available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in).  
2. The above Audited Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Ind AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rule made thereunder and other accounting principles to the extent applicable.  
3. The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 12.06.2021.  
4. The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary.  
5. The figures of the last quarter of the current year and of the previous year are the balancing figures between the audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the respective financial year.  
6. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 globally and in India, the Company's management has made an initial assessment of likely adverse impact on the economic environment in general, business, and financial risks up to the date of financial statements and conclude that there is no material impact on the long-term performance of the Company. However, the Company will continue to monitor any material changes to the future economic conditions.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Sd/-  
Vijay Bhushan  
Director  
DIN: 00002421  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 12.06.2021

# Govt asks Ministries to target 20% cut in controllable expenditure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has asked all Ministries and government departments to target 20 per cent reduction in expenditures like domestic and foreign travel, overtime allowance, rent and office expenses, in the current fiscal year as it tightens its purse strings amid the second wave of the pandemic.

The Department of Expenditure under the Finance Ministry issued an office memorandum in this regard on June 10.

"All the Ministries/ departments are requested to take steps to curtail all avoidable, non-scheme expenditure and aim for 20 per cent reduction in controllable expenditure... Expenditure in 2019-20 may be taken as the baseline for this purpose," the memorandum said. However, expenditure related to containment of the pandemic is excluded from the scope of this order.

The memorandum said,

**The memorandum said, Ministries should aim to control expenditures like overtime allowance, rewards, domestic and foreign travel, office expenses, rents, rates and taxes, royalty**

ministries should aim to control expenditures like overtime allowance, rewards, domestic and foreign travel, office expenses, rents, rates and taxes, royalty.

Besides, expenditures related to publications, other administrative expenses, supplies and materials, cost of ration, clothing and tentage, advertising and publicity, minor works and maintenance, service or commitment



charges, grants-in-aid general, contribution and other charges, should also be cut.

The Savings that would accrue to the Government due to this move cannot be exactly ascertained. This is the second year in a row that the government has come out with measures to rationalise expenditure. Last year, the expenditure department had asked all ministries /departments to review appointments of consultants, curtail functions and ban use of imported paper for printing as part of measures to rationalise non-priority expenditure.

As per estimates, the gov-

ernment is staring at an additional expenditure of up to Rs 1.45 lakh crore to provide free vaccines and foodgrains to people devastated by the deadly second wave of covid infections.

Reversing a policy where states competed for vaccine supplies for certain age categories, the government earlier this week announced that the central government will procure vaccines for all adults.

All above 18 years of age would get free vaccines from June 21. Also, the free food-grain scheme that was to end in June has been extended till November 2021.

# Higher subsidy under FAME II to be game changer in adoption of EVs, say makers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler makers on Saturday termed as "a phenomenal move" by the Government to increase subsidy for such vehicles by 50 per cent under the FAME II scheme saying it would be a game changer in the adoption of eco-friendly vehicles.

The Government on Friday made a partial modification of the scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II), including increasing the demand incentive for electric two-wheelers to ₹15,000 per KWh from the earlier uniform subsidy of ₹10,000 per KWh for all EVs, including plug in hybrids and strong hybrids except buses.

In the latest modification, the department of heavy industries also capped incentives for electric two-wheelers at 40 per cent of the cost of vehicles, up from 20 per cent earlier.

"The revision in the FAME (II) policy, increasing

**In the latest modification, the department of heavy industries also capped incentives for electric two-wheelers at 40 per cent of the cost of vehicles, up from 20 per cent earlier**

the subsidy by 50 per cent per KWh is a phenomenal move. Sales of electric two-wheelers have grown despite the pandemic and with this additional subsidy, we expect electric two-wheeler sales to disrupt the market, and clock 6 million-plus units by 2025," Ather Energy CEO and Co-founder Tarun Mehta said in a statement. The Government's continued support to drive adoption of EVs, with a keen focus on locally built electric two-wheelers will make India the manufacturing hub of EVs, he added.

Welcoming the "government's continued support to EVs", TVS Motor Company Joint Managing Director

Sudarshan Venu said, "Sustainable mobility solutions are very important for the future and TVS is investing significantly behind this. The improved incentives for electric two-wheelers will increase penetration." He further said, "Such policy direction should lead to indigenous development of future technology."

