

**OPINION 6**  
DIPLOMATIC AVENUES  
ACROSS THE SEA

**WORLD 8**  
WON'T MEET BIDEN: IRAN'S  
HARD-LINE PRESIDENT-ELECT

**SPORT 12**  
TAJINDER QUALIFIES  
FOR OLYMPICS

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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## Record 84L get jobs on day 1 of revised policy

Modi hails new feat; target is 1 crore everyday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On day one of the rollout of the Centre's revised vaccination policy on Monday, a record number of 84 lakh people were vaccinated against Covid-19, short of 16 lakh jabs to achieve the Government's target of inoculating at least 1 crore people daily to speed up the vaccination process.

Responding to the feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the "record-breaking vaccination numbers are gladdening".

"The vaccine remains our strongest weapon to fight Covid-19. Congratulations to those who got vaccinated and kudos to all the frontline warriors working hard to ensure so many citizens got the vaccine. Well done India!" Modi tweeted.

The previous single-day highest vaccine coverage was on April 2, where 42 lakh were given the jabs. When the Government had launched the nationwide vaccination programme on January 16, it had



A young girl receives a dose of Covid-19 vaccine at Motilal Nehru Medical College in Prayagraj on Monday

left it to the States to procure the vaccine from the manufacturers.

India's cumulative Covid vaccination coverage exceeded 28 crore on Sunday, as per the Union Ministry data. Several States have upped the vaccination drive by undertaking special drives. For the record, Madhya Pradesh dosed 12 lakh people, Karnataka 8.73 lakh and Uttar Pradesh 5.84 lakh, as per the latest data.

In Assam, which has one of the lowest vaccination rates within the country, the Centre launched a special drive that

targets to inoculate at least 3 lakh people every day.

With limited vaccine supply, it remains to be seen if the Centre can vaccinate the same number of people (84 lakh) or more in the coming days.

Experts said that India could have avoided several deaths had it implemented the national policy in the first place.

As per the revised policy, the Centre would buy 75 per cent of all vaccines from drug makers and distribute them for free to States for inoculation.

Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	2,99,73,457 (+39,074)
DEATHS:	3,89,268 (+1,103)
RECOVERED:	2,89,13,191 (+76,440)
ACTIVE:	6,59,208
MAHA:	59,79,051 (+6,270)
KERALA:	28,16,844 (+7,449)
K'TAKA:	28,11,320 (+4,867)
TN:	24,29,924 (+7,427)
DELHI:	14,32,381 (+89)

### No scientific proof of vaccine causing infertility in men, women, says Govt

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry on Monday reiterated there is no scientific evidence of Covid-19 vaccination causing infertility in men and women and asserted the jabs are safe and effective.

## Twitter limits 50 tweets on Gzb case viral clip

Twitter MD ready for questioning via video conferencing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twitter has restricted 50 tweets featuring video and images from a viral clip of a Muslim man in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, being assaulted, according to a recent filing with the Lumen Database by the social media platform. The tweets are withheld for users in India.

Twitter's Managing Director (India) Manish Maheshwari on Monday replied to the initial notice from Ghaziabad police saying that he can be available on video conferencing for questioning in connection with the circulation of the



video in which the elderly man is shown claiming he was attacked by some young men who also "forced" him to chant "Jai Shri Ram". Twitter MD also clarified that he does not deal with the matter at hand.

Ghaziabad police are yet to take a call on Maheshwari's response on joining the probe through video conference.

According to sources, Twitter India MD has assured of his cooperation with police. Twitter also stated that it has nothing to do with the Loni case and, it is not interested in talking about the same.

Continued on Page 2

## Call on next UP CM after polls: UP Min

Yogi or new face, party leadership will decide: Swamy Prasad Maurya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, another senior BJP leader and UP Minister Swami Prasad Maurya said that the BJP might change its Chief Minister after elections in Uttar Pradesh and it will be decided by the central leadership.

"All possibilities are there post Assembly elections in 2022. We can have a new face or Yogi Adityanath can continue as Chief Minister of the State. The decision will be taken by the central leadership or the legislature party of the BJP," Maurya told a select group of journalists here.

To buttress his point, he said that the 2017 election was



contested without projecting anyone as Chief Minister. After the election, the central leadership chose Yogi as Chief Minister and he is now our leader and the party will contest the 2022 Assembly election under his leadership.

"This does not mean we cannot have a change in Chief Minister. The call will be taken by the central leadership depending on the situation then," he said hinting that if after elections the BJP gets majority and backwards are in dominant position they might ask for change in leadership.

Continued on Page 2



People on rafts perform asanas on International Day of Yoga at Yamuna Ghat in New Delhi on Monday

Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

## Opp parties meet today to plan formidable 3rd Front

Prashant meets Pawar; Congress refuses to be part of exercise

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Ministers Sharad Pawar and Yashwant Sinha have convened a meeting of Opposition parties and eminent personalities on Tuesday to pave the way for creating a united platform to take on the BJP in 2024 general elections. The Congress is not part of the exercise.

The meeting has been convened under the banner of "Rashtra Manch" at the residence of Sharad Pawar in Delhi at 4 pm on Tuesday.

In this regard, election strategist Prashant Kishor met Pawar on Monday. The duo had last met on June 11 at Pawar's Mumbai residence. Kishor also looked into the election strategy to bring back



the DMK to power in Tamil Nadu after a decade.

The former JD(U) leader announced to "quit this space" which has raised speculation that he may play a very significant role in the "bonding" of the Opposition parties. Kishor had also been a poll strategist for the JD(U) and RJD alliance in the 2015 Bihar Assembly polls followed by in States like Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

The Opposition parties have been exploring ways to come up with a Third Front ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Sources from various political parties, including Congress, who have been sent an invitation by Sinha to join

the meeting on Tuesday, said that grand old party will not be part of the bonhomie as all the leaders engaged in coordinating the meet have sometime or other been close to Modi. Sinha himself switched sides from the BJP to the TMC early this year.

Sources said the Sinha-Pawar invitation has been extended to senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal, who has refused to be part of it.

Continued on Page 2

### Sonia convenes meet on June 24 to discuss Cong's plan to hold protests against Govt

New Delhi: Congress president Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of the party's general secretaries and state in-charges on June 24 to chalk out a strategy to plan protests against the government on issues such as the hike in petrol and diesel prices.

## CAPSULE

### NHRC TO PROBE POST-POLL VIOLENCE IN WEST BENGAL

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Monday dismissed the West Bengal Government's plea for recalling its order that directed the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to examine all cases of alleged human rights violations in post-poll violence in the State.

### MAJOR FIRE BREAKS OUT AT SHOE FACTORY IN DELHI

New Delhi: Five to six people are suspected to be trapped inside a shoe factory, where a major fire broke out on Monday morning, police said.

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST BENGAL EX-CS

New Delhi: The Centre has initiated major penalty proceedings against former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay for alleged misconduct and misbehaviour, officials said on Monday.

### CONVERSION DRIVE ON ISI FUNDING: 2 NABBED IN UP

Lucknow: Two men of Delhi's Jamia Nagar, allegedly running an outfit involved in converting deaf students and other poor people to Islam in Uttar Pradesh with funding from Pakistan's ISI, have been arrested here.

## Amarnath Yatra cancelled, virtual prayers allowed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board on Monday cancelled the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath in the wake of prevailing Covid-19 pandemic. The yatra was

scheduled to begin on June 28.

Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shrine board, officially announced the decision after holding threadbare discussion with the members of the board.

The LG said, "However, all



the traditional religious rituals shall be performed at the Holy

Cave Shrine as per past practice."

He directed officials to ensure devotees can virtually attend the morning and evening "aartis" (prayers) at the shrine.

Detailed report on P5

## Class XII evaluation scheme amended, dispute resolution plan added, SC told

Results by July 31; for the dissatisfied, exams between Aug 15 and Sept 15

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Both the CBSE and the GCE Board informed the Supreme Court on Monday that they have amended their respective evaluation schemes to assess Class 12 students and incorporated a dispute resolution mechanism for the candidates who have any objections.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said it has incorporated a clause which said that the dispute with regard to computation of results will be referred to a Committee constituted by the board.

It said that the scheme has been further amended so that



after declaration of results, if the candidates are not satisfied with their results, the CBSE will provide online facility for registration for the examination. The CBSE said that it has complied with the direction given on June 17 by the top court which asked it to provide for a dispute resolution mechanism in case students apply for correction of the result declared by the CBSE.

The apex court had also directed the CBSE to specify the timeline for declaration of the result and the date before which the optional examination will be conducted, subject to conducive situation and logistical constraints.

"Examination will be con-

ducted by the board only in the main subjects as and when conditions are conducive for holding the examinations. However, the marks obtained by a candidate in this examination will be treated as final for those who opt to take this examination," the CBSE said in its affidavit filed in the top court.

The board said that as per the scheme the results for Class XII Board Examination 2021 shall be declared by July 31, 2021. "I further say that regarding the date before which the optional examination for the candidates who are not satisfied with their assessment with the policy, the examinations for such candidates shall be conducted any time between August 15, 2021 and September 15, 2021, subject to conducive situation," said the affidavit filed by Sanyam Bhardwaj, controller of examinations of the CBSE.

Continued on Page 2

## IAF not on same page on theatre commands; CDS to hold discussion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Indian Air Force (IAF) differing on the creation of theatre commands consisting of the three services, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat is likely to hold a brainstorming session later this week to listen to the views of all the stakeholders.

He will hold the meeting as the head of the proposed theatre commands, approved in principle by the Government three years back, sources said on Monday.

Last week, the Government gave the nod to form a committee of the three Vice Chiefs to find ways to expedite the process of having theatre commands to fight modern-day war in a cohesive and seamless manner. The US and China already have such commands. Meanwhile, the IAF has



said it will refrain from discussing the issue of theatre commands in media as deliberations at various levels are still on. This observation came after reports suggested last week that the IAF is not in favour of having such commands. Reports also indicated that while the Army and the Navy are for the theatre commands, the IAF has reservations.

Continued on Page 2

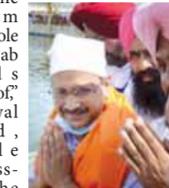
## Sikh will be AAP CM candidate in Punjab: Kejriwal

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Giving rise to speculation, G.Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced that the party's chief ministerial candidate in Punjab would be from the Sikh community. "It will be someone who is proud of Punjab," he said.

Kejriwal said, "I am addressing the media at Amritsar after Kunwar Vijay Pratap joined the party."

"We feel it's the Sikh community's right," he said, adding while appealing to the people of Punjab to give a chance to the AAP once, assuring that the position and direction would definitely change.



Continued on Page 2

## Captain to call on high command as crisis persists

Congress panel has summoned CM over compassionate jobs to MLAs' sons

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The crisis in Punjab Congress is far from over. Amid new controversy over the compassionate appointments given to the sons of two sitting legislators, the Congress' three-member panel has once again called Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh to Delhi. Half a dozen Ministers, and equal number of MLAs, critical of the appointments, too have been called by the panel.

Amarinder has reached Delhi and is slated to meet the panel, headed by the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, with State



party affairs' in-charge Harish Rawat and former MP JP Aggarwal as its members, on Tuesday. He is likely to interact with the Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi.

The meeting comes at a time when a new controversy has hit the State Congress unit, virtually dividing the party in vertical, following the Cabinet's recent decision to appoint sons of two MLAs — Arjun Pratap Singh Bajwa (son of Qadian MLA Fatehjung Bajwa) as Punjab Police Inspector; and Bisham Pandey (son of Ludhiana North MLA Rakesh Pandey) as Naib Tehsildar.

Continued on Page 2

# Thousands affected by flash flood in Bihar

PTI ■ MOTIHARI

Thousands of people have been affected by a flash flood that has hit Bihar's East Champaran district in the wake of torrential rain that lashed catchment areas of Nepal recently causing a rise in water levels of the river Gandak.

According to District Magistrate Shirshat Kapil Ashok, altogether 45,061 residents of 52 villages have so far been affected by the flood and 1,154 have been rescued from marooned areas with the help of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams.

Last week, adjoining areas of Nepal had received more than 200 mm rainfall within 48 hours and all the gates of Valmiki Nagar barrage, situated close to the border between the two countries, had to be opened to prevent a breach.

According to Ashok, the water level in the barrage has since receded by about six metres and stood at 106.83 metres, nearly three metres below the danger mark.

The Gandak river was flowing at 63.08 metres, more than a metre above the danger mark though it has dropped from the peak level of 64.20 metres recorded last week.

Altogether 19 boats have been pressed into service for

the rescue of residents stranded in submerged areas. There has been no loss of life so far, the DM added.

"We are carrying out the distribution of ration packets among the needy and monitoring of ring dams in coordination with local administration," said Shalini Mishra, an MLA of the ruling Janata Dal (United) who represents Kesariya, which is among the worst-hit by the calamity.

According to a release issued by the water resources department in the State capital, the water level in most of the rivers was stable.

Light rainfall is predicted across the State on Tuesday.

# Assam CM stresses on coordination with Arunachal, NEEPCO to manage floods

PTI ■ LAKHIMPUR/ GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday emphasised the need to work closely with Arunachal Pradesh and NEEPCO to control flood damages in northern parts of the State.

The Chief Minister, while reviewing the flood preparedness of Lakhimpur and Dhemaji during visits to the two northern bank districts, also stressed concentrating on expeditious rehabilitation measures.

"I have told the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) officials that the problems being faced by the people must be resolved and people of

Lakhimpur district or those living near Ranganadi river must not face major difficulties.

"The NEEPCO has five switches to regulate water released from its dam. When the switches are in working condition, they can release water in a phased manner. Problems arise when even one of the switches is not working," Sarma told reporters at Lakhimpur.

Release of excess water from the Ranganadi Hydro Electric Plant of NEEPCO in adjoining Arunachal Pradesh annually leads to floods in the northern parts of Assam, especially affecting Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts.

# Kerala entrepreneurs in distress, seek people's help

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCCHI

While their counterparts in neighbouring Tamil Nadu are thanking their Chief Minister for relaxing lockdown conditions in the State so that they could increase production and employ a greater number of workers, entrepreneurs in Kerala are issuing SOS messages and suicide notes to the general public expressing helplessness in carrying out their business due to victimisation by political masters.

Kerala has already seen eight entrepreneurs committing suicides in the last two years because of harassment by various political parties that seek funds and anti-business stance pursued by the State Government.

A release issued on Monday by Sabu Jacob, chairman, KiteX Ltd. a group with turn over of



₹800 crore and employing 11,000 workers in their units at Kizhakkambalam in Ernakulam district is a note written out of desperation, dejection and disappointment.

"Kerala's curse is some individuals whose only mission is to make money by hook or by crook. These people are an anathema that has fallen on this State," Sabu Jacob writes in the release. He is careful in using the words for fear of more victimisation by leaders of the CPI(M), Congress and the CPI.

Since the new Government led by Pinarayi Vijayan assumed power in the State last month,

officials from various departments including Police raided the enterprises owned by Jacob ten times. Jacob, the scion of a famous Orthodox Christian family in Kerala told *The Pioneer* that the officials were very rude with him.

"When you are treated like a terrorist in front of your own employees, what would be in their minds? Though they raided the factory premises ten times, till date they have not issued any reasons or documents to me," he said.

Jacob had given conventional political parties in the State a run for their money in the April 2021 Assembly election. Twenty 20, the political outfit launched by Jacob had swept the Panchayat election in Ernakulam district by winning eight local self government bodies purely based on its track record of 2015 to 2020.

# Guj gets HC notice as aided minority schools protest Govt authority

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Monday issued notice to the State Government on a batch of petitions filed by various Government-aided minority schools challenging an Act conferring powers on the State education board to appoint teachers and principals in such institutions.

The division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Biren Vaishnav issued notice to the state government and asked it to respond in three weeks.

These schools have challenged the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Act, 2021 that was notified on May 31, and which gives the state

education board powers to provide for qualifications and methods of selection for non-teaching staff of registered private secondary and higher secondary schools, as well as conditions of appointment, promotion, and termination of employment of principal, teaching and non-teaching staff of such schools.

The amended Act also confers on the board the power to regulate the recruitment of non-teaching staff and allows the Gujarat State School Service Commission to select teachers and headmasters of registered Government aided private secondary and higher secondary schools.



A passenger on majestic bus stand after further ease in restrictions of Covid-induced lockdown, in Bengaluru on Monday

# Man held for raping 3-year-old girl in Chhattisgarh

PTI ■ RAIPUR

Police have arrested a man for allegedly raping a three-year-old girl in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district, an official said on Monday.

The 45-year-old accused took the girl to his house on Friday and allegedly raped her, Kota police station head officer Sanip Ratre said.

When the girl's grandmother did not find her at home, she went out in search of her.

She asked the accused about the child, but he did not open the door, the official said.

According to the official, when the woman peeped through a hole in the door of his house, she saw the accused sexually assaulting the girl.

# ATS busts religious conversion racket; two arrested in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of two accused in Lucknow, the sleuths of the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) claimed to have busted a major racket responsible for thousands of forced conversions. Those arrested are said to be having links with a prominent Muslim outfit of Lucknow.

Detailing the breakthrough in Lucknow on Monday, Additional DG (Law and order) Prashant Kumar said, "On June 3, two Muslim youths attempted to attack a priest at Delhi's Dasna temple. After they were arrested and grilled, they coughed up the names of Umar and Mufti Jahangir and took the lid off a gang converting non-Muslims into Islam in UP and elsewhere."

The case was later handed over to the ATS, which gathered concrete evidence and registered a case against Mohammad Umar Gautam and Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi of Jamianagar (Delhi) under various sections of the IPC,

before dropping the net on the duo.

It transpired during preliminary probe that Mohammad Umar Gautam was Shailesh Pratap Singh of Fatehpur before converting to Islam in the 1970s. After this he was banished from his home by his father Dhanraj Singh Gautam and he went to Delhi and engaged in the conversion campaign joining hands with Mufti.

The ADG said that the accused, who were caught in the case of conversion, admitted to converting over 1000 people to Islam by priding money and false incentives of marriage and jobs.

He said that there were proofs of foreign funding by the Pakistan's counter-espionage agency ISI and the conspiracy was hatched under the aegis of Islamic Dawah Center.

They used to get funding for this work from ISI. These people used to target deaf and dumb children and women. Converted women victim were also married off by the gang.

# AAP, RLD hit out at Govt over Ayodhya temple land deal row

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh alleged that the BJP leaders should apologise to the public for cheating them in the purchase of land for Ram Mandir Teerth Kshetra Trust and demanded to realise the donation which was misappropriated.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow on Monday, UP incharge of AAP, Singh said that the embezzlement in the donation collected from lakhs of the devotees had delayed the temple construction work.

"While BJP leaders were getting lands at lower price in Ayodhya, the Trust was being sold the land at an exorbitant price (nearly four to twelve times the rate in the first sale deed). The BJP leaders claim themselves to be Rambhakts but the land scam has only exposed their hypocrisy as they committed corruption in the name of Lord Sri Ram temple," he said. Sharing his experience while meeting with saints in Ayodhya on the issue, Singh said that Mahant Dilip Das became emotional while describing about Lord Sri Ram. "Mahant Das told me that the saints are emotionally attached with Lord Ram, they served them and have highest reverence for Lord Ram. One of the witnesses in the land deal, Anil Mishra was appointed as member of the Trust by PM Narendra Modi"

"Mishra was, however, busy in getting his majestic house constructed. His house is the only the building in Ayodhya where a lift is installed," he said.

Referring to another land deal, Singh pointed out, "Brij Mohan Das sold the land valued at ₹92 lakh to Champat Rai on May 23 and the same land was then sold to the Trust for ₹5.6 crore within 24 hours and ironically the witnesses in both land deals were same persons which naturally raise question marks on the genuinity of the process." Meanwhile, national secretary of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) Anil Dubey said that the Ayodhya land scam was a very unfortunate and unbecoming issue of the present time and said that those involved in corruption in construction of the temple for Lord Ram had no right to remain members of the Trust.

# Opp parties meet...

From Page 1

"Sharad Pawar ji and Shri Yashwant Sinha ji are co-chairing a discussion on the present national scenario," reads the invite sent out by Rashtra Manch, headed by Sinha and that "Yashwant Sinha has requested your kind presence and participation in the meeting."

The Rashtra Manch is a coalition of Opposition parties that was formed in 2018 by Yashwant Sinha to counter the policies of Narendra Modi's Government.

While NCP's Majeed Memon, Samajwadi Party leader Ghanshyam Tiwari, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, BSP leader Satish Mishra are among those likely to attend the meeting, RJD leader Manoj Jha and DMK leaders are believed to have declined to attend the meet at Pawar's residence. "Pawar is working to unite all opposition leaders. May be, the meeting was to discuss it. The party's national executive meeting is also taking place in the national capital the same day," NCP leader Nawab Malik said according to media reports from Mumbai.

"Only Congress has been consistent in taking on Modi and BJP" mentioned a senior Congress leader. While no one from the national Congress leadership responded officially to the development, Maharashtra Congress leader Nana Patole said in a democracy everyone has a right to do whatever they want to and why should Congress stop or question anyone.

