

OPINION 6
WHEN A PM'S CONCEIT
DRAGGED DOWN INDIA

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SPORT 12
RONALDO EQUALS ALI DAEI'S
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Govt ready for statehood, but faces heat on Art 370

Polls soon after delimitation, assures PM at all-party meet

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday assured the key political voices from Jammu & Kashmir that the Centre was committed to holding elections "soon after the completion of the ongoing delimitation process" even as most of the leaders demanded restoration of the statehood and slammed scrapping of Article 370.

Talking after the meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Centre was committed to granting statehood to the J&K.

"We are committed to ensure all round development of J&K. The future of J&K was discussed and the delimitation exercise and peaceful elections are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in Parliament," Shah tweeted soon after the meeting.

Modi stressed in the meet-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an all-party meeting with various political leaders from Jammu & Kashmir, in Delhi. PTI

ing that holding Assembly elections, just like the "successful conduct" of the District Development Council polls, is a "priority" and that the polls can happen soon after the delimitation exercise.

According to sources, Modi assured statehood but sought cooperation from parties on the delimitation exercise. People Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti had reservations towards the delimitation process.

The demand for the

restoration of Article 370 was raised by the main leaders of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), but it was rejected by Modi saying the step has brought forth peace and reduced corruption in the erstwhile State.

The PM stressed that an atmosphere of safety and security needs to be ensured for all sections of society in J&K.

Modi said he wanted to remove "Dilli ki Duri" as well as "Dil Ki Duri" (distance from Delhi as well as distance of

heart) and that wanted to call this meet last year itself but the Covid-19 pandemic did not allow it.

National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah said "it was a good beginning" though he said it was "pointless to expect the Modi Government to restore Article 370."

Abdullah said it took the BJP 70 years to take away Article 370 but "we will take it back in time. We are for a long haul".

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House panel summons FB over citizens' rights

Google also asked to appear on June 29 to answer on misuse of social media platform

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After summoning microblogging platform Twitter, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has asked Facebook and Google to appear before them on June 29 on the subject of "safeguarding citizen rights" and misuse of social media/news platforms.

These developments come against the backdrop of a long standoff between the Indian Government and social media platforms like Facebook's WhatsApp regarding the implementation of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

Officials said that the agenda of the meeting is to hear the views of representatives of Facebook India and Google India on the subject "safeguarding citizen rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on women security in the digital space." The meeting



will be held in the Main Committee Room of the Parliament House Annex at 4 pm. Further, representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will present evidence on the same subject on July 6.

WhatsApp has challenged in the Delhi High Court the new IT rules for social media intermediaries requiring the messaging app to trace chats and make provisions to identify the first originator of information, saying they violate the right to privacy and are unconstitutional. The Facebook owned company further said the requirement of intermedi-

aries enabling the identification of the first originator of information in India upon Government or court order puts end-to-end encryption and its benefits "at risk".

The committee had previously summoned Twitter to appear before them on the subject of "safeguarding citizen rights" on June 18. Twitter was at the receiving end of prolonged questioning by members of the Standing Committee on Information and Technology on non-compliance of new IT rules, usage of manipulated media tag and fact checking.

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Twitter India MD gets K'taka HC breather against Gzb cops

PTI ■ BENGALURU/GHAZIABAD

Twitter India's Head Manish Maheshwari, who was summoned by the Ghaziabad police in connection with a probe related to the assault of an elderly Muslim man there recently, did not appear before them as the Karnataka High Court restrained police from initiating coercive action against him.

In his interim order, the single bench of Justice G Narendar said, "If police desire to examine the petitioner (Manish Maheshwari), they may do so by virtual mode."

"If the matter requires consideration, we list it on June 29. In the meanwhile restraining the respondents from initiating any coercive action against the petitioner," the court maintained.

"It is case of petitioner that he has replied to notice under Section 160 of CrPc to join through virtual mode. The respondent (Ghaziabad police) taking objection to the request has turned around and issued notice under Section 41(A) virtually putting him in shoes of accused," the high court observed.

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Felt like Maharaja, says lone flyer on AI flight to Dubai

New Delhi: A UAE-based Indian businessman who travelled from Amritsar to Dubai as the sole passenger on the Air India international flight said he felt like a "Maharaja".

The businessman and philanthropist SP Singh Oberoi who took the three-hour flight on Wednesday found that he was the only passenger in the aircraft.

"I took my flight from Amritsar to Dubai by Air India (AI-929) on June 23 around 4 am. I was very lucky to be the only passenger on the entire flight. I feel like a Maharaja during my travel," he told ANI. Oberoi who holds a ten-year golden visa and operates a business in Dubai said that when he bought the ticket for the Air India flight dirham 750, he never thought that he will have experience of flying in a chartered plane.

"I was treated very well by the entire crew and was pho-



tographed in an empty plane. I took pictures with the crew and pilots of the aircraft," Oberoi said, recounting his memories from around a three-hour flight to Dubai.

Without any co-passengers, Oberoi said he found the journey extremely boring and he even resorted to counting the number of seats and windows of the Airbus 320 aircraft to pass time.

Continued on Page 2

Ex-DGP, former IB Dy Director booked for fake ISRO spy case

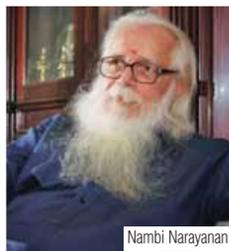
Scientist who had an unceremonious exit was absolved of charges later

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The infamous ISRO spy case that created a sensation way back in 1994 is back in the limelight as the CBI filed an FIR in a Thiruvananthapuram court on Thursday about the conspiracy angle behind the episode.

Kerala's former director general of police Siby Mathews, then Deputy Director of Intelligence Bureau RB Sreekumar and a host of junior level police officers figure as accused in the FIR, according to sources in the CBI.

The ISRO spy case centred round allegations made by a section of the media in Kerala that sensitive documents pertaining to the development of cryogenic engine used to power



Nambi Narayanan

space launch vehicles meant for deploying heavy communication and earth observation satellites were handed over to two Maldivian women, Mariam Rasheeda and Fauzia Hassan, by space scientists Nambi Narayanan and D Sasikumar.

Narayanan, Sasikumar and the two Maldivian women (one of whom was employed in the Maldives Army) were arrested along with some persons in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with whom the women had some kind of liaisons.

Though the local police probed the case initially, they could not make any breakthrough and hence the enquiry was handed over to the CBI. Nambi Narayanan and Sasikumar were interrogated and tortured by the Kerala Police and the IB. The CBI found that there was no spying and directed a thorough probe into the conspiracy behind the case which saw both Narayanan and Sasikumar, two engineers who pioneered the cryogenic technology, making an unceremonious exit from the ISRO.

The case also saw then Chief Minister K Karunanakaran losing his job following allegations that an IPS officer Raman Srivastava, a close associate of the former, was also involved in the case.

After the conclusion of the CBI probe, Chierian Philip, considered as an acolyte of then Chief Minister AK Antony, wrote articles that the spy case was a cock and bull story.

Continued on Page 2

4 students from Kargil held for Israel embassy blast conspiracy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Special Cell has arrested four students from Ladakh's Kargil area in connection with the Israel Embassy blast case in the national Capital.

The accused persons have been identified as Nazir Hussain (26), Zulfikar Ali Wazir (25), Aiaz Hussain (28) and Muzammil Hussain (25), all residents of village Thang in district Kargil.

"In a joint operation with a Central intelligence agency and Kargil Police, the Special Cell of Delhi Police has detained four persons from Kargil in connection with conspiracy to plan and execute terror activities in the national Capital," said Chinmoy Biswal, the spokesperson of Delhi Police.

Continued on Page 2

Eateries bear brunt of students' exodus

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Even after the lifting of the Covid lockdown in Delhi, dhaba owners in areas around the north campus of the Delhi University are experiencing around 70 per cent less business due to the mass exodus of students from the areas.

Areas such as Mukherjee Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Nehru Vihar, Gandhi Vihar, Indra Vihar, Outram Lane, etc, are home to thousands of students preparing for civil services and other competitive exams but their mass exodus ahead of Covid-19 related lockdown has had debilitating economic impact on eateries business, including home delivery.

Kuldeep Bhatiya, who runs Aapki Apni Rasoi at Nehru Vihar for over 20 years, said he had never experienced such a low footfall. "When we reopened dhabas after lockdown relaxation was announced, only a few customers visited and ordered food for the week. It gathered

pace with time but still only 30 per cent of students are coming to have food here compared to the time before lockdown," he said.

Many dhabas owners have reduced the number of staff and some are planning to close the business. Ajay Kumar, a resident of Indra Vihar, who has

been running a dhabas at Nirankari colony for years, said 60 per cent of flats got vacant in the area after Covid-19 hit Delhi.

"The situation is still flustered as even after cases of coronavirus came down, the students are not returning at that pace. We have reduced

staff strength to four compared to nine earlier. But, still paying the remaining staff is becoming difficult as I have lost 90 per cent of the revenue. I do not know if the situation is going to be restored soon. We are frustrated and economically shattered," he said.

Similarly, the life of Binod

Gupta, who used to deliver tiffin to more than 700 flats in these areas, has come to halt as his customer base has reduced to just 80 to 90.

"The loss of customers due to the pandemic has not destroyed my income but my dream and family too. The long disturbance followed by lockdown has driven me to despair," he said.

Anahul Hasan, who started Mother's Rasoi at Wazirabad after borrowing money from friends and relatives three years back after students started shifting in the areas due to cheap rent, said he has no courage to start it afresh.

"I have shut it down days after the lockdown was imposed. We had also started a tiffin service for students but that too failed completely during the period as many students vacated their flats without paying the due. I cannot explain the suffering my family has gone through. I am selling eggs and vegetables now to feed my family," he said.



Andhra cancels Class X exams after SC sets no death condition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after Supreme Court's tongue-lashing, the Andhra Pradesh Government on Saturday cancelled the AP SSC (Class X) public examinations and promoted the students in view of the Covid-19 situation. State Education Minister A Suresh said the Government took the decision to safeguard the students' health in view of the rapid spread of coronavirus.

The July 10 examinations were scheduled to be held in March but were first put off due to the impending elections to local bodies and subsequently due to the Covid-19 lockdown. As restrictions were relaxed, the Government announced the exams will be conducted from July 10, by curtailing the number of papers from 11 to six.

Continued on Page 2

Hong Kong's last pro-democracy paper sells out final edition

Hong Kong: The final edition of Hong Kong's last remaining pro-democracy paper sold out in hours on Thursday, as readers scooped up all 1 million copies of the Apple Daily, whose closure was yet another sign of China's tightening grip on the semi-autonomous city.

Across the densely populated metropolis, people lined up early in the morning to buy the paper, which in recent years has become an increasingly outspoken critic of Chinese and Hong Kong authorities' efforts to limit the freedoms found here but not in mainland China. The paper was gone from newsstands by 8:30 am.

The newspaper said it was forced to cease operations after police froze \$2.3 million of its assets, searched its office and arrested five top editors. AP Detailed report on P8

Kerala women's panel chief courts controversy once again

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Women's Commission Chairperson, M C Josephine is in the eye of a storm once again over her alleged insensitive remarks to a complainant of domestic violence, with demands growing for her resignation. Josephine, while attending a live television show hosted by a Malayalam news channel on Wednesday, asked a woman, who alleged that she was being harassed by her husband and mother in law, if she had filed a police complaint against them.

When the woman replied in the negative, Josephine could be seen reacting angrily, and asked her to "suffer for not approaching the police. The woman told her that she was married since 2014 and had no children and alleged she was constantly being assaulted by her husband and mother-in-law. The video of the women panel chief's behaviour on live TV has gone viral on the social media, with demands pouring in for her resignation, even from netizens with left leanings, on her 'insensitive' attitude. Josephine, a central committee member of the ruling CPI (M), in a press statement, later expressed regret. BJP state Chief K Surendran attacked Josephine for her remarks and wanted the home department to register a case against her. "When a woman called up to narrate her woes, Josephine had behaved in an insulting

manner. How will women approach the commission with such a person at the helm?" Surendran asked. Mahila Morcha leader, Bindu Krishna said Josephine, heading a quasi judicial body to ensure the safety of women in distress, should not have behaved so. This was not the first time she has reacted like this, Krishna said. The morcha took out a march to the Secretariat this evening, demanding her removal. Josephine said she had not behaved rudely to the woman. "I could not hear her clearly and I told her to speak a little louder. She told me she had not filed a police complaint and I asked her like a mother why she had not filed so. **PTI**



Farmers sow saplings at a paddy field at Sakoh village near Dharamshala on Thursday

Goa records 229 new Covid cases

Panaji: Goa's coronavirus case-load went up by 229 and reached 1,65,426 on Thursday, while 258 more people recovered from the infection, a health department official said. The death toll rose to 3,022 as nine more patients succumbed to the infection during the day, he said. The number of recovered cases in the State rose to 1,59,677 after 258 patients were discharged from hospitals in the last 24 hours, the official said. The number of active cases is now 2,727, the official said. "With 3,596 new tests, the total number of tests conducted in the state has gone up to 9,02,150," he added. **PTI**

Further relaxations in Gujarat cities, compulsory vax for businesses

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat Government on Thursday further relaxed curbs in major cities of the State and exempted 18 cities from restrictions. However, the state government made Covid vaccination compulsory for businesses. The Government also allowed businesses in the 18 cities to function till nine in the evening, but all staff will have to compulsorily get vaccinated by the end of this month. The Government led by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in the core committee meeting decided to exempt 18 cities from night curfew and other restrictions. **IANIS**

4-year-old tribal girl raped in UP, 1 held

Bhadohi (UP): A four-year-old tribal girl was allegedly raped in a village under Suryawa police station area here, police said on Thursday. The accused, Naresh Saroj (42), has been arrested, they said. The victim's family was sleeping under the shed of a house to avoid rain when the accused picked up the girl and took her to an agriculture field where he raped her, station in-charge Pradeep Kumar said. The family found the girl in an unconscious state from the field Thursday morning, he said. A case under various sections of law was lodged against the accused on the complaint of the girl's father. The girl will be sent for medical examination, police added. **PTI**

BJP changes candidate for zila panchayat chief's post after Unnao rape victim writes to Prez, PM

Unnao (UP): The BJP on Thursday changed its candidate for the post of the district panchayat chief here after the Unnao rape victim objected to the party's choice, alleging that he is "very close" to former MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who was convicted for the crime. Sengar, a former BJP MLA from Unnao's Bangarmau seat, was accused of rape by the victim in 2017. A Delhi court had sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment in the case in December 2019. The party's decision came after the rape victim wrote to President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister in this regard. The rape victim also claimed danger to her life if the BJP gives ticket to Arun Singh, who held the post of the Nawabganj block

panchayat chief. The elections for the post of the zila panchayat chairman are scheduled for July 3. The BJP had earlier denied the charge, with its district president Raj Kishore Rawat terming it "baseless" and suggesting that the allegations may be a part of a "conspiracy" by the Opposition. Later, Rawat in a statement said, "On directions of the party leadership, the candidature of Arun Singh has been cancelled. Now Shakun Singh, wife of the late former MLA Ajit Singh, will be the party candidate for the district panchayat chairperson." The rape victim had told the PTI over the phone that though the BJP took of strict action against criminals, it declared the man, who was "involved" in the murder case of her father, as its candidate for the post of the zila panchayat chairman. **PTI**

Four minor girls of Assam rescued from Rajasthan, UP

Rangia: Four minor girls from Assam who were allegedly trafficked have been rescued from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, police said. Three persons were apprehended by the police of the respective states and Assam for their alleged involvement in the crime, they said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted, "Kudos Assam Police! In a smart multi-state op @KamrupPolice has rescued 4 girls of Assam who had been trafficked. They're rescued from Jaipur, Rajasthan & Gombi Nagar, UP. Three traffickers have been apprehended." A woman had been recently arrested in Assam following a complaint lodged by parents of the girls at Chaygaon police station in Kamrup Rural district, police said on Thursday. **PTI**

Assam doctor arrested for 'raping' colleague

Dibrugarh (Assam): A doctor of a private Hospital in Assam's Dibrugarh district was arrested on Thursday for allegedly raping a female colleague, police said. In a complaint filed at Borbori police station, a woman doctor working at the same medical establishment alleged that her colleague raped her in an inebriated state on Wednesday night after duty hours, an officer said. After a preliminary investigation, a case under Section 376 (rape) and 328 (causing harm) of the Indian Penal Code was lodged against the male doctor, Superintendent of Police Shwetank Mishra said. **PTI**

Felt like Maharaja, says...

From Page 1
He also measured the length of the aircraft by steps. "I missed the usually 'Jo Bole So Nihhaal' and 'Sat Sri Akal' chants that passengers from Punjab usually raise during take-off and landing of the aircraft," he said. Oberoi had been refused permission by Air India for boarding the flight but after the intervention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation he was allowed to do so. "I was carrying all travel documents including authorized UAE full vaccinations proof. I finally boarded the flight after the intervention of Hardeep Singh Puri's ministry," Oberoi said. He added, "If I get a chance to travel solo next time I will refuse. It is good for once in a lifetime experience. It was very boring." UAE has put restrictions for passenger flights from India since late April in view of the surge in cases of coronavirus. Air India has refused to comment on the matter. **Agencies**

Twitter India MD...

From Page 1
The Twitter India Managing Director, who lives in Bengaluru in Karnataka, was issued notice by the Ghaziabad police on June 21 and asked to report at its Loni Border police station at 10.30 am on Thursday to get his statement recorded in the case, officials at Ghaziabad said. "He (Maheshwari) is not coming today," Ghaziabad Senior Superintendent of Police Amit Pathak told PTI. Pathak said he Ghaziabad police has learnt that the Twitter India MD has given a representation in Karnataka High Court in connection with the case and a decision on that is pending. The Karnataka High Court's interim orders came after 4 pm. The Ghaziabad police on June 15 booked Twitter Inc, Twitter Communications India, news website The Wire, journalists Mohammed Zubair and Rana Ayyub, besides Congress leaders Salman Nazami, Maskoor Usmani, Shama Mohamed and writer Saba Naqvi.