Expressing similar views, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) Director General Sohinder Gill said, "It's an important and an admirable decision taken by the government, a move that will bring down the prices of electric two-wheelers nearer to the IC (internal combustion engine) vehicles and remove one of the biggest blockade of the high sticker price of electric two-wheelers."

Elaborating further, he said a "city speed electric scooter" with a range of 100km/charge will now cost less than Rs 60,000 and a high-speed scooter with a range of 80 km will come nearer to the price tag of Rs 1 lakh.

India to require 400k charging stations for 2 mn EVs by 2026, says report

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

India needs about 400,000 charging stations to meet the requirement for two million Electric Vehicles (EV) that could potentially ply on its roads by 2026, said a report on Saturday.

The Grant Thornton Bharat-Ficci report said for India to reach its vision of 100 per cent EVs by 2030, factors such as increasing government support, decreasing cost of technology, and distressing pollution levels, would be key to accelerate this transition.

As per EV industry body - Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles - there are 1,800 charging stations in India as of March 2021 for approximately 16,200 electric cars, including the fleet segment.

"Overall, the EV infrastructure is tightly coupled with the EV and charging station characteristics, battery technologies, and electricity markets," the report said.

# G7: Why major economies are delaying a break with the fossil fuel industry

Cardiff (UK): The climate crisis is certain to be a hot topic at the G7 summit in Cornwall.

While the leaders of the world's richest countries agree in theory on the need to reach net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, they remain faithful to the fossil fuel industry reluctant to substantively change its business model.

A recent report by the International Energy Agency, a typically conservative advisory body, argued for an immediate ban on new fossil fuel projects. But investments by oil, gas and coal companies into finding new sources continue, as does industry lobbying to undermine regulation.

The environment ministers of the G7 countries committed to end funding for new overseas coal projects by the end of 2021.

But 51 per cent of their Covid-19 economic recovery funds - a total of USD 189 billion - paid between January 2020 and March 2021 were earmarked as financial aid for the fossil fuel industry. Worse, USD 8 of every USD 10 dedicated to non-renewable energy was paid with no conditions on these companies to reduce their emissions.

Why does it seem so hard for G7 leaders to match their words with action when it comes to the fossil fuel industry?

Betting on the long-term business case Despite setbacks in volatile markets and oversupply risks, there is still a lot of money to be made from extracting, producing and selling hydrocarbons. Demand for coal has plateaued, but oil and



gas demand is predicted to rise at least for the next 15 to 20 years, particularly in emerging economies such as China and India. This puts G7 leaders in an awkward position. On the one hand, governments

need to reboot economic growth after the pandemic slowdown - a profitable energy sector nourished by rising demand abroad is welcome, even though hydrocarbon extraction can be especially polluting in developing countries.

Governmental support for the industry in the form of subsidies or tax breaks artificially inflates the profitability of fossil fuels, in turn making renewables a less attractive investment. Put simply, it is less risky and more profitable to - at least for now - invest in oil and gas. Carbon lock-in

The fossil fuel industry continues to shed public support, but it can rely on the fact that it's embedded within a complex system of consumers, suppliers and contractors, politicians and the media.

The cause-and-effect relations that define such an intricate system often produce unintended outcomes. This interdependency is

referred to as carbon lock-in. Economies have evolved in such a way that they perpetuate an energy landscape dominated by fossil fuels and plagued by an inability to radically change.

Not only does carbon lock-in result in inertia, it causes a tragedy of the commons-type problem.

Big oil companies such as BP, Exxon Mobil and Shell are unlikely to make meaningful changes until the rest of the system acts in unison. National oil companies and smaller privately owned fossil fuel companies comprise the bulk of known fossil fuel reserves.

But they often evade the spotlight and so can operate with more freedom. For a big oil company to make high-risk changes to its business model while others enjoy a free ride would be seen as a bad business decision.

Lock-in, as the name suggests, is very difficult to break. That said, G7 members are powerful nodes within this complex network. Strong leadership - such as divestment from fossil fuels and strong support for renewables - would cause reverberations throughout the whole system.

# Low base: India's pharma sector growth accelerates in May

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Low base effect accelerated the growth of India's pharma sector in May, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) said. The ratings agency opined that the 47.8 per cent YoY growth in India's pharmaceutical market (IPM) during May 2021 was led by a low base effect.

Last year, the IPM declined by 8.5 per cent YoY in May 2020 due to the lockdown.