According to Nawab Malik, the meet will be attended by at least five major political parties for now - Trinamool Congress (TMC), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Communist Party of India (M), and J&K National Congress.

Malik took to Twitter to say that several prominent Opposition leaders, including NC leader Farooq Abdullah, Pawan Verma, AAP's Sanjay Singh, CPI(M)'s D Raja. Eminent personalities like Justice AP Singh, Javed Akhtar, KTS Tulsii, senior journalist Karan Thapar, advocate Majeed Memon, and former Chief Election Commissioner SY Qureshi will also attend the meeting.

# Sikh will be AAP CM candidate in Punjab...

From Page 1

Kejriwal's announcement has given rise to the speculation of Congress' firebrand leader Navjot Singh Sidhu joining the AAP.

Notably, despite the intervention of the Congress high command in resolving the prevailing power struggle between Sidhu and Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, the former cricketer has once again opened a front against him.

All along he has been maintaining a strategic distance from the media ever since he resigned from the State Cabinet in 2019, Sidhu has gone on an interview spree, openly attacking Capt Amarinder and the State Government - which the political experts dubbed as pressure tactics to achieve his choice of resolution to the current infighting.

# Call on next...

From Page 1

This is not new in BJP as it happened in Assam where the BJP contested election under the leadership of former CM Sarbananda Sonowal but after election Himanta Biswa Sarma was declared CM by Central leadership.

Swami Prasad, Labour Minister in the Yogi Cabinet, is second Minister after Keshav Prasad Maurya who had claimed that Central leadership will take a call on Chief Minister. Today's statement holds importance because there is a feeling that people from the backward castes were neglected in the government and this anger might prove costly for the party.

Mauryas are backwards by caste. Backwards account for around 32% of votes in UP and are in the dominant position in the caste matrix of this cow belt. The combination of backwards and upper caste can catapult any party to power.

# Captain to meet high...

From Page 1

Also, the Chief Minister's bete noire and rebel Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu has once again opened a front against Capt Amarinder, started attacking him in open. Notably, even more than a week after the three members panel submitted its report to the high command, followed by rounds of meetings, the Congress top brass is yet to take the final call.

The party is yet to decide the suitable role for the former cricketer with the Chief Minister reportedly putting his foot down against his appointment as Punjab

Congress chief but agreeing to appoint him as his deputy or a cabinet berth.

Sources said that the panel has not recommended Capt Amarinder's removal as the Chief Minister, while recommending him to be the party's face for next elections.

Besides the Chief Minister, sources have informed that six cabinet ministers, including Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Razia Sultana, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhbinder Singh Sarakaria, Chanrjit Singh Channi - have also been called for a meeting at the Delhi Durbar.

In addition, party legislators Pargat Singh, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Kuljit Singh Nagra, Kushaldeep Singh Kiki Dhillon, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Inderbir Singh Bolaria, have also been summoned.

Available information suggests that the party high command wanted to have a last word with these leaders before taking a final call on

the resolution of the party.

Also, majority of the leaders have openly criticized the Government's decision.

NEW CONTROVERSY

A new controversy has hit the party and the State Government over the Cabinet decision to give jobs to sons of two Congress MLAs on "compassionate grounds", more than 30 years after their grandfathers were murdered by the terrorists.

Five Cabinet Ministers - Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Razia Sultana, Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhbinder Singh Sarakaria, Chanrjit Singh Channi - have opposed the move.

Besides, Punjab congress president Sunil Jakhar, dubbing the decision as "wrong", had requested the Chief Minister for its review. Other than that, Congress MLAs Kuljit Nagra, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Pargat Singh, Harjot Kamal, have also questioned the government's move.

On the other hand, nine Cabinet ministers and four Congress MPs have backed the State Government's decision, calling it "correct and in line with appointments given to similarly situated persons in the past".

Defending the decision, Capt Amarinder had made it clear that there was "no question of rescinding the Punjab Cabinet decision on jobs for sons of two Congress MLAs. It is just a small token of gratitude and compensation for the sacrifices of their families. It's shameful that some people are giving political colour to this decision".

# Class XII evaluation scheme amended, dispute resolution...

From Page 1

With regard to private or second chance compartmental candidates, the CBSE said that their examinations shall be conducted in such a manner so that they will fall within the assessment policy for the academic year 2019-2020 as approved by the top court last year and, their results shall be declared in accordance with the said assessment policy. "Their examinations shall also be conducted anytime between August 15, 2021 and September 15, 2021, subject to conducive situation," the affidavit said.

Similarly, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also filed an affidavit in the top court saying that it has complied with the direction and amended its assessment scheme for Class 12 students. It said that the CISCE will endeavour to publish the results as expeditiously as possible, and subject to the situation remaining conducive and stable, the results will be published on or before July 31, 2021.

The CISCE said that in the event of a student having objection(s) regarding computation of marks in the result; she/he may make a written application to the school concerned, stating the objection in detail along with reasons thereof. "The head of the school concerned will review the application, and only upon being satisfied with the contentions made therein, forward the same to the CISCE along with her/his comments/remarks endorsing the contentions made and documents supporting the opinion regarding the computation of marks", it said.

It added that no application will be entertained by the CISCE unless it is forwarded by the head of the school concerned and is being sent to the CISCE within seven days of declaration of results. "Applications sent after the expiry of 07 days from the day of declaration of results will not be entertained," the affidavit filed by Gerry Arathoon, chief executive and secretary of CISCE, clarified.

# Record 84L get jabs on...

From Page 1

India's previous record of 4.5 million doses was on April 5, followed by a sharp decline with average daily inoculation falling below 3 million.

Presently, domestically made doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine (Covishield) and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin are being offered to the people.

Over the last 24 hours, India reported 53,256 new cases, the lowest since March 24. Infections hit a peak of about 400,000 a day in May and deaths soared to around 170,000 in April-May.

More than 2.98 crore Covid vaccine doses are still available with States and Union territories, the Union Health Ministry said on Monday. So far, 29,35,04,820 vaccine doses have been provided to States and Union territories (UTs) through the Centre's free of cost channel and the direct State procurement category, it said.

Further, more than 2,310 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by them within the next three days," the Ministry said. It said that as part of the nationwide vaccination drive, the Centre has been supporting States and UTs by providing them Covid vaccines free of cost.

# IAF not on same...

From Page 1

The IAF is reportedly reluctant about sharing its assets, including fighter jets, helicopters and transport planes, in various commands.

The IAF also wants more clarity on the role of the theatre commanders amid perception the commander will have the operational control rather than the IAF chief, sources said.

As regards sharing of assets, they said a modern fighter jet in Indian conditions can perform any role as it flies on supersonic speed having pan country reach. Therefore, stationing its jets or planes in a particular theatre may not be feasible, they said.

The proposal envisages five commands, including the Maritime Command, Air Defence

Command, Northern Land Theatre (Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and Central sector), Western Land Theatre (Pakistan) and Eastern Land Theatre. The Northern and Eastern will focus on China besides Pakistan. A proposal is also there for having a logistics and training command. The Maritime Command and Air Defence Command are likely to become functional by next year, it was learnt.

The theatre commander of the rank of Lt General may be from any of the three services and will lead specific units of the army, navy and air force forming that theatre. Similarly, some commands will also absorb paramilitary forces which are controlled by the Home Ministry. Also, the Coast Guard will be part of the Maritime Command. At present, the Army, the Navy

and the IAF have their own commands totaling 20 besides the joint tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command and the Strategic Forces Command. The latter command looks after the nuclear arsenal.

The proposal is to merge some of the commands of the three services into one entity for better utilisation of assets and manpower and avoiding wastage.

The committee of Vice Chiefs will hold discussions with all the stake holders and have wide ranging deliberations, sources said since para-military forces are in the domain of the home ministry and their views have also to be taken.

Moreover, the formation of the new commands will involve some expenditure and therefore the Finance Ministry nod is crucial to move ahead without a hitch, they said.

# Twitter limits 50 tweets...

From Page 1

The social media giant has also asked the police to make some changes in the legal notice issued. Sources said that the police are not satisfied with Twitter's response and are mulling if a second notice should be sent. Maheshwari who lives in Bengaluru in Karnataka, was issued notice by the Ghaziabad police on June 17 and asked to report at its Loni Border police station within seven days to get his statement recorded in the case. The firm has also been issued a second notice by the Ghaziabad police to seek "account details" of the suspects accused by the police of posting and promoting the video.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has become the first to book Twitter in a criminal offence after the social media company has failed to comply so far with the new IT rules that had come into effect from May 26. Social media companies have to comply with the rules to get safe harbour protection and absence of the same exposes them to become liable for fake news, harassment and defamation on its platform.

# 'Centre's jab drive slow, city needs more shots'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Criticising the Centre for its slow vaccination drive, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Monday that the drive was the longest and most mismanaged.

Referring to an advertisement published by several newspapers across the nation about the Central Government's largest vaccination drive, he said: "The Central Government needs to understand that our people need vaccines not advertisements. If the Central Government had spent the money spent on advertisements to procure vaccines from abroad, the Covid crisis could have been managed better."

At present, Delhi needs 2.30 crore doses to vaccinate the entire Capital but instead of this so-called free vaccination drive, the Central Government will provide only 15 lakh doses to Delhi in July, he said.

"In fact, the BJP-led Central Government had also put pressure on the Delhi Government officials to advertise this BJP toolkit. It is absolutely shameful that the Central Government is providing only 15 lakh vaccines for Delhi but putting pressure on our officials to publish these advertisements," he added.



Speaking on the distribution of free vaccines by the Central Government to Delhi, Sisodia said, "If we look at the statistics right now, Delhi needs 2.94 crore citizens, out of which 92 lakh are for citizens in the 18 plus age group and 57 lakh for citizens in the 45 plus age group."

"We still need 2.30 crore doses to vaccinate all our citizens. When Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that Delhi needed 2.94 crore vaccines to inoculate citizens within three months, why did we receive only 57 lakh vaccines in total? Delhi still needs 2.30 crore doses of vaccines to inoculate all citizens and if we are going to receive only 15 lakh vaccines

for next month, it means we need approximately 15-16 more months to vaccinate all here," he said.

"The vaccine is the only way to defeat the corona crisis in India. Many countries across the world prioritised vaccinating their citizens first. Whether it was purchasing vaccines from other nations or investing funds in vaccine manufacturing, several nations proved that vaccinating their citizens on a priority basis is significant to defeating the virus," he added.

Around 65 lakh people have been vaccinated in Delhi, out of which, 49.38 lakh people have been given the first dose and 15.75 lakh people had been given both doses till Sunday.

## Positivity rate dips to 0.16%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Just 89 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported in Delhi on Monday, the lowest daily count this year, while the positivity rate reduced to 0.16 per cent. The total number of active cases in the city reached 1,996, of which 563 are in home isolation, according to the data shared by the health department.

A total of 57,128 tests, including 45,468 RT-PCR tests, were conducted a day ago, the bulletin said.

In order to deal with the "possible" third wave of Covid-19, the Delhi Government has speeded up the revamping of hospitals to increase the number of beds and is also building hospitals.

Although cases are constantly on the wane, experts have advised against laxity. Those suffering from high blood sugar post Covid-19 need to be more careful, said Dr Saket Kant, a Delhi-based endocrinologist.

## Cut expenses as crisis has dented finances: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the pandemic having made a big dent in the overall finances of the Delhi Government, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia has issued an order on expenditure management and rationalisation of expenditure on Covid-19 outbreaks to keep expenses within the limits.

Sisodia informed that the expenditure of the Delhi Government had increased around 80 per cent during first two months of the financial year (FY) 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous FY. He further stated that revenue receipts had been to the tune of ₹5,273 crore during the first two months of the current FY,

while its expenditure has reached ₹8,511 crore. Delhi has incurred ₹3,238 crore more than its receipts which were met from last year's savings.

Historically, during the first two months, the expenditure was ₹4,705 crore in FY 2019-20 and ₹4,965 crore in FY 2020-21.

However, due to the outbreak, the expenditure during the first two months has jumped to ₹8,511 crore in the current FY, he said.

He further said, "The tax collection has declined due to the second wave of the pandemic and lockdown, while the expenditure has increased in comparison with the previous years for implementation of various relief and other measures to check the spread of the coronavirus."

# 6 rescued, 4 feared trapped in Udhyog Nagar blaze

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Four workers are missing while six were rescued from a fire that broke out inside a shoe warehouse located in Delhi's Udhyog Nagar area on Monday morning. Fire officials said that the search and rescue operations are still underway.

Police and the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a call at 8.56 AM about a blaze in a factory but later it came to light that the two-storey building houses a warehouse where shoes are assembled and packed for sale.

Initially ten workers were trapped inside the godown and six of them were rescued. While four of the rescued workers were safe, two others suffered minor burn injuries and were given first aid at the spot.

"Around 24 fire tenders were rushed to the spot and 15 more vehicles were later pressed into service to bring the blaze under control," said Parvinder Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district.



A firefighter tries to douse a fire at a shoe godown at Udhyog Nagar in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

"It is suspected that the fire started from the first floor of the building and later spread to other floors," said police.

A senior police official said that a case has been registered and the owner of the godown has been identified as Pankaj

Garg. According to Atul Garg, the Director, (DFS), a total of 35 fire tenders and around 140 fire personnel have been involved till now in the fire-fighting operations.

control now, cooling operation and search operation continues, the building has been declared dangerous by the civic body," said the DCP.

Elaborating on the challenges faced by the fire-fight-

ers, Garg said the building did not have any fire-safety equipment in place and was heavily jammed with highly combustible materials due to which the fire spreads faster.

"The DFS was not given correct information in the first place that it was a godown and we were not informed that workers were trapped inside. It was only after about two hours into the fire-fighting operation that, we got to know that people were trapped inside when the family members started coming to the spot asking for their men," said Garg.

"Four more workers are reported to be missing but we still have not been able to trace them. We lost the gold hours when we could have rescued those trapped if information was shared with us in time. Even the fire has been doused but because of heat and smoke, it's become tough to trace those reported missing," said Garg.

The exact cause of the fire is not known yet but short-circuit is suspected to be the reason.

## TREE TRANSPLANTATION

### Delhi Govt approves empanelment of four technical agencies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Monday approved the empanelment of four agencies to carry out tree transplantation in the national Capital. These four agencies are Green Morning Horticulture Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad, M/s Rohit Nursery, New Delhi, M/s DD MEP Engineers, Gurugram, and RP Entrepreneurs.

According to the Tree Transplantation Policy (TTP), Delhi government, to carry out transplantation from any project site in Delhi, the applicant shall be required to select

an agency from among the empanelled agencies only.

The TTP -2020 mandates that trees will not be removed unnecessarily in development projects/works and the existing trees in the project site shall be properly preserved through careful planning, design, implementation and post-construction maintenance.

The policy was inducted to save trees in the Capital. As per the policy, in the event of the possibility of on-site preservation being not viable, at least 80 per cent of the trees shall be required to be scientifically transplanted.

## Man poses as IAS officer, arrested in Delhi



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 40-year-old man for allegedly impersonating an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and using a forged cheque to purchase a mobile phone worth ₹1.4 lakh in the National Capital.

The accused has been identified as Abhay Bahl, a resident of Noida. Police said that Bahl used to work in a private company and he recently lost his job during the Covid crisis.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on Saturday, Bahl first called up an employee at the Samsung showroom in South Extension-2 and introduced himself as a senior official of the company.

## Irani Gang member held for posing as cop, robbing man

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 36-year-old member of the Irani Gang for allegedly posing as a police officer of the Crime Branch and later fleeing with gold ornaments swindled from a jewellery store worker. The accused identified as Qasim Zafri alias Joju is a resident of Thane district in Maharashtra and he was arrested by the Crime Branch team of Delhi Police from Bhopal on Saturday. The Irani Gang is known to have a presence across India. They are also known for masquerading as police or senior Government officers and conning people. In most of the cases they have been found to operate in a group of two to four, police

said. According to Monika Bhardwaj, DCP, Crime Branch, the incident took place on June 10 when the victim, who works with a jeweller in Karol Bagh was robbed allegedly by Zafri and his associates Habib, Shahjor and Sartaj.

"In his complaint, the victim was travelling in an autorickshaw from Karol Bagh to Chandni Chowk with a bag containing gold ornaments weighing 915 grams. At about 2:45 PM, when the vehicle reached a mall near Bara Hindu Rao, four men on two bikes arrived there and stopped the autorickshaw," said the DCP. "They posed themselves as police officers of the Crime Branch while two among them started checking his bag. When

the victim could not produce any bill and invoice for the gold ornaments, they directed him to go bring the bill from his shop and thereafter they fled from the spot with his gold ornaments," said the DCP.

"A case was registered under Sections 419 (Punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of IPC," said the DCP.

"The CCTV footage of the scene of the crime was analysed and dossiers of the previously arrested accused using similar modus operandi were checked which led the team to Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh," said the DCP.

## PICTALK



BJP national president JP Nadda and Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan during their visit to a Covid-19 vaccination centre at RML Hospital in New Delhi. Ranjan Dimri

## Delhi Police organises special yoga sessions

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police on Monday organised special yoga sessions for its personnel deployed across various units on the occasion of seventh International Yoga Day.

"I did my daily Yoga today morning at home. My wife too joined me to observe the 'Yoga Day'," the Delhi Police Commissioner, S N Shrivastava tweeted from his official Twitter handle on Monday.

Shrivastava also posted pictures of him and his wife performing different 'asanas'.

To mark the International Yoga Day, the yoga sessions on Monday morning were performed across all the districts and units of Delhi Police.

The officials of districts including South, Northwest, Southwest, New Delhi districts also posted pictures of police officials performing yoga on Twitter.



carried out at the Singhu border where personnel from the Delhi Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) units deployed performed various yoga postures, a senior police official said.

"Yoga sessions were organized at police stations and units across the district on the International Yoga Day and police officials including senior officers also took part in it.

Amid ongoing pandemic, yoga helps in reductions of tension and fatigue," said Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district.

In the southeast district, a similar programme was organised for police personnel to reduce their stress and keep their mind calm.

"It will improve their immunity as Covid pandemic

is still prevailing and as a frontline warrior, police are much prone to be infected with coronavirus.

Keeping their physical endurance and mutual stability in view, police staff of southeast district have pledged to perform and adhere to the norms of yoga in their routine life for performing their duties better," said R P Meena, the DCP, Southeast district.

# VACCINE FOR ALL FREE FOR ALL

## Thank You PM Modi!

Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

### Now, the World's Largest Free Vaccination Campaign

Corona Will Lose, India Will Win

- Free COVID-19 vaccination for everyone above 18 years of age in India
- So far, vaccines were free for people of 45 years age and above
- Vaccines will be available free of cost in Government-run vaccination centres
- Government of India is providing free vaccines to all States
- Central Government has provided 30 crore vaccine doses so far
- Three vaccines approved in India so far, several new vaccines in approval process

Get Vaccinated, Stay Safe

- Vaccines are safe, ignore rumours
- Visit [www.cowin.gov.in](http://www.cowin.gov.in) to register and get full details on vaccination centres and vaccines
- Follow COVID-appropriate behaviour even after vaccination

**“Central Government is providing free Vaccination under a special campaign to every Indian from now. The biggest beneficiary of this phase of India's vaccination drive shall be the poor, the middle class and the youth of the country. All of us should pledge to get ourselves vaccinated. Together we will defeat COVID-19.”**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**TOGETHER LET US DEFEAT COVID-19, GET YOURSELF VACCINATED AS PER YOUR TURN**

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | [www.prharyana.gov.in](http://www.prharyana.gov.in) | @Cmohry | @DiprHaryana

# Centre mulls banning e-tailers' flash sales



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After receiving several complaints against widespread cheating and unfair trade practices being observed in the e-commerce ecosystem, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has proposed an amendment in the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rule 2020 saying that e-commerce companies will not be allowed to organise flash sale of goods bringing under question a lot of sale festivals organised throughout the year by e-tailers such as Amazon and Flipkart.

A flash sale means a period during which products are sold on a highly discounted price. The ministry has sought views/comments by July 6 on the draft Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rule 2020.

Just like with social media giants, each e-commerce entity will also have to establish a grievance redressal mechanism

by appointing chief compliance officer, nodal contact officer and resident grievance officer under the new amendments rule.

"Additionally, conventional flash sales by third party sellers are not banned on e-commerce platform. But, certain e-commerce entities are engaging in limiting consumer choice by indulging in "back to back" or "flash" sales wherein one seller selling on platform does not carry any inventory or order fulfilment capability but merely places a "flash or back to back" order with another seller controlled by platform. This prevents a level playing field and ultimately limits customer choice and increases prices," officials said.

Coming heavily on the issue of the Country of Origin, the draft said that e-commerce companies will now mention the name and details

of any importer from whom it has purchased such goods or services. They will also have to provide a filter mechanism on their websites from where customers can figure out the origin of the products quickly before making a purchase.

In a major push for domestic products, it has also suggested that the companies should provide alternative suggestions to customers before he/she makes a purchase to ensure fair opportunity for "domestic goods".

The rules further forbid e-commerce companies from displaying any misleading advertisements.