They were booked over the circulation of a video in which the elderly man, Abdul Shamad Saifi, claims he was allegedly thrashed by some young men who also asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on June 5. Police said the video was shared to cause communal unrest. Appearing on behalf of Maheshwari, advocate CV Nagesh said someone had posted a video on the Twitter platform alleging that a Muslim was forced to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Vande Mataram'. When he refused, his beard was cut. Subsequently a notice under section 161 of the CrPC was issued to Maheshwari by email and responding to it, he said he would be ready to appear virtually. Soon the police issued a notice under section 41(A) asking him to appear in person within 24 hours to travel from Bengaluru to Ghaziabad, which was not possible for Maheshwari, Nagesh told the court. He even argued that when the court's proceeding are happening virtually, why his client could not be examined through this mode.

House panel...

From Page 1
The committee members unanimously were critical about Twitter dragging its feet on complying with the new IT rules. The Twitter officials claimed that they abided by their policy. The members, sources said, told Twitter that the rule of land is supreme. According to sources, members of the Parliamentary Panel on Information Technology also asked Twitter why it should not be fined as it has been found "violating" rules of the country. According to sources, senior manager public policy, Shagufta and Twitter India legal counsel, Ayushi Kapoor, were present at the meeting. Following the meeting a Twitter spokesperson in a statement said, "We appreciate the opportunity to share our views before the Standing Committee on Information Technology. Twitter stands prepared to work with the Committee on the important work of safeguarding citizens' rights online in line with our principles of transparency, freedom of expression, and privacy."

Andhra cancels...

From Page 1
"We have accordingly started making arrangements but after a review of the situation, Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy suggested that we cancel the examinations and promote all the students," the Education Minister said. He said the advanced supplementary and improvement examinations for Intermediate (Class XI and XII) students, slated from July 11, were also being cancelled. Earlier, the Supreme Court came down heavily on the State Government for the decision to conduct Class 12 examination and told the State that it is not convinced of the suggested precautionary measures for holding exams. The court said unless satisfied that there will be no fatality due to Covid, it will not allow them. The special Bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari, which posed tough questions to the Andhra Pradesh Government on its decision to hold Class 12 board examinations, asked the standing counsel for the State Mahfooz A Nazki to place before the court the "snapshot of the file" giving reasons to hold the test. "We are not satisfied with

the precautionary measures you will be taking for holding the exams. We are not convinced with the mechanism you have devised. Unless we are satisfied that you are able to conduct the examination without any fatality, we will not allow you to hold the examination," the Bench said. "We have to see the aspect of compensation in case of any fatality during the examination. Some States have given Rs 1 crore compensation for death due to Covid. We can look at things through that aspect," it said. The top court is hearing a plea seeking directions to state governments not to hold board exams in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the hearing, the top court flagged its specific concern over accommodating 5,19,510 students in classrooms for the exams and said the State Government said maximum of 15 to 18 students will be in one class. "If we go by your figure then for 15 students per class, you will need 34,644 rooms and if we take 18 students per class then you will need 28,862 rooms. Tell us from where you get all these rooms," the Bench said. It told Nazki, "Don't hold examinations for the sake of examination. It is not only 5

lakh students giving the examination, more than a lakh people will be involved in the process including 34,000 supervisors for each room. You have to think about their health and safety also." The Bench said the State should keep in mind the impact of the second Covid wave, how fast it unfolded and how it will cope if it is hit by the third wave. "Do you have any contingency plans? If you are hit by a third wave or if there is any unwarranted situation how will you deal with it. We have not seen any such thing on your affidavit. No one is here to prove anything. You must have thought about something about the health and safety of students and teachers," the Bench said. Nazki said the major problem was that in Class 10 students are given only grades and there is no mechanism to evaluate the students. "We understand your difficulty that converting grades to marks or evaluating the students will be a problem. But every problem has ten solutions. You talk about experts. You can talk to UGC, CBSE, CISCE or other States and experts and devise a formula. Many states had problems but they have decided to cancel the examinations," the Bench said.

Govt ready for statehood, but faces heat on Art 370

From Page 1
Asked by a television channel on how it was sitting with the Home Minister who called them as "Gupkar gang", Abdullah quipped saying he did not say so in the meeting and listened to all patiently. He said all the leaders left no stone unturned in telling PM what they felt after what happened following removal of article 370. On Mufti's comment "if Taliban can be talked to why not Pakistan", Abdullah said he understands that "back channel talks are already on, no body denied it...and it is good", he said. According to Congress leader Gulam Nabi Azad who represented his party along with the PCC president Gulam Ahmed Mir and former Deputy-Chief Minister Tarachand in the meeting, Prime Minister and Union Home Minister committed themselves to granting statehood to J & K. Azad said his party had put forward five demands including that of statehood, Assembly polls, domicile rights on land and employment, rehabilitation of Kashmiri pandits and setting free of all political prisoners. Mufti who had this week sought Government should speak to Pakistan too and thus triggering protests in Jammu, described the meeting as "positive". People's Conference (PC) Muzaffar Baig said it was a "dignified meeting and PM listened to carefully." Sajjad Lone of PC also described it as "very cordial meet and with emotional bonding given what happened in last two years". Most of the political parties, including Congress, National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC), understood to have demanded restoration of "full statehood". The first meeting convened by the Prime Minister on Jammu and Kashmir after the

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

// सर्व संबंधित की 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 कुम्हारी ब्रिक्स अर्थ क्लबे क्वारी माईन एवं पिकनड चिमन ब्रिक्स प्लांट (श्री. श्री. नरेंद्र कुमार शिवानी) ग्राम- कुम्हारी, तहसील- धमधा, जिला- दुर्ग (छ.ग.) स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1270/1, 1270/3, 1271, 1272, 1278/2, 1279, 1280 एवं 1281 कुल लीज क्षेत्र 4.625 हेक्टेयर में गौण खनिज उत्खनन क्षमता- 3, 992.73 घनमीटर प्रतिवर्ष (ईट उत्पादन 37, 99, 321 नग प्रतिवर्ष) के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृत हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका-टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनों के 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, पिनडाई, जिला-दुर्ग में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 30.07.2021 को समय दोपहर: 12:00 बजे स्थल- नगर पालिका परिषद कुम्हारी के सांस्कृतिक भवन में, ग्राम- कुम्हारी, तहसील-धमधा, जिला-दुर्ग (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है। (इस भी सूचित हो कि-

1. लोक सुनवाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल / सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सुनवाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जावेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सुनवाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को बैठक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. कोरोना वायरस के निवर्तन एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यालय सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (साफ्ट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (डब्ल्यू.सी.जेड) पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, ग्राउण्ड फ्लोर ईस्ट विंग न्यू सेक्रेटरीएट बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन, नामपुर (महाराष्ट्र), कलेक्टर कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला- दुर्ग, मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-दुर्ग, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, जिला- दुर्ग, मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, कुम्हारी, जिला- दुर्ग, सरपंच / सचिव नगर पंचायत मारघटा, जिला-दुर्ग, सरपंच/ सचिव ग्राम पंचायत खपरी, जिला-दुर्ग, सरपंच/सचिव ग्राम पंचायत पंचदेवरी, जिला-दुर्ग, सरपंच / सचिव ग्राम पंचायत भोथली, जिला-दुर्ग, सरपंच/सचिव ग्राम पंचायत सांका, जिला-दुर्ग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, 5/32 बंगला, पिनडाई, जिला-दुर्ग एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास, भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर में पूर्ववत् रखी हुई है।

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

RAMPUR FERTILIZERS LTD.
CIN: L15136UP1988PLC910084
Email id: rkumar@rampurfert.com
Regd. Off: Judges Barelly Road,
Rampur-24901 U.P.

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
In pursuance of Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, the 30th Day of June 2021, at 4:00 P.M. at 319-A, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, inter alia, to consider, approve and adopt audited stand alone and consolidated Financial Results/Statements for the quarter end year ended on 31st March 2021 pursuant to Regulation 33 of (LODR) 2015. The said information is also available on the Company's website at www.rampurfert.com and the same has been also sent to CSE to upload on its website i.e. www.cse-india.com and MSE on its website i.e. www.mse.in.

By order of Board
Sd/-
Anshuman Khaitan
(Managing Director)

Place: New Delhi
Date: 24.06.2021

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Amit Kumar S/o. Devendra Kumar, R/o. D-278, JJ Colony Jalebhi Chok Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, Delhi-110076, have changed my name to Mohd Hasan Ahmad after changed my religion from Hindu to Islam (Muslim) for all purposes.

PD(9021)A

Ex-DGP, former IB Dy...

From Page 1

"Our aim was to oust Karunakaran as Chief Minister and bring in AK Antony in his place, The ISRO spy case came in handy at that time," Cherian had told the media. Incidentally, he dumped Antony and Oommen Chandi and crossed over to the CPI(M). The Supreme Court not only gave a clean chit to Nambi Narayanan but ordered the State Government to pay a compensation of Rs 1 crore to him for the mental agony and humiliation suffered by him. The apex court had appointed an investigation team under the chairmanship of DK Jain,

कार्यालय नगर पालिका निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय), गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-प्र

भोपाल, दिनांक 23.06.2021

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत टेकेंडार परसेन्टेज मोहर बंद निविदाये निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| क्र. | ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र. | कार्य का नाम | अनुमानित राशि | धरोहर राशि | प्रपत्र राशि | कार्य हेतु निर्धारित ए.स. ओ. आर. | कार्य की अवधि |
|------|--------------------|---|---------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 2021_UAD_148049-1 | CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL SHOPPING COMPLEX AT ITWARA CHOURAHA WARD NO 23 ZONE NO 05 BHOPAL | 1,26,32,769/- | 1,26,328/- | 12,500/- | MP UAD 2012 ISSR 2012 | 06 Month |

1. निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
2. विद्युतीकरण से संबंधित कार्य के लिए स्वयं के पास "ए" क्लास का विद्युत का पंजीयन हो अथवा किसी "ए" क्लास के विद्युत टेकेंडार से अनुबंध की प्रति मय विद्युत टेकेंडारी पंजीयन के प्रस्तुत करना होगा।
3. किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

**मुख्य अभियंता
नगर निगम भोपाल**

फ़ि.क्र. 258/021/022

4 students from Kargil held for...

From Page 1

"They have been taken on remand and brought to Delhi for questioning," Biswal added. A minor IED blast took place outside the Embassy of Israel in the heart of Lutyns' Delhi on January 29. There were no casualties. Some cars were damaged in the explosion that occurred about 150 metres from the Embassy on the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road in the very high-security Lutyns' bungalow zone.

NMC to gift city 5 mini forests



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) will develop five mini forests under its jurisdiction in the next 14 to 15 days under the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign.

Commissioner of North Corporation Sanjay Goel said that these mini forests would be developed at parks in Azadpur Mandi, Sultanpuri, Prashant Vihar, pocket-2 and 8 in Rohini, sector-24.

Three such forests have already been developed in Karol Bagh and one in Keshavpuram area, he said.

Goel said: "We would plant trees in parks before the arrival of the monsoon which is expected to reach Delhi by June 30. The North Corporation has developed 474 pits for rainwater harvesting, which will help in raising the ground water level. Work is in progress at 13 locations and 127 more sites have been proposed for the purpose."

Goel further informed that the civic body planted 27,330 trees and 37,756 shrubs last year and proposed to plant 20,000 trees and 30,000 shrubs this year also.

Meanwhile, the corporation also organised a Webinar

on Jal Shakti Abhiyan (Urban)-2021 under the "Catch the Rain" campaign at its headquarters and discussed measures to create awareness among the masses to save rainwater.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti is taking up a nation-wide campaign 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' focussing on saving and conserving rainwater with the theme "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls" from March to November 30 this year in the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods, covering both urban and rural areas of all the districts in the country.

Van Mahotsav to kick off on 26th

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government is all set to hold a Van Mahotsav from June 26 to July 11 as part of a mega drive under which 33 lakh saplings will be planted across the city this year.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that all the Cabinet Ministers of Delhi, the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, all MLAs, NGOs and RWAs will participate in the mega tree plantation campaign.

He said that free distribution of medicinal plants in 14 nurseries will take place during the Van Mahotsav.

"The Delhi Government is organising a 'Van Mahotsav' from June 26 to July 11. All the Cabinet Ministers of Delhi, the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, MLAs, NGOs and RWAs will participate in this mega plantation drive. Simultaneously, the people of Delhi are also being linked to this campaign," he said.

Rai further said that a tar-



get has been set to plant 33 lakh saplings under the tree plantation campaign in this entire year. On World Environment Day, the Delhi Government began a campaign to plant medicinal plants.

"The Delhi Government has 14 nurseries across the city and any person can visit our nursery and get medicinal plants for free. The medicinal plants available in Delhi Government Nursery are Amla, Guava, Arjun, Jamun, Neem, Tulsi, Giloy, Aloe Vera, Curry leaves, etc," he said.

The campaign will start on June 26 from Garhi Mandu on the banks of Yamuna Bank and on June 27, there will be a plantation drive in all of the 70 Assembly constituencies of Delhi.

NDMC hikes licence fees for various trades



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has increased the annual fees for grant and renewal of various trade licences for 2021-22, including those for hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, lodging houses and sweet shops.

However, there would not be any increase in annual fees for small kiosks, stalls, Mother Dairy booths, water trolleys etc. "The increase in fees is minimal from ₹100 to 1,700 annually in the rest of the categories also, except in the case of 5-star hotels," a senior NDMC official said.

According to the civic

body, the maximum hike in the licence fee is for the five-star hotels, which were earlier required to pay ₹61,200 per annum but will now have to pay ₹65,484.

"The hike in the licence fee for the year 2021-22 will be implemented with effect from April 1.

There would not be any increase in licence fee for small kiosks and stalls," a senior official of the civic body said.

The annual licence fee for butchers, fish-mongers and poultry has been increased from ₹1,200 to ₹1,284, officials said.

Guest houses with up to 20 beds will now pay ₹2,568 instead of ₹2,400, those with

21-50 beds will pay ₹6,527 instead of ₹6,100, those with 50-100 beds will pay ₹13,054 instead of ₹12,200 and those with over 100 beds will pay ₹26,215 instead of ₹24,500, officials said.

The licence fees for cafes and coffee shops with more than 50 seats, has been increased from ₹12,200 to ₹13,054.

Further, the office canteens, sweet shops, gyms, circuses and auditoriums were charged a licence fee of ₹1,200 which has now been increased to ₹1,284, officials said, adding that cinema halls, dancing halls in hotels, clubs and spas will pay ₹6,527 instead of ₹6,500.

PICTALK



Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava during the launch of the Jan Sampark Vahan to create awareness on Covid-19 appropriate behaviour in New Delhi on Thursday. Ranjan Dimri

Afghan man held with ₹10L worth foreign currency at IGI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel have apprehended a man with foreign currency worth ₹10 lakh at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The accused has been identified as Hilal Ahmed Qayomi, an Afghan National.

According to Customs official, on June 23, at about 12:20 PM on the basis of behaviour detection, the CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at IGI airport noticed the suspicious activities of a foreign national while roaming in check-in area of Terminal-3.

"On suspicion, he was taken to the random checking point for thorough checking of his luggage. During x-ray screening of his bag, CISF personnel noticed suspicious image of currency notes inside



his bag. Thereafter, he was allowed to go for check-in & Immigration formalities, but he was kept under close watch through electronic and physical surveillance," said the customs official.

"After completing immigration formalities, he approached at Security Hold Area (SHA) for Pre-embarkation Security Check (PESC). During PESC, his bag screened and selected for physical check.

On checking of the bag, 33,000 Saudi Riyals and 4800 USDs were found," he said.

"On enquiry, he could not produce any valid document. Subsequently, Senior Officers of CISF and Custom Officials were informed. The foreign passenger along-with detected foreign currency worth approximately ₹10 lakh was handed over to Customs officials for further action in the matter," the customs official added.

With 109 cases; positivity down to 0.14%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 109 coronavirus cases on Thursday with a positivity rate of 0.14 per cent, while eight more people succumbed to the disease, according to data shared by the health department of the Delhi Government.

According to data, the total number of active cases in the city reached 1,767 of which 523 are in home isolation.

The city has reported more than 14 lakh cases till now. A total of 77382 tests, including 54581 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 revamping several existing hospitals to increase the number of beds and also building new hospitals.

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARY Pvt schoolteacher commits suicide



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over non-payment of pending salary by a private school, a 46-year-old man committed suicide at his house in outer Delhi's Mangolpuri area. Police said that he worked earlier as a Taekwondo coach in the school.

The deceased has been identified as Tanoop Johar. Police said that he used to work in Rohini but was unemployed for over a year now. He was found hanging inside his house by his family members on Tuesday, police said.

In a purported suicide note recovered from the spot, he had mentioned two names of the school management and accused the authorities over non-payment of his pending salary. He also wrote that he was "disturbed" because the school had not given him salary and he had no work recently.

Police said Johar had also filed a case in the Labour Court against the school management last year over non-payment of salary.

online classes since March last year during the lockdown but had to discontinue later over dispute with school management over non-payment of his pending salary.

"After two months of taking online classes last year, when Johar questioned the school authorities over non-payment of salary. They gave an excuse that they were waiting for students to pay fees and kept assuring that we will be given our salaries. But after four months, when we asked them again, the school management told us to resign," Johar's former colleague alleged.

"During lockdown last year, we also wrote to the school authorities about the issue but still our salary has not been paid. We also moved to court against the management but we are still waiting for our salaries to be paid," he said.

According to Parvinder Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, Johar had not been working at the school for more than a year now and police teams are looking into all the allegations.

Man held for helping gangster Fajja escape police custody

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 28-year-old man who was allegedly involved in helping gangster Kuldeep Fajja escape from police custody at Delhi's GTB Hospital in March.

The accused has been identified as Amit Mathur, a resident of Karala. Police said that Mathur helped Fajja escape on the instructions of another gangster named Deepak alias Titar. Fajja was later killed in an encounter by the police.

According to Pranav Tayal, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Rohini district, on March 25, Fajja, a member of the GTB Hospital in East Delhi's Shahdara after a group of five to six people opened fire at the escort party there.

"Police had received specific inputs that Mathur was present at his residence, following which a police team apprehended him. He confessed to his involvement in the escape of Fajja," said the DCP.

"Mathur is a friend of Deepak, a member of the Gogi gang, and was involved in various incidents on his instructions," said the DCP.



MCG inspects various locations in Gurugram ahead of monsoon

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Municipal Commissioner of Gurugram (MCG), Mukesh Kumar Ahuja along with MCG officials inspected multiple locations in Gurugram to avoid any inconvenience during monsoon on Thursday.

During the inspection, the commissioner took information from the officials on the spot and gave them necessary directions. He also instructed officials to ensure adequate cleaning of drains, sewerage, roads, streets and install water pumps along with manpower in view of monsoon.