"IPM growth would have been stronger on an adjusted basis," Ind-Ra said in a statement.

"Acute therapies namely anti-infective, analgesics and vitamins benefited significantly due to the second Covid wave as these therapies have a direct/indirect role in the treatment of Covid patients. Acute therapy growth was also aided by the low base in May 2020."

As per the report, during May 2021, volumes grew 31.5 per cent YoY, price growth was 7 per cent and products launches were at 9.3 per cent, attributed to acute therapy products.

"Ind-Ra estimates the market to grow 8-10 per cent YoY in size during FY22."

Besides, it cited that acute therapies such as anti-infectives, analgesic and vitamins witnessed sales growth of 141.19 per cent YoY, 50.3 per



cent YoY and 59.8 per cent YoY respectively, while gastro grew 47.7 per cent YoY during May 2021. "Growth under-performance was observed in chronic therapies during the month, with cardiac and anti-diabetic growing 31 per cent YoY and 20.2 per cent YoY, respectively."

"However, on a moving average total (MAT) May 2021 basis, a growth out-performance was observed across these therapies."

# India Power clocks ₹27 cr profit in FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India Power Corporation Ltd on Saturday said its profit after tax (PAT) jumped 60 per cent to ₹26.66 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

In 2019-20, it recorded a profit of ₹16.69 crore, a company statement said.

The Kolkata-headquartered company is an integrated power utility with distribution licence covering 618 square kilometres in Asansol-Raniganj region of West Bengal. It provides power to industrial, commercial and domestic consumers.

Total income for the year was at ₹518.37 crore, it said without disclosing the comparative figure.

India Power further said its sales increased by 2 million units in 2020-21 despite the impact of the pandemic and



lockdown during the first two quarters of the financial year.

"We were able to overcome the setback of the coronavirus pandemic by adding a large number of consumers across voltage levels, which resulted in accelerated sales growth from second quarter onwards.

Our ability to procure power at competitive prices led to cost savings and further improved our earnings," India Power Whole-time Director Somesh Dasgupta said.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to divert the route of Train no. 09805/09806 Kota - Udhampur - Kota Special Express with revised timings and stoppages.

09805/09806 Kota - Udhampur - Kota Special Express (Weekly)					
Train No. 09805	STATIONS				Train No. 09806
ARR. DEP.					ARR. DEP.
-- 16.40	KOTA JN				12.40 --
12:10 --	UDHAMPUR				-- 18.40

Days of Run : 09805 Ex. Kota on Every Wednesday from 16.06.2021 to till further advice & 09806 Ex. Udhampur on Every Thursday from 17.06.2021 to till further advice.

Accommodation : AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppages : Indargarh, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bayana Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Mathura Jn., Faridabad, Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn., New Delhi, Rohtak Jn., Jakhhal Jn., Dhuri Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Kathua and Jammu Tawi Stations.

For any kind information such as timings and stoppages enroute passengers are advised to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTEs App.

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General public that my client Ms Khyati Singh R/O 7B Doctors Lane Gole Market New Delhi 110001 is owner of all Movable and Immovable Properties owned by Late Mr Matang Singh by virtue of his Last Will dated 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021. All persons are hereby informed that as per the above will of Late Mr. Matang Singh she is absolute owner of all movable and immovable properties, if anybody has any kind of objections upon the above will and my ownership / Title its sale etc, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.

Advocate, Mukesh Kumar Jha Ch. No. 9 DDA Vikas Sadan INA New Delhi-110023. Contact No: 729990005

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client has entered into an Agreement to Sell for the purchase of Entire DDA MIG freshhold flat bearing No. H-271, Situated at Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-28 from Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal (hereinafter called the Seller) that the Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal named above declare that she is the absolute owner and in possession of the aforesaid flat under sale and there is no legal flaws & she is fully competent and have full power, absolute authority and unshaken title to sell and transfer the same, and the same is free from all sorts of encumbrances, burden, sale, mortgage, gift, lien, decree, charges, court injunction orders, stay orders, liability, transfer, attachment, litigation, legal flaws, dispute, notices, surety, security, notifications, acquisition etc. Smt. Vijay Lakshmi Kaushal also declare that there is no Court case/civil/criminal suit/litigation still pending before any Competent Courts. Any other person's/institution's having any sort of rights, claims, titles or interests of any kind whatsoever in the said property or any part thereof, under any deeds or documents or otherwise is required to put forth his/its claim in writing with documentary proof with the undersigned within 7 days of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the aforesaid owner have clear and remarkable title to the said entire flat and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction as it is free from all encumbrances whatsoever.