The draft proposes that an e-commerce entity which is engaged in cross-selling of goods or services shall provide adequate disclosure to its users such as the name of the entity providing data for cross-selling and data of such entity used for cross-selling.

It further adds that no e-commerce entity shall indulge in mis-selling of goods or services offered on its platform. Every e-commerce entity shall ensure that sponsored listing of products and services are distinctly identified with clear and prominent disclosures.

Every e-commerce entity which intends to operate in India shall register itself with DPIIT within such period as prescribed by DPIIT for allotment of a registration number.

# Who decided against paying Covid victims, asks SC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting the Government in a tight spot, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre if it had taken a decision against giving ₹4 lakh ex-gratia to the next of kin of Covid victims. And if it did, the SC not only sought to see the decision but also know the authority who took it.

"Where is the decision that there is no need for ex-gratia," the vacation bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and M R Shah asked adding if the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, had taken the decision.

The apex court was hearing a PIL on Centre's decision to stop paying ex-gratia, following which the Government filed an affidavit stating that it cannot pay the compensation to families of COVID victims due to financial constraints.

Having received flak for its blunt 'no' to compensation to kin of Covid victims, the Centre on Monday clarified in the Supreme Court that it does have funds but its focus is on aspects like food security, public health interventions and reviving the economy. This led the Supreme Court to caution the Centre: "The Government saying it has no money has very wide repercussions."

The contents of the Government's affidavit explaining its financial priorities was twisted and misrepresented on Twitter, the Centre pointed out. "It is not the case of gov-

ernment that we don't have money. Our focus on expenditure of the money is on a holistic solution," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said.

The SC also took up the matter of death certificates to Covid victims. The Court asked whether there can be some measures so to as to simplify the process of obtaining the certificates and also to ensure that those who have been issued such certificates where COVID was not mentioned, can avail a correction.

Senior advocate S B Upadhyay, appearing for a petitioner, asked if the Centre has money then why is it not complying with the statutory obligations under Section 12 of the Disaster Management Act (DMA) stipulating ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh as the Government has declared Covid a national disaster. Under the law, the Centre must have a compensation scheme and the amount of Rs 4 lakh was not so important, Upadhyay said.

The bench, however, said: "Every disaster is different. There can be small and big pandemics. Or a big flood or small flood. If the standard or gravity of a pandemic is more, then you cannot say that the same standard can be applied for every disaster."

The apex court is hearing two separate pleas filed by lawyers Reepak Kansal and Gaurav Kumar Bansal respectively seeking directions to the Centre and the states to provide Rs 4 lakh compensation to the families of coron-

# Guidelines on Covid tests for zoo animals issued

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As SARS-CoV2—the virus that causes Covid-19—spreads to zoos in India infecting many inmates and claiming a few of them, the Hyderabad-based Laboratory of the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) of CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has issued guidelines for Covid-19 tests on the captive animals.

"The guidelines provide detailed protocols that include pictorials and frequently asked questions for an easier understanding of those collecting samples for Covid testing in wildlife," Vinay K Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-CCMB, said in a statement here.

LaCONES is one of the four designated centres for testing animal samples for possible coronavirus infection. The need for the testing guidelines has been constantly felt as there have been reports of captive animals being infected with the disease.

"We hope that our recommendations help the zoo staff in collecting and packing the samples appropriately before they send out to animal testing centres. It will smoothen the process for the zoos as well as testing centres. Given how difficult it is to get samples from animals it is all the more important that we make most of the samples we get," said Karthikeyan Vasudevan, scientist-in-charge,



LaCONES, CSIR-CCMB.

While cases of animals being infected with Covid-19 have been witnessed in other parts of the globe, in what is believed to be the first known death of an animal in India from the coronavirus—a nine-year-old lioness at a zoo in Chennai in Tamil Nadu passed away in early June.

At least eight lions were also found positive in Hyderabad's zoo, spread over 300 acres and home to over 1,500 species of animals and birds.

In early June, this year, at least 28 elephants tested for Covid-19 at a forest reserve in southern India after the reported death of a rare Asiatic lion from the virus. The feline was among nine lions that had tested positive for the virus, including two who were in critical condition.

Last year, in April, lions and tigers at the Bronx Zoo in New York City tested positive for the virus. However, all of

them recovered. So was with the case of four lions who were tested positive at a zoo in Barcelona last September. Like their counterparts across the globe, they responded well to treatment.

After lions in Vandalur Zoo tested positive for Covid-19, camp elephants in the region also came under scanner. Nasal and anal samples were taken from 28 elephants, including two calves and sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Uttar Pradesh.

In fact, authorities in neighbouring Sri Lanka had sought guidance from India on treating animals contracting Covid-19, after a lion named Thor at a Colombo zoo tested positive.

"We are seeking guidance from the Central Zoo Authority in India in order to treat Thor," said Ishini Wickremesinghe, Director General of the Department of National Zoological Gardens in a statement.

# Sonia to meet general secys to plan protest against hike in petrol price

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will on Thursday meet the party's general secretaries and state in-charges to chalk out a strategy to plan protests against the government on issues such as the hike in petrol and diesel prices and the current Covid and political situations.

AICC sources said the leaders will give their suggestions for taking on the government and reaching out to the people to highlight its failures, sources said. Besides the hike in fuel prices, the Congress will also plan protests against the government over high inflation, the pace of Covid vaccination and handling of the pandemic, they said.

The economic situation of the country is also likely to figure during the discussions. The meeting comes ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament which is likely to start in July's second fortnight. Congress has been also attacking the government on issues related to the farmers' agitation against three new agri laws.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi slammed the Centre for not paying com-

# More trouble awaits Raj Govt as turncoat MLAs plan meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI / JAIPUR

Trouble continues in Rajasthan politics as turncoat BSP MLAs who joined the ruling party Congress and independent legislators who supported the Ashok Gehlot government during last year's political crisis led by rebel party leader Sachin Pilot have called a joint meeting on Wednesday amid lobbying for ministerial posts. The meetings are part of the strategy by the present regime in the State to prevent Pilot and his camp from entering the government.

The MLAs, who were elected as BSP candidates in the 2018 assembly elections and joined the Congress next year, are already mounting pressure on the Congress against the Pilot camp and demanding a "reward" for those who saved the Gehlot government last year. Now,

compensation to kin of Covid victims, Congress general secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh, Priyanka Gandhi wrote to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

to flag the problems being faced by wheat farmers in selling their produce and demanded that the government should guarantee wheat procurement.

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# Nadda announces names of office bearers of Mahila Morcha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda on Monday announced names of national office bearers of Mahila Morcha, including seven vice-presidents, three General Secretaries and seven national secretaries.

Vice-Presidents of Mahila Morcha are- Malti Rava Roy (Bengal), Darshana Singh (UP), Medha Kulkarni (Maharashtra), Rekha Gupta (Delhi), Virendra Kaur Thandi (Punjab), Jyotirben Pandya (Gujarat) and Puja Kapil Misra (Rajasthan).

National General Secretaries are- Sukhpreet Kaur (MP), Indubala Goswami (HP) and Dipi Rawat (Uttarakhand). Names of treasurer, officer-in-charge and social Media-in-charge were also announced.

# ED seizes ₹40 crore assets of Bhosle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized assets worth ₹40.34 crore belonging to Avinash Bhosle Infrastructure Private Ltd promoter Avinash Bhosle and his family members in the form of various assets under Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA).

"These properties have been seized as equivalent value of foreign securities / properties held by Avinash Bhosle and his family members in contravention of FEMA which provides for seizure of equivalent value, situated in India, of foreign security / immovable properties held outside India," the ED said in a statement.

# Now, electronic weighing machines at ration shops for ensuring right quantity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to ensure that beneficiaries covered under the food law get the right quantity of foodgrains, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs has tweaked norms to promote use of electronic weighing machines at ration shops and their integration with electronic point of sale (ePoS) devices.

"The Department of Food and Public Distribution has issued a notification on 18th June, 2021 to ensure right quantity to beneficiaries in distribution of subsidised foodgrains as per their entitlement under the NFSA, 2013," an official statement said.

"Any savings if accrued by any State/Union Territory

from the additional margin provided towards the cost of purchase, operation and maintenance of the point of sale device, its running expenses and incentive for its use, can henceforth be utilised for purchase, operations and maintenance of electronic weighing scales and their integration with the point of sale devices," the statement said.

"While distribution through ePoS devices ensures that subsidised foodgrains are provided to the rightful beneficiary through biometric authentication, integration of ePoS devices with electronic weighing scales would ensure that the beneficiary is given the right quantity of foodgrains by the Fair Price Shop dealer as per his entitlement," the statement said.

Accordingly, the scheme 'Assistance to state agencies for intra-state movement of foodgrains and FPS dealers margin under NFSA' provides for additional margin of ₹17 per quintal to all state governments/Union Territories towards the cost of purchase, operation and maintenance of the point of sale device, its running expenses and incentive for its use.

The additional margin is payable for the fair price shop which has installed a point-of-sale device and is limited to the transactions made through it.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Centre provides 5 kg of wheat and rice (foodgrains) per month per person to around 80 crore people at a subsidised rate of Rs 2-3 per kg.

# Yoga helped people in fight against Covid: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said practising Yoga has helped people "muster confidence and strength" to fight against the pandemic world over and sought to recall as how frontline Corona warriors adopted Yoga as their "shield" and made themselves "strong" by practising it.

Speaking on the International Yoga Day, the Prime Minister said experts are stressing the importance of breathing exercises like pranayama and 'anulom-vilom' for strengthening our respiratory system.

The Prime Minister also launched an 'mYoga app' that will be available worldwide. "In collaboration with WHO, India has taken another important step. We will be launching the mYoga app which will have yoga training videos in different languages for people across the world. This will help us achieve our 'One World, One Health' motto," he added.



Seventh International Yoga Day—"Yoga for wellness" has raised the morale of people and he wished for health of every country, society and individual and hoped that "we will be united and will strengthen each other."

The Prime Minister pointed out that it was easy for countries to forget Yoga Day during the pandemic as it is not intrinsic to their culture but, instead, enthusiasm for Yoga has increased globally.

Yoga helped people to muster confidence and strength to fight with the pandemic world over including Corona warriors, he said.

Minister said yoga goes to the root cause of disease and is instrumental in healing. He expressed satisfaction that globally, research is being conducted in the healing properties of Yoga.

He noted studies on immunity through yoga and children doing yoga during their online classes. He said this is preparing children to fight Corona.

The Prime Minister emphasized the holistic nature of yoga and said that it takes care of physical health as well as mental health.

# Covid fails to dampen spirit of yoga buffs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 crisis failed to dampen the spirit of the yoga enthusiasts as lakhs of women, men and children including school students from across the country observed the 'International Day of Yoga' (IDY) on Monday with great enthusiasm while adopting Covid-appropriate norms.

The vaze to be part of the IDY was very much evident as videos of a group of patients donning PPE suits performing yoga exercises in the Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and an ITBP jawan spreading out his mat in the snow to do a surya namaskar became viral on social media.

President Ramnath Kovind, who practiced Yoga on the lawns of Rashtrapati Bhavan, tweeted "Yoga is our ancestor's vision of bringing mind-body together to achieve

holistic health and happiness which has benefited millions over millennia".

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu who performed yoga with his spouse, called it as one simple yet powerful practice that helps us build resilience and improves our health holistically.

Similarly, Union Ministers including Prakash Javadekar, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Prahlad Singh Patel, Smriti Zubin Irani, MA Naqvi and Ashwani Chowbey too joined several citizens in performing yoga at their residences or public places sending messages of importance of the yoga.

Ayush Minister Kiren Rijiju mentioned how Yoga is not just seen as a practice native to India, but India's gift to the world, which has been accepted as their own by everyone while Road and Transport Minister Nitin



Gadkari participated in the programme 'Yoga an Indian Heritage' Campaign at Nagpur. Amid Covid-19 pandemic which has caused havoc across the world, yoga is a ray of hope for all as it not only ensures physical well-being but also keeps us mentally fit in the stressful and anxious times," Union Minister of Agriculture

Narendra Singh Tomar said at an event organised online by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) while yoga guru Dr H R Nagendra, Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA), Bengaluru shared that how yoga can help bring in mindfulness, self-aware-

ness, and numerous other health benefits for people in rural areas where virus has caused devastation, infecting many and claiming numerous lives. NCDC MD Sundeep Nayak said yoga can help a person in becoming healthy, wealthy and wise even as officials from PSUs under Ministry of Power, National Thermal Power Corporation and NHPC Limited celebrated the Day across their power stations with full enthusiasm.

Chief Ministers, including Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath, Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel, Gujarat's Vijay Rupani and Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, too sent out the same message.

The theme of this year's Yoga Day was "Be With Yoga, Be At Home" in view of the pandemic situation.

# Yet another BJP MP seeks separate State in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After BJP's MP from Alipurduar John Burla who on Saturday demanded a "separate Union Territory or a State" out of North Bengal it is the turn of his Lok Sabha colleague Soumitra Khan to raise a similar demand.

The stench of divisive politics wafted into the southern parts of the State as the Bishnupur MP on Monday cried out for a separate Rarh

Banga State — comprising the southeastern districts of Bengal. Though the State BJP unit distanced itself from its two Lok Sabha Member's statements curiously it backed the "genesis" of their demands: Lack of Development in these regions.

Incidentally both North Bengal and Rarh Bengal --- comprising Purulia, Bankura parts of Birbhum and Jangalmahal — have of late emerged as a saffron stronghold

that the BJP is desperate to retain in the face of the alleged — "devour all" — aggressive policy of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

"When Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee can call the Prime Minister of the country a outsider tomorrow she may even call us outsiders ... she should immediately withdraw her 'outsider' remarks," Khan a former TMC leader who later joined the BJP before 2019 general elections said.

# Post-poll violence: HC snub for Bengal Govt

**Kolkata:** The Trinamool Congress Government on Monday got a judicial snub with the Calcutta High Court on Monday throwing out its plea for recalling an earlier order directing National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to examine all cases of alleged human rights violations in the state post State polls.

The Monday's order was passed by a larger five-judge Bench—comprising Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and justices IP Mukerji, Harish Tandon, Soumen Sen and Subrata Talukdar—of the High Court which had after adjudicating on a bunch of public interest litigations on the ongoing post poll violence that had allegedly led to murders, loot, displacement, physical assault, destruction of property and livelihood. Earlier wondering why 541 petitions had to be filed with NHRC and not a single with the State Human Rights Commission the Bench had passed an order on June 18, taking cognizance of a report submitted by the Member Secretary of West Bengal State Legal Services Authority.

# Centre to take strong action against Bengal former CS

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In what a section of retired bureaucrats called "avoidable fallout" of an "ego clash" between Centre and State, talks to strike a compromise between the Centre and Mamata Banerjee Government on the controversial Alapan Bandopadhyay issue seems to have fizzled out.

The Central Government is likely to take "strong action" against the retired Bengal Chief Secretary for dereliction of duty meaning thereby that the retired post official may suffer heavily in terms of his post retirement benefits sources at State secretariat Nabanna said.

According to sources a memorandum from Delhi that was received about ten days ago by Nabanna says that penalty proceedings would soon start against the former Bengal Chief Secretary for failing to abide by the orders of the Prime Minister's Office.

# Mafia rules Kerala: PC George

**KOCHI:** In a no holds barred attack against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala's maverick political leader P C George alleged on Monday that the former has become a prisoner of a cabal consisting of invisible wheeler-dealers and fly by night operators.

Addressing the media at Kottayam, George demanded a High Court monitored probe into the large scale felling of trees from the State's forests. It has been alleged by John Peruvanthanam, environmentalist, that trees worth ₹1.5 lakh crore has been illegally felled from the forests in the State during the last two years and this has denuded Kerala of its fragile forest cover. "Kerala is ruled by a mafia consisting of a CPI(M) politician, a businessman with links to Jihadi forces and some characters with dubious past. Though Vijayan is the CM of a State, he speaks like the polit bureau member of the party which does not suit his stature. He should learn to behave like a CM," lambasted George, a 7-term member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. **PNS**

# Top LeT terrorist among 3 ultras killed in Sopore

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Three terrorists including one Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) commander hailing from Pakistan were eliminated by the joint team of security forces in a clean operation in the Sopore town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district in the wee hours of Monday. The operation was launched after receiving specific intelligence input about the presence of terrorists in the area around 11.15 p.m.



Security personnel during an encounter at Sopore in Baramulla district on Monday. PTI

After verifying the input the security forces surrounded the house and appealed to the hiding terrorists to surrender. "In spite of repeated appeals to surrender, the latter opened fire, injuring an army soldier. The security forces retaliated and eliminated the terrorists in the ensuing gunfight that lasted three hours".

The security forces did not suffer any collateral damage even as the operation was conducted in the thickly populated area of Tantray Mohalla of Gund Barat village in Sopore.

According to police, the trio were involved in many militancy related incidents that included "killing of civilians, security forces personnel, former militants, Sarpanchs and Hurriyat/separatist leaders/activists in north Kashmir".

The police identified the foreign terrorist as Mudasir Pandit alias Umer alias Mass Bhai. He has been

active in the area since June 19. A total number of 18 FIRs were lodged against him and he was involved in the killing of nine security forces personnel, four civilians, two former militants, three sarpanches and two separatists.

Police claimed another close associate of Pandit, who has been identified as Abdullah alias Asrar, a Pakistan national along with Khurshid Mir of Sopore were also eliminated in the fierce gunfight.

These terrorists were involved in the killing of seven security forces personnel and five civilians, besides two incidents of grenade attacks. Briefing media persons in Srinagar, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said all the three slain terrorists were top commanders of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit.

As per police, the Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives were the perpetrators of the attacks that killed two

Councilors and one SPO on 29 March 2021 and four Policemen including innocent civilians in Sopore on 12 June 2021. On completion of the operation, three AKs, one pistol, grenade, ammunition and other war like stores were recovered from the slain terrorists.

Inspector general of police (IGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the slain terrorists were hiding in a house that belonged to the family of another local terrorist. "I urge the families not to give shelter to active terrorists. Then they blame the police for misbehaving with them. The families of terrorists should refrain from providing food and shelter to the active terrorists," he said.

General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's Kilo Force Major General H S Sahi said a soldier was injured in the operation and he was evacuated to a hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

He said this was the second such instance in the valley in recent times where local terrorists were found to be accompanied by Pakistani ultras. "This is a big network nexus that exists, which is a cause of concern. This nexus needs to be broken and destroyed so that there is no hurdle in the peace and development of Jammu and Kashmir", Maj. Gen. Sahi said. He appealed to the civil society and the people of Kashmir to cooperate with the security forces to break this network".

# Amarnath Yatra cancelled due to Covid pandemic

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board on Monday cancelled the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath located at a height of around 13,000 feet in the South Kashmir district of Anantnag in the wake of prevailing situation due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The yatra was scheduled to begin from June 28. Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shrine board officially announced the decision after holding threadbare discussions with the members of the Shrine board. In a tweet Lt-Gov Sinha said, "Shri Amarnathji Yatra cancelled in wake of Covid-19 Pandemic. Decision after threadbare discussion with Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board members". Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha said, "Yatra to be symbolic only. However, all the traditional religious rituals shall be performed at the Holy Cave Shrine as per past practice".

"It's important to save people's lives. So, it is not advisable to hold and conduct this year's pilgrimage in the larger public interest", Sinha said in another tweet. The Shrine board is also expected to continue the live telecast/ virtual darshan of the morning and evening Aarti from the holy cave shrine.

However, keeping in mind the sentiments of worshippers of lord Shiva, the traditional rituals shall be carried out in the presence of saints at the shrine without any interruption. The Shrine Board authorities had extended special invitations to Akhada Parishads, Acharya Parishads and explored the possibility of establishing counters at prominent religious places across the country for facilitation of Sadhu/Sant Samaj.

The yatra was cancelled last year as well due to Covid 19 restrictions. The Shrine board authorities had launched online registration of the pilgrims across different centres of Punjab National Bank.

The same was, however, suspended on April 22 in the wake of a surge in the number of cases of Coronavirus.

# 45-yr-old man kills 5 members of family, commits suicide in Nagpur

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a gruesome incident, a 45-year-old tailor killed five members of his family, including his wife and two teenaged children, before committing suicide in his Pachpoli residence at Nagpur in eastern Maharashtra.

The incident, which took place late on Sunday night, came to light on Monday morning when the neighbours of the deceased complained to the police. Though the police suspect a family dispute might have resulted in multiple murders, the exact motive behind the shocking incident has not been established yet.

Talking to local media persons, Nagpur's Additional Commissioner of Police Sunil Phulari said: "The accused Alok Matukar initially slit the throats of his wife Vijaya (40) and daughter Pari (14) and throttled his son Sahil (12) in his house. He later went to the house of Laxmi Bobde (55) and sister-in-law Amisha Bobde (21) and also slit their throats. He later returned to his home and hanged himself from a ceiling fan".

Phulari said that the incident came to light when Matukar's neighbours found their hours locked from inside even after 9 am. "One of the neighbours peeped inside Matukar's home through the window and found Alok lying on the ground. Realising that something was amiss, Matukar's neighbour alerted the police. Our team reached there and broke open the door to find Alok lying dead under a fan in the drawing room, while the bodies of three other members of his family were lying elsewhere at home. Later on we recovered the bodies of Alok's mother-in-law Laxmi and sister-in-law Amisha from their nearby house".