Talking to Media persons, Ahuja said that he has instructed the engineering wing of the MCG to make necessary arrangement to avoid water logging problem during monsoon.

"I have visited several places in the city on Thursday to take stock of arrangements made by the concerned officials. MCG is making all effort that this time monsoon nobody in Gurugram will face any kind of inconvenience during monsoon," he said.

The MCG commissioner visited area includes Shanti Nagar, 4/8 Marla, Laxmi Garden, Pataudi Road, Bus Depot.

Fire breaks out at Manesar factory, no casualties reported

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A major fire broke out at a waste management factory at Sector-4 in Manesar, Gurugram on Thursday. The fire personnel are putting their hectic efforts to control the flames, officials said on Thursday.

Sukhbir Singh, Fire Station Officer, Manesar, who was at the accident site, said that nearly 25 fire fighting engines from Manesar, Udyog Vihar, Sector-29, Bhim Nagar, DLF, Haldiram, Medanta, Maruti and Sector-37 were making all efforts to put out the fire, that erupted at the company premises in Manesar Sector-4 here at around 3.45 PM on Thursday.

No casualties were reported in the incident so far, he said, adding that the blaze occurred in the basement area of the three-story building and no worker was present near the mishap site.

The official said: "It is expected to be brought under control by the next few hours."



Gurugram Police administered Covid jobs

At present, 6,210 cops have been given the first dose

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Thousands of police personnel have been administered the coronavirus vaccine in Gurugram. Being frontline workers as many as 91 per cent of the district police personnel have received the first Covid dose and 67 per cent of them have received the second dose of Covid-19. The vaccination camp was kicked off on February 4 at the police commissioner's office.

Police Commissioner KK Rao, appreciating all the police personnel for further vaccination, saying that 6,850 police personnel are currently serving in the district.

"The number of policemen receiving both doses is approximately 67 per cent because it is mandatory to have a 12-week interval between the first and second dose. At present, 6,210 personnel have been given the first dose and 4,585 personnel have received the second dose of the vaccine," Rao said.

Rao said that the vehicles of the department were continuously giving their services to the needy patients in the district between the shortage of ambulances at the time of the second wave of Covid 19.

Apart from this, the police have played a significant role for home isolated patients by ensuring delivery of oxygen cylinders, he added.

NCB arrests six members of Pak drug syndicate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of six people, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted an international drug syndicate which was being operated from Lahore in Pakistan. The NCB officials said that they have also recovered 56 kilogram of heroin from the accused.

According to KPS Malhotra, the Zonal Director of NCB Delhi said, on June 3, the Border Security Force had (BSF) recovered 56.501 kg of heroin at India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, one of the biggest haul this year.

"The drug was smuggled into India through PVC plastic pipes. The receivers of the contraband fled from the spot and could not be apprehended. The case was handed over to NCB, Jodhpur for investigation," he said.

"During investigation, it was revealed that the suspected supplier of the seized heroin is one Malik Choudhary of

Lahore, Pakistan. One of the most wanted offenders, Jasbir Singh was apprehended Thursday at Hoshiyarpur Punjab by NCB with Technical and Human Intelligence," he said.

"Three more accused, Rajvinder Singh, Sukhpreet Singh and Sunil Singh, all residents of Rajasthan were also arrested for harbouring the prime accused and conducting recce of the border for smuggling of heroin," he said.

"Earlier, on June 4, with co-operation of local police, BSF and local villagers two out of four accused who came to receive the contraband namely Rupa, a resident of Ferozepur in Punjab and Harmesh Singh, a resident of Fazilka, Punjab were arrested," said the senior NCB official.

"Further, investigation in the case is under progress to break the nexus of drug syndicate operating internationally and uncovering all backward and forward linkages," the official added.



CLASS 12 BOARD RESULTS

Give internal assessment by July 31: SC to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the State boards to declare internal assessment results of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that there can't be a "fit-all" scheme and each board was autonomous and free to formulate its own evaluation method for students. Stating that it will not pass any direction for having a uniform scheme for assessment across the country, the court directed the state boards to ensure that scheme be formulated at the earliest and not later than 10 days from Thursday.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari observed that each board will have to evolve their own scheme. "We direct the boards to ensure that the scheme be formulated at the earliest and not later than 10 days from today and also declare the internal assessment results by July 31, 2021, like the time line specified for CBSE and CISCE," the bench said in its order.

The top court was hearing a plea which has sought directions to states to not hold board examinations in view of

the Covid-19 pandemic. "We make it clear that each board may formulate their own scheme. However, we further make it clear that we are not endorsing the correctness and validity of scheme that will be formulated by the concerned board..." the bench said.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the bench was told by an advocate appearing in the matter that state boards which have cancelled the class 12 examinations amid the pandemic may be asked to have a uniform scheme for assessing students.

"That may not be acceptable because every state board has their own scheme. It cannot be uniform. We are not going to direct for uniform scheme. Each board will have to evolve their own scheme," the bench said, adding that each board is different and autonomous. It said each state board have experts to advise them and there cannot be a uniform all India scheme for this.

"There cannot be a fit-all scheme," the bench observed, adding, "We have made it clear that each board is autonomous and they will have their own scheme." The counsel appear-

ing for Haryana school education board told the bench that the petitioner is seeking a uniform formula for assessment.

"That we have already made it clear that each board can have their own scheme," the bench said. The court noted in its order that state of Assam has filed an affidavit stating that examinations for class 10 and 12 have been cancelled and scheme is being formulated by the board for internal assessment of marks.

"That be done expeditiously. In addition, the scheme must provide for a mechanism for redressal of grievance of students after declaration of results as done by the CBSE and CISCE," the bench said.

The top court also noted that National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has cancelled the board examinations and is in the process of formulating the scheme for assessment. The court was earlier informed by the Assam and Tripura governments that they have cancelled their state boards of Class 12 exam due to the pandemic.

On June 17, the top court was informed that out of 28 States, six States have already conducted the board exams, 18 states have cancelled them.

Nishank to interact with students via social media today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" will interact with students through social media on Friday and answer queries related to Class 10 and 12 board exams, which were cancelled in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nishank, who is in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) undergoing treatment for post-Covid complications, said students have been sending him messages with their queries and apprehensions.

"Dear students, I am constantly receiving a lot of your messages and information. Also, you have expressed concern about my health. For this, I would like to express my thanks to all of you and say that I am feeling healthy now. Some of your apprehensions have also been expressed in your messages. But was unable to communicate with you due to this ongoing treatment in the hospital. If you have any other query related to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) exams then you can send me on Twitter, Facebook, or also by mail," he said in a series of tweets.

The Union minister informed that he will answer the queries of students on June 25 at 4 pm

through social media. The exams for both class 10 and 12 were cancelled by the CBSE in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. The board has announced its alternative assessment policy for both the classes. While schools have been asked to submit class 10 marks till June 30, the deadline for schools to compile class 12 marks is July 15.

According to the policy for class 12 results, decided by a 13-member panel set up by the board, the theory paper evaluation formula of 30 per cent weightage will be given to class 10 marks, 30 per cent to class 11 marks and 40 per cent to class 12 marks. 20 marks will be for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks will be calculated on basis of the students' performance in various tests or exams throughout the year.

The CBSE scheme further elaborated that for class 10, the 30 per cent marks based on average theory component of best three performing subjects out of main five subjects will be taken. According to the evaluation criteria announced for class 10 students, while 20 marks for each subject will be for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks will be calculated on basis of the students' performance in various tests or exams throughout the year.

Army plans to buy 1,750 Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles, 350 light tanks

NEW DELHI : Indian Army on Thursday issued the Request for Information (RFI) to finalise the specifications for acquiring 1,750 Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicles (FICVs) under the Make in India initiative to destroy enemy tanks and carry troops.

The Indian Army says it wants to deploy the vehicles in places like Eastern Ladakh along with desert and amphibious terrain.

The FICV project has been in plans for a long time and the need for a modern troops carrier equipped with tank-busting capabilities was felt during the recent Ladakh conflict.

Due to the experience in the Ladakh theatre, the Indian Army is also looking at the prospect of acquiring 350 light tanks in a phased manner, along with performance-based logistics, niche technologies, engineering support package, and other maintenance and training requirements.

The Light Tank is planned to be procured under the 'Make-in-India' ethos and spirit of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) - 2020, the Indian Army has stated.

The Indian Army specified that it wants its less than 25 tonnes tanks to be used for operations in High Altitude Area (HAA), marginal terrain (Rann), amphibious operations, etc.

"The advancement in technology also facilitates that the 'Light Tank' is having weapon systems and protection of adequate capacity and is equipped suitably to operate in current/future threat spectrum, to support combat operations as a weapon system," the RFI issued on April 23 said.



INBRIEF

'TIMELY ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS LAUDABLE'

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday lauded all Government staff involved in timely issuance of passports to citizens notwithstanding the coronavirus pandemic. In an address at an event to mark 'Passport Seva Divas', Jaishankar said the Ministry has integrated 174 Indian embassies and consulates abroad with the passport service programme.

WILL TRY TO EXTRADITE NIRAV MODI EARLY: MEA

New Delhi: After fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi lost the first stage of his extradition appeal in the UK High Court, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it has noted the decision and will continue its efforts to pursue his early extradition to India to face justice.

BJP LEADER FILES PIL, WANTS CITIZENS' CHARTER

New Delhi: A PIL filed by advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay in the Supreme Court on Thursday sought direction to the Centre and States to implement a citizens' charter in every public service department to ensure time bound delivery of goods and services.

Centre rubbishes allegations of biased distribution of jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday dismissed reports alleging non-transparent distribution of the jabs and clarified that allocation of Covid-19 vaccines to a State is done based on its population, case-load, utilisation efficiency and wastage factors.

It termed the allegations by a certain media of non-transparent distribution of vaccines among states "completely without any basis, and not fully informed".

It said that more than 1.89 crore balance and unutilised Covid-19 vaccine doses are still available with the States and Union territories. "Over two crore vaccine doses have been administered in the first 72 hours of the implementation of the new revised guidelines of the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme," the ministry said in a statement here.

"Distribution of Covid-19 vaccine is done on the parameters - population of a state, Caseload or disease burden, and State's utilisation efficiency. The allocation is negative-



ly affected by the vaccine wastage," said the statement here.

So far, more than 30 crore (30,33,27,440) vaccine doses have been administered by the Centre to states/UTs since the massive vaccination drive began on January 16. More than 58.34 lakh vaccine doses were given to the eligible beneficiaries on Wednesday, according to the Ministry.

In the new phase of the universalisation of the Covid-19 vaccination drive, the Centre will procure and supply (free of cost) 75 per cent of the vaccines being produced by vaccine manufacturers in the country to states/UTs, it added.

ICMR, NIV to conduct study on Delta Plus' variant, efficacy of vaccines on it

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To examine the potency of the "Delta Plus" variant of Covid-19 in patients and the efficacy of vaccines on it, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV) will soon conduct a study in this regard.

This comes after the Union Government found Delta Plus cases in Maharashtra (Ratnagiri and Jalgaon) Kerala (Palakkad and Pathanamthitta), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal and Shivpuri) and also in Karnataka.

"The newly emerged Delta Plus variant has possible increased transmissibility, higher binding capacity to the lung cells and resistance to monoclonal antibody treatment.

"Looking at this scenario, Delta Plus variant could be a concern, and a high watch should be undertaken and containment of affected zone should be done reduce the transmission," Dr Pragya Yadav, head of the NIV's Maximum Containment Facility, said.

"As per earlier data concerning Delta variant, neutralization was happening with the existing vaccines in India. Though neutralization has dropped, it's enough to protect against Delta variant. Delta



Plus should also behave (in a similar manner). We are working in this direction. We have isolated this variant and we are going to conduct a study soon," according to a report.

Meanwhile, Dr Samiran Panda, an ICMR scientist, said the research body is also closely monitoring neutralisation capabilities of antibodies drawn from vaccine recipients. He said results of the investigations should be out in the next few weeks.

"We are examining (virus) samples drawn from various locations to see if they get neutralised by serum from Covid-19 vaccine recipients," he said.

The scientist added that states should implement strict containment around infection clusters involving Delta-plus, continue to quarantine contacts and improve the pace of vaccination in regions reporting the variant.

Twenty-one cases of the 'Delta plus' variant of Covid-19, considered highly infectious, have been reported in Maharashtra threatening to massively dent the state's fight against the virus as experts warn that this variant may trigger a third wave of the pandemic in the state.

Kerala, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh, too, have reported cases of this deadlier variety. And even though, only about 200 confirmed infections have been detected across the globe, of which 44 are in India, fears remain that the virus mutant may wreak havoc in the near future.

Union Health Ministry on Tuesday advised Maharashtra, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh on Delta plus variant of Covid-19 after a significant number of cases were reported from these states.

Cong should play active role in Covid -19 vaccination: Sonia

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday said the party must play an active role in ensuring full Covid-19 vaccination coverage and address vaccine hesitancy wherever evident. She also said that the country needs to prepare for the possible third wave and take proactive measures so that children are spared this calamity. Her comments come in the wake of the BJP accusing the Congress of aiding vaccine hesitancy.

Addressing a meeting of party general secretaries and in-charges of AICC in various States, Sonia called upon party leaders and workers to continue to put pressure on the Union Government to ensure that the daily rate of vaccination trebles so that 75 per cent of the population gets fully vaccinated by end of this year.

"On the pandemic, let me say that it is absolutely essential that our party plays an active role in ensuring full vaccination coverage. At the national level, the daily rate of vaccination has to treble so that 75 per cent of our population gets fully vaccinated by end of this year," she said.

"No doubt, this is dependent entirely on the adequacy



of vaccine supply. We must continue to put pressure on the Union government which has, at our party's insistence, finally taken on the responsibility for this. At the same time, we have to ensure that registration takes place, that vaccine hesitancy wherever evident is overcome and vaccine wastage is minimised," she said addressing the party leaders virtually.

Quoting experts, she said they are talking of a possible third wave in a few months from now and some have pointed to the vulnerability of children in the coming months. "This too requires our urgent attention," she said.

Talking about the white paper on Covid management brought out by the Congress, she said it is being translated in other languages. It is very detailed and needs to be disseminated widely. I hope this gets done urgently, she told the leaders.

Referring to the rise in fuel

"At the national level, the daily rate of vaccination has to treble so that 75 per cent of our population gets fully vaccinated by end of this year"

prices, the Congress chief said it is causing an intolerable burden on people and agitations have been organised to highlight how it is hurting farmers and millions of families. Apart from fuel, the prices of many other essential commodities like pulses and edible oils too have skyrocketed causing widespread distress, she noted.

"This price rise is taking place at a time when livelihoods are lost in unprecedented numbers, when there is mounting unemployment and when economic recovery is not a reality," she said.

She also appreciating the relief work carried out by party workers across the country during the pandemic. "We must continue our effort. The control rooms will continue to function. The helplines too. Emergency services like ambulances and essential medicines should continue to be provided," Sonia said.

Modi gives 'vocal for local toys' call in Toycathon-2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Noting that India's share is only about 1.5 billion dollars (over ₹ 11,000 crore) in the global toy market of approximately 100 billion dollars (₹ 7.5 lakh crore), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday pitched for improving the country's standing in what he called 'Toyconomy' or the economic aspects of the toys and gaming industry.

He regretted the fact that about 80 per cent of the toys were being imported by India with crores of rupees going abroad and called for changing the situation as part of the nation's 'vocal for local toys' call.

Modi made the remarks after interacting with participants of Toycathon-2021 via video conferencing during which Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Sanjay Dhotre were also present.

He said the participation of over 1,500 teams in the first Toycathon signals the strengthening of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme. Around 1.2 lakh participants from across India registered and submitted more than 17,000 ideas for the Toycathon 2021, out of which 1,567 ideas were shortlisted for the three-day online Toycathon Grand Finale,

being held from June 22 to June 24.

Toycathon-2021 was jointly launched by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Textile Ministry, Information and Broadcasting Ministry and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on January 5, 2021 to crowd-source innovative toys and games ideas.

He underlined that beyond numbers, the toy sector has the capacity to bring progress and growth to the neediest segments of society.

Toy sector has its own small-scale industry, artisans comprising rural population, Dalits, poor people and tribal population, he noted and also talked about the contribution of women in the sector. "In order to take the benefits to these segments, we need to be vocal for local toys," Modi asserted.

The PM emphasized the need to create interesting and interactive games that "engage, entertain and educate". He also called for new models of innovation and financing to make Indian toys competitive at the global level. There is a need for

new ideas to be incubated, new start-ups promoted, taking new technology to traditional toy makers and creating new market demand, Modi said, adding that this is the inspiration behind events like Toycathon.

He referred to the cheap data and growth of Internet-led rural connectivity and called for exploration of possibilities in virtual, digital and online gaming in India. He also urged the fact that most of the online and digital games available in the market are not based on Indian concepts and many such games promote violence and cause mental stress.

"Our focus should be on developing toys, games that present every aspect of Indianness in interesting, interactive ways," Modi said.

Emphasising the importance of toys, he said if the child's first school is his or her family, then the first book and the first friends are toys. The prime minister also said that the 75th anniversary of India's Independence is a huge opportunity for the innovators and creators of the toy industry. "Many incidents, stories of our freedom fighters and their valour and leadership can be created into gaming concepts," he stressed.

SBI employee, her husband, others booked for fraud through overdraft accounts

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against a branch manager of State Bank of India, her husband who is a private person and others on the allegations that the accused public servant perpetrated a fraud on the bank by illegally sanctioning and disbursing funds to the tune of ₹11,84,71,217 through overdraft accounts in the name of fictitious persons.

The agency registered the case on a complaint from the SBI against the then Branch Manager, Khajrana Square Branch, Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and others including a private person and conducted searches at their premises.

The alleged fraud was committed through overdraft facilities in 18 Overdraft (OD) Accounts in the name of fictitious persons and fraudulently marking a Lien on Fixed Deposits of bank customers during the period 2018 to 2021, the agency said.

It was further alleged that the accused branch manager routed the misappropriated bank funds through different bank accounts which were received in the various bank accounts of her husband and her family members. Such bank



funds were allegedly invested in the security/stock market and elsewhere.

"It was also alleged that one of the bank customers requested for renewal of the FD, who thereupon found the said FD was marked as lien/collateral security against one such OD account, but the customer denied any consent/ information towards the lien/collateral security or having connection/knowledge of the OD account holder," it said in a statement.