Sumit Mehta (Advocate) D/3157/2009 B-80, Inderpuri, ND-12, Ph: 9868001948

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Anoop Sehrawat S/O Late Kundan Singh and Suresh Devi W/O Anoop Sehrawat. R/O Plot No-A-76, Nangal Dewat, Vasant kunj New Delhi-110070. Disowned their son Vikas Sehrawat and Daughter in-law Poonam Sehrawat D/O Jyotsingh Singh. From All their movable and immovable properties. Due to disobedience, misconduct towards my client. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of them in future.

Prem Prakash, Advocate Legalphat Competent Lawyers LLP 207, Plot No. 1, MLU Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Phone: 9871268399

## United Textiles Limited

Regd. Office 7<sup>th</sup> K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana) CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

Notice Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter/Year Ended 31st March, 2021. Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 31.03.2021 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website [www.unitedtextileslimited.com](http://www.unitedtextileslimited.com) & also on the website of stock exchanges at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

For United Textiles Limited (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director Dated 10.06.2021 (DIN 07079171)

# CAIT asks Goyal to direct CCI probe into Amazon, Flipkart

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Karnataka High Court judgement dismissing the petition of Amazon & Flipkart, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Saturday sent a communication to Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal urging him to direct the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to immediately initiate investigation proceedings against Amazon and Flipkart without any further ado.

The CAIT has also urged Goyal to immediately issue a



fresh Press Note replacing Press Note 2 of the FDI policy with a Monitoring mechanism to ensure that law of the land prevails and no one should dare to violate the policy, law or the rules.

The CAIT has also pro-

posed that to bring greater transparency in e-commerce business, every company indulging into any e-commerce activity through any type of electronic mode should have to take a Registration Number from the DPIIT.

# CG Power plans ₹135 cr capex, to close some overseas subsidiaries

IANs ■ CHENNAI

CG Power Industrial Power Solutions Ltd has planned a capex of ₹135 crore this fiscal, the company said.

The capex to be funded out of internal accruals will be on balancing, debottlenecking and modernising the facilities at the plants for productivity improvement.

CG Power also said barring four wholly owned overseas operating subsidiary companies in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and the US, rest of the subsidiaries are being closed or in the process of being wound up.

Entities which are under investigation, would be closed after obtaining necessary approvals of the authorities, the company said.

CG Power said it is ensuring business continuity during Covid-19 pandemic by working with extended and staggered shifts in the plants and digital transformation through online customer inspections, online service advice, sharing pictorial procedures with onsite customer personnel, remote support for testing equipment.

The company closed last fiscal with a total income of ₹2,568.06 crore and a net loss of ₹208.93 crore down from a total income of ₹3,226.36 crore and a loss of ₹1,799.20 crore registered in FY20.

However CG Power has posted a net profit of ₹673.77 crore during the last quarter of last year.

Last year CG Power was acquired by Murugappa Group's Tube Investments of India Ltd.

Under the one time settlement scheme, the entire debt of ₹2,160 crores were settled at ₹1,000 crore - (₹650 crore in cash and the rest by recognising a new debt of ₹150 crore and issue of zero coupon non-convertible debentures aggregating to ₹200 crore).

# Results of Vellore Institute of Technology Engineering Entrance Exam Declared

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) declared the results for VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) on Saturday (June 12, 2021).

VITEEE, the entrance examination for various B.Tech programmes offered by VIT was conducted on May 28, 29, 31 and June 10, 2021 as online remote proctored examination. This mode enabled applicants to take VITEEE in the safety and comfort of their home. The results are available in <https://admissionresults.vit.ac.in/viteee>.

Applicants from 31 Indian states and 8 union territories and more than 15 foreign countries participated in VITEEE. Applicants within 1 lakh ranks are eligible to participate in the counselling scheduled from 21st June to 16th July 2021 in 4 phases.

Counselling for ranks 1 to 20,000 will be conducted from 21 to 22 June; 20,001 to 45,000 from 30th June to 1st July, 2021; 45,001 to 70,000 from 8th to 9th July 2021 and 70,001 to

# IPO-bound LIC warns against misuse of its iconic logo

IANs ■ MUMBAI

The country's largest public sector insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has issued a public warning over the unauthorised use or misuse of its iconic logo by anybody.