# Maha cases drop to 6,270

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a big relief to the health authorities in Maharashtra, the daily Covid-19 infections came down to 6,270 on Monday, while the deaths dropped substantially to 352 in the State. A day after Maharashtra logged 9361 cases and 605 deaths, the daily infections dipped by 3,091 cases, while the deaths came down by 253.

Significantly enough, of the 352 deaths recorded on Monday, 94 deaths were current deaths, while the remaining 258 were "old and hither-to unaccounted" fatalities which have been added to the state Covid-19 toll as part of the ongoing reconciliation process.

With 352 deaths reported on Monday, the Covid-19 toll in the state jumped from 1,17,961 to 1,18,313.

With 6,270 fresh infections, the total infections in the State rose from 59,72,781 to 59,79,051. As 13,758 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the State after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 57,19,457 to 57,33,215.

The recovery rate in the State rose from 95.76 per cent to 96.89 per cent.

# RUSSIA'S DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND SORROW

## LEST WE FORGET

The Day of Remembrance and Sorrow is a memorable date marked annually on June 22. On this day, in 1941 Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa aimed at invading the Soviet Union. Thus, the Great Patriotic War had begun, which lasted until 1945.

To mark this, commemorative events are held throughout the country where flowers and wreaths are laid at monuments honoring the Great Patriotic War. The Russian leadership, representatives of veteran organisations and citizens



lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Alexander Garden.

According to tradition, one of the largest memorial events, the Candle of Remembrance, starts on the night of June 22. It unites the whole country where candles in honour of the fallen heroes are lit at the monuments and memorials.

Russians will also observe a Minute of Silence which will begin on June 22 at 12:15 local time — the moment when the attack by the Nazi troops was announced on June 22, 1941.



### CITATION BY RUSSIAN PRESIDENT, VLADIMIR PUTIN, ON THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

"This year we will mark 80 years since the beginning of the Great Patriotic War. It claimed millions of lives, and nearly all our families remember their losses and their heroes to this day. This personal connection is what defines our people's sincere commemoration of the war and war veterans in Russia."

"The most serious military defeats in 1941 brought the country to the brink of catastrophe. Combat power and control had to be restored by extreme means like nationwide mobilisation and intensification of all efforts of the state and the people. In the summer of 1941, millions of citizens, hundreds of factories and industries began to be evacuated under enemy fire to the east of the country. The manufacture, of weapons and munition, for supplies to the front was launched in the shortest possible time and by 1943, we exceeded the rates of military production of Germany and its allies. Within 18 months, the Soviet people did something that seemed impossible, both on the front lines and the home front. It is still tough to realise, understand and imagine what incredible efforts, courage, dedication these greatest achievements were worth."

"The tremendous power of Soviet society — united by the desire to protect their native land — rose against the powerful, armed to the teeth enemy which had broken and trampled peaceful life as well as people's plans and hopes."

"The root causes of World War II mainly stem from the decisions made after World War I. The Treaty of Versailles became a symbol of grave injustice for Germany. It basically implied that the country was to be robbed, being forced to pay enormous reparations to the Western allies that drained its economy. French Marshal Ferdinand Foch who served as the Supreme Allied Commander gave a prophetic description of that Treaty, "This is not peace. It is an armistice for 20 years."

"Today as well, our position remains unchanged — there can be no excuse for the criminal acts of Nazi collaborators. It is therefore bewildering that in certain countries those who are smirched with cooperation with the Nazis are suddenly equated with World War II veterans. I believe that it is unacceptable to equate liberators with occupiers. I can only regard the glorification of Nazi collaborators as a betrayal of the memory of our ancestors, and a betrayal of the ideals that united peoples in the fight against Nazism."

"Historical revisionism, the manifestations of which we now observe in the West, primarily with regard to the subject of World War II and its outcome, is dangerous because it grossly and cynically distorts the understanding of the principles of peaceful development laid down at the Yalta and San Francisco conferences in 1945. The major historic achievement of Yalta and other decisions of that time is the agreement to create a mechanism that would allow the leading powers to remain within the framework of diplomacy in resolving their differences."

## Address by Nikolay R. Kudashev, Russian Ambassador to India

Dear friends!

Today, we mark the most tragic date in the history of Russia and all former Soviet republics – the Day of Remembrance and Sorrow. On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa aimed at invading the Soviet Union and that is how the Great Patriotic War began, ending in 1945. The attack was truly unprecedented in terms of its destructive power — the enemy's army was strong, highly skilled and one of the most powerful military forces in the world at that time with the industrial, economic and military potential of almost entire Europe working for it. However, by extreme means, nationwide mobilisation, people's efforts, incredible courage and dedication, we managed to strike back. From the very first days, it was clear that the Nazi plan had failed. The Brest Fortress was protected by defenders, representing more than 30 ethnicities.

The war united our people for the sake of protecting our land and home, however, to our deep sorrow, the defeat of



Nazism came at the cost of some hard, irreplaceable losses. The military and civilian casualties are estimated to be over 27 million, including warriors of the Red Army who sacrificed their lives in the battles and people who perished during the Siege of Leningrad and in the Nazi concentration camps. It is hard to find a family which was not scorched by the flames of war.

While events commemorating those who lost their lives during the war are held throughout the country, according to tradition, let's come together and light the Candles of Remembrance in their honour

related intolerance" adopted by the UN General Assembly at the Russian initiative. After all of these years, we feel that the solidarity movement born in India in 1941 following the Nazi intrusion into the USSR is still alive, having significantly contributed to building up the core of the Russian-Indian relations which today enjoys the level of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. We have a responsibility to our past and our future, to do our utmost to prevent those horrible tragedies from happening ever again. The lessons of World War II – on which grounds the United Nations was founded – must continue to guide our countries to defend the priorities of building a fair, just and multipolar world order based on the principles of equal and indivisible security for all.

It is my sincere belief that by joining our efforts with our Indian counterparts and other global partners we can effectively confront the barbarization of international relations, prevent destroying the modern-day strategic stability system. A promising step in this direction

is seen in the recent Russia-US Presidential Joint Statement on Strategic Stability dated June 16, which declared predictability in the strategic sphere, reduction of the risk of armed conflicts and nuclear war as shared goals.

Dear friends, let's preserve the memory of this dramatic page in global history in order to save the world for future generations.

Thank you very much and, please, stay safe!



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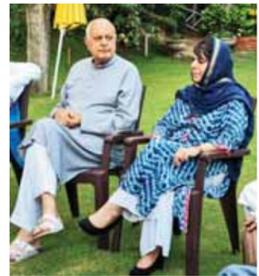
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PAPER WITH PASSION

## The dilemma

The Centre's invite to Kashmiri leaders for a meeting appears to have left them confused

Political leaders of the Kashmir valley, grouped under the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, are in a huddle over the Centre's invitation for a meeting on Jammu and Kashmir affairs on June 24. They were indeed expecting some sign from the Union Government for kick-starting a political dialogue with the Valley leaders that would eventually lead to an understanding for holding of Assembly elections. Now that the invite is in, Gupkar leaders appear confused on how to respond to it. Their problem, yet not articulated by any top leader, is this: There is no clarity about the agenda for the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Would it be about the delimitation of constituencies leading to elections? Would it be about the assurances both the Government and the Valley politicians need to hammer out for reviving the political apparatus? Would it be a mere photo-op to show the world that Kashmir is always on the developmental agenda of the Government? The invite has landed Gupkar leaders in a predicament. They do not want to be seen to be eager to jump at the invite. What has changed on the ground that can enthuse the Gupkar to go to Delhi, they ask themselves. What is in it for them, is the real question. They have been out of the limelight since 2019 when the special status of J&K under Article 370 was revoked and the State divided into Union Territories.



They have since tried to rebuild their core constituency, shaping an anti-BJP, pro-370 stand. In the elections to the district development councils (DDCs) last December, the Gupkar alliance performed well as a political grouping, even though the BJP emerged as the single largest party. There was an attempt to raise a bunch of next-generation Valley leaders as an alternative to the mainstream parties, but it did not cut much ice with the local people, adding to the alliance's credibility. The alliance meets on June 22 ostensibly to decide who will represent it at the meeting, but really to work out how to positively sell the idea of going to Delhi to their constituents. The Union Government, too, has worked step by step to reach the stage of inviting the State leaders for talks. The DDC elections marked the revival of the democratic process after 2019. Then came the restoration of broadband and data services after 18 months. The senior political leaders were gradually released from house arrest. A meeting in Delhi now would bring Kashmir back on the national agenda, relieving the international pressure on the subject. The border is quiet of late and Pakistan, for its own compelling reasons, is honouring the ceasefire. The completion of the delimitation process to hold elections and giving J&K its statehood back are two things well within the means of the Centre. But the moot point is the trust deficit between the two parties. The June 24 meeting will indicate where things stand.

### PICTALK



Navy personnel perform yoga aboard the INS Shardul on the way back from the Persian Gulf

PTI

## Hic, hic, hooray!

The Delhi Government's decision on reopening bars means that the patrons must share the onus of safety

The denizens have been cursing Corona not only for denying them their breath but also their booze. Finally, Corona abates and Delhiites are all set to get their tipples in their favourite bars. The Delhi Government threw open the doors to bars and restaurants serving alcohol with a loud three-cheers shoutout: One for the devotees of Bacchus, the second for the dehydrated hospitality industry and the last (certainly not the least!) one for the Government coffers. As anticipated, the heady news was met with exuberance by the connoisseurs who had literally been staying parched for a long time now. Of course, the liquor shops had already upped their shutters but imbibing alcohol with friends sitting at a cool place with like-minded people around you is an altogether different experience. You don't have to frequently keep running to the refrigerator to replenish the beer or worry about the performance of the ice tray or, worst nightmare, about the kebabs getting cold and limp or running out of stock. The people's Chief Minister has heard his people's inner voice and granted them their wish. Of course, the permission comes with certain riders but, still, having a little fun always beats having no fun at all.

So, now, as they say, apart from the congratulations, a few words of advice and caution to the spirited revellers. Start small. Don't let the passionate enthusiasm breach the fine line and cross into the ludicrous and the ridiculous arena. It has been made abundantly clear that the restaurants and the bars, for now at least, will operate at only 50 per cent of the capacity, so don't crowd or hog the place. Let your fellow drinkers also have a fair chance to revel. Go in small groups. Also, everyone would understand if you can't partake alcohol or the savouries with your mask fastened religiously as per the COVID-19 protocol but please take more than usual care of your etiquettes when it comes to laughing your heart out or coughing or suchlike things. Also, "50 per cent capacity" doesn't mean that 40 per cent of the inmates can agreeably be found on a single table because it's a buddy's birthday. Practise social distancing, please. All the hallmarks of genteel behaviour that you would display in a courtroom, you are expected to observe in pubs and bars, too. The Government has given you another chance, take it with caution. Meanwhile, Hip, hip, hooray!

# Diplomatic avenues across the sea

Politically and historically, India has always been a steadfast ally of the Maldives. At home or at global platforms, India selflessly watches its back



BHOPIINDER SINGH

The archipelagic nation of Maldives has witnessed tectonic undercurrents of geopolitical one-upmanship and unrest, which belie its idyllic perceptions. India's historically benign and non-expansionist outlook ensured that the semi-autocratic 30-year reign of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and the subsequent, democratically elected Government of Mohamed Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) retained a pro-India tilt. In 1988, India famously quelled a roguish coup with the dramatic landing of its Parachute Regiment elements after flying 2,000 km non-stop in 'Operation Cactus'. India's predominant impulse then was to deter the intervention of any other foreign power in India's backyard — it was portents of such a dangerous drift that ensued with the election of Yameen Abdul Gayoom's Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) from November 2013-November 2018. Yameen's five-year tenure saw signature moves of President Xi Jinping's aggressive Chinese inroads with a slew of investments (Belt and Road Initiative), free trade agreements and murmurs of a Chinese military base. India's strategic sphere of influence was openly threatened with the Chinese conglomerates replacing Indian entities. The lure for the Chinese was the strategic encirclement of its regional nemesis, India, with its strategy of "String of Pearls" ports.

The traditional "India first" policy was duly restored in November 2018 with the return of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's MDP. India reciprocated with its "Neighbourhood First" policy — soon a record \$1.3 billion financial package was announced, including the largest civilian infrastructure project connecting Male with three islands. The days of the unprecedented "India out" campaign unleashed by the previous Yameen dispensation are over for now. Maldives also became the first country, along with Bhutan, under the "Vaccine Maitri" diplomacy to receive COVID vaccines. Former President and current Speaker Mohamed Nasheed was quick to acknowledge: "During tsunami,



the 1988 coup, water crisis or Corona, India has been our first responder and dependable friend." This natural bonhomie was sought to be strengthened when India announced its support towards the candidature of Maldivian Foreign Minister, Abdulla Shahid, towards the UNGA presidency in December, much before the alternative candidature of another pro-India candidate, Afghan Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul, was announced.

As amongst the highest offices in the UN system, the victory of Maldivian Foreign Minister is especially sweet for India after the biased and overtly political tenure of the previous UNGA president, Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir. In an unprecedented move whilst in Pakistani, Bozkir had recklessly conjoined the issues of Palestine and Kashmir and urged Pakistan: "I think it is the duty, especially Pakistan's, to bring this issue (Kashmir) to the UN platform more strongly!" Bozkir lost all sense of proportion, propriety and even diplomatic pretence when he alluded to the ostensible "changed status" of Kashmir: "Throughout my term, and consistent with the UN policy, and applicable UNSC resolutions, I have



THE DAYS OF THE UNPRECEDENTED 'INDIA OUT' CAMPAIGN UNLEASHED BY THE PREVIOUS YAMEEN DISPENSATION ARE OVER FOR NOW. MALDIVES ALSO BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY, ALONG WITH BHUTAN, UNDER THE 'VACCINE MAITRI' DIPLOMACY TO RECEIVE COVID VACCINES

encouraged all parties to refrain from changing the status of the disputed territory." Bozkir was soon conferred with the second highest Pakistani civilian award, Hilal-e-Pakistan (third continuous Turkish recipient in three years), reflecting Islamist Recep Erdogan's growing stranglehold over Islamabad.

Now, with Maldivian Abdulla Shahid's one-year tenure, Delhi can expect a fair and friendly incumbent in the office. In a sign of times, Shahid appointed India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu, as his *Chef de Cabinet*. Though the one-year tenure may not allow any radical changes to the framework of the UN, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar alluded to the directional reset when he stated: "We look forward to working with him to strengthen multilateralism and its much-needed reforms" — the euphemism for India's justifiable quest for a permanent seat in the UNSC is barely masked. China's nefarious role in stymieing actions in favour of India is well documented. In this crucial tenure, India will have the opportunity to up the chorus of its preferred changes, just like Erdogan used the

UNGA platform to play his own realpolitik to the occasional discomfiture of India during Bozkir's tenure. Coinciding as it does with India's two-year term as a nonpermanent member of the UNSC, the task is cut out for Indian diplomatic mandarins.

India will need to uptick and retrieve its diminished lustre among its once-friendly neighbours like Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar (as done for Maldives), correct undeniable perceptions of its pandemic mismanagement and the growing concerns on its democratic liberties and freedom, for which it was always famed. The chessboard of diplomacy is forever changing, and Delhi must seize these serendipitously aligned circumstances to further its diplomacy. Maldives had a brief dalliance with the expansionist Chinese experience, as did Nepal (interference in Communist Government and landgrab), Sri Lanka (Hambantota takeover) and Bhutan (Doklam); the consequential difference *vis-à-vis* India needs to be gently asserted.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ESCAPING FROM REALITY

Sir — The death count because of COVID-19 has not been accurately reported by the authorities. The cases of COVID-19 are also under-reported in many remote areas. In such a scenario, the death toll as displayed by the official data may not be trusted; instead, it must be considered an approximation of the real count.

The scenario in hospitals is also very grim. Many a time, hospitals issued the death certificate of a patient, with reason as "Death with COVID-19". Such certificates were sometimes issued even to those patients who had no COVID-19. This pandemic is no doubt an unprecedented trouble to the entire humanity, but it has severely hit a large section of people.

There are many areas where the testing facilities are very poor. People resist going to a doctor because they don't want to be put into quarantine or stay isolated from their family. Many believe that becoming COVID positive is a shameful incident, and that the society members will not sit with her/him even if s/he gets cured. This is why many cases remain under-reported. Ultimately, if anyone dies, no record of his COVID-related death reaches the administration. Therefore, public awareness is must for proper reporting of COVID cases and related deaths.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

### WE CAN STOP THE THIRD WAVE

Sir — The Governments and the health departments are on alert for the third Coronavirus wave, expected to hit us within four-five weeks. The States and districts are also putting their heads together to restrict the arrival of the third wave and relaxing the lockdown after the second wave. There's an urgent need to figure out how and why these series of waves are popping up. The answer is simple, as we can see from the example of the second wave. Had people taken all the precautions before moving to the new normal after the first wave, the situation might have been neutralised. But the citizens as well as the politicians were busy in self-benefit, roam-

### Ex gratia payment is needed



The Centre's 'discovery' that the COVID-19 pandemic is not a "one-time disaster" and it is unlike a natural disaster (like an earthquake or flood) appears to be an excuse to abdicate its responsibility to give *ex gratia* to the families of COVID-19 victims. It should not be so used. Its thesis that limiting relief to monetary pay-off is a "narrow and pedantic approach" is rendered spurious by the simple fact that money matters; it is needed to alleviate suffering and to survive.

The contention that there is no precedent of providing *ex gratia* payments for a disease or a disaster spread over a long period does not hold good as everything in life is not done on the basis of precedents. Now set a precedent by undertaking this humanitarian gesture for future. True, there

is no certainty of an end to the pandemic. But the Government cannot cite it as a reason for refusing to consider granting *ex gratia* compensation. The Government bases its reasoning against *ex gratia* to the families that are suddenly left in dire straits without earners because of COVID-19 on the premise that this pandemic is not different from other diseases is specious.

Just by saying that it has earmarked lakhs of crores of rupees for augmenting health services, oxygen production and supply, providing succour to migrant workers and economic stimulus packages, the Government cannot shy away from giving a helping hand to families who have lost their bread-winners to COVID-19. Such families cannot be forsaken or left to fend for themselves. The Government holds that the distribution of *ex gratia* payments will dry up precious financial resources. At the same time, it has no qualms about spending a whopping ₹20,000 crore on Central Vista, a vanity project. By getting its priorities right, the Government can secure fiscal affordability for *ex gratia* payments without overstretching itself.

G David Milton | Kanyakumari

ing around without masks or observing the norms of social distancing.

Again, we are going down the same road. If we become serious, take vaccine, wear masks properly and maintain social distance, the third wave can be avoided to a large scale. It's a matter of appreciation that the Government is ready for the third wave, but we'd be much better off if we took the initiative and avoided its arrival altogether.

Aman Jaiswal | New Delhi

### J&K MEET MUST RESOLVE ISSUES

Sir — It is the wish of everyone that normalcy should be restored in Jammu and Kashmir since it is part and parcel of India and the Indian people love to live in peace and harmony. But one way or the other, tension continues to prevail in the Valley. Insurgency, terrorism, violence and arson continue to haunt the picturesque State. A meeting with senior Kashmir lead-

ers has been called by PM Narendra Modi. The PM and other leaders should take this opportunity not only to discuss the delimitation process but also issues like granting statehood and ending terror from the State. The separatist parties should subscribe for peace and development in the UTs.

The resettlement of Kashmiri Pandits is another long-pending issue. They are living as refugees in their own country for decades. Jobs for the youth and development of the State should be given top priority in the meeting. The other major problems confronting the UTs are more political in nature, so holding early elections will go a long way in resolving several issues. The sooner the elections are held, the better it would be for J&K.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## SOUND BITE

If AAP gets majority in Punjab Assembly elections, the Chief Minister would be from the Sikh community.



AAP's national convener — Arvind Kejriwal



(North Korean leader) Kim Jong-un's comments...we regard as an interesting signal.

US National Security Adviser — Jake Sullivan



Growing up, my sister Alka was my first friend. It was the most effortless friendship.



Actor — Akshay Kumar



Hopefully, we can get 50, 100, 150 [run lead]. As a bowling unit, we will take what we get really.

New Zealand pace bowler — Kyle Jamieson



Amma (Jayalalithaa) also faced a similar situation after MGR's death but later things turned around.



AIADMK ex-interim gen secy — VK Sasikala



## FIRST COLUMN

## LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

COVID exposed the health systems, highlighting the need for policies applicable locally and globally



DEEPIKA BHASKAR

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has exposed the world's unpreparedness for dealing with the global disaster because of the lack of a scientific approach to sustainable developmental goals including crucial health care systems. However, the pandemic has also had its positives in terms of uniting the world, otherwise divided along the lines of development, economics, society, race, and climate, to collectively face the challenge. The nations had similar, shared experiences of how the virus impacted people, the symptoms of infection, the modes of treatment, the type of medicine used, and the precautionary and safety measures to be adopted by the people. Innovations in digital communication helped make lives easier by imparting online education, enabling work from home and information sharing, and connecting the world of patients, doctors and health care. Advanced scientific research helped treating the infection better by identifying new mutants and variants of Covid-19 in time and coming up with viable solutions.