Searches were conducted at the premises of the accused on Thursday at four places in Indore at the premises of the accused which led to recovery of incriminating documents, it added.

The accused persons named in the case are the then Branch Manager, SBI, Khajrana Square Branch, Indore, Sweety Suneria and her husband Ashish Saluja.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conducts an aerial survey of the Indian Navy's Project Seabird in Karnataka's Karwar

India desires normal relations with Pak: MEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it desires normal relations with Pakistan and it was for that country to create a conducive atmosphere through measures including taking "credible, verifiable and irreversible" action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border terrorism.

"We desire normal relations with all our neighbours including Pakistan," Ministry of

External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

He was responding to a question.

"Pakistan must work towards creating a conducive atmosphere including by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border terrorism against India in any manner," he said.

To a question on Pakistan

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's comments on New Delhi's role in Afghanistan, Bagchi said India brought electricity and built dams, schools and healthcare infrastructure in that country.

"The world knows what Pakistan has brought to Afghanistan," he said.

Bagchi said India supports the Afghan peace process and is in touch with various stakeholders including regional countries.

Revenge politics: Boy's 30 pigeons slaughtered in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

In a gruesome incident, activists belonging to the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala slaughtered more than 30 ornamental pigeons which were being reared by 11-year-old Christie Devassia of Kanjikkuzhi village in Alappuzha district.

"Neighbours came to know about the incident only on Tuesday as the family members were under quarantine. Covid-19 had claimed the life of Joseph, father of Devassia," said Asha Mukesh, ward member of the Panchayat, the first person to reach out to the family. She said the incident happened during the intervening night of June 2 and 3 right under the nose of V S Achuthanandan, former Chief Minister, whose ancestral home is in the vicinity.

The slaughtered pigeons consisted of rare varieties like Boccaro, American Fantail, Indian Fantail, Hungarian Mix and Modena which were painstakingly collected by the sixth standard student from friends and well-wishers.

"All the pigeons were my pets and used to play with me as if they were my own brethren," a weeping Christie told *The Pioneer*. His sister Sanjana said the birds never left Christie alone and were with him throughout the day.

"It was on the morning of June 3 we saw the carcasses of the birds when our mother went to feed them," said Sanjana. Since the entire family was under quarantine and isolation, they could not communicate to the outside world anything about the incident, she said.

The six-member family was



under isolation following the death of Christie's grandfather Joseph and there was no one to help them to get food and essential materials. The needs of the family were taken care of by Seva Bharathi, a Sangh Parivar outfit. Seva Bharati volunteers are the frontline

warriors against the pandemic in Kerala and ensure that help reaches those in distress.

Devassia's family members are fellow travellers of the CPI(M). But during the Covid-19 pandemic, the party activists kept off the house which put the former in crisis. "We attended to their call for help and

offered them all assistance despite the fact that all family members were in quarantine," said Jayakrishnan, Seva Bharati, district secretary, Alappuzha.

The slaughtering of the birds is seen as a stern warning issued by party leadership to its cadres and fellow travellers not to have anything to do with Sangh Parivar as part of its efforts to eradicate Hindu communalism, said Mukesh. They had ordered Devassia and family not to have any kind of association with them. Since Devassia did not pay any attention to the party diktat, the CPI(M) commissars struck back by slaughtering the ornamental doves being reared by Christie.

"My son is in a state of shock because of the demise of my father with whom he had close relations. The two were attached to each

other and it was the grandfather who initiated Christie to the world of birds," said Devassia.

Though organisations like Deena Dayal Seva Kendra and Swadeshi Jagran Manch have procured some pigeons and handed them over to the family, the boy remains in a sombre mood.

The CPI(M) activists are known as tough task masters, especially with cadres who do not obey the party diktats. The Pappinisseri Snake Venom Centre owned by former CPI(M) leader M V Raghavan was set to fire by the party activists in 1987 following his expulsion from the party. The comrades burnt to death hundreds of cobras and King Cobras maintained by the Centre for harvesting venom to manufacture anti-dotes for snake bites.

Downgrading J&K to UT brought bad name: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

On a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was meeting the Kashmir leaders Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday questioned the BJP Government's decision to downgrade Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory saying the act had brought bad name for India worldwide.

Banerjee said, "What was the need to strip Jammu and Kashmir of statehood? People need freedom. If freedom is taken away, then everything is lost. It is not beneficial for the country," adding how the situation that followed after it lost its statehood hit its tourism industry."

She said (as a result of the situation) "no tourist was able to visit Kashmir for the last two years" and attacked the BJP for running an "autocratic" regime. "Just like the vaccine crisis, this autocracy has also defamed the country," she said.

Curiously Banerjee would not raise the question of Article 370 or 35A, which ensured special status for

the Himalayan region.

In a separate development the Chief Minister also announced the launching of ₹10 lakh credit card for the students of the State that would enable them to pursue their higher studies.

"The students are our pride... in order to help them in their higher studies and researches the Government has decided to afford them a credit card facility of ₹10 lakh... The Government will stand a guarantor for them and the scheme will start from June 30 onwards," the Chief Minister said on Thursday adding the scheme would continue for the students till the age of 40 where after they would be required to return the loan after getting jobs."

Meanwhile the Chief Minister has also written to the Prime Minister seeking urgent steps to ensure that Covaxin got the approval of the World Health Organisation. Covaxin is still not accepted in several countries.

"I have written to the Hon'ble PM today seeking his intervention for an early approval for COVAXIN from WHO," the Chief Minister tweeted

adding how "A large number of students travel abroad for pursuing higher studies and amid an already critical situation, we must take every possible step to ease their lives."

In her letter to the Prime Minister written on Thursday the Chief Minister

wrote, "I request for your kind intervention so that an early approval is received for Covaxin from WHO and students do not face any problem. This will also benefit people travelling abroad for job, business, education and any other purpose."

Heated arguments in HC in Nandi election case

Kolkata: With Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee virtually appearing in the proceedings — as directed earlier by the Bench of Justice Kaushik Chanda— Nandigram elections case, hearing for which, began in Calcutta High Court on Thursday. This, even as the contention of the petitioner's lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi that the case be transferred to a different court on the grounds of Judge's saffron antecedents was strongly refuted by Justice Chanda who asked as to why the issue was not raised on the very first day of hearing.

The Judge also wondered whether a Judges' past political connections

should be a valid ground to question one's judicial integrity. "I am asking Abhishek Manu Singhvi that if you felt that the Judge cannot deliver you justice, then why didn't you raise it on the first day," the Judge who had been a former Additional Solicitor General of India said.

He also asked whether Singhvi's connection with a particular political party (Congress) could impact his professional approach. Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress have challenged the results of Nandigram elections and demanded its recounting which was however refused by the Election Commission.

Bengal: NHRC team visits violence-hit areas

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Following a Calcutta High Court order a seven-member team of the National Human Rights Commission resumed its visit of violence-hit areas of Bengal from Thursday.

The team visited a number of places including Cooch Behar in North Bengal and North 24 Parganas taking account of the alleged post-poll violence being perpetrated on the supporters of the BJP, sources adding the team was collecting reports and evidences of violence including reports of police inaction.

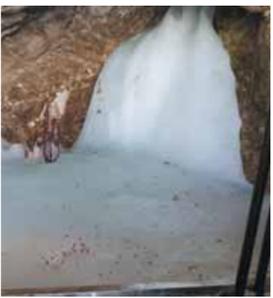
The team would submit its reports to the High Court.

A 5-member Bench of the High Court had on Monday dismissed the government's plea for recalling its order directing NHRC to examine all alleged cases of post-poll human rights violations in the State.

Both the BJP and State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar had been alleging rampant violence being perpetrated by the Trinamool Congress backed goons throughout the length and breadth of the State that had left thousands of people homeless, properties worth crores destroyed and many people either killed or maimed.

The Governor himself rushed to New Delhi last week where he met President Ram Nath Kovind, Home Minister Amit Shah and NHRC Chairman Justice Arun Mishra relating to them what he called 'the most pathetic violence that has taken place in any region after the Independence.'

Amarnath Shrine Board organises Pratham Pooja at holy cave on Jyeshtha Purnima



PNS ■ JAMMU

The Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Nitishwar Kumar on Thursday performed Pratham Pooja on the auspicious occasion of — Jyeshtha Purnima at Holy Cave, amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras to invoke the blessings of Shri Amarnathji. Hawan was also performed seeking blessings of Baba Amarnathji.

Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board has been organising Pratham Pooja on the auspicious occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima every year to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva for the peaceful conduct of the Annual Yatra.

Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic situation, Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2021 has been cancelled, but the Shrine Board is committed to carry out all religious rituals a per past practice, the CEO, SASB said.

The CEO prayed for the good health and well-being of the people.

The CEO further said in order to respect the religious sentiments of millions of devotees worldwide, SASB has made all the arrangements for carrying out traditional religious rituals at the Holy Cave.

The SASB would perform morning and evening Arti of the Holy Ice Lingam at the Holy Cave Shrine from 28th June, 2021 to Shrawan Purnima falling on 22nd August, 2021.

The timing of the Arti would be 6.00 a.m to 6.30 a.m in the morning and 5.00 p.m to 5.30 p.m in the evening.

NAVI MUMBAI AIRPORT NAMING ROW

Farmers threaten to stall airport construction work from Aug 16 if demand not met

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Thousands of farmers on Thursday took out a morcha to the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) in Navi Mumbai, demanding the naming of Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) after their leader and late MP D B Patil and threatened to stall the work at airport construction from August 16, if their demand was not met.

A day after the Maharashtra government approved a proposal to allow M/s Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to operate the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), the supporters of late Patil staged a protest in front of the CIDCO headquarters against its decision to name NMIA after late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray.

The supporters of later D B Patil, working under the aegis of Navi Mumbai International Airport Namakaran Kruti Samiti, demanded the annulment of the decision to name the NMIA after late Thackeray taken by the CIDCO at its Board

meeting.

Acting on a directive by the Shiv Sena-led MVA government, the CIDCO had decided to name the NMIA after Thackeray. Subsequently, the State Government had earlier this month formally announced that the new airport would be named after the late Shiv Sena chief.

However, there have been protests by the supporters of late D B Patil against naming the NMIA after Thackeray. In the first week of June, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had called a meeting of a delegation of the protesting farmers. However, the meeting failed, with the farmer-representatives refusing to budge from their stand. The farmers, who took out a morcha to the CIDCO, had earlier planned to gherao the CIDCO Bhavan at CBD Belapur. However, the police stopped the protesters one kilometre away from the CIDCO building.

Not wanting to take any chances, the local police had deployed more than 5,000 police personnel, 500 officers and Reserve Police Force units on roads leading to the



Mumbai-Pune Expressway wears a deserted look due to a protest over the naming of the under-construction Navi Mumbai International Airport, in Navi Mumbai on Thursday

CIDCO headquarters. As a fallout of the morcha taken out by the protesting farmers, vehicular traffic on various arterial roads, including the Palm Beach Road, had been diverted.

A delegation of the protesting farmers met the CIDCO's Managing Director and submitted a memorandum, demanding the naming of the NMIA after late D B Patil.

Addressing the protesting farmers, farmer leader and former MP MP Ramsheth Thakur gave an ultimatum to the

Maharashtra government and the CIDCO if the new airport was not named after late D B Patil by August 15, the protesting farmers would stall the ongoing construction of the airport.

Meanwhile, it remains to be seen as to what bearing the Maharashtra government's decision to allow M/s Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to operate the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will have on the raging airport renaming controversy.

At its weekly meeting presided over by chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, the State Cabinet on Wednesday approved a change in ownership of the company from M/s GVK Airport Developers Developers Limited to M/s Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to develop and operate the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) in the adjoining Thane-Raigad region.

At the meetin, the MVA Cabinet a go ahead to AAHL to be the new concessionaire for the prestigious greenfield airport being developed as a public-private partnership (PPP) project.

Earlier, the airport was to be developed by GVK which was running the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL). However, the MIAL was taken over last year by AAHL and the same was approved by the Directorate of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, SEBI, CCI and finally the CIDCO, which is overseeing the mega-project. With the State Government's approval, the Gautam Adani-headed AAHL becomes the biggest private airport operator running several major airports like Mumbai, Navi Mumbai (proposed), Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Lucknow, besides three more likely in the near future. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEHL), the AAHL now has a majority stake in the new airport, with 26 percent belonging to the AAI.

Being developed on 1,160 hectares of land, Mumbai International Airport is expected to become operational in 2023-2024. When opened, it will become the country's leading airport over the next decade for both domestic and international flights.

First survey of migratory tribal population initiated in J&K

Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir Government has initiated first enumeration and survey of migratory tribal population in higher reaches with an aim to formulate a plan for extending benefits to migratory population for their socio-economic upliftment. The survey will serve as baseline for allocation of funds for different schemes planned to cover the migratory population.

The survey is likely to be completed by 31st July 2021. Tribal Affairs Department has earmarked a budget of ₹3 Cr for the first enumeration/survey of nomadic migratory population for providing targeted benefits and assistance to community in a phased manner. These initiatives include healthcare facilities, livestock health, Rights awareness, education, skill development, tribal products marketing and a number of other support initiatives.

Department is also coordinating with districts in Ladakh UT, Punjab and Himachal for information on inter-State/UT migration

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary held a detailed interaction with District Nodal Officers (ADCs), Chief Planning

Officers, District Statistics & Planning Officer and other officers from all the districts.

The Tribal Affairs Department in collaboration with District Administration and District Planning & Statistics organisation has initiated the survey with set deadlines for completion of various stages. A common format developed for the survey includes details related to migration route, family particulars, educational status, health and animal husbandry facilities, Livelihood and skill requirement among other parameters.

On completion of family the process of digitisation and smart card with complete family details will be initiated. The smart cards will serve multiple purposes for a range to facilities to be extended to the tribal migratory population.

A list of 14 major migratory routes was discussed in the meeting and district teams were asked to minutely work on the migratory routes and suggest facilities required for the population. He also asked for active association of PRIs, stakeholders and community representatives for ensuring fool-proof planning and development as an outcome of the survey.

UP Govt suspends transport officer in Mukhtar ambulance case

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Facilitating the registration of an ambulance used by don-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and his henchmen during his transit from Ropar jail to a Mohali Court House in Punjab in March this year, finally took its toll when then assistant regional transport officer (ARTO) of Barabanki was suspended by the State Government on Thursday. A departmental probe has also been ordered against the official.

The Government action came after it surfaced that the vehicle registration was done on the basis of fake documents of the ambulance. Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Barabanki, Ram Asrey confirmed the development.

Former ARTO, Rajeshwar Yadav was suspended in connection with the fake ambulance papers case.

Yadav is currently posted at Regional Transport Office (RTO), in Ballia. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was set up by the UP Police to probe the case.

On April 2, a case was registered in Barabanki after the documents of the ambulance bearing UP registration number were found to be fake. On March 31, BSP MLA from Mau, Mukhtar Ansari was taken from Ropar jail and produced before a Mohali court in connection with an alleged extortion case in Punjab of 2019. After an initial probe, the name and address given for the registration of the ambulance were found to be false.

The Barabanki police so far arrested half a dozen persons including Dr Alka Rai, whose nursing home's papers were used to get the vehicle registered as an ambulance in the RTO office at Barabanki.

Maha cases drop to 9,844

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections in Maharashtra dropped to 9,844 and the deaths went up to 556 on Thursday, even as 9,371 patients were discharged after full recovery from various hospitals across the State.

A day after the state logged 10,066 fresh infections and 508 deaths, the infections came down marginally, while the deaths climbed by 48.

Of the 556 deaths reported, 197 were current fatalities, while the remaining 359 were "old and unaccounted deaths" which have been added to the state total Covid-19 toll as part of the ongoing reconciliation process.

With 556 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in the state jumped from 1,19,303 to 1,19,859. Similarly, with 9,371 fresh infections, the total infections in the state crossed the 60 lakh mark as the cases climbed from 59,97,587 to 60,0,74,31.

As 9371 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 57,53,290 to 57,62,661. The recovery rate in the State stood static at 95.93 per cent.

The total "active cases" in the State dropped from 1,21,859 to 1,21,767. The fatality rate in the state rose from 1.99 per cent to 2 per cent.

Mumbai recorded 20 deaths and 773 infections. As a result, the Covid-19 toll in the metropolis increased from 15,338 to 15,348, while the infected cases in Mumbai went up from 7,21,963 to 7,22,736.

Mumbai with 18,687 cases emerged as the first in the state in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the state, while Pune with 17,363 stood second, followed by Thane (12,999), Sangli (9753), Kolhapur (9704), Satara (7099), Ratnagiri (5961), Raigad (4912) and Sindhudurg (4640). Of the 4,03,60,931 samples sent to various laboratories across the State so far, 60,07,431 have tested positive (15.01 per cent) for Covid-19 until Thursday.

Currently, 6,32,453 people are in home quarantine while 4166 people are in institutional quarantine.

Third wave: UP CM asks gram pradhans to ensure preventive measures



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Establishing direct communication to ensure local participation, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has written to all newly-elected gram pradhans (village heads) urging them to initiate preventive measures in view of a probable third Covid wave in the coming months.

Yogi made a four-point appeal to the new rural officials, saying: "We have to save people's lives as well as their livelihood." The letters were hand-delivered to the pradhans through respective district authorities.

Stating that Uttar Pradesh has been able to control the second corona wave, the CM asked gram pradhans to ensure proper surveillance through 'surveillance committees' that played a pivotal role in timely identification and isolation of

Corona patients, thwarting further spread in rural areas. He also advised the pradhans to engage in mass plantation drives in respective villages.

Concerned about further corona spread in rural areas, Yogi in his letter appealed to newly elected pradhans to generate awareness about the viral infection, prepare to save villagers from communicable diseases during the monsoons and ensure that everyone adopted Covid appropriate behaviour to prevent transmission of the virus.

Written in Hindi, the chief minister said in his letter, "Dear pradhanji, I would like to extend my greetings on your victory. I urge you to help prevent a third Covid wave in your respective village with an aim to realise the Honourable Prime Minister's dream of 'Mera Gaon Corona Mukta Gaon.'"