According to its Twitter handle, the LIC has barred any websites, publishing houses or digital entities from publishing its logo without the prior permission. The 65-year-old LIC, which is soon going for its IPO, has warned stringent legal or civil action against any person found misusing its official logo, in a post on Friday.

The simple but logo consists of a flame symbolizing 'life' with two shielding hands of 'life insurance' indicating its protection, with the Sanskrit legend below it - "Yogakshemam Vahmyaham", derived from the Bhagwad Gita, and the LIC headquarters at Nariman Point in south Mumbai is also named 'Yogakshema'.

# Impossible achieved

Novak defeats 13-time champion Nadal in French Open semis, will face Tsitsipas for title today

AFP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic handed 13-time champion Rafael Nadal only his third defeat in 16 years and 108 matches at the French Open on Friday to reach his sixth Roland Garros final after an epic showdown which even beat the country's Covid-19 curfew.

In their 58th career clash, Djokovic triumphed 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 and stays on course to capture a 19th major and become the first man in over 50 years to win all four Slams twice.

Djokovic, the 2016 champion in Paris who had also beaten Nadal at the 2015 tournament, will face Stefanos Tsitsipas in Sunday's final in what will be his 29th championship match at the Slams.

Tsitsipas had earlier become the first Greek to reach a Grand Slam final with a 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3 victory over Alexander Zverev.

Nadal, 35, remains tied on 20 majors with Roger Federer.

"It was a privilege to face Rafa in such an incredible match," said Djokovic after four hours and 11 minutes of intense action. "Tonight it was my greatest ever match in Paris."

He now leads Nadal 30-28 in their career rivalry.

"It's hard to find words for Rafa's achievements at Roland Garros. The amount of wins on this court is incredible," he added.

"You have to climb Mount Everest when you meet him here."

It was Djokovic's second win in eight meetings in Paris with Nadal, a sequence which also included three losses in finals.

It was Nadal's first defeat

Men's Final  
Live from 6:30 pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1

**Djokovic will play Stefanos Tsitsipas in Sunday's final with the chance to not only add to his 2016 French Open title but also move to 19 Grand Slam titles, just one behind the men's record 20 held by Nadal and Roger Federer**



in 14 semi-finals in the French capital.

"Probably it was not my best day today, even if I fought," said Nadal. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I had a big chance. There were some crazy points but there was fatigue there."

Djokovic finished with 50 winners; Nadal committed 55 unforced errors under the relentless assault.

Djokovic had two break points in the opening game of the first set which stretched to 10 minutes but was unable to convert.

Nadal made him pay, sprinting away for a 5-0 lead before the top seed got on the board.

Djokovic clung on, retrieving one break to get to 2-5 but Nadal eventually prevailed after one hour on court even if he required seven set points to edge ahead.

The old rivals exchanged breaks in the second and third games of a big-hitting second set but it was Djokovic who repeated the feat for a 4-2 lead before levelling the tie.

Twice in the third set Djokovic edged ahead, only to be reeled back in by Nadal who broke back in the 10th game as the world number one served for the set.

Djokovic then saved a set point with an ice-cool drop shot in the 12th game.

"You cannot play better clay court tennis than this. It's perfect," tweeted Andy Murray.

A 92-minute third set ended with Djokovic taking the tiebreak. Nadal then broke in the first game of the fourth set but Djokovic levelled for 2-2 and broke again for 4-2.

He finished it off on a second match point when Nadal hit wide and long to conclude a match on the same court where they first met in 2006.

AFP ■ PARIS

Barbora Krejčíková won her maiden Grand Slam singles title at the French Open on Saturday, beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova to become the first Czech woman in 40 years to conquer Roland Garros.

Krejčíková, ranked 33 in the world and playing just her fifth main draw in a Slams singles event, triumphed 6-1, 2-6, 6-4 for a second career title.

The 25-year-old emulates compatriot Hana Mandlíková who claimed the trophy in Paris in 1981.

The 25-year-old Krejčíková dedicated her victory to her mentor, the former Wimbledon champion Jana Novotná who died of cancer at the age of 49 in 2017.

"It's hard to put into words. I cannot believe I have just won a Grand Slam," said Krejčíková who was still outside the top 100 when the 2020 French Open took place last October.