The pandemic laid bare the inadequacies in the health systems, highlighting the need for health policies applicable locally and globally. A strong global policy platform brings together all kinds of resources - medical practitioners, politicians, researchers, econo-



mists, disaster management specialists, health organizations, and socialists. The support of all sectors will be required to build strong health systems and ensure uniform population health. One such initiative is the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) which is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. It has enlisted the support of organizations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, WHO, World Bank, Unicef, The Global Fund, Gavi, FIND, CEPI, etc. With the motto — 'there is no time to waste in the fight against Covid-19; no-one is safe until everyone is safe' — these organizations have helped equitable distribution of tests, treatments and vaccines across the world and helped reduce mortality. A global health conglomerate is required to ensure a connect between nations, their individual health priorities, and managing health crises in a collaborative spirit. A robust health system comprises a well-managed supply chain, emergency services, disaster preparedness, globally connected scientific research platforms, and firm government policies that streamline the processes involved in emergency preparedness. This is also a time to learn how to address health inequities, whether due to differences between developed and developing nations, within provinces in countries, the urban-rural divide, and inequities due to income, education, gender, and disability.

Having a global scientific leadership and a strong data analytic system is critical to handling any global health crisis. Authentic health data and strong information systems can track the progress of health-related goals and individual needs of countries. Ilona Kickbusch, Director of Global Health Programme, Geneva, calls the current political focus on global health as a political revolution, given the fact that the global health agenda stems from a shared security agenda driven by fear of a global pandemic that also drives the global economic agenda in terms of impact on employment, business, trade, and markets. It is also a social justice agenda and a human right. In countries, the global health issues need to be discussed by the concerned ministries, which should be aware of the trade and economic implications of alliances and geo-political networks. In post-pandemic times there is an urgent need to re-define global health governance. The only way to win is by fighting together.

(The writer is Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

## Muzzling of free speech: Blue Bird and Big Techs

The trouble began when these open digital platforms became conscious of their power to monopolise what reaches the audience



GEETA BHATT

When the creative director of micro blogging website, Twitter, announced the bluebird as the logo of the tech company in 2012, it was called "the ultimate representation of freedom, hope, and limitless possibility". In the last couple of years, with many controversies under its fold, it is being alleged that the representation of freedom on this platform became selective and hope and possibilities were limited by the extent of the socio-political understanding and perception of the company executives about events across the globe.

Social media is one of the most powerful mediums of dissemination of information in the twenty-first century. Its sheer, tech-based reach to millions can be used for positive reinforcement or to spread misinformation, to build false narratives. These digital platforms were like a breath of fresh air for the society when only a few could access the traditional media to express their viewpoints. It was like a public debate where the audience had a right to decide and choose their side.

Trouble began when these open digital platforms became conscious of their power to monopolise what reaches the audience. Published research by scholars of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows that falsehood diffused faster than truth on Twitter. A data set of rumour cascades on Twitter from 2006 to 2017 was taken and it was observed that about 126,000 rumours were spread by nearly three million people. It also observed that the effects of false news were more pronounced on political happenings than on science, natural disasters, terror, or financial information.

Nations across the globe are raising their concerns over the unrestrained pick and choose that Twitter and other Big Tech companies are doing not only with regard to the content shared on their platforms but also its reach to users. Their rising clout while positioning themselves as non-state actors is in direct conflict with the constitutionally elected representatives of the people of a country. Former US President Donald Trump was banned by Twitter, Facebook, and others, accusing him of inciting violence at the US Capitol Hill in January, 2021 and casting aspersions on Joe Biden's presidential election win. When Trump was elected in 2016, allegations of Russian collusion were levelled against his campaign - it was later found unsubstantiated by investigations carried out by the US Senate Intelligence Committee. Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives used the Twitter platform to label the 2016 elections as 'hijacked', calling for US Congress to intervene. The microblogging site did not take any action against Pelosi for questioning the integrity of the elections.

In France, an advocacy group had to move the court when Twitter resisted releasing information about tweets with racist and anti-Semitic content. The Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris (civil court of Paris) ordered Twitter to either face a fine or reveal the information to the French authorities through a mutually accepted mechanism. In Israel, this platform is embroiled in a controversy where it stands accused of selective blocking of tweets and suspension of accounts of political activists. Nigeria recently banned Twitter operations in the country after it not only deleted the tweet of President Muhammadu Buhari, justifying it as abusive, but also suspended his account for twelve hours.



THE DUAL POLICY OF SOME OF THE BIG TECHS REGARDING THE DATA AND INFORMATION OF THEIR USERS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN. MESSAGING APPLICATIONS LIKE WHATSAPP ARE EMBROILED IN ISSUES FOR ROLLING OUT A POLICY THAT SHARES ITS USER INFORMATION WITH THE COMPANIES UNDER THE FACEBOOK UMBRELLA. IT FACED A BACKLASH IN MANY COUNTRIES

(The writer is Director, Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board, University of Delhi. The views expressed are personal)



The social fabric of sovereign nations is being challenged by big-tech virtual platforms where algorithms and machine intelligence can amplify, subdue, and hide content. The reason could be monetary as the longer the audience is glued to these platforms the larger is the revenue from advertisers, even if that is by amplifying content that promotes conspiracy and extremism. US Congressman Tom Malinowski who brought a legislation in the Congress to hold such platforms accountable by limiting their liability for the content posted by its users, argues that these algorithms are based on exploiting primal human emotions - fear, anger, and anxiety - to keep users glued to their screens, and thus regularly promote and recommend conspiracy-oriented content. The Pew Research Institute survey finds that about two-thirds of Americans (64 per cent) say that social media mostly hurts the way things are going in their country.

The dual policy of some of the Big Techs regarding the data and information of their users is also a matter of concern. Messaging applications like WhatsApp are embroiled in controversies for rolling out a policy that shares its user information with the companies under the Facebook umbrella. It faced a backlash in many countries as the policy did not provide an alternative to

the users to opt-out of it. Though some data-sharing with Facebook companies does take place, the questionable thing is Facebook can see the phone numbers being used on WhatsApp as also note how often the application is opened by users and the names of their mobile service providers.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) raised objections with the Information and Technology Minister for prohibiting Whatsapp from implementing the new privacy policy or impose a ban on it. While on the one hand Facebook wanted to share user information to generate revenue, on the other, it moved the courts to challenge the amendments - in the form of Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Codes — to the Information Technology Act, 2000 introduced in parliament. Several Public Interest Litigations (PILs) were filed in the Delhi High Court against the changed privacy law of Whatsapp in which they are sharing the user information with others. The company in turn challenged the Indian government for introducing consumer protection amendments.

Having the largest user base of nearly 40 crore people in India, Whatsapp and Facebook need to move with a cautious business sense. Their hegemony over the virtual messaging space is already

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

THE SAGES OF INDIA... THAT IS WHY SO MUCH EMPHASIS HAS BEEN LAID ON PHYSICAL AS WELL AS MENTAL HEALTH IN YOGA. — PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



MUCH BEFORE THE EXISTENCE OF INDIA AS A NATION, YOGA WAS AND HAS BEEN PRACTISED IN NEPAL. — NEPAL PRIME MINISTER KP SHARMA OLI

## Are abusers of the sedition law immune?

The very slapping of the sedition charge on a citizen forever endangers the person's right to live with dignity

There is virtual immunity to abusers and a total lack of remedy to victims of abuse of sedition. Still, we call ourselves a country ruled by the rule of law.

In two recent cases, the Supreme Court came down heavily against abuse of criminal charges of sedition. It held that the FIR against YSRCP MP of Andhra Pradesh, Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju, was lacking in the ingredients to invoke sedition. In the Vinod Dua case, the court warned to review and settle the limits of this draconian law. Will the rulers and police listen?

Criticising the dictatorial attitude of the Administrator in Lakshadweep, film-maker Aisha Sultana recently said in a TV debate: "Lakshadweep



MADABHUSHI SRIDHAR ACHARYULU

(The writer is Professor of Law, Bennett University and former Central Information Commissioner. The views expressed are personal.)

had '0' cases of COVID-19. Now, it is reporting a daily spike of 100 cases. What the Centre has deployed is a bio-weapon. I can say this clearly that the central government has deployed a bio-weapon." The BJP's Lakshadweep unit president Abdul Khader, filed a complaint of sedition with the Kavaratti police on June 9, alleging this anti-national act tarnished the "patriotic image" of the Centre. The police jumped to register it.

At the behest of a BJP leader's complaint, Delhi Police booked a sedition charge in May 2020 against senior journalist Vinod Dua, allegedly to silence him from criticising the Prime Minister and the Centre for their CAA policy. Delhi High Court stayed coercive



action against Dua, and within hours another BJP leader complained and Himachal Pradesh booked another sedition case. It is proof that police investigators are not applying their minds but simply obeying political bosses or their loyal followers. The Supreme Court saved Dua on June 3 by

quashing the sedition charge, but he would be under a constant threat of arrest and harassment of his family. Is there any remedy for the suffering of falsely accused persons like him? Is quashing a false charge enough? When dictatorial rulers do not stop abuse and the legislature is silent, people look to the judiciary to answer these questions.

Vinod Dua raised an issue in SC: "There is a recent trend to register FIRs against persons of the media primarily to harass them and to intimidate them so that they succumb to the line of the state or else face the music at the hands of the police." In Kedar Nath Singh (1962), five judges of the Supreme Court made it clear that "allegedly seditious speech

and expression may be punished only if the speech is an 'incitement' to 'violence', or 'public disorder' (Vinod Dua vs. Union of India, WP(Cr) No. 154 of 2020, by Justices Uday Umesh Lalit and Vinet Saran). In their 117-page judgment, the SC explained: "Every journalist will be entitled to protection in terms of Kedar Nath Singh, as every prosecution under Sections 124A and 505 of the IPC must be in strict conformity with the scope and ambit of said Sections as explained in, and completely in tune with the law laid down in Kedar Nath Singh."

It also observed in another case: "A speech should be considered as a whole in a free, fair and liberal spirit, the plea states that the police across the

country are picking a part of the speech or expression to invoke section 124-A against the citizens, that too, without examining the proximate and direct nexus of the act." This is a caution from the Supreme Court in the Shreya Singhal case, which unfortunately none follows. What are the legal consequences of this continued defiance? The SC left a huge gap on this aspect. This kind of impunity turns out to be immunity for these abusers of the draconian British-time law. In February 2021, advocates, Aditya Ranjan, Varun Thakur, and V. Elanchezhiyan, filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking a mechanism against the indiscriminate and unlawful use of the sedition law, saying the very slapping of

the sedition charge forever endangers the person's right to live with dignity. It causes a chilling effect on other citizens and prevents them from exercising their fundamental right to criticize the Government and its policies by legitimate means. The petition was rejected because there was no cause of action.

However, the rulers are regularly abusing and giving several causes of action. There should be another effort to either get the sedition law scrapped or limited by mandatory directions prescribed by the apex court. How many ordinary journalists or social media writers can afford to get protection from the apex court? Should their affordability decide their freedom?

# Won't meet Biden: Iran's hard-line Prez-elect

**Dubai:** Iran's president-elect said on Monday he would not meet with President Joe Biden nor negotiate over Tehran's ballistic missile program and its support of regional militias, sticking to a hard-line position following his landslide victory in last week's election.

Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi also described himself as a "defender of human rights" when asked about his involvement in the 1988 mass execution of some 5,000 people. It marked the first time he's been put on the spot on live television over that dark moment in Iranian history at the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

"The US is obliged to lift all oppressive sanctions against Iran," Raisi said at the news conference.

Raisi sat in front of a sea of microphones, most from Iran and countries home to militias supported by Tehran. He looked nervous at the beginning of his comments but slowly became more at ease over the hourlong news conference.

Asked about Iran's ballistic

missile program and its support of regional militias, Raisi described the issues as "non-negotiable."

Tehran's fleet of attack aircraft date largely back to before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, forcing Iran to instead invest in missiles as a hedge against its regional Arab neighbors, who have purchased billions of dollars in American military hardware over the years. Those missiles, with a self-imposed range limit of 2,000 kilometers can reach across the Mideast and US military bases in the region.

Iran also relies on militias like Yemen's Houthi rebels and Lebanon's militant Hezbollah against enemies such as Saudi Arabia and Israel, respectively.

On a possible meeting with Biden, Raisi simply answered: "No." His moderate competitor in the election, Abdolnasser Hemmati, had suggested during campaigning that he'd be potentially willing to meet Biden.

The White House did not immediately respond to Raisi's statements Monday. Raisi will become the first serving Iranian president sanctioned by the US Government even before entering office, in part over his time as the head of Iran's internationally criticized judiciary — one of the world's top executors.

The victory of Raisi, a protégé of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, came amid the lowest turnout in the Islamic Republic's history. Millions of Iranians stayed home in defiance of a vote they saw as tipped in Raisi's favour after a panel under Khamenei disqualified his strongest competition.

Of those who did vote, 3.7 million people either accidentally or intentionally voided their ballots, far beyond the amount seen in previous elections and suggesting some wanted none of the four candidates. In official results, Raisi won 17.9 million votes overall, nearly 62% of the total 28.9 million cast. In Tehran, the

election saw a 34% turnout, a number far lower in previous years that saw polling stations noticeably empty.

Raisi's election puts hard-liners firmly in control across the government as negotiations in Vienna continue to try to save a tattered deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear program, at a time when Tehran is enriching uranium at 60%, its highest levels ever, though still short of weapons-grade levels.

Then President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the landmark agreement in 2018, setting in motion months of tensions across the region.

Raisi's election victory has raised concerns that it could complicate a possible return to the nuclear agreement. In his remarks on Monday, Raisi called sanctions relief as "central to our foreign policy" and exhorted the US to "return and implement your commitments" in the deal. On Sunday, Iran's sole nuclear plant at Bushehr underwent an unexplained emergency shutdown.

## Taiwan to maintain HK office despite visa problems

**Taipei:** Taiwan says it will continue operating its de facto consulate in Hong Kong in spite of visa difficulties for its staffers while also providing consular services online.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong has been unable to get new visas for its staff after the Hong Kong Government in 2018 began requiring that Taiwanese personnel at the office sign a statement accepting the "one-China principle," Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council said. The office currently has just one staffer left in Hong Kong whose visa is due to expire next month.

The one-China principle holds that Taiwan is part of China and the Communist Government in Beijing is China's sole legitimate Government. Taiwan has refused to sign the statement.

## Turkish court accepts indictment to disband Kurdish party

**Ankara:** Turkey's highest court on Monday has accepted an indictment by a top prosecutor seeking to disband the country's Opposition pro-Kurdish party on terror-related charges.

The Constitutional Court ruled in favour of hearing the case against the People's Democratic Party, or HDP, which was filed by the chief appeals court prosecutor who

is accusing it of allegedly colluding with the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and of seeking to "destroy the unity of the state."

The prosecutor is demanding that the party be dissolved, that it be deprived of treasury funding and that about 450 party members be barred from holding political office for five years.

This was chief prosecutor Bekir Sahin's second petition seeking HDP's closure after the Constitutional Court rejected a previous attempt in March, citing procedural deficiencies.

There was no immediate comment from the HDP, which has said previously that the case against it is politically motivated.

## Swedish PM loses confidence vote

**STOCKHOLM:** Stefan Lofven, Sweden's Social Democratic prime minister since 2014, lost a confidence vote in parliament on Monday, making him the first Swedish government leader ever to lose such a motion.

The development creates new political uncertainty in the Scandinavian nation after the last election in 2018 created a deadlocked parliament and months of negotiations to produce a government.

Under a timeline dictated by the Swedish

Constitution, the prime minister now has one week to decide whether to call a new election or ask the parliament speaker to find a new government.

Lofven said he wants "to take some time" though "not necessarily the whole week" to decide on his next step.

That government, a Social Democratic-Green coalition, is a minority government that has relied on votes from the small Left Party to pass laws.



People participate in Solstice in Times Square: Mind Over Madness Yoga, an annual all-day outdoor yoga event in New York's Times Square

## Biden to meet with Ghani at White House amid US troop pullout from Af

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden will meet Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his chief peacemaker Dr Abdullah Abdullah at the White House on Friday for the first face-to-face interaction ahead of the withdrawal of the remaining US and NATO forces from the war-torn country by September 11.

The visit by President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah will highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan as the military drawdown from Afghanistan continues, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Sunday.

"Biden looks forward to welcoming Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah

Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, to the White House on June 25," she said.

The high-level meeting will take place as the Taliban insurgents have in recent weeks captured dozens of new districts in Afghanistan and both sides are said to have suffered heavy casualties.

The escalation in fighting between Afghan security forces and Taliban militants have dealt fresh blows to the US-brokered peace negotiations between Kabul and the insurgents.

The US, Psaki said, is committed to providing diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support Afghan people, including Afghan women, girls and minorities.

She said the United States will remain deeply engaged with the government of Afghanistan to ensure the country never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to the US homeland.

"The United States continues to fully support the ongoing peace process and encourages all Afghan parties to participate meaningfully in negotiations to bring an end to the conflict," Psaki said.

The US military exit from Afghanistan before September 11 stems from the February 2020 agreement Washington signed with the Taliban in return for counterterrorism guarantees and pledges the group would negotiate a political settlement to the war with the Afghan government.

## China warns its citizens to leave Af urgently as violence spirals

**Beijing:** China has warned its nationals in Afghanistan to leave the war-torn country urgently in view of the raging violence ahead of the withdrawal of the US troops. The warning comes as the fighting between Afghan security forces and the Taliban militants have escalated in recent weeks. The insurgents have captured dozens of new districts in Afghanistan.

China's embassy in Afghanistan has warned Chinese nationals to leave Afghanistan, amid a rapid rise in violence in the country as the Taliban recaptures territories ahead of the complete withdrawal of the US and NATO troops, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Monday. PTI

## Debate over Myanmar upends start to UN rights body session

**Geneva:** The UN's top human rights body opened its latest session on Monday and was immediately embroiled in a debate over the representation of Myanmar, where a military takeover toppled the civilian government in February.

Western countries said that two planned debates about the human rights situation in Myanmar at the Human Rights Council's 3-1/2 week session should go forward, even without the country represented.

But China, the Philippines and Venezuela insisted it should be on hand.

Myanmar hasn't been represented at the UN in Geneva since the civilian government's ambassador left after the junta took over. The UN General Assembly's credentials committee is facing a decision about which representation of Myanmar will be recognised.

"If we exclude the country concerned, this is not fair," said Ambassador Chen Xu of China, urging the debates on Myanmar to be put off until the council's next session in September.

But Western envoys insisted the rights situation in

Myanmar was urgent, notably over alleged rights violations such as those suffered by the Muslim Rohingya minority and — more recently — protesters against the military takeover who have faced a deadly crackdown.

"We recognise that we are dealing with an unusual set of circumstances that have not arisen before," said Rita French, Britain's international ambassador for human rights. "But we need to be guided by relevant practice of what has happened before."

"The reason why two dialogues were mandated just a few months ago is because there is a human rights crisis in

Myanmar," she said.

Envoys agreed to maintain the council's schedule that includes the two debates on Myanmar. But the council president, Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan of Fiji, acknowledged her office would continue to assess whether they would proceed, and said the plans could still change. AP

## 10K refugees fled to India, Thailand from Myanmar: Secretary-General's Spl Envoy

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

About 10,000 refugees have fled from Myanmar to India and Thailand as nationwide clashes in the country led to "acute" new displacements of hundreds of thousands of civilians, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar has said, warning that the regional threat of the crisis is real.

"In my daily contacts with stakeholders in Myanmar, I hear first-hand accounts about the dire situation. People suffer from deprivation, have no hope and live in fear," Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Myanmar, told the UN General Assembly on Friday.

In the absence of international action, civilians are forming people's defence forces, she said.

They use self-made weapons and receive military training from ethnic armed organisations in their resistance grounded on democratic solidarity.

## EU to slap new sanctions on Belarus, target its economy

**Brussels:** European Union Foreign Ministers will approve on Monday a fresh set of sanctions against scores of officials in Belarus and prepare a series of measures aimed at hurting the country's economy, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

The EU has ratcheted up sanctions since President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term last August in elections slammed as fraudulent by the 27-nation bloc. The measures have targeted people accused of electoral misconduct and responsibility for the police crackdown that followed.

"We will approve the package of new sanctions, which is a wider package," Borrell told reporters as he arrived in Luxembourg to chair the ministerial meeting. AP

## Russia's ambassador, recalled over spat, returns to US

**Moscow:** Russia's ambassador has returned to the United States three months after being recalled as tensions rose between Moscow and Washington, according to a tweet from the Russian Embassy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Joe Biden agreed at their summit in Geneva last week on the return of Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov and US

Ambassador John Sullivan, who left Moscow in April.

Antonov on Sunday boarded an Aeroflot flight to New York and then travelled to Washington.