Devotees take a holy dip in the river Ganga on the occasion of Jyeshtha Purnima festival in Prayagraj on Thursday

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PAPER WITH PASSION

The Sidhus

In a cleft stick, the Punjab Congress needs to bring its house in order before the Assembly elections

The forthcoming Assembly election in Punjab is for the Congress to lose. The party's campaign for the election, scheduled for February-March 2022, is caught between the tale of two Sidhus from Patiala and their mutual political animosity. The Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, is a Sidhu though he does not use the surname which he shares with his *bete noire*, Navjot Singh Sidhu. Both are Jat Sikhs and hail from the same city of Patiala. The similarities end there as the Congress high command has realised, trying to ensure that their differences will not affect the party's electoral prospects. On paper, the Congress faces little opposition from other political parties. The Akalis have never recovered from the drubbing they got in 2017. The 2015 incident of the desecration of the *Guru Granth Sahib* weighs heavily on them. They have no defence against it and cannot wriggle out of what the Sikhs consider the ultimate sin. They have signed a pact with the Bahujan Samaj Party for the elections, but that has not made their supporters confident. The Aam Aadmi Party rests on its 2017 laurels, trying to become an influencer this time. The Bharatiya Janata Party faces the ire of the farming community in Punjab over the new farm laws. However, these parties are waiting for the Congress infighting to implode, to pick up the best pieces before the elections. Nothing is going the Congress way at present. The Captain, known for his authoritarian rule, dependence on the bureaucracy, and the habit of being aloof from party workers and



legislators, is not too popular in the State Congress unit.

He prefers war over diplomacy in dealing with his rivals, whether Sidhu, Pratap Bajwa, Ravneet Bittu and Amarinder Singh Raja Warring. Each has his pocket of influence in the State and the party and sees himself as a potential Chief Minister. The Captain faces, apart from the usual anti-incumbency, charges of nepotism and worse, a soft corner for the Akali patriarchs, the Badals. That is precisely why Navjot Sidhu raises the 2015 desecration affair, obliquely hitting out at the Captain for not being serious about pursuing the perpetrators. The party high command appears to have no love lost for him even though it is also miffed with Sidhu's frequent outbursts. The dilemma before it is whether to face the elections under Amarinder Singh, in which case it will have to pacify the rival pack of leaders. It has sent an encouraging signal to the rivals by replacing Captain's sympathiser Asha Kumari with Harish Rawat as the AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab. The Captain, who returned to Chandigarh without meeting the leadership in Delhi, is yet to get a positive signal. The worst fear of the high command is the State unit breaking up beyond repair as elections approach. The worst move the high command can make is being openly partisan to any one side and further inflame matters.

PICTALK



A worker sanitises Diana seat as tourists visit the Taj Mahal

PTI

One world

As UP and other elections approach, India must stop looking at people through the prism of religion

We have been sensitised in our schools not to differentiate in terms of gender, caste, color, or religion. Given to read books that have moral lessons and humanitarian concerns of compassion and tolerance. It may not have embedded as deeply as it should, it does leave an imprint. When we grow up, we wash it up. Why else we turn into hate mongers, suspecting, even vengeful grown-up individuals. Then there is Ajeera. An Indian no one knows about. As it happened, she needed a job as domestic help tried her luck in a Hindu family. She was refused. She wore a Muslim identity. Burqa. Then seven years later, she turned up again. This time more practical. Throwing nothing to smack of her Muslim identity. "Namaste, looking for work." The work and payment details were done and dusted. Then something came over her, she added: "By the way, I am a Muslim." Not important if she got the job. Now, really? Does it matter? Did it ever matter? It is happening in our cultural cauldron. India. Where people came made it home and assimilated. They lived together, shared laughter and their sorrows. Of course, sometimes they fought and then forgot. Nevertheless, not like now. The schism is visible. Split is wide open. How did it all come about? Didn't we see it coming? We will never know.

No one knows when religion a personal expression for one's search for self turned into a political plot. One could ask maybe Donald Trump or Jair Bolsonaro or our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Why even blame anyone else. We agreed. Yielded. Unthinking. We nodded in agreement everything doled out to us; started suspecting our neighbor who we knew from childhood. Aren't we all responsible for Ajeera's innocent second utterance? Are we not pushing ourselves towards dispensation we despise most ISIS, Taliban, Burmese Tatmadaw, and what have you. There is a world beyond article 370, Ram Temple, love jihad, and many other divisive issues. Would we ever go beyond them? Building a home for God who left his kingdom is a good idea. But then Ram returns to Ayodhya — Ayudh(ya) — a place where there is no conflict. In that, state Ram resides. As Rumi reminds "Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing there is a field. I'll meet you there..". And then, there is Ajeera...

When a PM's conceit dragged down India

On the anniversary of the only state of Emergency that India has seen, here's a look back at the dark days and those preceding it



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Certain maxims like "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (Spanish philosopher George Santayana) or "Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it" (British statesman Winston Churchill) get more and more powerful and relevant as the years go by.

The notes of caution issued by Santayana and Churchill come to mind on every June 25, the day in 1975, when Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, declared internal Emergency and arrested all those who questioned her authority to continue in office despite the Allahabad High Court declaring her 1971 election to the Lok Sabha from Rae Bareilly null and void for using fraudulent means.

According to Shanti Bhushan, the lawyer who appeared for Raj Narain Singh, the challenger to Indira Gandhi in the 1971 election, the charges against her included using Indian Air Force planes during the campaign, employing the services of Yashpal Kapur, her private secretary, as her election agent even as he was in the Government of India service and using the symbol of cow and calf, which was deeply associated with the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Bhushan has given a vivid account of the election suit and its trial in his memoirs, "Courting Destiny". Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha, who delivered the verdict on June 12, 1975, set aside Indira's election and disqualified her for six years from contesting elections. But the stay granted to her by Sinha turned out to be the spoilsport, says Bhushan. "If I had been in Allahabad, I would have opposed the prayer for a stay and perhaps it would have been declined and the political history of India might have been different," Bhushan writes in his memoir.

It was to facilitate her continuation in office that Indira declared the Internal Emergency. She was persuaded to do so by the members of her "kitchen cabinet" that included



Congressmen and the CPI under the garb of pseudo intellectuals. Having lived through that period, one can easily say that Indira, who had a landslide win in the 1971 election, had squandered the public goodwill through acts of corruption and favouritism.

Discontentment was brewing among people. They had understood their folly behind slogans like "Garibi Hatao". The voters across the country wanted quality rice, wheat, pulses and employment that would help them realise their dreams. Our politicians propagated the wrong brand of socialism, wrote eminent jurist Nani Palkhivala in an article (*Socialism: Its kernel and its shell*) way back in 1972. "Socialism means different things to different people, and to some people it means no more and no less than Cabinet rank," wrote Palkhivala.

Public resentment was at its peak against Indira and her cartel of select politicians who never had any mooring among the electorate. Slogans like "Indira is India and India is Indira" coined by the then AICC president Dev Kant Barooah reverberated across



THE CHARGES AGAINST INDIRA INCLUDED USING THE IAF PLANES DURING THE CAMPAIGN; EMPLOYING THE SERVICES OF YASHPAL KAPUR, HER PRIVATE SECRETARY, AS HER ELECTION AGENT EVEN AS HE WAS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

the country, thanks to serviles in *Akaashvani* and the obliging media. Civil rights were suspended and the judiciary was turned into a scarecrow. The worst kind of press censorship was introduced. The *All India Radio (Akaashvani)* became *Indirawani* or *All Indira Radio*.

The CPI, which bemoans that democracy is in danger in India, was hand in glove with Indira to suppress and oppress dissidence of any kind. C Achutha Menon, party leader, was the Kerala Chief Minister with Congress support. What we witness now is a replay of the days of Emergency. Court jesters and sycophants would never take India to the position of a developed country. International honours accorded to top political leadership are nothing other than a ploy to retard the country's progress. The same "well-wishers" finance all disruptive forces to foment riots and chaos across the country.

The problem with Indira was her fear for people around her whom she feared of toppling her from power. Leaders like K Kamaraj, Morarji Desai, Chandrashekhar, Sidharth Shankar Ray, Jagjivan Ram,

Lalit Narayan Misra and Biju Patnaik were all competent.

We had Jayaprakash Narayan, whom people addressed as Lok Nayak at the time, to rekindle the passion for democracy and honesty in our hearts. But as we approach the golden jubilee of Internal Emergency, what we see in the national political arena is a replay of what was witnessed in the early 1970s. There is not a single leader who can inspire the youth. Politics has become a big-time business with State chieftains of national parties getting caught with their *veshtis* down! Not merit or competence, but the ability to sing paeans in honour of the supreme matters.

When Indira was defeated in 1977, a widely respected politician (we had a few of them then) was heard telling "Indira is not even Rae Bareilly". The lady failed to learn her lesson even after the bitter experiences of Emergency. A leader starts fearing her/his colleagues when s/he loses self-confidence. Need any proof?

(The writer is a senior journalist working as a Special Correspondent with The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TIME TO BE ON THE HIGHEST GUARD

Sir — This is in reference to COVID after the third wave has been discovered in Madhya Pradesh. At least three cases were found in Bhopal and two in Ujjain. That itself is bad news for all. One lady died due to the third wave of COVID in Ujjain; that's really horrifying. We must be on guard against the third wave because we saw in the second wave of COVID how many people lost their lives, now the third wave is about upon us, so we have to be aware but we must keep in mind that only vaccination can save our lives.

The lady who died in Ujjain was not vaccinated and her husband is vaccinated; that's why he was not infected. If we follow the COVID protocols and other related guidelines, then we are safe. Our lives depend on all our family members, and *vice versa*.

Aman Raghuvanshi | Ujjain

CRICKET CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

Sir — Two years after their heartbreak in the World Cup final at the Lord's, New Zealand returned to the English soil and emerged triumphant, (when Indian's Virat Kohli could only look on and applaud as Ross Taylor flicked the winning runs through the leg-side and hundreds of topless New Zealand supporters erupted), an eight-wicket victory over India meaning Kane Williamson's men were crowned the inaugural World Test Champions (WTC) at the end of a dramatic sixth day that stirred the senses.

Anyway, the Kiwis have beaten India... a couple of weeks after beating England in a series for the first time since 1999. It's called quality by the Black Caps, first bossed England and then bulldozed India. In the first ever World Test Championship final, if the 6ft 8in right-armed Jamieson who sent a match seemingly destined for a draw and a shared title hurtling towards its memorable victory won the Man-of-the-final, then it also a fitting farewell to Kiwis wicket keeper BJ Watling, who retires from all forms of cricket, dislocated his finger early in the day, but continued keeping.

Unite in the COVID-19 fight



It is gratifying to note that after months of speculation, the Government has finally assumed control of the vaccination policy. The revised vaccination drive, which commenced on June 21, 2021, with 86 lakh people receiving the jab on the first day, is a positive development.

The recent Government advisory on INSACOG's report on the new variant, called Delta Plus or B.1.617.2.1 or AY.1 with K4 17 N mutation, is a timely reminder to remain cautious. We must not lower our guard against the virus, as several cases of this mutant have been reported not just from Maharashtra, Karnataka, MP and Kerala but also from nine countries. It has been

known to evade immune response, raising concerns about the efficacy of existing vaccines.

There is unanimity among the epidemiologists of the world regarding booster doses which can provide long-term immunity against the Novel Coronavirus. With the virus mutating at a faster pace, several developed countries are considering to administer booster doses to their population next year. The Indian Government, too, must not lose sight of this latest development and devise policies to strengthen the immunity of its citizens. Many virologist and experts opine that in order to ascertain the progress, characteristic of the variant, a new test developed in England which is faster and cheaper than the whole genome sequencing process must be.

We cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the second wave. This time around, early warnings by the Health Ministry should be seen as a wake-up call to take preventive measures beforehand. As COVID-19 caseload shows a declining trend, there should not be premature declaration of victory over the virus until the entire population is vaccinated.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

But for Virat Kohli, this is the third failure in big ICC events after the 2017 Champions Trophy and the 2019 World Cup. He comes across as a jinx for India and might just have one more shot, which is the T20 World Cup this year, and failing to win that could warrant some changes in the team hierarchy.

This is the result for those who have been involved with New Zealand cricket, it's the culmination of hard toil for over two decades. Virat Kohli & Co. got the prize money of 5.94 crore Indian rupees.

Well done! Kudos, New Zealand! Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

ONDRIYA ARASU

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's reiteration that the DMK Government will continue to use the term "Ondriya Arasu" (Union Government) to refer to the Government formed with a majority in the Lok Sabha jibes with his party's long-held views on Centre-

State relations. Maanila Suyatchi, Mathiyil Kootactchi which means 'autonomy to the State and federalism at the Centre' has been an article of faith with the DMK since its inception. It is in sync with the causes of democracy and decentralised power.

The terms 'Centre' and 'Central Government' denote concentration of power in the hands of one political authority or centre and imply 'control' and 'subservience'. In contrast, the terms 'Union' and 'Union Government' denote devolution of power to States, which serves the cause of grassroots or participatory democracy better and acts as an antidote to secessionism too. India is a vast and diverse country with people disparate in region, race and religion, as so kaleidoscopically displayed during Independence Day and Republic Day parades.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

SOUND BITE

Banta sent a letter to Aviation Minister: Sir, it is my humble request that the new airport in Navi Mumbai be named 'Bantacruz' since my brother has already one airport named after him 'Santacruz'.



Civil Aviation Minister — Hardeep Singh Puri

Folks, this (gun violence) shouldn't be a red or blue issue... It's an American issue.

US President — Joe Biden

We all have to resume work and I am ready to resume work. My injuries have healed.

Actor — Rahul Dev

I think he deserves to go around the cricket grounds in New Zealand and for people to acknowledge him.

New Zealand ex-keeper — Ian Smith

It is learnt that Covaxin is still not approved by the WHO, creating problems for those trying to go abroad.



West Bengal Chief Minister — Mamata Banerjee

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

UNITE TO PREVENT THE THIRD WAVE

Leaders across the political spectrum should spread vaccine awareness



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The new vaccine policy of the Union Government, after many twists and turns, got off to a thumping start with nearly 82 lakh citizens getting a vaccine shot in a single day. The role played by State Governments, many of whom have realized the potential of vaccination to ensure getting the economy back on track, cannot be underplayed. The zeal they showed in driving the vaccination exercise in a 'mission mode' is commendable. The second good news amid nearly three months of gloom and pandemic-stricken psyche is the constantly reducing number in active Covid cases across the country, providing relief to the stretched healthcare system.

These two developments along with a limited unlock process and the upcoming festival season could bring a ray of hope for prosperity and growth for all enterprises. Early signs of revival in FMCG sales and signals emerging from auto manufacturers and real estate developers indicate a healthy bounce-back. However, it is also the time for extreme caution and to try to be ahead of the shape-shifter virus before it strikes back with vengeance. India has managed to provide at least one job of the vaccine to nearly 30 crore citizens. This means a vast majority of the popula-



tion is still at risk. The nature of the war against the virus is as strong as the last vulnerable citizen. The challenge is to quickly ramp up vaccination and overcome vaccine hesitancy. These two issues are interrelated, as one of the reasons for India's reluctance to place bulk orders of vaccines in the global markets was a second thought on the need for vaccines towards the beginning of this year. The government correctly launched the vaccination programme with the most vulnerable segments of the population and front-line healthcare workers. However, somewhere in the high decibel election campaign and the frenzy of religious gatherings, the message of and the need to vaccinate all was lost. The result was a disaster with fatal consequences including for many senior government officials.

The issue of vaccine hesitancy is a matter of concern as reports indicate that rural India is resisting attempts to take the jab. While urban India is queuing up in front of vaccine centers, there are numerous reports of the rural folk literally running away from them. This is where the role of the state governments and local administration kicks in. The government can devise strategies for dispelling myths about the vaccine and persuade its grassroots employees to spread vaccine awareness. The local village influencers have their roles cut out too. The reality is that many of the states are now ruled by personality-driven chief ministers who would like to share the political dividends of free vaccination with the Union government. A clever sharing of optical space between the Centre and the States, providing ample opportunities for both to achieve their political goals while ensuring the safety of the citizens, can be a milestone. After all, a single central team of vaccinators no matter, how large, will not be able to reach the stated target of one crore vaccinations per day without the local leaders' help. The problem gets more acute in rural areas where various pressure and caste groups create a system of opaqueness for an initiative to save lives. The governments have ample evidence in the past of vaccinating nearly 17 crore children every week which led to the eradication of polio in the country. Lessons from the past would come in handy in vaccinating another 70 crore citizens of the country against COVID-19.

(The writer is a policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Climate change and its socio-economic impact



SIMI MEHTA RIA MOHAL

Climate change and poverty are part of a vicious cycle. The inability of the vulnerable sections to effectively mitigate climate change-induced impacts make them worse off

In South Asia, India has a huge role to play in the field of climate change, given the enormity of its industrialisation levels. In the 1970s and 80s, we had little clue about how climate change would impact India but one thing was amply clear that unequal development patterns between developed and developing countries and greed were the biggest polluters — eloquently voiced by then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi.

As years passed, the Indian position at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) revealed its domestic interests: Developing countries should not be bound by emission reduction requirements unless they were provided with the necessary financial and technological assistance to lower their GHG emissions and, such provisions to curb GHGs would not come at the expense of their development trajectories.

Gradually, sound economic growth of the country catapulted India into taking the leadership role, when in the COP-21 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Visionary actions such as these can help bend the rising curve of global warming, provided they are implemented both nationally and globally. The overall objective of ISA, with its current 121 member countries located in the sunbelt — those between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn — is to work tirelessly in making solar energy available at affordable costs to all. This would require scaling up solar energy projects to meet growing energy demands and combat climate change.

The World Bank has released a report, 'Turn Down The Heat', on the likely impact of rising temperatures on agricultural production, water resources, coastal ecosystems, and cities. The report projected future scenarios in a world warmer by 2-degree and 4-degree Celsius.

According to their findings for India, extreme heat events will occur more frequently and cover larger areas than before. Western and Southern India are likely to shift to high climatic regimes, with cities reeling from the 'urban heat island' effect. The Global Climate Risk Indices for the past few years has ranked India as the worst-affected country due to heatwaves.

Secondly, dry years will become drier and wet years will become wetter, making the summer monsoon extremely unpredictable. It will trigger massive losses in agricultural production. Environmental extremes and meteorological events like tropical storms, cyclones, tornadoes, river floods, landslides, wildfires, and droughts are becoming common. Recently, the estimated loss due to damages from cyclones Tauktae (west coast) and Yaas (east coast) is to the tune of \$5 billion, including infrastructure, electricity grids, agricultural lands, houses, and losses of precious human lives. Previous years have had other devastating cyclones like Amphan, Titli, and Gaja. Drought years have led to massive declines in agriculture production. There are estimates that agricultural yields will start falling by the 2040s.