"I spent a lot of time with Jana before she died. Her last words to me were 'enjoy tennis and try and win a Grand Slam'."

"I know she's looking after me. All this is pretty much because she is looking after me."

"It was amazing that I got the chance to meet her. She was such an inspiration. I miss her and I hope she's really happy."

In a nervy start to the final, Krejčíková was broken in the first game, serving up two double faults.

However, the 29-year-old Russian was unable to capitalise and dropped

# CZECHMATE

Barbora beats Anastasia in three sets to join Hana Mandlíková as the second Czech women's singles champion at Roland Garros

the next six games as her Czech opponent grabbed three breaks and raced way with the opener inside half an hour.

Krejčíková was rewarded for her bold attacking, hitting 13 winners to the Russian's seven.

Pavlyuchenkova, who made her Slam debut back in 2007, was the more composed player in the second set, stretching out to 5-1.

A medical timeout at 5-2, during which she was seen munching Haribo gummy bears, merely delayed the Russian levelling the final.

In the decider, the players exchanged breaks in the third and fourth games, before the Czech broke to love for 4-3 on the back of a 10-shot rally.

Pavlyuchenkova saved two championship points in the ninth game and a third in the 10th but Krejčíková became champion on the fourth when the Russian hit long.

Both women capitalised on a draw in which the top seeds fell and just kept falling.

World number one and 2019 champion Ashleigh Barty hobbled out in the second round.

Serena Williams was knocked out in the fourth round, world number two Naomi Osaka withdrew after one match, while 2018 champion Simona Halep never even made it to Paris.



# Sehwag looking forward to Boult vs Rohit contest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Opening Trent Boult's incoming deliveries will make for a fascinating contest, something that Virender Sehwag will be looking forward to during the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand, starting in Southampton on June 18.

Sehwag, who redefined the art of opening batting in Test cricket, feels that Rohit's qualities and recent form at the top of the order certainly makes him a candidate to succeed during the six Test matches in England this summer.

"No doubt Trent Boult-Tim Southee combination will pose a lot of challenge for Indians. They can move the ball both ways and are brilliant while bowling in partnerships also," Sehwag said.

"Boult vs Rohit Sharma will be a contest that I would



be looking forward to. If Rohit gets set and see off Boult's opening spell, it will be a treat to watch," feels one of India's greatest match winners.

While this would be Rohit's first shot at opening in English conditions, the experience of playing Tests in 2014 will certainly help him.

"Rohit is a fantastic batsman and he has played Test cricket in England earlier also (2014) so I think he can manage well as we have seen in recent times when he has opened the batting. I have no doubt that he will score runs in England this time."

"Obviously, as it is for any opener, he would have to be careful for the first 10 overs and see off that new ball to understand the conditions first. I am sure he will get a chance to show his range of strokes," said the man, who has scored more than 8000 Test runs.

Sehwag also believes that

rather than going in with four pacers, India should go with two spinners in their five-man bowling line-up as it would also strengthen their lower middle-order batting.

"I don't know how the wicket would look like on June 18th but one thing I have always believed is that you need to play to your strengths. If India can play with five specialist bowlers that will be great thing because I still believe that two spinners will come into effect on fourth and fifth day."

"Two spinners will be good for India because both Ashwin and Jadeja are capable all-rounders. That also adds depth to your batting. You don't need a sixth batsman with both of them around."

Sehwag also wants Pant to bat the way he knows and not get bogged down by too much analysis and dissection about technique and temperament needed to be successful in England.

# Boult hopes playing Edgbaston Test will put him in 'good stead'

**Birmingham:** Initially not expecting to feature in the ongoing second Test against England, New Zealand pacer Trent Boult is hopeful that achieving game fitness rather than bowling in the nets will put him in 'good stead' in the upcoming World Test Championship final against India.

"Initially I wasn't expecting to play this game but everything fell into line, and I gave myself that chance to get out there and I think I'll definitely be better off for that head out," Boult was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"It's one thing loading and getting through numbers in the nets but to simulate that kind of game fitness and having to come back three, four or five times in a day ... there's no real other



way to do that. So I'm hoping it puts me in good stead (for the WTC final)."

New Zealand have plenty of bowling options ahead of the marquee Test next week with pacers Tim Southee, Kyle Jamieson, Neil Wagner and Matt Henry performing well in ongoing series but Boult feels some 'hard calls' are on the cards.