The Russian Embassy tweeted Sunday night that he had returned to his duties. Antonov was called home after a Biden TV interview in which he said Putin was a killer; Russian officials then suggested Sullivan should leave. AP

**OFFICE OF MEMBER SECRETARY RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY**  
**MAHARANA BHUPAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR**  
 No./RMRS/2021-22/230 Dated: 18.06.2021

**E Tender No 05/18.6.2021**  
**NIB NO...GHU2122 A0018**

Bids for Open tender of Canteen & SSB Block Cafeteria Sanchalan tender as Member Secretary, RMRS, Maharana Bhupal Govt. Hospital, Udaipur are invited from interested bidder. (Tender Value 224.00 lakh)

Bids for Open tender of Canteen & SSB Block Cafeteria Sanchalan tender upto 05:00 pm

UEN NO. U2122WSOB00029

Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the site.

Sd/- Member Secretary Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society Maharana Bhupal Govt. Hospital, Udaipur

DIPRC/5935/2021

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
 (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)  
 Corporate Identity Number: U410PB2010SGC33813  
 Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. +91 9646107151

**E-Tender Enq. No. 330/P-1/EMPW-11720 Dated: 15.06.2021**  
 Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2021\_POWER\_67128\_1 for the work of Stopping of water leakage from underground reinforced concrete four barrel duct of Unit-III & IV having 6 Mtr. x 6 Mtr. cross section and designed discharged of 24000 MT per hour at pressure of 1.75 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, with pressure grouting with polyurethane or any other suitable chemical in face of perforce leakage of water at Multiple points at GGSSTP, Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17/06/2021 from 05:00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

RO NO. 76155/12/318/2021/5446 GHTP-24/21

**MEYER APPAREL LIMITED**  
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**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that meeting of the Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited to be held on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 2:00 PM at Gurugram, arrangement is made for participation of Board Members electronically through video conferencing facility, inter-alia to consider and approve, the Audited Financial Results of the company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2021 and amongst other items. This notice is also available on the website of the company @ [www.meyerapparel.com](http://www.meyerapparel.com) and on the website of BSE Ltd @ [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), where the company's shares are listed.

For Meyer Apparel Limited Sd/-  
 Place: Gurugram Gajender Kumar Sharma  
 Date: 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 CFO & WTD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Kailash Chander Malhotra S/o Late Jai Prakash Malhotra r/o J-3/127-128, Rajouri Garden, Tagore Garden, S.O. New Delhi 110027 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with his son Ashwani Malhotra in our project Vatika Mindscape, Tower B, flat no. 1135 measuring 500 sq. ft. which his legal heirs (Mrs. Kanta Malhotra, Mrs. Anupam Malhotra, Mrs. Alka Khanna, Mr. Ashwani Malhotra) requested the company to be transfer to his son Mr. Ashwani Malhotra. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted. Vatika Limited A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INX City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana, INDIA- 122012. Contact 09555930930

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Kailash Chander Malhotra S/o Late Jai Prakash Malhotra r/o J-3/127-128, Rajouri Garden, Tagore Garden, S.O. New Delhi 110027 was having commercial property in joint ownership along with his son Ashwani Malhotra in our project Vatika Mindscape, Tower D, flat no. 322 measuring 750 sq. ft. which his legal heirs (Mrs. Kanta Malhotra, Mrs. Anupam Malhotra, Mrs. Alka Khanna, Mr. Ashwani Malhotra) requested the company to be transfer to his son Mr. Ashwani Malhotra. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted. Vatika Limited A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INX City Centre, Sector-83, Gurugram Haryana, INDIA- 122012. Contact 09555930930

**ADDI INDUSTRIES LTD.**  
 Regd Office : 23, Eastern Avenue, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi - 110065  
 CIN:- L51109DL1980PLC256335

**NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we are pleased to inform you that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company has been scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 29th day of June, 2021 at 1.30 P.M. at B-44, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi - 110065, inter-alia to transact the following business

1. To consider and approve, the audited Financial Results of the Company (consolidated and stand alone basis) for the financial year ended March 31, 2021 along with Q4 Results.  
 2. To consider and approve the proposed scheme of Amalgamation of Aum Textab Private Limited (The Transferee Company) with Addi Industries Limited (The Transferor Company) and other connected matters if any. Please note that Aum Textab Pvt.Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Transferor Company. Addi Industries Ltd and hence no new shares will be issued on amalgamation

For ADDI INDUSTRIES LTD.  
 Date : 21.06.2021 Sd/-  
 Place: New Delhi C.L. JAIN  
 Managing Director

**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 30th June, 2021, inter-alia, to consider and approve the audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2021.

The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website [www.cubicalrealtors.com](http://www.cubicalrealtors.com) as also on the website of the Stock Exchange viz. BSE Limited - [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)

For Cubical Financial Services Limited Sd/-  
 Place: New Delhi (Ashwani Kumar Gupta)  
 Date: 21-06-2021 Managing Director

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

NIT No.	116-S/AMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020 (Ret-III)
Name of work and its location	"CAMC for Integrated Terminal Support System Equipments (Hardware) for Computerized Crew Management System application over Delhi division at Jakhai, Jind Rohtak, Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Main and Meerut City Stations on various Diesel Lobbies for the period of Two years from the Date of Execution."
Approx Cost of work	Rs. 14.53,200/- (Fourteen lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred only) plus GST as applicable
Earnest Money	Rs. 29,100/-
Completion period of work	Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of tender document on cash/by post	Rs.2360/- with GST@18%
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11.00 hrs on 19.07.2021 Opening of Tender at 11.15 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.:116-S/AMC/TSS/CMS Equipments/M-1/2020 (Ret-III) Dated: 21.06.2021 1369/2021  
 Serving Customers With A Smile

**ICICI Bank**  
 Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE: Builder Cancellation**

This is to bring to your notice that SHASHI KANT PRASAD/ MALTI PRASAD (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number LBNOD0001995795 located at Flat No. D-1/127 12th Floor Aravali Heights Sector-24 D-1 Block Dharuhera Rewari Haryana 123401

The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated JUNE 17, 2021 informing that Dwarakadhis Projects Pvt. Ltd. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/ or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: June 22, 2021 For ICICI Bank Limited  
 Place: Delhi/ NCR Sd/-

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that one female namely Pushpa Devi, W/o Amit Kumar, R/o 1/3632, 11/rd Floor, Street No. 2, Ram Nagar Extension, Loni Road, Shahdara, Delhi, Age: 25 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Red colour suit, blue colour legging and black colour plastic slipper, has been missing since dated 13.06.2021 at 10:00 am from the area of PS Mansarovar Park, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 78A dated 14.06.2021 has been lodged at PS Mansarovar Park, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this missing female please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
 E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
 Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO  
 Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Mansarovar Park, Delhi  
 DP/477/SHD/2021 Mob.: 8595847344, 7065036029

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

General Public is hereby informed that an one male dead body was found at Haiderpur Water treatment Plant Rohini dated 17.06.2021. In this regard a vide DD No. 23A, dated 17.06.2021, has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unkonwn, S/o: Unkonwn, R/o: Unkonwn, Age: About 25-30 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Hair: Black, Identification Mark: A tattoo on right hand depicting "Radhey Mamta & मीपा" and a tattoo of Om on left hand forearm, Wearing : Mehroom Grey Colour Check Shirt (full sleeve) and dark Grey Colour pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

P.S. K. N. Katju Marg, Delhi  
 Ph. : 011-27571162, 8750870327

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief description	Qty.	Closing date
1.	82211487	Injection Aflibercept 40 mg/ml vial of 1 ml	100	09-07-2021

Note :- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for details.  
 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 03/AMI/2021-22/NRCH Date :- 17.06.2021 1366/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# Retail to be next growth engine for Reliance: Goldman Sachs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With a potential for a 10x growth in pre-tax profit from the business over the next decade, retail including e-commerce will be the next growth engine for Reliance Industries Ltd, Goldman Sachs said in a report.



coupled with 15 per cent market share gain for RIL.

After growing 5x over FY16-FY20, RIL's core retail revenue growth has taken a pause in FY21 (April 2020 to March 2021) due to Covid related macro headwinds including lower footfalls.

The oil-to-telecom conglomerate run by billionaire Mukesh Ambani used the period to build strong digital capabilities of the retail business while continuing to expand its physical reach.

"We believe retail business (including e-commerce) is set to be the next growth engine for RIL, with potential for retail EBITDA to grow 10x over the next 10 years," the brokerage said.

During the macro downturn, RIL has focused on building strong digital capabilities and the scale-up in omnichannel offering is driving sizeable market share wins.

"We see a six-fold increase in grocery organised retail penetration in India by FY30,

"We expect RIL core retail revenue to grow at a 36 per cent CAGR over the next four years to USD 44 billion and e-commerce revenues to be 35 per cent of total retail revenues in FY25, at USD 15 billion," it said.

It forecast a 50 per cent market share for RIL in online grocery by FY25, with a 30 per cent market share in overall e-commerce. This translates into USD 35 billion e-commerce GMV (gross merchandise value) for RIL by FY25, with USD 19 billion in grocery.

"Overall, we expect retail EBITDA to grow 10x from current levels by FY30," it said.

Goldman Sachs valued RIL's retail business at USD 88 billion in the base case and at USD 120 billion full case val-

uation based on stronger than expected macro growth and market share wins.

It valued RIL's retail business using discounted cash flow (DCF) at USD 57 billion for offline business and USD 32 billion for e-commerce.

"We see a multi-year run-way of growth driven by our expectation of growing organised retailing in India from a 2.6 per cent share today to a 13.2 per cent share in FY30 and rising market share for RIL in organised retailing due to its omnichannel strategy with a market share going from 41.5 per cent now to 54.7 per cent in FY30," it said.

With a USD 400 billion GMV, grocery is the largest retail category in India, accounting for 60 per cent of the total retail market.

# FinMin, Infy meet on glitches in new I-T portal on Tuesday; to discuss stakeholder inputs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two weeks since the much talked about new income tax return filing portal was launched, technical glitches continue to mar the site, an issue finance ministry officials will take up in a meeting with Infosys - the vendor which provided the IT solution - at a meeting on Tuesday.

Several stakeholders have submitted written inputs highlighting the issues facing the portal as well as areas that need to be fixed.

At the company's annual shareholder meeting, Infosys had on Saturday stated that it is working to resolve the issues and has already succeeded on some fronts.

Addressing shareholders' questions on the matter, Infosys said it is deeply concerned with the inconvenience caused by the technical glitches in the new income tax e-filing portal, and it is working to resolve all the issues at the earliest.

"Infosys is working to resolve the concerns in the new income tax e-filing portal. For the last week, several of the technology glitches, which impacted the performance and stability, have been addressed. And as a result, we have



observed lakhs of unique daily users in the portal," said Infosys Chief Operating Officer Pravin Rao while responding to queries during the AGM.

Answering a shareholder's question, Rao informed that close to one lakh income tax returns have been filed so far on the portal.

However, stakeholders, in response to the finance ministry's invitation for comments last week, highlighted continued glitches such as inability to view past e-filed returns, longer loading time of the web page, weak user interface and inability to view old demand, grievances and intimation orders.

The e-filing portal, www.Incometax.Gov.In, was launched on June 7. The tax department as well as the government said it was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly.

# Power Ministry extends timeline for transmission charges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Power Ministry on Friday announced the extension of timeline by two years for waiver on inter-state transmission charge for electricity generated from solar and wind sources.

Now, the waiver would be available till June 30, 2025. Earlier, it was applicable till June 30, 2023. Besides, the waiver would now be available for Hydro Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects also.

"The Ministry of Power has issued an order today for extension of the waiver of Inter-State Transmission system (ISTS) charges on transmission of electricity generated from solar and wind sources for projects to be commissioned up to 30th June 2025," a power ministry statement said. Further, it said that the order promotes the development of solar, wind, Hydro Pumped Storage Plant and Battery Energy Storage System, trading of RE in the power exchanges and seamless transmission of RE power across the states.

# BRIEFS

**OIL PROFIT FALLS 8 PC IN Q4**  
New Delhi: Oil India Ltd, the nation's second-largest state oil explorer, on Monday reported 8 per cent drop in March quarter net profit on lower crude oil production. Net profit in January-March 2021 at Rs 847.56 crore, or Rs 7.82 per share, was lower than Rs 925.65 crore, or Rs 8.54 a share, profit in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. The firm got USD 59.80 for every barrel of crude oil in the quarter, up from USD 5.18 a year back. But oil production fell by 5.28 per cent to 0.72 million tonne in January-March 2021.

**KOLKATA METRO CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**  
Kolkata: International Day of Yoga has been observed in Metro Railway today on 21.06.2021. The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga has been "Yoga for Wellness". Shri Manoj Joshi, General Manager and other senior officers and staff of Metro Railway participated in this programme from home in the morning for physical and mental well-being. Metro RPF staff including lady RPF took part in yoga sessions at Noapara and Kavi Subhash stations as well as Belgachia and Kalighat post. A total 166 staff and officers participated in these sessions.

**GAIL CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**  
New Delhi: Limited celebrated International Yoga Day today through a series of activities encouraging its employees and social media followers to adopt Yoga in their daily routines as it provides a perfect antidote to the pandemic induced stress and physical activity during testing times. The theme this year, "Yoga for Wellness", is very appropriate at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted lives across the world and Yoga can help cope with anxiety disorder.

# Benchmarks rebound from day's lows as banks, RIL spurt

Mumbai: The BSE Sensex wiped off early losses to finish with smart gains on Monday, propped up by HDFC twins, SBI and Reliance Industries amid a mixed trend in global equities. After plunging over 600 points in early trade, the 30-share BSE benchmark made a U-turn to settle 230.01 points or 0.44 per cent higher at 52,574.46.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 63.15 points or 0.40 per cent to 15,746.50. IPO was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 3.87 per

cent, followed by Titan, SBI, HUL, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel and IndusInd Bank. In value terms, HDFC twins, SBI and Reliance Industries accounted for most of the gains. On the other hand, Maruti Suzuki was the biggest laggard, shedding 0.82 per cent, after the country's largest carmaker said it will increase prices of its entire product portfolio in the second quarter of the current fiscal due to rise in prices of various essential commodities, including steel.

# Rupee slips to near 8-week low

Mumbai: The rupee on Monday slumped to its lowest level in nearly eight weeks, shedding 24 paise to close at 74.10 to the US dollar as participants turned cautious apprehending foreign fund outflows after hawkish comments from the US Federal Reserve. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened weak at 74.20 against the American currency, pared some initial losses and finally closed at 74.10, showing a fall of 24 paise over its previous close.

# Maruti Suzuki to hike prices in next quarter

Mumbai: Maruti Suzuki will raise prices of its vehicles during the July-September quarter due to high input costs. In a regulatory filing, the company said that over the past year the cost of the company's vehicles continued to be adversely impacted due to increase in various input costs. "Hence, it has become imperative for the company to pass on some impact of the above additional cost to customers through a price rise," it said.

# CCI approves Heineken's additional equity stake acquisition in United Breweries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI  
Fair trade regulator CCI on Monday said it has approved Heineken International B.V.'s proposed acquisition of an additional equity stake in United Breweries Ltd (UBL). This, however, is subject to the outcome of certain court proceedings, a combination notice filed with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) noted. "The proposed transaction

# Businesses offer incentives to customers to get vaccinated

New Delhi: When India started its Covid-19 vaccination drive in January, not many would have imagined that a job could not just protect them against the deadly disease but also get them a discount on their favourite food, ensure extra savings on groceries and even a higher rate of interest on bank deposits. Private companies are offering a number of incentives to their customers to win over those who are hesitant to take the vaccine and help speed up the pace of inoculation in the country reeling from a devastating second wave of the pandemic. So far, Covid-19 has claimed 3,88,135 lives in the country. Experts have warned that the third wave of the pandemic could hit the country within months if a sizeable number of people is not vaccinated fast and Covid-appropriate behaviour not followed.

# Net profit of big cement firms surges 29.6% : Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pandemic-hit FY21 has turned out to be a good year for the big cement companies, as their net profits surged and market position strengthened, a report said.

The net profits of 10 major listed cement companies surged by 29.6 per cent on an average in FY21, although aggregate revenues grew modestly by 3.8 per cent, according to an analysis undertaken by Acuite Ratings.

The cement volume growth has been disrupted in the April-June quarter of FY22 after the second wave of Covid-19, but the sector is expected to see good a recovery post-monsoon led by the government's thrust on infrastructure activities and housing construction, it added.

# SBI gets central board's nod to raise ₹14,000cr via bonds

New Delhi: The country's largest lender SBI on Monday said its central board has approved a proposal to raise up to ₹14,000 crore by issuing Basel-III compliant bonds.

The bonds are proposed to be raised in Indian or US currency. "The central board of the bank at its meeting held today on June 21, 2021, accorded approval for raising capital by way of issuance of Basel III compliant debt instruments in USD and/or INR during FY22," SBI said in a regulatory filing.

Under this, the bank plans to raise fresh additional tier I capital up to an amount of Rs 14,000 crore subject to the government of India concurrence, it added.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 09/UHBVN/P-10/M/JUN/2020-21	PART-1 DATE OF SUBMISSION EXTENDED UPTO 19.07.2021 (1300 HRS.)	uhbvn.org.in	8052426343 ccem@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 3414

# APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CGEWHO

Applications are invited for filling up the post of 'Chief Executive Officer' in the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) formed by the Government of India under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs as a 'welfare' organization for construction of dwelling units exclusively for the Central Government Employees, on "No Profit-No Loss" basis and registered as a Society in Delhi under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, on 17th July, 1990 (details at website <http://www.mohua.gov.in>).

- Name of the Post and Pay Scale:** Chief Executive Officer at New Delhi in Level-14 (Rs. 1,44,200 - 2,18,200) in the Pay Matrix (As per 7th CPC).
- Mode of Recruitment:** By deputation on fixed tenure basis for a period of five years.
- Number of vacancy:** One
- Educational Qualifications and Experience required:**
  - B.E./B. Tech. in Civil Engineering.
  - 25 years post qualification experience including 10 years at senior Management level in a reputed construction organization, preferably in housing project, in the pay scale of Director or above in the Government of India.

- Grade from which deputation to be made:** Officers under Central Govt./ Subordinate / Attached Offices/ Autonomous Bodies/ PSUs possessing the educational qualification and experience prescribed above and:

- Holding analogous posts on regular basis or
- With three years' service in a post in the scale of 16400-450-20900 or 16400-450-20000 (As per 6th CPC)

- Minimum Age Limit:** Not exceeding 55 years on the closing date of receipt of applications.

**7. How to apply and by which date:** Persons serving in Central Government/ Attached or Subordinate Offices/ Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings of Centre may submit their application through proper channel and would be required to produce a 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' from their department to the effect that in case of his selection, he would be relieved immediately. The application forwarded by the employing department/ organization should be accompanied with certified copies of ACRs/APARs for the proceeding five years. integrity certificate and vigilance clearance certificate and a certificate that no penalty has been imposed on the officer in the past. The application in the prescribed proforma (can be downloaded from the website of this Ministry <http://www.mohua.gov.in>) may be sent to Shri Akhil Saxena, Deputy Secretary (Housing), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Room No 343, C-Wing, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi 110011 by the registered post latest by 19th July 2021 (5.00PM). Incomplete applications and those received prior to publication of the advertisement in the Employment News/Newspapers or after the last date will not be entertained.