Thirdly, glaciers in the Himalayan ranges have been retreating. Alterations in glacial caps will affect the downstream population of the Indus, Ganges and the Brahmaputra plains.

These direct implications of global warming-



A GENDER AUDIT IS NEEDED OF BOTH MICRO- AND MACRO-PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING A PLATFORM FOR WOMEN FARMERS, COMMUNITY WORKERS, STUDENTS AND YOUTH WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THERE IS AN EQUAL NEED TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE AND GENDER EQUALITY AGENDAS BY ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION OF ADIVASI AND DALIT WOMEN AND FEMINIST EXPERTS

(The writer is a Simi Mehta is CEO and Editorial Director, Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPR) and Ria Mohal is a researcher at the Institute. The views expressed are personal.)



induced meteorological and hydrological changes will have their bearing on the society and economic growth of India. Climate change and poverty are part of a vicious cycle as each entity reinforces the effects of the other. Climate change threatens to disrupt natural resource systems, thereby adversely impacting populations (farmers, fisherfolks, and Adivasi communities) dependent on these ecosystems. The inability of the vulnerable sections to effectively mitigate climate-change-induced impacts makes them worse off.

The prime impact is on agricultural production and food security. The yield of the wheat crop has already peaked in India. Rising water scarcity, sea-water intrusions and rising temperatures will threaten crop yields, jeopardize food security, and make India dependent on food imports. Crop failures and increased infestation of pests and insects are commonplace. It would not be an extrapolation to link farmers' suicides to climate change.

is also reeling under malnutrition and child-stunting. Increasing temperatures will enhance vector-borne diseases such as malaria and diarrheal infections — the prominent causes of child mortality — declining worker productivity, rising cardiovascular diseases, and deaths.

Changes in rainfall patterns and glacial melt will impact water security. Irrigation facilities for crop production along with rising demand from population growth will lead to water shortages. Cities like Chennai have already witnessed this form of insecurity, suffering extreme flooding in 2015, while the year after the city suffered from acute water shortages. Also, water shortages will impact sanita-

tion facilities — an essential prerequisite for the health of a country.

Hydel power plants may undergo an erratic supply of electricity generation due to the reduced flow of rivers. Thermal plants of India that guzzle up freshwater supplies may also face electricity generation issues.

Water-sharing is already a contentious issue in South Asian politics. Water scarcity may further add to the pressure. Declining agricultural productivity and reduced farm incomes may result in heavy migration, either rural-urban or even transboundary. Such large-scale migration of people referred to as climate refugees may generate conflicts.

With the loss of forests and ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs, several ecosystem product provisioning will decline. These include medicinal plants and herbs. Ecosystem services provided by forests and mangroves such as climate moderation, water filtration, and clean air may reduce due to global warming-induced climate change.

The vulnerability of the people in India and South Asian countries is because of lower coping capacities that become further embossed because of low per capita incomes, social inequality, and poverty. A study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) pointed out that South Asia is expected to lose five per cent of its working hours due to heat stress by 2030, corresponding to 43 million full-time jobs.

Non-economic losses refer to those losses which are not commonly traded in the markets but bear high relevance to those affected. These include loss of life and sea-level rise leading to losses in

biodiversity and cultural heritage. Thus, there is a need to integrate these non-economic losses into decision-making processes to reduce the losses ex-ante. For these, historical analogs, remembrance and recognition, and oral histories provide valuable insights for UNFCCC's science-policy interface.

The way forward is to first provide the rural population of India with access to fossil-fuel-free clean energy to meet the basic energy demands of cooking, heating, and lighting. Two, eliminate the burning of agricultural waste and instead use the crop residues to produce renewable biomass fuels for energy and compost feedstock for healthy soils. Three, phasing out of diesel fuels by 2030 would prove to be effective in declining carbon dioxide emissions.

Four, need to accelerate soil's natural ability to absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide from the air through better land management. It would not only remove carbon dioxide from the air but also enhance soil quality and increase the yields of crops like rice and wheat. Five, a massive climate education program to educate high school and college students and foster indigenous knowledge on climate change. Six, a gender audit is needed of both micro- and macro-planning and program implementation, providing a platform for women farmers, community workers, students, and youth working on environmental issues. There is an equal need to strengthen climate and gender equality agendas by encouraging the participation of Adivasi and Dalit women and feminist experts in climate change.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, SHE (PRIYANKA) IS THE CAPTAIN AND SHE IS LEADING US. I HOPE SHE WILL TAKE A DECISION AND LET US KNOW.

— CONGRESS LEADER
SALMAN KHURSHID



IN THE 2022 UP POLLS, THE BJP WOULD WIN EVEN MORE SEATS THAN BEFORE TO BE HELD UNDER... CM YOGI ADITYANATH'S STEWARDSHIP.

— BJP VICE-PRESIDENT (UTTAR PRADESH)
AK SHARMA

Embracing circular economy in cooling technologies

It is essential to transit towards the circular economy opportunities with the practice of three 'R's — reuse, reduce, recycle

The need for thermal comfort will be inevitable in the coming weeks ahead, as the mercury is expected to scorch the past 40 degrees Celsius in the major cities and towns across the country. The rising global average temperatures have affected the climate around the world and particularly India being a tropical country is experiencing increasing cases of heat-stressed regions.

With the unprecedented global rise in temperatures, the decade 2010-2020 has been recorded as the hottest decade, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. These certainties are portents of global warming and its associated climate change threats affecting



GAURAV PHORE SHANNMUGANATHAN K

(Shannmuganathan K is Associate Fellow and Gaurav Phore is Research Associate at Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The views expressed are personal.)

the livelihood of 7.9 billion people across the world. In India, a recent study conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) revealed that the urban heat island effects due to industrial agglomeration in Ib Valley in Jharsuguda, Odisha have led to a steady build-up of heat in the region over the years resulting in higher nighttime temperatures.

Cooling has now become a developmental need and is no longer a luxury anymore. Thermal comfort providing optimum human comfort conditions plays a crucial role in the productivity and quality of life. A strategic document titled 'India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)' was released in March 2019. The action plan strategizes the country's cooling-



related challenges, opportunities, and social benefits over the next 20-year horizon.

With the increasing urbanization and economic growth, the demand for cooling is anticipated to increase manifold in the coming decades. The growing demand puts massive stress on the energy demand, consumption, and its associated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) report has revealed that India will share a

fourth (1.12 billion units) of global room air conditioners by 2050. These findings plainly indicate that there is a massive need for raw materials, energy, and resources to cater to the country's unprecedented cooling demand.

The rising peak power demands are putting a strain on the DISCOMs. In July 2019, Delhi clocked an all-time high demand of 7,409 MW. Of this, almost 50 percent was due to cooling loads of air-conditioners, coolers, and fans.

These environmental challenges can be addressed through super energy efficiency as a resource, passive design techniques to reduce cooling load, promoting environment-friendly refrigerants, and the introduction of

renewable-based cooling technology options. Embracing circular economy in cooling is echoed as a strategic option towards the transition for a sustainable cooling scenario. The World Economic Forum (WEF) defines a circular economy as "an industrial system that is restorative or regenerative by intention and design". It replaces the end-of-life concept with restoration, shifts towards the use of renewable energy, eliminates the use of toxic chemicals, which impair reuse and return to the biosphere, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, systems, and business models, the definition says.

Only nine percent of 92.8 billion tonnes of minerals, metals, and fossil fuels entering the economy are re-used annually. The rest 91 percent falls in the spectrum of circular gaps and its closing would be a fundamental step in alleviating the climate risks. The circular economy-related studies reveal that around two-thirds of global emissions are released during the extraction, processing, and manufacturing of goods and services and the remaining one-third pertains to its transportation and logistics.

Anticipating the country's thriving, cross-sectorial cooling infrastructure developments and its associated energy and emission impacts, it is essential to transit towards the circular

economy opportunities with the practice of three 'R's — reuse, reduce, recycle.

Raising the AC temperature by one degree Centigrade can lead to an average saving of six percent of electricity consumption. Additionally, efforts are on reducing the cooling load in buildings through passive design without compromising on thermal comfort. Super energy-efficient five-star appliances which consume 40 percent less electricity are being popularised.

The reduced electricity consumption scenario directly complements minimal consumption of resources, primarily the burning of coal at power generating units and its associated greenhouse emissions.

Hong Kong's last pro-democracy paper sells out final edition

Hong Kong: The final edition of Hong Kong's last remaining pro-democracy paper sold out in hours Thursday, as readers scooped up all 1 million copies

of the Apple Daily, whose closure was yet another sign of China's tightening grip on the semi-autonomous city.

Across the densely populated metropolis, people lined up early in the morning to buy the paper, which in recent years has become an increas-

ingly outspoken critic of Chinese and Hong Kong authorities' efforts to limit the freedoms found here but not in mainland China. The paper was gone from newsstands by 8:30 am.

The newspaper said it was forced to cease operations after police froze \$2.3 million of its assets, searched its office and arrested five top editors and executives last week, accusing them of foreign collusion to endanger national security.

"This is our last day, and last edition, does this reflect the reality that Hong Kong has started to lose its press freedom and freedom of speech?" an

Apple Daily graphic designer, Dickson Ng, asked in comments to The Associated Press. "Why does it have to end up like this?"

The paper printed 1 million copies for its last edition — up from the usual 80,000. On the front page was splashed an image of an employee in the office waving at supporters surrounding the building, with the headline "Hong Kongers bid a painful farewell in the rain, We support Apple Daily."

While pro-democracy media outlets still exist online, it was the only print newspaper of its kind left in the city.

The pressure on the paper

reflects a broader crackdown on Hong Kong's civil liberties, ramped up after massive anti-government protests in 2019 unsettled authorities. In response, they imposed a sweeping national security law — used in the arrests of the newspaper employees — and revamped Hong Kong's election laws to keep opposition voices out of the legislature.

The result is that dissenting voices have been almost completely silenced in the city long known as an oasis of freedoms on mainland China's doorstep. The increasing restrictions have come despite China's promise to protect Hong Kong's civil lib-

erties for 50 years after the city's 1997 handover from Britain.

The closure of Apple Daily raises the spectre that other media outlets — though none as outspoken — will become even more cautious, such as the more than 100-year-old English-language South China Morning Post.

The paper, while identified with the political and business mainstream, has thus far continued to report on controversial issues in Hong Kong and on mainland China, even after its owner, internet business titan Jack Ma, dropped from sight last year after publicly criticising Chinese Government policies. Apple Daily's closure marks a "dark day for press freedom in Hong Kong," said Thomas Kellogg, executive director of the Georgetown Centre for Asian Law.

"Without Apple Daily, Hong Kong is less free than it

was a week ago. Apple Daily was an important voice, and it seems unlikely that any other media outlet will be able to fill its shoes, given growing restrictions on free speech and freedom of the press," he said.

Taiwan's Cabinet agency responsible for China issues also lamented the paper's closure as a heavy blow to media freedom in Hong Kong. The island is a self-governing democracy that split from mainland China in 1949 but that Beijing continues to claim as its territory.

"This shows the international community that the Chinese Communist Party, in its exercise of totalitarian political power, will stop at nothing to use extreme means to wipe out dissenting opinions," Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council said in an emailed statement.

AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address | Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced | Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice | NPA Date |
|---------|--|--|---|------------|
| 1. | Rajneesh Sinha, Ruma Sinha, Banana Tree Restaurants Ltd, No 237 239 Western Lane Nw Extn, London, London A/c No:-LBGUR00003155982 | Flat No 2401, Tower- C, 24th Floor, Plot No GH-01, Misty Heights Sec-Sports City Adjoining Tech Zone IV, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 6236109/- | 30/06/2018 |
| 2. | Ramvir Singh, Sati Devi Chahar, Ind 101 Parsvanath Platinum Sec-Tauswarn Nagri Greater Noida, Noida, A/c No:-LBND000001962771 | GDI0242301, Wishtown Noida Garden Isles Jaypee Greens, Sector 133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 8197549/- | 31/10/2017 |
| 3. | Ramvir Singh, Sati Devi Chahar, Ind 101 Parsvanath Platinum Sec-Tauswarn Nagri Greater Noida, Noida, A/c No:-LBND000002905757 | GDI0242301, Wishtown Noida Garden Isles Jaypee Greens, Sector 133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 803602/- | 31/10/2017 |
| 4. | Rana Singh, Neelam Singh, H No 946, Sector 9 Hig Duplex Vasundhra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBDEL00002051235 | Unit No Kba- 07-1402, Kensington Boulevard, Jaypee Greens, Sector 128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 5358867.47/- | 31/03/2018 |
| 5. | Ranjankumari, Himanshu Dobriyal, 711 682 Al Hebah Fourth Dubai 383978, Dubai, A/c No:-LBDEL00002439290 | Flat No 201, 2nd Floor, Tower- T-6, Sunworld Arista Plot No- Gh-01/ csec- 168, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 14371049/- | 30/04/2018 |
| 6. | Ranjit Ram Krishna Yadav, Sanjokta Yadav, A-2-707 Mont Vert Pristine Aundh Road Pune, Pune, Maharashtra, A/c No:-LBDEL00002349723 | Flat No 1801, 18th Floor, Tower No C1, Victory Ace, Plot No Gh 02, Sector 143, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 8327774/- | 30/11/2018 |
| 7. | Renu Pal, Satendra Pal, Flat No- 1801 A, The Hyder Park, Noida Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBND00002880657 | Flat No 1801, 18th Floor The Hyde Park Tower-A, Sector- 78 Plot No. Gh- 03 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 12-Apr-2021, Rs. 7110234/- | 31/07/2020 |
| 8. | Richa, Anirudh Gupta, F- 95 Top Floor Gali No- 7 Pandav Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBND00002008681 | BS204A1204, Tower- 4, 12th Floor, Buddh Circuit Studios- II, Jaypee Greens Sports City East Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 408926/- | 31/05/2018 |
| 9. | Rishabh Goel, Ruchi Goel, Flat No- 404, Shanti Kuni, Plot No- E-16, Sector-61, Noida, A/c No:-LBND00001885511 | Flat No, Ksi0082402, Wish Town Kasa Isles, Jaypee Greens, Sector- 129, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3603456/- | 30/04/2018 |
| 10. | Rishabh Goel, Ruchi Goel, Flat No 4092 Tower-6, Block- E Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, Poland, A/c No:-LBND00001976078 | Flat No PYV8000187, Yamuna Vihar Flat Jaypee Greens Sports City East, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 6058526/- | 30/04/2018 |
| 11. | Ritesh Kumarshandilya, Ramesh Kumar Jha, House No-17/ 344 Near Janta Public School Sangam Vihar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002935426 | Flat No 1203, 12th Floor, Tower- E, Misty Heights, Plot No Gh-01, Sports Citysec Adjoining Tech Zone- IV, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3013071/- | 30/11/2018 |
| 12. | Samar Raza Taqui, Khamis Raza Taqui, 4- 7- 43 F No 204 Varsha Apts Babuji Nagar, Nacharan, Hyderabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00002688662 | Flat No 1004, 10th Floor, Tower B, Durva Greens, Plot No Gh 08A, Sec Chi V, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 8490893/- | 31/05/2018 |
| 13. | Sanjay Gupta, Rakhi Gupta, B-169, Sector-41, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBND00001962130 | KR0190401, Flat No 401 Tower Khr 19, 4th Floor, Krecent Homes Jaypee Greensector 128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 10625843.3/- | 31/05/2017 |
| 14. | Santanu Banerjee, Gargi Bhattacharjee, H No-1406 3rd Floor Left Side Gali No-13, Govind Puri Kalkaji Gali No- 13 Ground Govind Puri, Govind Puri Kalkaji Gali No -13 Ground Govind Puri, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002272956 | Flat No 303, 4th Floor Vrindavan Greens Narmada Tower, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3797466/- | 31/01/2017 |
| 15. | Manoj Kumar Purbey, Deepika Purbey, 68 First Floor Opp Archies Gallery, Vijay Block, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001893719 | KBA-0011501, 15th Floor, Kensington Boulevard Apartments, Jaypee Greens, Noida Greater Noida Expressway, Sector 128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 6135456.1/- | 31/08/2017 |
| 16. | Gaurav Sharma, Ved Prakash Sharma, B-9/9322, Vasant Apartment, Vasant Kunj, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00001979564 | Flat No- 603, 8th Floor, Tower- J1, Plot No 2 Sec-13 Expressway Noida, Logix Blossom County, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 2821773/- | 31/08/2018 |
| 17. | Saroj Verma, Ajay Singh Yadav, House No- Sra 137 D 3rd Floorshipra Revera Indrapuram Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBGH200003594228 | Flat No 1204, 12th Floor, Tower- B, Misty Heights, Plot No. Gh-01, Sector- Sports city, Adjoining Tech Zone- IV, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 4730236/- | 30/04/2019 |
| 18. | Satyanarayana Rao Jayanti, Nisthala Poorna Padmaja, C 1014 Sector- 49 Sainik Colony, Faridabad, Haryana A/c No:-LBND00002208787 | Flat No. K1- 2103, Tower- K1, 21st Floor, Kumar Imperial Greens Plot No Gh- 01b Sector-16 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3409062/- | 30/04/2019 |
| 19. | Saurabh Sharma, Suman Lata, House No 538 Sector-10A, Gurgaon, Haryana, A/c No:-LBDEL00002089581 | Flat No E 1001, 10th Floor, Tower E, Spring View Heights, Village Shahpur Bhameta, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 1910881/- | 31/12/2018 |
| 20. | Saurabh Sharma, Suman Lata, House No 538 Sector-10A, Gurgaon, Haryana, A/c No:-LBDEL00002096850 | Flat No E 1001, 10th Floor, Tower E, Spring View Heights, Village Shahpur Bhameta, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 35121/- | 31/12/2018 |
| 21. | Sayedtarannum, Ahmad Razi Mohammad, F 19 Flat No 102 Millat Society Abulfaiza, L Enclave Shahin Bagh, Delhi, A/c No:-LBND00003118544 | Flat No 703, 7th Floor, Tower D, Misty Heights Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3314618/- | 31/03/2019 |
| 22. | Suman, Arun Kumar, JA-17 III Rd Floor Left Side Khirki, Ext Malviya Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00003202527 | Flat No 1805, 18th Floor, Tower- A, Antriksh Valley, Plot No GH- 15D, Sector-1, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 5288367/- | 30/04/2019 |
| 23. | Sumit Gupta, Ramesh Gupta, B 15 B Block, Jain Park Matiala, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBGUR00003078790 | Flat No T161906, 18th Floor, Tower 16, Green Parc II, Sec 92, Gurgaon, Haryana | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 7560019.99/- | 31/05/2019 |
| 24. | Surabhikhosla, Surya Bhan Singh, C- 23, Sec-50, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBND000001914180 | Flat No. GDI 0252503, Garden Isles Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 4688540.68/- | 30/11/2018 |
| 25. | Sushilrati, Sunil Rai, Sunil Rai, B- 43 NFL Society Greater Noida, Noida, A/c No:-LBND000002412023 | Unit No. GDI0240701, Flat- 701, 7th Floor, Tower- GDI- 24, Jaypee Greens Garden Isles, Sec-133 Jaypee Greens, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 5618680/- | 31/07/2016 |
| 26. | Talha Beena Sif, Irum Siddiqi, Moh Seikhan Sherkot Estate Sherkot, Bijnor, A/c No:-LBND000001847908 | Flat No. KSI-16-2501, Kasa Isles Jaypee Greens, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 5819025.99/- | 31/12/2017 |
| 27. | Taran Sharma,dimple Sharma, H No- 119 Block- C, NH- 2 Nr Furniture Market, Nil Faridabad, Haryana, Faridabad, A/c No:-LBDEL00002399903 | Flat No A112, 1st Floor, Tower T6, Shubhikama Lords, Plot No.- SC 01/D1 Sector-79, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3304473/- | 31/07/2018 |
| 28. | Trilokikumarsingh, Nibha Singh, Tower C 1 Flat No 102 Ebony Greens Crescent Park, Lal Kuan, Ghaziabad, A/c No:-LBND00002362077 | Unit No 1204A, 12th Floor, Tower D, Plot No GH 04B 1 Manorath Towersector 16 Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3341497/- | 31/10/2018 |
| 29. | Upinder Singh, Palvinder, Flat No 4 Jb 13/4 1st Floor Gupta Colony, Khirki Extn, Malviya Nagar, Delhi, A/c No:-LBGUR00002118708 | Flat No- K1- 2002, 20th Floor, Imperial Greens Block K 1 And K2, Plot No GH-01B, Sector-16, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 4121498/- | 31/10/2018 |
| 30. | Varun Vaish,vibhor Kumar Vaish, H No- 343 B Bhatia Road New Panchwali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh A/c No:-LBND00002357385 | Flat No 1803, 18th Floor, Tower-D, Manorath, Plot GH-04B-1, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 3700382/- | 31/08/2018 |
| 31. | Vikas Kumar,vijay Kumar Gupta, 1/5805 Street No 11 Balbir Nagar Shahdara New Delhi, Delhi, A/c No:-LBGUR00001885373 | Flat No. Ocb 005-1401, Orchids, Jaypee Greens 453 Acres, Noida Greater Noida Expressway, Sector-128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 8079664.6/- | 30/09/2017 |
| 32. | Vipin Chauhan, Bhukan Lal, H 250 Rama Krishna Vihari P Extn Patparganj, Delhi, A/c No:-LBDEL00002040462 | GDI0180102, Flat No-102, 1st Floor, Tower- GDI-18, Jaypee Greens Garden Isles, Sector 133, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 10545356/- | 28/02/2017 |
| 33. | Vipin Prasad, Meena Siswal, 635 Pasirris Dri 02 602 Singapore, Singapore, Singapore, A/c No:-LBGH200003311981 | Flat No. 101, 1st Floor, Tower-a, Misty Heights, Plot No-gh-01, Greater Noida, Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 6198146.94/- | 31/10/2018 |
| 34. | Yudhveer Singh, Gurpreet Kaur, House No- 219-C Express Viewa Partment Sec- 93, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, A/c No:-LBND00002312278 | Flat No. 2204, Tower A1, 22nd Floor, Rudra Palace Heights Noida Extension Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | 01-Apr-2021, Rs. 2039314/- | 30/09/2018 |