"Healthy competition," Boult said about their pace-bowling options for the WTC final.

"The boys are very excited about the prospect, but they've put in a lot of hard yards not just over the last couple of weeks but over a couple of years of a Test Championship cycle."

"Some hard calls will have to be made but the big picture is the collective goal of lifting the world title," he added. PTI

# PCB to bid for 5 major ICC events

**Karachi:** The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will bid for five major events of the International Cricket Council (ICC) during the 2024-2031 cycle, including an edition of the Champions Trophy and World T20 Cup.

According to an official source, the PCB is in the process of preparing its bids for the ICC events which have to be submitted soon. "The ICC had asked for the expression of interest from its member countries. Once the Boards submit their bids, an independent committee of the ICC will assess the bids in December this year to give its report for a final decision next year," the source said.

The source said Pakistan has already held talks with the Emirates Cricket Board to jointly host some ICC events.

It was 24 years ago when Pakistan last hosted an ICC event — 1996 World Cup — jointly with India and Sri Lanka. PTI

# India's SL bound squad to have 14-day quarantine in Mumbai

**New Delhi:** India's white ball squad, led by Shikhar Dhawan, will quarantine in Mumbai from June 14 to 28 and undergo six RT-PCR tests on alternate days before flying off to Colombo for the six-match series against Sri Lanka, starting on July 13.

It is understood that all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will be followed by the Lanka-bound squad will be same as those of the first team currently in the United Kingdom for the World Test Championship final and five-match series against England.

"All the rules will be same like we followed in England. The outstanding players will come by charter flight and some fly business class of commercial airline," a BCCI source privy to development said.

"They will do seven days of room quarantine and

then can meet in common areas inside the bio-bubble. The players will do gym sessions in staggered manner."

While the three-match ODI series starts on July 13, it is expected that Indian team will have match simulation practice (situational training) after individual sessions, following three days of room quarantine at the team hotel in Colombo.

"It will be just like what's happening in England. Match situations will be created and that's how the intra-squad training will be held."

"You can't have your main players get out off the first ball and not bat again or bat for the whole innings. Everyone needs training so it won't be practice games as such," the source said. The Indian teams over the years have always stayed at the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo.



# Pant smashes ton, Gill 85 in intra-squad game



**Southampton:** The flamboyant Rishabh Pant took his senior bowling colleagues to the cleaners with an unbeaten century while opener Shubman Gill also warmed up with a polished 85 during the Indian team's intra-squad match simulation over the last two days.

The two teams are being led by Virat Kohli and KL Rahul with all the first team batsmen packed in one side and the regular bowlers on the other, with reserves like Wriddhiman Saha and Hanuma Vihari.

Pant, who has been in the form of his life, hammered every bowler including the spinners in his unbeaten 121 off 94 balls. Opening the batting with Rohit Sharma, Gill scored 85 off 135 balls.

Kohli's team was only troubled by veteran pacer Ishant Sharma who returned the best figures of 3 for 36. PTI

# Taylor helps NZ gain first-innings lead



AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

**London:** The England and Wales Cricket Board is to launch a 'social media review' that could lead to disciplinary action following the fall-out from Ollie Robinson's Twitter posts.

The Sussex seamer was suspended from England duty pending an investigation after historic racist and sexist posts made in 2012 and 2013 re-emerged during his Test debut against New Zealand at Lord's last week.

Since Robinson's posts re-emerged, the social media feeds

of a number of Internationals have been scrutinised, with an unnamed player found to have sent offensive tweets while under the age of 16.

Meanwhile, the experienced England trio of James Anderson, Jos Buttler and limited overs captain Eoin Morgan have all faced accusations of publishing potentially offensive messages.

The ECB board met on Wednesday and have decided to look into the issue in more detail, with a statement issued on Saturday saying: "The board

despite taking the new ball, with Bracey, fresh from his second duck in as many Tests, conceding nine byes.

# ECB to review players' social media

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Taylor's impressive innings ended, however, with New Zealand in sight of a first-innings lead, when he tried to attack Olly Stone but succeeded only in edging to Bracey.

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New Zealand were then 292-4, with Taylor having missed out on a fourth Test century in England.

But Bracey's joy turned to despair three balls later when the relatively novice gloveman dropped new batsman Blundell after failing to hang to a low one-handed chance off Stone as he dived to his right.

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