ROSHAN KISHORE  
Asst. Director (Admin)  
davn 20105/11/0003/2122 Central Govt. Employees Welfare Housing Organisation

**Directorate Panchayati Raj, Uttarakhand**  
Near I.T. Park, Danda Lakhound, Sahasthradara Road, Dehradun  
Letter No- 200 /P-2/ Acct./ 2021-22 Dated 21 June 2021

**Tender Invitation**  
Panchayati Raj Uttarakhand has decided to set up a plastic processing and recycling plant at Mujahidpur, Satiwala District Haridwar.  
Panchayati Raj Uttarakhand now invites interested MSMEs/ firms/ NGOs/ Business enterprises/ Companies/ Cooperative societies or entrepreneurs to submit a detailed proposal to operate the facility based on the scope and subsequent sections of this Request for Proposal (RFP).  
Details/ terms and conditions of tender will be available on website <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> on 22.06.2021. Any amendment/ corrigendum regarding this tender will be uploaded on the above website only.  
Director  
Panchayati Raj

**बिहार सरकार**  
**बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लि 0 पटना**  
(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)  
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्दा ई-निविदा / पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-13 / 2021-22

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पाताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023 दिनांक: 18.06.2021
- निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि :-
- निविदा कागजात प्रारंभ (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक: 03.07.2021 से 24.07.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा जमा (अपलॉड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक: 26.07.2021 के 15:00 बजे तक।
- निविदा बिद्धि का स्थान :- केवल वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर
- फ्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक: 05.07.2021 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न मुख्य महाप्रबंधक बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पाताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23 दिनांक: 27.07.2021 को 15:00 बजे।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- (टेकनीकल बीड) तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- (फिनाल बीड)
- निविदा वेबसाइट की तिथि :- 120 दिन
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र	जिला का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राकालित राशि (अनुपूर्वित एवं नैर अनुपूर्वित) (₹) में	अग्रण की राशि (₹) में	परिमण मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षी रा) (₹) में	Bid Processing Fee	कार्य सामग्री की अवधि (माह में)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	पुर्णिया	पुर्णिया जिलान्तर्गत 100 आसन वाले अनुपूर्वित जनजाति कल्याण छात्रावास (विद्यमान छात्रावास, पुर्णिया के परिसर) का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹ 4,55,26,664.00	₹ 9,20,000.00	₹ 10,000.00	As per website	12 (बारह)	पुर्णिया
2	किशनगंज	अनुपूर्वित कल्याण छात्रावास (पुराना छात्रावास गिरसने आवासीय विद्यालय संवाहित था) के कैम्पस में 100 आसन वाले छात्रावास का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹ 5,06,88,577.00	₹ 10,20,000.00	₹ 10,000.00	As per website	12 (बारह)	पुर्णिया
3	पश्चिम चम्पारण	एम्पाइर/डीपी/डी पुनर्निर्माण नाम प्रारम्भिकी जन विकास कार्यक्रम (पीएफ/एन/डीपी) अन्तर्गत पश्चिम चम्पारण जिलान्तर्गत मेगाटाड अवस्थित रामपुर मिशन विद्यालय परिसर में 50 आसन वाले छात्रावास का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹ 3,00,26,010.00	₹ 06,01,000.00	₹ 10,000.00	As per website	12 (बारह)	मुजफ्फरपुर
4	पटना	नेपासुल छात्रावास श्रेण, वरक स्टेट, सफीहाउस, बारीबस, पटना (पंचायत संस्था-130/पटना) की भूमि पर 100 शैया वाले अल्पसंख्यक बालक छात्रावास भवन का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹ 3,82,52,789.00	₹ 7,66,000.00	₹ 10,000.00	As per website	12 (बारह)	पटना

11. कोई भी संवेदक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में नियमित हो अथवा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय/राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हों, निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु कार्य का लेटर आफ एक्सेप्टेंस प्राप्त होने के बाद भवन निर्माण विभाग में समुचित श्रेणी में निबन्धन दर्जना अनिवार्य होगा।

12. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट ([www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)) पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी Toll Free No.-18005726571 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [State.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar](http://State.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar) पर देखा जा सकता है। मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना। PR. No. 002611 (Ni Ni) 2021-22

नोवल कोरोना के संक्रम में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहाय्य हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

**छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल**  
पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स श्री महालक्ष्मी लाईम स्टोन माईन (प्रो.-श्री जितेन्द्र अग्रवाल), ग्राम-धनसूली, तहसील-तिलवा, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 543/4, 540/5, 543/11 एवं 543/14, कुल क्षेत्रफल-2.813 हेक्टेयर में प्रस्तावित चूना पथर (गौण खनिज) श्रमता-38.019 टन/वर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति बाबत लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 23/07/2021 को दोपहर 12-00 बजे से स्थल पंचायत भवन, ग्राम पंचायत धनसूली, तहसील-तिलवा, जिला-रायपुर में नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि:

- लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल/ सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाईजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
- लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों की बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
- कोरोना वायरस के निर्यंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु केन्द्र सरकार तथा राज्य शासन द्वारा जारी सम्पूर्ण दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (उत्क.सी.जेड) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, ग्राउण्ड फ्लोर, ईस्ट विंग, न्यू सेक्टर/एट्टे बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र), भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरुण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, छत्तीसगढ़, कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत-रायपुर, जिला- रायपुर, महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, जिला-रायपुर, कार्यालय सरपंच, ग्राम पंचायत धनसूली, तहसील-तिलवा, जिला-रायपुर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यवसायिक परिसर, कबीर नगर, रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है।

हस्ता /- सदस्य सचिव  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

# HEALTH

## MaskWoes

Masks have become an integral part of life due to Covid-19. However, people who struggle with social anxiety might experience increased distress related to mask-wearing during and even after the pandemic, finds a study. Social anxiety is characterised by negative self-perception and fear that one's appearance or behaviour will fail to conform with social expectations and norms



## YOGA FOR THE LUNGS

Yoga not only strengthens us physically and intellectually, it is also vital in fighting COVID. DR PARTAP CHAUHAN lists asanas that can help stimulate your lungs



June 21 was International Yoga Day, it coincided with the summer solstice, to recognise the many benefits of the ancient Indian practice of yoga.

This year marks the sixth edition of the International Yoga Day.

Yoga serves to strengthen us physically, intellectually, and spiritually, and is vital in fighting the coronavirus, as it helps boost the immune system. Yoga asanas, combined with the treatment protocol prescribed by Ayurveda immensely helps in the post-Coronavirus healing phase.

The following are some of the asanas that can strengthen the lungs if practised regularly:

**Hasta uttanasana aka raised arm Yoga pose:** To begin, stand straight in *samasthi*. Raise your arms over your head and stretch upward, making sure your palms facing each other. Bend back slowly while keeping your head in between your arms. Maintain a straight line with your knees and keep your eyes open.

**Dhanurasana aka bow pose:** Begin by lying on your stomach, bending your knees and holding your ankles with your palms. Have a firm grip. As high as you can, lift your legs and arms. Look up and maintain the stance for a few moments.

**Ushtrasana aka camel pose:** Kneel on your Yoga mat with your hands on your hips. Arc your back and move your palms over your feet at the same time, until your arms are straight. Maintain a neutral position for your neck. For a few breaths, stay in this position. Exhale and slowly return to the starting position. As you straighten up, withdraw your hands and bring them back to your hips.

**Ardhachandrasana aka half-moon pose:** Begin with Padahasthasana. Then, extend your left leg back, kneel down, and point your toes out. Look up and stretch your arms over your head. Make sure your right knee is parallel to your ankle. Form an arch with your upper body by bending backwards (which resembles half a moon). Hold the position for a few moments. Carry on with the opposite leg in the same manner.

**Chakrasana aka wheel pose:** Lie down on your back with your legs folded at the knees and your feet firmly planted on the floor. Bend your elbows and face the sky with your palms facing up. Place your palms on the floor on either side of your head and rotate your arms at the shoulders.

Apart from frequent breathing exercises and meditation, obtaining six to eight hours of sleep, and eating a balanced, home-cooked cuisine, keeping a healthy diet is critical for post-COVID recuperation.

The writer is Director of Jiva Ayurveda, author, public speaker, TV personality and Ayurvedacharya

## DOCYARD

DR JITENDRA JETHANI

MS, DO, DNB, FNB, FAICO & Medical Consultant

ENTOD INTERNATIONAL



## Watch your child's eye



Cataracts are normally associated with adults and that too elderly. However, this is not true. Children may also have cataracts and to add to this even the new borns may also have cataract. Contrary to popular view, these children are at a high risk of poor vision due to cataract because it may stop the development of the vision itself.

Development of vision in our eyes takes place rapidly in children especially in infancy and continues till the age of six-eight years. Any loss of vision due to causes like cataract, glasses etc. can lead to reduced development of the vision itself which is also known as lazy eye or amblyopia. Amblyopia can be treated only till a certain age and therefore managing cataract in children is semi urgent, specialised job and most importantly a long term association with the pediatric eye care specialist.

The lens of the child's eye has a clouded region called a cataract. It may create hazy or even obscured eyesight if it is big or thick. The child may have a cataract in just one eye (unilateral) or in both eyes (bilateral). The majority of kids who have cataracts in just one eye have normal vision in the other but this reduces their chance of having a good vision in the affected eye.

Cataracts are present at birth in some newborns, while others develop them in the first six months of their lives. A congenital cataract occurs when a newborn is born with a cataract. The term infantile cataract refers to a cataract that develops in the first six months of a child's life. It is important to understand that cataracts can be present since birth due to the problems during pregnancy especially in the first trimester. The lens and eye develops in the first six weeks of the embryo/foetus and any problems during this time like rubella infection can lead to congenital cataract. However, children may have developmental cataracts also which occur at a later date.

**Depending on how hazy the lens is, where the cloudiness is, and whether one or both eyes are afflicted, the symptoms of paediatric cataracts might vary**

Depending on how hazy the lens is, where the cloudiness is in the lens, and whether one or both eyes are afflicted, the symptoms of paediatric cataracts might vary. It might also be difficult to detect indications of cataracts in your kid when he or she is young.

The following are signs that your kid may have cataract:

- You may notice that your youngster has difficulties recognising and tracking things or people with their eyes due to impaired eyesight.
- Nystagmus is a condition that causes fast, uncontrollable eye movements or 'wobbling' eyes which is a symptom of cataract.
- Your child may have a squint eye which is when the eyes point in separate directions.
- A white or grey pupil — this might be an indication of something more dangerous, such as retinoblastoma, and should be checked by a doctor immediately.
- Your child may have trouble seeing clearly in flashy bright light or when there is glare.
- Children with cataracts may also be extremely sensitive to light.

If your kid has cataracts, they may try to view things by holding them near to their eyes. The management is urgent and time bound. Unlike adult cataracts, the treatment begins once the surgery is done. The child would need glasses and treatment for amblyopia after cataract surgery. Treatment for cataracts in children aims to:

- Maximize and improve your child's visual development.
- If there is an underlying reason, to find it and cure it.

Treatment for cataracts is determined by the size, severity, and location of the cataract-caused lens clouding.

## SUMMER COOLER

**CHERRY:** These red-coloured tiny fruits are loaded with Vitamins and antioxidants that help in reducing skin's signs of aging and making it look fresh and glowing.

Eating cherries is not only beneficial for your skin, but it also helps in regulating blood pressure because of its high potassium content. The phytochemicals in cherries help reduce bad cholesterol levels.

Cherries work wonders as sleep stimulators. If you want to have a good night's sleep then grab a cup of cherry juice before going to bed and after waking up in the morning. Cherries are a good source of



melatonin, which helps us regulate our sleep cycles. Cherries have also been found to help with jet lag.

These small berries make for a summer super food as they can keep you hydrated and energetic throughout the day.



## World Vitiligo Day is on June 25. To mark the occasion, MUSBA HASHMI speaks with doctors about the stigma attached to the condition and whether science has found a cure for it

At least once in a while, we must have been told by our parents to maintain distance from people who have white spots on their body. If not, we ourselves must have turned around to inspect those patches on a random person that we might have come across in a grocery store or a super market. Why so?

"Acceptability about vitiligo is poor in our society. Despite the disease being very old there is still a lot of stigma attached to it which needs to be dissipated by spreading awareness about the condition," says Dr Shitij Goel, Senior Consultant, Dermatologist, Sharda Hospital, Greater Noida.

The reason why people often look down upon people with vitiligo or think they are any different is the growing consciousness about looks. "Vitiligo has been called as *shvet kushtha* and other names since ages. Due to the unsightly nature of lesions, it has traditionally been associated with stigma attached to it. Moreover aesthetics/ appearance of human skin is gaining more importance in today's world. People have become more conscious of their looks and that has been leading to the indifferent behaviour with people having vitiligo," Goel adds.

Not only the stigma, but the disease also comes with several myths. One of them being — it is contagious.

"This is totally untrue. Vitiligo

is an autoimmune disease in which pigment producing cells i.e. Melanocytes are destroyed in the skin, leading to white colour of the skin. There is no role of any infection in this condition and hence it's totally non contagious," Goel tells you.

Dr Pooja Chopra, Dermatologist, Aakash Healthcare, Dwarka, is of the opinion that there is much more awareness related to this skin condition now as compared to a few years back.

"It goes without saying that vitiligo has a lot of social and psychological implications. But yes, people are definitely aware of it now. In fact, we get a lot of patients fearing that any white spot on their body is vitiligo. However, there is not much awareness regarding its treatment. People still think that it's not treatable and hence, resort to alternate medicine or home remedies," Chopra opines.

The early signs of the condition, she says, are asymptomatic white patches anywhere on the skin and hair. "The patches might be stable or can gradually increase in size," says Chopra.

It's difficult to label vitiligo as progressive as it depends from patient to patient. Some may have a couple of stable patches for years, while others may report rapidly increasing patches.

As for the causes of the condition, Chopra tells you that there are

**IN A MAJORITY OF VITILIGO CASES COMPLETE REPIGMENTATION OF SKIN IS ACHIEVABLE. THERE ARE A LOT OF MEDICINES, THERAPIES SUCH AS PHOTOTHERAPY AND LASERS WHICH ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF THE CONDITION**

— DR SHITIJ GOEL, SENIOR CONSULTANT, DERMATOLOGIST, SHARDA HOSPITAL, GREATER NOIDA

## DadiKaKehna

It's been months since doctors are emphasising on the importance of having a strong immune system. But, a reminder every once in a while won't hurt.

ROSHANI DEVI shares tips



Many of us might have started drinking Golden milk, irrespective of the fact that whether it is our cup of tea. However, it is not always a hard task to boost your immune systems and ward off infections. One can start with baby steps.

The key to a healthy body is eliminating junk food from our diets. Any kind of junk is said to reduce your body's ability to fight infections. Hence, it is important to stick to your *ghar ka khana*.

A regular rainbow diet will give your immune system the much needed boost.

Fill up your plate with fruits and vegetables of different colours. Don't rush. Take it via small portions throughout the day.

Whether or not, you believe it, but sleep play an important role too. Take enough rest and sleep for eight hours. Lack of sleep can stress your body and in turn can result in a compromised immune system.

And last, but not the least, avoid unnecessary stress. It may sound tough given the current situation, but if you want to sail through the second wave of COVID healthy and happy, it may be a wise thing to do, and also it won't harm you any way.



With the surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths, the Indian healthcare system is struggling. The spike in cases is concerning as the new COVID-19 variant is more infectious and lethal. Amidst this, people with non-COVID health problems are bearing the brunt of the situation.

The fear of contracting coronavirus on their visit to the hospital, patients with heart ailments are dismissing their symptoms and refraining from consulting doctors. Consequently, there is rise in out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest cases that can be fatal if not treated immediately. The cause of sudden cardiac arrest is usually an abnormal heart rhythm or arrhythmia.

Considering that most sudden cardiac arrest cases occur out of hospital, it is important to educate the masses about sudden cardiac arrest and the importance of palliative care for managing it.

The abrupt loss of heart function, breathing and consciousness is known as sudden cardiac arrest. It is usually a result of the problem with heart's electrical system which obstructs the heart's pumping ability and stops blood flow to the body. If not treated immediately, sudden cardiac arrest

## For heart's sake

DR VIVEKA KUMAR tells you how advanced palliative care can bring respite to patients with sudden cardiac arrest

can be fatal.

On the onset of sudden cardiac arrest, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) should be delivered immediately that increases the chance of survival. An effective chest compression is done by pushing the chest of the person in cardiac arrest at the rate of 90 compressions a minute. If CPR is continued until emergency help with defibrillator is made available, it can save a life. Moreover, if a person with sudden cardiac arrest is not given a shock through defibrillator, it can decrease the chance of survival by 10 per cent every minute.

Although cardiac arrest can affect a particular group of patients, it is difficult to predict when it can occur as there are no warning symptoms. Therefore, a continuous protection is required for such patients. Here is when technologies such Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD) bring respite to patients with sudden cardiac arrest. An ICD is a small device that runs on battery and is

placed under the skin below the collar bone. By checking electrical signals from the heart, the device identifies the event of cardiac arrest. It treats the arrhythmias or irregular heart rhythm in timely manner by delivering electrical pulses to restore normal heart rhythm.

Earlier these devices had to be replaced when the battery got depleted. However, as health-care technologies are improving and growing by leaps and bounds, we now have devices with battery life up to 15 years. There are also ICDs that can be used subcutaneously. Known as subcutaneous implantable defibrillator (S-ICD), the device obviates the need to insert a wire inside the heart through a vein. Thereby decreasing the chances of infection rate and reducing hospital stays. S-ICD provides a treatment response in less than 30 seconds, is an alternative for those not suitable for an open-heart surgery.

The writer is Principal Director & Chief of Cath Labs (Pan Max) — Cardiac Sciences

## Northern Railway celebrates Yoga Day



To mark the occasion of International Yoga Day, Yoga-Pledge was administered by the General Manager Northern Railway, Ashutosh Gangal virtually at Northern Railways Headquarters Office Baroda House, New Delhi on June 21, 2021. Some simple and useful yoga asanas and yoga kriyas were also performed by a trained yoga instructor on this occasion. A survey on yoga was also conducted.

Gangal motivated railway employees to practice yoga and meditation with this year's theme — "Be with Yoga, Be at Home" amidst the backdrop of the pandemic. He laid special emphasis on *pranayama*, which aids in promoting the holistic health of each individual, and is the need of the hour in the current prevailing pandemic environment.

Gangal also encouraged the employees and officers to inculcate yoga as part of their lifestyle, it would be beneficial in reducing work related stress and boost immunity.



It is fine to be scared and worried from time to time. In fact, these are defence mechanisms that often help us stay away from potential danger. However, there is another category of fear that surpasses the normal degree and can often seem irrational to those around us.

Those who exceed such levels are often subjected to anxiety and need the support of their loved ones.

If your friend is undergoing anxiety, here are 10 small ways you can help them.

- **Recognise the signs**  
 Anxiety disorder is one of the most common mental disorders among young Indians. Recognising the symptoms can help you keep an eye out for a friend and catch the issue early on. Symptoms include:  
 Physical symptoms  
 Lightheadedness  
 Nausea  
 Diarrhoea  
 Fatigue  
 Emotional instability  
 Chronic worry  
 Fearful subjective to everything  
 Overgeneralising  
 Anxious behaviour  
 Frustration and irritability  
 Self-doubt
- **Don't force acceptance and confrontation**  
 The last thing you need to do is put an anxious person in the middle of a storm. While it is good to help them

## EXTEND A HELPING HAND

**DR MALINI SABA** shares some valuable inputs on how to assist your friend in dealing with anxiety

with self-realisation, pushing somebody when they are scared can further damage their mental health.

■ **Show you are concerned**  
 It is difficult to watch your friend deal with the underlying chaos beneath the anxiety. While a professional is more adept to



pull them out of their condition, as a friend, you can show your support and express your concern explicitly. Having said that, maintain the delicate balance between concern and interference.

■ **Take them seriously**  
 Their fears and anxiety may seem irrational to you. However, it is as real as it can be for them and they need to know that you are not going to reprimand them for their problems. Refrain from saying phrases like 'it's just a phase', 'this does not seem to be such a big deal', or 'snap out of it'. Your acknowledgement will offer them some peace of mind,

allowing them to feel secure about having someone who understands them.

■ **Leave the diagnosis to professionals**

Unless you are a licensed professional, refrain from googling symptoms and cures for anxiety and suggesting them to your friend. This will only increase their vulnerability and they will end up shutting themselves down to you. Help them talk to you by showing them your support. You can accompany them to therapy sessions and help them through the process but no psychological advice.

■ **Validate their behaviour**

This might be a reiteration, but those with anxiety are always self-doubting and have low self-esteem. There is often a desperate call for attention and you must validate your friend's behaviour. What might be a normal occurrence to you can be very stressful to them which requires you to be sensitive to their thoughts. It is important to remember that validation requires a very healthy dose of patience as well.

■ **Help them find support**

During such difficult times, it can be hard for your friend to find the right professional support. You can help them find an appropriate resource. Do a deep dive research, talk to the local medical community and support groups to help your friend through these tough times.

■ **Be there for them**  
 This is not said enough but

sometimes, your friend only needs you to be there. This is a simple yet uncommon practice that should be done more often, especially by those who are closest to the affected person. This applies to everyone with anxiety disorders since their mental health varies on different factors associated with their specific lives. The best you can do for your friend is to be there for them.

■ **Epitomise calmness**

Your friend needs to know that their support system is strong and calm. Since they need someone to rely on, you as a friend have to propagate calmness and help them take control of emergencies. For instance, in case of panic attacks, you should sit them down gently and ask them to breathe slowly, talking them out of their panicked state until they regain control or you get professional help.

■ **Respect their space**

Don't let their anxiety become a spectacle. Your friend is already undergoing a personal crisis, it is important that you respect their space and do not allow others to encroach on their grounds as well!

**Final takeaway**

Anxiety is no laughing matter. By offering everyday encouragement, love and support to your friend, you can help them tide through some tough times.

(The author is the founder and chairman of various philanthropic organisations.)

## Rethinking fenestration

Technological advancements have made it feasible for all structures, including homes, to engage in sustainable practises, believes **NITIN MEHTA**

Today, the concept of sustainability has surfaced to become a guiding paradigm in the evolution of the built environment to meet the needs of humans without denying future generations the ability to meet their own needs. The choice of fenestration systems impacts building energy use through thermal heat transfer, solar heat gain, visible transmittance and air leakage, forming an important aspect of sustainable design. Fenestration is an essential element of façade design, which serves both performance and aesthetic purposes. Improvements to fenestration systems such as thermally broken frames, insulating glass units, triple-pane glass, electrochromic and thermochromic glass, and double-glazed wall systems, contribute to the energy efficiency of the façade.

A high-performance sustainable façade is an exterior enclosure or building envelope that uses the least amount of energy to maintain a comfortable environment inside the building whilst promoting the health and productivity of its occupants. It is crucial to consider the design of the building facade when designing an energy-efficient building. With the rapid development in real estate and infrastructure, most commercial and residential buildings are growing vertically. Vertical development creates heat islands, which environmentally unfriendly products further inflame. Parallel to this development, one must also consider how these glass facades can be made sustainable and eco-friendly with lower dependence on fossil fuels.

Technological advancements have made it feasible to manipulate the proportion of transmittance, reflectance, and heat absorption of different wavelengths. Much of the recent innovation in glass for fenestration products has been focused on controlling solar radiation to improve energy performance. The use of low-e-coatings, thin films and triple-pane glass helps to reduce the amount of solar radiation transmitted inside the room. This significantly lowers the load on mechanical forms of cooling. Creative use of these glazing options combined with inventive planning of interior spaces can help integrate natural light and further limit the use of lighting devices. Besides reducing energy consumption, other advantages to installing energy-efficient doors and windows include greater durability,

minimal condensation, increased indoor comfort and air quality, and reduced operating costs. In the initial days of planning, it is essential to do a brief study of the location's climate to understand how the orientation and positioning of the facade will affect the interiors of the house. The orientation is often an advantage for the user by optimising light and ventilation into the house, thus reducing energy consumption and costs.

For an efficient and sustainable façade, it is advisable to adopt a climate-specific design strategy. In cold climates, where space-heating costs run high, one must opt for products with a low U-factor to keep heat loss to a minimum. Fenestrations with high SHGCs (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) are preferred in cold climates to utilise solar heat. In warm temperatures, products with low SHGCs offer great potential for reducing solar ingress. Windows with low e-coatings and spectrally selective coatings are effective at lowering the heat gain and have shown a significant reduction in energy consumption and energy costs required for cooling the building.

Sustainable fenestration solutions at homes can easily be incorporated using double glazed windows to insulate the interior spaces effectively making it cooler in the summers and warmer in the winters. Such smart windows are adequately insulated, thereby reducing the overall household energy consumption. The addition of skylights is another energy-saving way that creates an influx of natural light and adds to the overall aesthetics of the space. It is essential to note that high-performance windows with new technologies such as double glazing, special coatings, air-tight construction, nonconductive framing materials and higher quality can account for a huge difference in creating sustainable homes. Such sustainable fenestration solutions are effective tools to enable energy efficiency, significantly enhancing the level of comfort and liveability.

Today, fenestrations are continuously being developed into the 'fenestrations of tomorrow'. Offering a steady increase of daylight and solar energy utilisation and control, fenestrations are fast becoming a necessary 'climate screen' for effectively conserving the energy of a building.



(The author is the co-founder and executive director of one of India's leading suppliers of eco-friendly high-performance fenestration solutions.)

Against the backdrop of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, a large number of people were signing up with dating apps to get around the barrier of lockdowns to meet new people. Some of these apps are now coming up with updates to ensure that they are doing their bit in encouraging users to get vaccinated.

**Tinder** has been sharing a custom-built digital educational guide which is a rich and interactive resource that answers questions as simple as



'What is a vaccine?', the essential 'Can I go out now?' to the more serious 'Can I get Covid after the vaccine?' alongside interactive and snackable quizzes that one can swipe on to bust common myths.

Users can also display their vaccination status and advocate for their potential matches to get vaccinated by adding interactive new stickers from the vaccine centre to their profile.

Also in the works is an in-app 'vaccine centre' which shares resources from WHO and government portals so members can easily access government-approved vaccine information and book an appointment at their nearest vaccination site, through the app itself.

Apart from its newly launched in-app vaccine advocacy initiatives, Tinder has been working with local partners such as India Vaccine Project on the ground, to spread vaccine awareness and helping them recruit youth volunteers from amongst the Tinder community.

## DATE A COVID WARRIOR

Amid the pandemic, dating apps are pushing for vaccine advocacy with some unique initiatives, says **CHRISTY VARGHESE**



On a somewhat similar note, **Woo** has launched a new functional feature in the form of vaccination badges which you can proudly flaunt as a symbol of your contribution to the fight against the pandemic. A spokesperson for the app specified that users have to submit a screenshot of



their vaccination certificate and only if the documentation passes verification are users able to display their badge.

Woo's recent research analysis confirms that 70 per cent of users will consider meeting their dates only if they are vaccinated. Interestingly, vaccination has

now become a parameter to showcase a personality trait and also behaves like an initial level filter for many people.

"Although providing vaccination status on our app is optional, data has shown that people are more likely to date someone who has received a COVID-19 vaccination. An important part of returning to normalcy is helping people feel safe as they connect in person," said Ritesh Bhatnagar, CMO of the homegrown dating app.

Providing behind-the-scenes information, **TrulyMadly** introduced the novel feature of matching with vaccinated users, by asking members to share screenshots of their vaccine certificate, with the QR code being documented. The aim is to encourage users to get vaccinated with the implied promise of more matches and hence more dates.

Earlier in May, when the TrulyMadly team initiated the drive to match people based on their vaccination preferences, 41 per cent of users came forward saying that they are planning to get vaccinated and 28 per cent said they are already vaccinated. Another important statistic is that 82 per cent of users mentioned that they have battled with COVID-19.

**OkCupid** also recently launched the 'I'm Vaccinated' badge which lets individ-

uals announce their status on their profile and also join the vaccinated stack which helps them match with like-minded love interests who have taken the job.

Activated by declaring one's vaccination status on the app, the badge is displayed on the profile and is expected to result in a 35 per cent increase in match rate with others who are either vaccinated or getting vaccinated soon.

Additionally, some in-app research helps gain insight into the impact the vaccine has on the dating lives of millennials:

When asked 'Will you take the Covid-19 vaccine?'

As of June 2021, 69 per cent of men and 71 per cent of women answered in the affirmative giving hope that we would put this pandemic behind us soon. Compared to only 15 per cent of men and 13 per cent of women who admitted to being averse to the idea.

When asked 'Would you cancel a date with someone who didn't want to take the Covid-19 vaccine?' Of the women 45 per cent said that they would cancel their date in case their potential partner is opposed to the idea of taking a vaccine shot, clearly not leaving anything to chance.

After all, health scores over everything else. But not everyone agrees since it was interesting to find that 69 per cent of the men, a large majority, were very much willing to go on a date with someone who won't take the vaccine as well.



## TRENDBLAZER



### PROUD OF RASIKA'S SUCCESS: MUKUL

Patriarchal society doesn't always celebrate the success of a woman, and it is heartening to see actor **MUKUL CHADDA** say he is extremely proud of all that his wife Rasika Dugal has achieved as an actress over the past few years.

"I am proud of Rasika's success because she is a real talent. I know how talented she is as an actress and that is why every chance she has got based on merit, we see that on screen," he said. Together. The habit of consuming more experimental content is giving show makers the courage to tell stories and take risks

### fairtalk



'From a very young age, I have seen how independent music has always had its own audience, with every generation the interest has grown and reduced in waves. And as much as I want the lockdown to end, I would say that it has given independent music a chance to once again grow. I hope it keeps on growing.'

### dailytalk



'It is really important not to impose your ambitions and desires on your children. Since your unfulfilled desires are filled with fear and apprehension, your kids grow up trying to prove themselves to you long after you're gone. Would you really want your child to carry your fears for the rest of their lives?'

### SMITH TO WRITE HIS MEMOIR

Actor-rapper **WILL SMITH** is ready to open up about his life story.

Penguin Press announced that Smith will release his memoir called *Will* later this year, after working on it for two years.

"It's been a labor of love," said Smith, on an Instagram post, while sharing the news.

The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper.





# STAR WARS

## Injured Dembele out of Euro 2020

AFP ■ PARIS

France have lost Ousmane Dembele for the rest of Euro 2020 after X-rays showed the Barcelona winger's knee injury would not heal in time, the French Football Federation said on Monday.

Dembele, 24, was hurt in the closing minutes of the 1-1 draw against Hungary in Budapest on Saturday. X-rays on Sunday evening showed he would not be back before the end of the Euros.

"The recovery time is incompatible with keeping him in the squad," the FFF said.

Dembele came off the bench in both France's matches in the Euros.

He replaced Adrien Rabiot for the final seconds of the opening win over Germany and replaced Rabiot again after 57 minutes in Budapest with France losing and hitting the post with a shot before limping off in the 87th minute.

Under UEFA rules which only allow for goalkeepers to be replaced during the tournament, France cannot call up a stand-in for Dembele, who has 27 caps.

France started with eight attackers in their 26-man squad including Kingsley Coman of Bayern, a similar type of player to Dembele who has yet to play a minute in the Euros.

Coach Didier Deschamps has other worries ahead of France's final group game against holders Portugal in Budapest on Wednesday.

Defender Benjamin Pavard took a knock against Hungary and starting strikers Karim Benzema and Antoine Griezmann as well as Coman and backup defender Lucas Hernandez are nursing injuries.

Also, Mats Hummels, Thomas Muller and Ilkay Gundogan face a race against time to be fit for Germany's match against Hungary on Wednesday with qualification for the last 16 at stake.

The trio all sat out training on Monday after picking up knocks in Saturday's 4-2 win over Portugal which left Germany second in Group F following a defeat by France in their opening game.

Hummels and Muller are both resting knee injuries, while Gundogan took a blow to the calf.



Wijnaldum makes Netherlands goal scoring history as Dutch beat North Macedonia 3-0 to finish Group C with 100% record

## GINI OUT OF BOTTLE

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Georginio Wijnaldum scored twice as the Netherlands completed a perfect group stage at Euro 2020 by comfortably beating North Macedonia 3-0 in Amsterdam on Monday.

The Dutch captain, who signed for Paris Saint-Germain from Liverpool just before the tournament began, scored twice in the second half at the Johan Cruyff Arena after Memphis Depay had put them in front.

Depay, fresh from sealing a transfer of his own to Barcelona, could claim assists for both of Wijnaldum's goals as Frank de Boer's side made it nine points out of nine in Group C.

They had already secured qualification for the last 16 as group winners after defeating Ukraine and Austria in front of their own fans at the home of Ajax, and so the 1988 European champions knew they were heading for a knockout tie in Budapest next weekend.

North Macedonia, meanwhile, were already out after losing their first two games in their debut appearance at a major tournament.



Georginio Wijnaldum of the Netherlands, left, scores his team third goal during Group C match against North Macedonia at the Johan Cruyff Arena

They leave without a point, but they will never forget this campaign and this game will be best remembered as the last of veteran 37-year-old striker Goran Pandev's International career after two decades.

He was gifted a Dutch shirt with the number 122 — the number of caps he has won — before kick-off, and was given a guard of honour by his teammates as well as an ovation from the home fans on being replaced midway through the second half.

But the North Macedonians couldn't sign off on a high, with Pandev setting up Aleksandar Trajkovski for a shot off the post when the game was still goalless.

They also had two goals disallowed for offside and felt that the Netherlands' opener in the 24th minute should not have stood.

Pandev felt he was fouled on the edge of the Dutch box by Daley Blind but the Romanian referee allowed play to go on and the home side broke forward.

Depay exchanged passes with Donyell Malen before finishing and the goal stood following a VAR check.

Wearing their black change kit, the

## Gilmour loss hurts Scotland's hopes

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Glasgow: Scotland's bid to reach the knockout stages of a major International tournament for the first time was rocked by the announcement on Monday that Chelsea midfielder Billy Gilmour had tested positive for coronavirus.

Rarely will the loss of a player with just one senior start for his country be so lamented.

The 20-year-old walked away from Wembley on Friday with the Man-Of-The-Match award after getting the better of a host of fellow Premier League stars as Scotland kept their Euro 2020 campaign alive with a 0-0 draw against England.

Steve Clarke's side need to beat Croatia at Glasgow's Hampden Park on Tuesday to stand any hope of reaching the last 16.

The one crumb of comfort for Clarke is that he has not lost any more players to self-isolation despite their contact with Gilmour.

All 25 remaining members of his squad trained on Monday after news of the midfielder's positive case broke.

Scotland will now have to find a way to cope without Gilmour — he is forced to self-isolate for 10 days — but Clarke is at least blessed with options in midfield, which is why he had resisted the clamour to start Gilmour until the trip to London.

Southampton's Stuart Armstrong, who replaced Gilmour for the final quarter of an hour at Wembley, is expected to come into the side and should offer more of a goal threat to a team that has failed to find the net in their opening two matches.

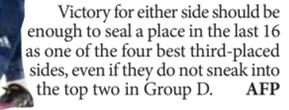
Three years on from shocking Argentina and England to reach the World

Cup final, Croatia find themselves in the same situation as Scotland, with just one point from their opening two games.

Without the energy of Ivan Rakitic in midfield and the cutting edge provided by the bulldozing presence of Mario Mandzukic up front, both of whom have retired from International football, Croatia have appeared one-dimensional.

A moment of magic from Ivan Perisic salvaged a 1-1 draw against the Czech Republic to keep their hopes of qualification alive.

Victory for either side should be enough to seal a place in the last 16 as one of the four best third-placed sides, even if they do not sneak into the top two in Group D.



## Toor qualifies for Olympics with record-breaking show

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shot-putter Tajinder Singh Toor qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a new national record at the Indian Grand Prix 4 in Patiala on a day when the national women's 4x100m relay team and sprinter Dutee Chand also breached the previous best marks in the country.

Toor crossed the Olympic Qualification mark with a throw of 21.49m and broke his own National Record. The Olympic Qualifying effort in this event is 21.10m. The previous record, which was also in Toor's name, stood at 20.92m and was set in 2019. The women's relay team, however, failed to place itself inside the Olympic qualifying bracket despite the record effort of its own.

The quartet of Hima Das, Dutee Chand, S Dhanalakshmi and Archana Suseendran clocked 43.37 seconds to win the



race ahead of India 'B' team (48.02 seconds) and Maldives (50.74) in the three team race.

The Indian team bettered the previous record of 43.42 seconds set in 2016 by the quartet of Merlin K Joseph, H M Jyothi, Srabani Nanda and Dutee.

But the quartet failed to clock below 43.05 seconds needed to be among the top 16 teams in the Road to Tokyo list. Sixteen team will run in the women's 4x100m relay race in Tokyo

Games.

Olympic-bound Kamalpreet Kaur bettered her earlier national record mark in women's discus throw by hurling the iron disc to a distance of 66.59m.

But her performance will not be counted as the new national record as she was the lone competitor in the event.

Kaur had become the country's first woman discus thrower to breach the 65m mark with a national record mark of 65.06m during the Federation Cup here in March, which also booked her a spot in the Tokyo Olympics.

Sprinter Dutee Chand also shattered a national record in the women's 100m event. She completed the race in 11.17 seconds. However, the Olympic Qualification time in this event is 11.15s. The previous record was 11.21 seconds, also created by Dutee.

## WTC final: Rain keeps cricket out on 4th day

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

The fickle English weather played spoilsport in a game promising high quality contest as day four of the inaugural World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand was washed out due to rain.

For the second time in the one-off clash, a whole day was lost after no play was possible also on the opening day.

With the weather not improving since morning at the Hampshire Bowl, the umpires took the call almost four hours and 30 minutes after the scheduled start time of 10.30 am local time (3 pm IST).

"Day four of the #WTC21 Final has been abandoned due to persistent rain," read an ICC update.

The fans who were patiently waiting for the play to start had to leave disappointed.

"We thank our fans who turned up and kept the tempo



high. See you again, tomorrow," the BCCI added.

Rain is not forecast for the remaining two days of the big final but it is likely to remain overcast as it has been the case so far when play did take place. When it wasn't the rain, bad light stopped play on both

day two and day three.

A maximum of 196 overs can be played in the game to force a result. The trophy will be shared if the game is drawn.

Weather has played havoc with the first ever World Test Championship final and former cricketers including Kevin

Pietersen has questioned the scheduling of the game in the UK.

"It pains me to say it, but a ONE OFF & incredibly important cricket game should NOT be played in the UK," tweeted the former England batsman, who wants

these kind of games to be played in the UAE with minimal chance of weather intervention.

Former India opener Virender Sehwag was also among the ones who questioned ICC's decision to host the final in Southampton.

## JOS HINTS TO SKIP IPL

Star England wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler doesn't expect to play in the remainder of the IPL, to be held in September-October, if it clashes the national team's schedule.

The IPL is expected to clash with England's limited tours of Bangladesh and Pakistan ahead of the T20 World Cup.

"Usually the pocket of the IPL doesn't clash with any International games, which makes it a very easy tournament to be available for. When it clashes with international cricket, England will take precedence I'd have thought," Buttler was quoted as saying by The Telegraph.

## Tokyo Olympics to allow 10K fans per venue

AFP ■ TOKYO

Up to 10,000 fans will be allowed at Tokyo Olympic events, organisers said on Monday, warning competition could move behind closed doors if infections surge.

The decision, just weeks before the opening ceremony, ends months of speculation about whether spectators will be allowed at the pandemic-postponed Games. Overseas fans were banned in March.

"In light of the government's restrictions on public events, the spectator limit for the Olympic Games will be set at 50 percent of venue capacity, up to a maximum of 10,000 people in all venues," organisers said in a statement.

A decision on spectators at the Paralympics will be delayed until July 16, a week before the Olympics open. And officials left open the possibility of a reversal if the virus rebounds.

"If there should be major dramatic change in the infection situation, we may need to revisit this matter amongst ourselves and we may need to consider the option of having no spectators



Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto and IOC President Thomas Bach, on a screen, speak during a five-party online meeting in Tokyo on Monday

## IOA seeks clarity on entry of foreign-based athletes

New Delhi: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday asked the Tokyo Games organisers to clarify whether the strict regulations imposed on the entry of country's athletes to Japan would also apply to those who are currently training abroad and are due to reach directly.

Several athletes, including shooters, wrestlers and boxers

are currently training abroad. Of these, the boxers are scheduled to return to India on July 10 before flying off to Tokyo.

"Currently, we have a number of Indian athletes training abroad for more than 30 days and will be travelling directly from the training locations to Tokyo. The countries they are training are not in the list of 11 countries that have these new

in the venues," Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said.

Senior medical experts, including top advisors to the Government, have said that holding the Games behind closed doors would be 'ideal' from a health perspective. They fear crowds of fans could fuel a new surge in infections.

The decision was announced after five-way talks between Tokyo 2020 organisers and officials from Japan's Government, the Tokyo Government, the IOC and the International Paralympic Committee.

additional conditions," the IOA said in a letter to the Tokyo Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (TOCOG).

"Kindly confirm that these specific athletes training out of India for over 30 days will not be required to follow these additional entry conditions," IOA president Narinder Batra and secretary general Rajeev Mehta said in the letter. PTI

## Own goal costs Colombia

AP ■ SAO PAULO

Peru beat Colombia 2-1 to keep alive its chances of advancing to the knockout stage of Copa America.

Sergio Peña opened the scoring for the Peruvians in the 17th minute on Sunday (Monday morning IST). Miguel Borja equalised from the spot in the 53rd but an own goal 11 minutes later by Colombian defender Yerry Mina decided the match at the Olimpico stadium in Goiania.

Peru is in third position in Group B with three points after two matches. Colombia remains with four points in second spot, but with only two games remaining. Leader Brazil has six points. The top four teams will qualify for the quarterfinals.

"This gives us a lot of hope in what is to come at this Copa America," Peru defender Renato Tapia said.

"We are in a good position, but we have to keep rowing to go farther."

Peru lost 4-0 to Brazil in its tournament opener, which raised doubts about coach Ricardo Gareca's team. The 2019



Peru's Sergio Peña celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal

Copa America finalists are also struggling in South American World Cup qualifiers. Only weeks ago it lost 3-0 to Colombia in Lima.

"You pay a high price for mistakes and now we have to face Brazil on Wednesday," Colombia's Wilmar Barrios said.

"We are still missing something."

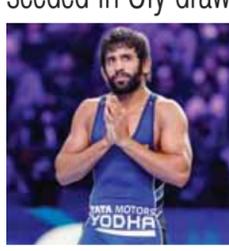
After an opening 0-0 draw with Venezuela and the loss to Peru, coach Reinaldo Rueda agreed.

one, and then have the ease to finish," said Rueda, who is under criticism at home for not bringing midfielder James Rodriguez to the South American championship.

Earlier, Venezuela and Ecuador drew 2-2. Venezuela is in fourth position in the group with two points after three matches and Ecuador has one point after two games.

The next matches in the group will be played on Wednesday. Defending champion Brazil will play against Colombia and Peru will face Ecuador.

## 4 Indian wrestlers seeded in Oly draw



New Delhi: Indian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia and Ravi Kumar were on Monday seeded in their respective categories for the Tokyo Olympics in July-August.

Both Bajrang and Deepak have been seeded second in the 65kg and 86kg category while Ravi has been seeded fourth in the 57kg. Star female wrestler Vinesh is the top seed in the 53kg category.

Russia's Rashidov Gadzhimurad is the top seed in men's 65kg. Serbia's Stevan Micic in the 57kg and Iran's Hassan Yazdanicharati in the 86kg.

Out of the Indians who have qualified, Bajrang and Vinesh have a good chance of winning a medal. PNS