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : June 25, 2021
Place: Delhi/ NCR
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Festival Special trains as under:-

| Train No. & Name | Days of run | Presently Notified Upto | Extended Upto |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 09027 Bandra Terminus-Jammu Tawi Festival Special | Saturday | 26.06.2021 | Upto 28.08.2021 |
| 09028 Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus Festival Special | Monday | 28.06.2021 | Upto 30.08.2021 |
| 09017 Bandra Terminus-Haridwar Jn. SF Festival Spl. | Wednesday | 30.06.2021 | Upto 25.08.2021 |
| 09018 Haridwar Jn.-Bandra Terminus SF Festival Spl. | Thursday | 01.07.2021 | Upto 26.08.2021 |
| 09313 Indore Jn.-Patna Jn. Festival Special | Mon, Wed | 30.06.2021 | Upto 30.08.2021 |
| 09314 Patna Jn.-Indore Jn. Festival Special | Wed, Fri | 02.07.2021 | Upto 01.09.2021 |
| 09321 Indore Jn.-Patna Jn. Festival Special | Saturday | 26.06.2021 | Upto 28.08.2021 |
| 09322 Patna Jn.-Indore Jn. Festival Special | Monday | 28.06.2021 | Upto 30.08.2021 |
| 09057 Udhna Jn.-Manduadh Superfast Festival Spl. | Friday | 25.06.2021 | Upto 27.08.2021 |
| 09058 Manduadh-Udhna Jn. Superfast Festival Spl. | Sunday | 27.06.2021 | Upto 29.08.2021 |
| 09451 Gandhidham-Bhagalpur Festival Special | Friday | 25.06.2021 | Upto 27.08.2021 |
| 09452 Bhagalpur-Gandhidham Festival Special | Monday | 28.06.2021 | Upto 30.08.2021 |

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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

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कार्यालय नगर निगम देहरादून

पत्रांक:146/ मूनि-2021 सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना 24.06.2021

नगर निगम क्षेत्रांतर्गत विभिन्न स्थलों पर यूनिट/ होटिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु दिनांक 01.08.2021 से दिनांक 31.07.2023 तक कुल 02 वर्ष हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की विधि से दिनांक 16.07.2021 की अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे तक ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।

| क्र. सं. | मार्ग का नाम | यूनिट/ होटिंग हेतु कुल साईट | निगम द्वारा विज्ञापन हेतु आरक्षित निविदा घनराशि |
|----------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | राजपुर रोड-70 साईट, मसूरी डाईनर्जन से मेन राजपुर तक-08 साईट, चक्रता रोड-47, साईट, जौ0एमएएरोड-10, गांधी रोड-10, साईट, सहारनपुर रोड-16, साईट हरिद्वार बाईपास रोड-02 साईट, रायपुर रोड-03 साईट, सहस्त्रधारा रोड-10 साईट, रेकार्क एण्ड रेट्ट कैम्प-03 साईट, ई0शी0 रोड-04 साईट तथा केंद्र रोड-01 साईट | 184 | 7,96,16,064 / - |

निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रत्येक में निर्धारित घनराशि ₹ 79.61,607/- की सीडी0आर0 / एफ0डी0आर0 संलग्न करनी अनिवार्य होगी। जो नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम, देहरादून के नाम प्लेज होगा। निविदाये ई0 निविदा के माध्यम से निर्धारित विधि एवं सम्य उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी। निविदादाता को निविदा में अंकित समस्त तकनीकी दस्तावेजों एवं निर्धारित घनराशि की एफ0डी0आर0 / सीडी0आर0 को मूल रूप में दिनांक 15.07.2021 की अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे तक निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा जिसका परीक्षण दिनांक 16.07.2021 के सांय 4.00 बजे गठित समिति के समक्ष किया जायेगा। तकनीकी निविदा के परीक्षण के उपरान्त तकनीकी निविदा में संकलित निविदाओं की वित्तीय निविदा समिति द्वारा खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रत्येक एवं सर्वे विज्ञापन प्रकाशन की विधि से यूनिट/होटर की वेबसाइट से भी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है अथवा किसी भी कार्यविचार में नगर निगम कार्यालय में दिनांक 14.07.2021 सांय 4.00 बजे तक प्राप्त की जा सकती है। निविदा ई0 निविदा के माध्यम से www.uktender.gov.in पर उपलब्ध करायी जायेगी।

Delhi Jal Board : Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil)-SDW-NW
Opp RBI Colony Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi-110088
Ph No. 011-27491437, e-mail: eecsdwnw@gmail.com
"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing and Maintain Hand Hygiene"
PRESS NIT NO.08 (21-22)
EE(C)SDW-NW

| Item No. | Name of work | Amount put to Tender (in Rs.) | Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution | Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution |
|----------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Removal of sludge and repair and maintenance of damaged brick work and plaster of drying beds at Phase-I at Coronation Pillar NSTP Tender ID 1021_DJB 204858_1 | 32,53,450/- | 24-06-2021 | 15-07-2021 Up to 03:00 PM |

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) (Anil Kumar Sharma) Executive Engineer (Civil) SDW-NW

Adv. No. J.S.V. 136(2021-22)

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P.
CIN-L17291UP1979PLC004804
PH:- 0591-2223008/18, Fax:- 0591-2223009, Email:- info@prakashwoollen.com,
Website:- www.prakashwoollen.com

Extract of Audited Financial Results (Standalone) for the Quarter and Year Ended 31/03/2021

| Particulars | Quarter ended | | Year Ended | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 31-Mar-21 | 31-Dec-20 | 31-Mar-20 | 31-Mar-21 | 31-Mar-20 |
| | Unaudited | Unaudited | Unaudited | Audited | Audited |
| Total income from operations (net) | 1881.05 | 4029.61 | 2313.36 | 9823.60 | 13307.14 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | (0.23) | 465.39 | 64.60 | 495.51 | 534.58 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | (0.23) | 465.39 | 64.21 | 495.51 | 1005.36 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) | 29.06 | 323.17 | 32.37 | 377.36 | 805.57 |
| Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) | 35.12 | 323.17 | 24.33 | 383.42 | 797.53 |
| Equity Share Capital | 1025.98 | 1025.98 | 1025.98 | 1025.98 | 1025.98 |
| Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Earnings per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each): | | | | | |
| (a) Basic | 0.28 | 3.15 | 0.32 | 3.68 | 7.85 |
| (b) Diluted | 0.28 | 3.15 | 0.32 | 3.68 | 7.85 |
| Earnings per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/-each): | | | | | |
| (a) Basic | 0.28 | 3.15 | 0.32 | 3.68 | 7.85 |
| (b) Diluted | 0.28 | 3.15 | 0.32 | 3.68 | 7.85 |

S&P lowers India's FY22 growth to 9.5%



PI ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency S&P Global Ratings on Thursday lowered India's economic growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal from an earlier prediction of 11 per cent.

According to the ratings agency, India's growth in fiscal 2023 (ending March 31, 2023) will likely come in at 7.8 per cent.

"A gradual revival is under-

However, it cited that manufacturing and exports were less severely affected compared with 2020, but services were acutely disrupted.

"Consumption indicators such as vehicle sales fell sharply in May 2021 and consumer confidence remains downbeat."

"The economy has turned a corner now. New Covid-19 cases have been falling consistently and mobility is recovering. We expect this recovery to be less steep compared with the bounce in late 2020 and early 2021." Besides, the agency pointed out that households are running down saving buffers to support consumption and a desire to rebuild saving could hold back spending even as the economy reopens.

Furthermore, it said that monetary and fiscal policies will remain accommodative but new stimulus "will not be forthcoming".

Jio's 'Made in India' 5G solution globally competitive: Ambani



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Jio, together with Rpartners, has tested its 5G solutions in India, successfully demonstrating speeds of over 1 GBPS, and its 'Made in India' solution is 'globally competitive', RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani said on Thursday.

Ambani also exuded confidence that the company will be the first to launch full-fledged 5G services in the country.

Jio is not just working to make India '2G-mukt' (free from 2G) but also '5G-yukt' (5G empowered), he added.

Jio's engineers have developed a 100 per cent home-grown and comprehensive 5G solution that is fully cloud native, software defined, and digitally managed. Jio's 'Made in India' solution is complete and globally competitive, Ambani said while speaking at Reliance Industries Ltd's 44th AGM. With its partners, the company has tested the Jio 5G solutions in India and successfully demonstrated speeds well in excess of 1 GBPS.

Once proven at India-scale, the company will keenly look at prospect of exporting Jio 5G solutions to other telecom operators globally.

The company recently received the necessary regulatory approvals as well as trial spectrum for initiating 5G field-trials. "As I speak to you, the entire 5G standalone network has been installed in our data centres across the nation and also at our trial sites in Navi Mumbai," Ambani said.

'JioPhone Next, co-developed with Google, to be most affordable smartphone globally'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani on Thursday said Jio and Google have jointly developed a power-packed and affordable smartphone 'JioPhone Next', which will be available in the market from September 10.

Ambani promised that JioPhone Next will be the most affordable smartphone not just in India but globally.

Speaking at Reliance Industries Limited's annual general meeting, Ambani asserted that an ultra-affordable 4G smartphone is essential to make India '2G-mukt' (free of 2G).

India's bank credit-to-GDP ratio inches up to 56% in 2020, but still way behind peers: BIS data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Not with standing incremental credit growth plunging to a 59-year low at 5.56 per cent in FY21, the bank credit-to-GDP ratio rose to a five-year high of a little over 56 per cent in 2020, but way behind its peers and just half of the G20 average, according to the latest data from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

At 56.075 per cent credit-to-GDP ratio, total outstanding bank credit stood at USD 1.52 trillion in the country in 2020, according to the BIS data for the year, but this is still the second lowest among all its Asian peers.

And when it comes to the emerging market peers, it is 135.5 per cent and at 88.7 per cent in advanced economies.

It can be noted that in spite of the massive credit-driven stimulus that the government tried to push to help tide over the impact of the pandemic in 2020, incremental credit growth inched up only 5.56 per cent (at ₹109.51 lakh crore), which was the lowest recorded growth in 59 years when in FY1962 it was at 5.38 per cent. Even in FY20, credit growth was at a 58-year-low at 6.14 per cent, an analysis by SBI Research showed recently.

According to analysts, bank credit growth is a key indicator of economic growth and a credit-GDP ratio of 100 per cent is the ideal, which indicates robust demand for credit without the fear of a bubble in the making.

A higher credit-to-GDP ratio indicates aggressive and active participation of the banking sector in the real economy, while a lower number shows the need for more formal credit. This is also a key reason for economists and analysts calling for privatisation of state-run banks to increase credit growth.

New home launches declined 42% in April-June, sales down 58%

PI ■ NEW DELHI

As the second wave of Covid-19 and lockdowns across states impacted economic activities, housing launches decline 42 per cent on a quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) basis in the April-June quarter, according to a report by Anarock Property Consultants.

The top seven cities saw around 36,260 new units launched in Q2 2021, as compared to 62,130 units in Q1.

Hyderabad is the frontrunner in overall housing launches with around 8,850 units launched in Q2 2021 - followed by MMR with 6,880 and Bengaluru with 6,690 units. Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai accounted for 51 per cent of the total new launches during Q2, 2021.

Further, sales also plummeted during the quarter. Around 24,570 units were sold in Q2 2021 across the top seven cities, against 58,290 units in Q1 2021 marking a decline of 58 per cent Q-o-Q. NCR, MMR, Bengaluru, and Pune together accounted for 74 per cent of the sales in this quarter.

US blocks solar components from China over labour abuses

AP ■ WASHINGTON

A major Chinese producer of solar panels used to be barred from the US market as part of a broader effort to halt commerce tied to China's repressive campaign against Uyghurs and other minorities, the Biden administration said Thursday.

US Customs and Border Protection will immediately halt shipments from the Hoshine Silicon Industry Co. Ltd. And its subsidiaries under a law that bans the import of goods produced with forced labour.

In addition, the Commerce Department will add six Chinese organisations linked to the industry that produces raw materials and components of the solar industry in the Xinjiang region to a list of entities from any access to the US market, the administration said in a fact sheet announcing the new restrictions.

These latest US moves could make it harder for the administration to meet renewable energy goals because about 45% of the global supply of the polysilicon used to make photovoltaic cells for solar panels comes from Xinjiang.

"These actions demonstrate our commitment to imposing additional costs on the People's Republic of China for engaging in cruel and inhumane forced labor practices and ensuring that Beijing plays by the rules of fair trade as part of the rules-based international order," the White House said in announcing the trade actions.

It's part of a campaign that has gained global momentum to apply economic pressure on the Chinese government over its forced assimilation of largely Muslim minorities in the far western Xinjiang region.

Columbia Asia special OPD in Gurugram

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Columbia Asia Hospitals (a unit of Manipal Hospitals) have now extended their services to offer medical specialities in their OPD services at Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Patiala units. This comes a month after Manipal Hospitals became the second largest healthcare chain in India after 100% acquisition of Columbia Asia Hospitals. A highly experienced team of doctors across oncology, vascular surgery, haematology, CTVS, GI surgery and cardiology from HCMCT Manipal Hospitals are now available for OPDs on a regular basis at the Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Patiala centres of Columbia Asia. These OPDs are an add on to the existing capabilities of the Columbia Asia centres.

Benchmarks resume upward march as IT stocks rally

Mumbai: Equity indices regained footing on Thursday after a day's pause as robust buying in IT counters more than made up for a fall in market major Reliance Industries.

A rebounding rupee and positive global cues further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 392.92 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 52,699. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 103.50 points or 0.66 per cent to 15,790.45.

Technology shares led the rally, a day after the government liberalised guidelines for voice-based BPOs to cement India's position as a preferred global outsourcing hub.

India Pesticides IPO subscribed 3.79 times on second day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of India Pesticides Limited was subscribed 3.79 times on the second day of subscription on Thursday. The ₹ 800-crore IPO received bids for 7,32,14,550 shares against 1,93,10,345 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The quota for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) was subscribed 2.31 times while the category for non-institutional investors was subscribed 91 per cent. The category for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) was subscribed 5.87 times. The initial public offer comprises a fresh issue of ₹100 crore and an offer for sale of ₹ 700 crore.

Nafed opens 1st grocery store in Gurugram

Plans 200 more across India by March next yr

New Delhi: Agri cooperative Nafed on Thursday opened its first grocery store 'Nafed Bazaar' in Gurugram and said it plans to open 200 more stores under franchise model by the end of this fiscal.

The store, in collaboration with Tirupati Cooperative, was inaugurated by Nafed Chairman Bijender Singh along with Chander Pal Singh, Chairman, Krishak Bharti Limited (Kribhco), Mrinalini Shrivastava, Commissioner Investment, Sikkim Government, was also present on the occasion. Nafed has a network of more than 20 grocery stores and this is the first store in collaboration with Tirupati Cooperative in Gurugram, Haryana.

Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50 Yrs., Height: 5'8", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Any other information: His Aadhar Card received from his pocket but address not verified, Wearing: Pant & Shirt only, Place of Recovery: Found dead in train accident on Railway Track, PF No. 4.

In this regard DD No. 31A, Dated 16.06.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi
DP/167/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23744073, 23363622

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an one male person found on Vikas Mall, GT Road Shahdara, by road accident dated 15.06.2021. He was admitted in Hedgewar Hospital for treatment declared brought dead by doctor dated 15.06.2021. The dead body has been preserved for identification at GTB Hospital Mortuary for 72 hrs. In this regard a case FIR No. 159/2021, U/s 279/304-A IPC, dated 15.06.2021, has been registered at P.S. Shahdara, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Sallow, Built: Weak, Hair: Black, Face: Long, Identification Mark: A cut mark on forehead, Wearing: Only 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 undersign.

SHO
P.S. Shahdara, Delhi
DP/480/SHD/2021 Ph.: 011-22831778, 7065036027

THE BATALA CO-OP. SUGAR MILLS LTD.

G.T. Road, Batala, District Gurdaspur-143505

Website: www.smbatala.com E-Mail: batalacsmb@rediffmail.com

GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No. BCMS/SUGAREXP/2021-22/03 Dated: 28.06.2021

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Govt. of India vide its notification F.No. 1 (6)/2020-SP-1 dated 29th December, 2020 has decided to allow export of all grades of sugar namely raw, plantation white as well as refined sugar under MAEQ (Maximum Admissible Export Quota).

Batala Cooperative Sugar Mills on behalf of all nine Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab invites e-Tender for export of approx. 28784 MT sugar issued by Govt. of India vide notification no. F.No.2-1(2021)-Trade dated 30th April, 2021, lying in Nine Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab under MAEQ from experienced overseas buyers/Export Houses/ Merchandisers and Govt./Cooperative Institutions (in which State Govt./Central Govt. has/have invested share capital) having valid Import Export code and experience of sugar export to purchase the aforesaid quantity of sugar from all Cooperative Sugar Mills of Punjab and arrange its export as per above mentioned notifications under MAEQ and stipulated norms on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". DFIA (Duty free import authorization) holder may also participate in this tender as their sugar purchase will be treated as deemed export as per Govt. of India notification vide F.No. 1(6)/2020-SP-1 dated 31st March, 2021 issued regarding clarification of ISMA; M/s Indian Biscuits Manufacturer's Association (IBMA), Food Ingredients Importer/Exporter Welfare Association (FIIWEA), and Star Oxachem Pvt. Ltd.

Above said exporter may also participate in this tender to facilitate the exchange of domestic quota of any sugar mill which wish to exchange their domestic quota with export quota of any/all the Cooperative Sugar Mills in Punjab as per clause No. 4 (e) of guidelines issued by DFDP of Govt. of India vide notification F.No. 1(6)/2020-SP-1 dated 19th January, 2021

The documents can be downloaded from the e-Procurement website portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or from the Batala Sugar Mill's website www.smbatala.com. Online tender will have to be submitted in two bid system i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid on or before 12.07.2021 at 11:00 AM on the e-tender portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> alongwith EMD and other documents. Other details (e-Bid document) for submission of e-bids along with eligibility criteria, date & time of submission of e-Bids, Opening of Technical Bids/Financial Bids, amount of EMD, experience and other terms & conditions will be available on e-Procurement website portal as mentioned above from the date 28.06.2021 onwards. The Bidders will have to deposit e-tender document fee (Non Refundable) of Rs. 1000/- + 18% GST = Rs. 1180/- in the account as shown on e-Procurement website portal <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. Tender without e-tender document fee and EMD will not be accepted. The Govt./Cooperative Institutions are exempted from deposit of EMD. The stipulated norms for export and other terms and conditions are annexed along with the e-Tender form.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reason.

GENERAL MANAGER

RAGHUNATH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

CIN No.: L52312UP1994PLC022559

Regd Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002

Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007

E-mail: rgc.secretarial@rediffmail.com, Website: www.raghunathintl.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Wednesday, 30th June, 2021, at 03.30 p.m.** at its Corporate office at 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007, inter-alia to consider and take on record the Audited Standalone and Consolidated financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2021.

This Intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.raghunathintl.com and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Thursday 01st April, 2021 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For Raghunath International Limited
Sd/-
(G.N. Choudhary)
Director

Place: Delhi
Date: 21.06.2021

RTCL LIMITED

CIN No.: L16003UP1994PLC016225

Registered Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002

Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007

Website: www.rtclimited.in E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com

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This Intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

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For RTCL Limited
Sd/-
(Ajay Kumar Jain)
Director

Place: Delhi
Date: 21.06.2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| NIT No. | 128-W/269/O.E.T.-21-22-NRCH-01 (A & B) | |
| Name of Work with its location | A. Operation with annual Maintenance of all fire fighting arrangements at NRCH for two years in the S/O SSE/WNRCH under ADE/NRCH. Definition of Similar Work: Any Civil work other than track work. B. Rodent, pest and bed bug control services in Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for two years in the section of SSE/WNRCH | |
| Approx. Cost of work | A. ₹55,33,290.79 | B. ₹36,63,817.50 |
| Completion period of work | A. 24 Months | B. 28.5 Months |
| Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender | Upto 15:00 hrs. on 20.07.2021 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 20.07.2021 | |
| Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. | Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in | |
| No. 128-W/269/O.E.T.-21-22-NRCH-01 (A & B) Dated: 23.06.2021 | 1399/21 | |

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Municipal Council Dholpur

No. 1726-28 Notice Inviting Tender (E-18-24) Date: 17.06.21

N.I.T. is invited on behalf of Governor of Rajasthan by Municipal Council Dholpur For Manpower supply in Municipal Council Dholpur from Registered Contractors. The amount of work is between 5 lakh to 130 lakh and UBN No. are as under: UBN No. - DLB2122SLRC07125, DLB2122SLRC07164, DLB2122SLRC07166, DLB2122SLRC07170, DLB2122SLRC07172, DLB2122SLRC07175, DLB2122SLRC07178. For detail visit www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

R.O.No.Samwad/C/2581/2021-2022 Date: 23/06/2021

Commissioner
Municipal Council Dholpur

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients Smt. Asha Malhotra W/o Sh. Subhash Chandra Malhotra R/o, U-96-97 Solanki Road Subhash Park Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, hereby disowned and debar all the relations with her one Son Sh. Chandan Malhotra for his misconduct, from all moveable and immovable properties and also severed with all relations with them as he is not obedient and not performing his duties towards my client and his relatives. Anybody deals with them shall be at their own risk, cost and consequences.

Madan Gopal Vacher (Advocate)
Ch.No. 234, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Vineet Gupta is owner of Property bearing No.82, area measuring 300 sq. mtrs., situated in Block-B, Sector-9B, Noida Distt., Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. the said property, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 30.11.2004, Registration No. 757/178, has been assigned/Original allotment, Possession certificate, Lease deed & others property documents in respect of said property. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner intends to take loan from our client, i.e. HFC Bank Ltd. by mortgaging the said property to our client, persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of missing document, if anybody has any objection/s upon said property its ownership & title its sale/ Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. **Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15 Ph: 011-41112927-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TENDERING NOTICE

Online tenders in three bid system i.e. (1) EMD Bid (2) Technical Bid (3) Price Bid are invited from manufacturers for supply of different types of rollers and rollers stand. The last date and time of submission of the tender is 17.15 Hours on Dt. 09.07.2021. For details, log on to website : <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Sr. Dy. Materials Manager
PPT/PI/48/21-22 Dt. 24.06.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indoor Medical Records of the patients admitted during period of 01.04.2013 to 31.03.2018 (financial year 2013-18) are scheduled to be disposed of as per hospital policy. Any patient requiring his/her Medical Records may approach the undersigned within 7 days failing which the records will be disposed of without further notice.

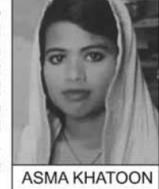
Medical Record Officer
Kailash Hospital Ltd.
23 KP-1, Greater Noida-201310

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely Asma Khatoun D/o Amir Hassan R/o H.No. 13, Rajokari Village, Mahipal Pur, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 17.06.2021 at 2 pm from the area of PS: Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi. In this regard, a case **FIR No. 344/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 18.06.2021 has been registered at P.S. Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi.** The description of the missing girl is as under.

Age: 17 years 10 months, Height: 5', Face: Oval, Build: Thin, Hair: Black, Wearing: Suit-Salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- SHO DP/702/SW/2021 PS: Vasant Kunj South, New Delhi PH. 011-26139360, 26139361



ASMA KHATOON

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sumit Kumar S/o Sh. Amar Singh R/o H.No. 445 Pocket-4, Sector-22, Rohini, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 135/2017, U/s 420/467/468/120B IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sumit Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sumit Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sumit Kumar** accused of **FIR No. 135/2017, U/s 420/467/468/120B IPC, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **10.08.2021**.

By Order
Sh. Manish Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate-01 (West), Room No. 341, 3rd Floor, DP/454/W/2021-(Court Matter) Tis Hazari Court, New Delhi



GAMING TO BOND

Engaging in online games can help you connect with your child while improving your mental wellbeing, says DR SUBI CHATURVEDI

The pandemic has triggered repeated lockdowns globally, confining children and families indoors. This is affecting the mental health of many youngsters as well as their parents. At more than 2.2 billion worldwide, children comprise 28 per cent of the global populace.

Empirical evidence indicates that being cloistered within four walls for long periods can impact mental health and therapists have been reporting that more people are reaching out for help after the outbreak last year. The COVID-19 prevention strategies have led to the suspension of classes across academic institutions. Consequently, millions of students have not physically met teachers and classmates for prolonged periods. More than 168 million schoolchildren across the globe are currently missing physical classes. Additionally, uncertainty due to postponement/cancellations of Board Exams is generating intense worry among affected students and their parents.

■ The need for interactive entertainment
 According to a recent UNICEF

report, the present pandemic has pushed children's development back by several years globally. Meanwhile, as vaccine drives prioritise those 18 years and above only, children may be forced to remain indoors much longer. Yet, as social beings, children, in their formative years, require greater opportunities for extracurricular activities and interactions. Lack of this can hurt their cognitive and emotional development. And this is putting immense pressure on parents to keep their children engaged through activities while juggling extended work hours and household chores. It was thus no surprise that for some children, the screen time shot up as much as 500 per cent as they looked at ways to keep themselves entertained.

It is important to acknowledge how parents have had to adjust to such changes and constantly seek new opportunities for interactive engagement with children. Engaging with their children in recreational activities such as sports, travelling, and gaming et al essentially serves as a bonding exercise for guardians, among other things. As the lockdown measures and the lack of vaccination in the under-

18 segment are forcing children to stay inside at all times, online gaming is coming up as an interesting alternative to outdoor sports and activities. We aren't talking about playing video games in isolation for hours anymore. Online, multiplayer games provide opportunities for interaction, engagement and fair competition. We're in the Golden Age of social gaming and parents, especially younger parents, are certainly making the most of it. As online gaming is a de-stressor for older age groups too, a parent can engage with their children through a well-chosen skill-based game.

There is a popular trend in the west, where parents have been playing online games with their children and other than sharing commands and strategies in-game, they have been talking to their children about school, their friendships and everything else that is going on in their lives.

■ Potential benefits of online gaming

Engagement and interactive entertainment are no more a matter of choice but rather a circumstantial compulsion for the emo-

tional and mental well-being of people dealing with isolation. Parents have to be involved in the lives of their children to ensure that they get adequate attention and support during these uncertain times. While outdoor activities are not possible or feasible, online gaming can be an apt alternative for such activities. Such games provide a platform for families to connect, compete and converse in an interactive setup. As online gaming also transcends geographical boundaries, it could be a good way for parents separated from their children during the lockdown to catch up with them.

For instance, games across genres such as strategy, sports, skill and arcade require requisite skills, strategic thinking, knowledge, attention, logic, practise and nimbleness to win. Playing these games regularly can boost these attributes in people. If online games' engagement is deployed in education via gamification, it will act as a catalyst in changing the modes of learning and improvement in children.

By offering fair competition and instant recognition for success,

online gaming platforms are finding favour among the youth and older generation alike. Such games assist gamers in boosting their hand-eye coordination and motor neural ability — all within the safe confines and comfort of their homes. Online games can also help in reviving happy childhood memories of children playing indoor games with parents, testing their mental and intuitive faculties. Time-tested games such as Ludo, Carrom and *Chidiya Udd* are being recreated for digital devices and the multiplayer gameplay feature is ensuring people around the world can play these games with each other.

■ Growth in India

A 2020 report by FICCI and EY on the country's media and entertainment sector notes that online gaming recorded 40 per cent growth in 2019-2020 while generating revenues of ₹65 billion (2019). As per a KPMG report, online gamers in India grew by 20 per cent between July 2020 and January 2021, crossing 500 million, with smartphones or tablets used by 90 per cent of them. A BARC-Nielsen report reveals gamers in India now spend 218 minutes on online games — up from 151 minutes before the lockdown in 2020.

Not surprisingly, the growing interest in gaming saw a parallel rise in interest from investors and start-ups. While approximately \$173 million was invested in the domain in CY2020, there are 400-plus gaming start-ups in the country currently. As a sunrise sector, online gaming holds immense growth potential. According to KPMG, the online gaming industry is expected to gross ₹290 billion with 650 million users.

As the ongoing pandemic continues impacting the mental health of children along with their academic prospects, online gaming can transform such scenarios via winning propositions for both society and the economy at large. All it requires is foresight, an open mind and institutional support from policymakers to make this a reality.

(The author is a distinguished public policy professional and a former member of the United Nations, Internet Governance Forum, Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group.)

Long wait ends

JAY OZA shares his joy at being shortlisted for a mentorship programme by BAFTA



Cinematographer Jay Pinak Oza has had a fascinating journey so far, from being a production assistant to Rakesh Om Prakash Mehra in *Rang De Basanti*, to director of photography (DOP) in Rakesh's upcoming film *Toofan*. He looks back at *Gully Boy* as the film that changed his career, on the occasion of being among the 10 selected participants for the talent initiative BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Breakthrough India.

BAFTA Breakthrough India showcases and supports the next generation of creative talent working in Indian film, games and television by providing a year-long mentoring and guidance programme.

"Coming from a middle-class family with no background in films, I started my career in the industry from zero, just after college. In 2005, I was one of the production assistants on the set of *Rang De Basanti*. I would watch Rakesh sir and in my head, I was like, 'one day Jay, one fine day you will be the DOP of one of his films'. It is 2021 now, yes, almost 15 years after I made that promise to myself but *Toofan* is coming. I made it! It took time but I achieved my dream," expressed a jubilant Jay.

When quizzed about how the year-long BAFTA programme will help him to take his career to the next level, he says at this stage of his career getting a chance to be guid-

ed by international experts through BAFTA will be a win-win not only for him but everyone who takes part in the programme.

A major reason he was picked for the BAFTA programme was for his work in *Gully Boy*. Jay feels the Zoya Akhtar directorial added weight to his profile.

"To be honest, how I bagged *Gully Boy* is a story in itself and I think that is my breakthrough film. I think the BAFTA Breakthrough India jury members also considered me because of my work in that film. That will remain a special film for me because of Zoya, who is a fantastic captain of the ship. She knows how to bring the right people on board to create the world that we did with a story like *Gully Boy*. You know, she would say that with each frame, I want our audience not only to get a visual feel of the place, of the slum where we shot a major part of the film but also people should be able to smell the place — the struggle and suffocation through my visuals. Zoya is accurate with what she wants!" he said.

Jay concluded with a message for budding cinematographers, "Dreams do come true, look at me. When we go through struggle and hardship, we must not forget why we started our journey and if we are focused on our work, even though it takes time, it happens. I never gave up, why would you?"

-IANS

'A dream come true'

SHILPA SHUKLA highlights her experience of working in Mahesh Dattani's teleplay. By TEAM VIVA

In Zee Theatre's latest offering, *The Big Fat City*, film and theatre actor, Shilpa Shukla plays one of the key characters who depict the hollowness of urban lives. The theme shows how the obsession with technology and wealth renders life, and even relationships, meaningless. The play showcases acclaimed playwright Mahesh Dattani's astute observations about life in a metropolis where people are stuck in the endless cycle of dissatisfaction while grappling with their own realities. Mahesh is the first Indian playwright in English to be awarded the Sahitya Akademi honour and Shilpa found it immensely rewarding to work with him.

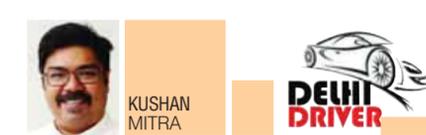
"This was my first teleplay and I loved the journey. To work with Mahesh sir was a dream come true for me as I have acted in many of his plays when I was in college. His scripts are remarkable and so is his process and I just showed up for the rehearsals without even reading the play! *The Big Fat City* also has a wonderful cast and we would meet every morning and rehearse till evening before we got into the filming process. It was a very fulfilling experience as there's always so much to learn and unlearn, so much to deconstruct before attempting to construct, so much to give and receive,"



said a beaming Shilpa. Sharing her views on the teleplay format, she expressed, "Theatre in its essence is very much a live medium. Words cannot describe the magic of 'right here, right now' that is collectively felt by the artiste and the audience. Having said that, I also feel that theatre is so rich in literature and emotions, that it must be adapted for a generation that is not aware of its magic. If they don't come to the theatre, we can take it to them and hope that they do not let the art form disappear after having tasted its magic."

Shilpa believes that teleplays have different grammar and adds, "As an actor, it is an intriguing space to explore. How we bring to life the vast canvas of literature, characters, and conflicts in a teleplay without losing the essence of theatre is always going to be an interesting challenge."

The Big Fat City also stars Bhavna Pani, Mansi Multani, Nissar Khan, Sid Makkar, Anuj Guruwara, and Deepal Doshi. The story begins when a supposedly happily married couple, Niharika and Murli invite guests to their new flat. Tension mounts as a surprise visitor arrives to stir things up and a fatal climax seems imminent. The audience is left asking the question, "How many will survive the night?" (*The Big Fat City will be screened on Dish TV D2H Rangmanch Active throughout this week.*)



The Kidney Grille Debate

BMW's signature feature has been the cause of many divided opinions among automotive journalists, enthusiasts and buyers

While driving the lifecycle update on the BMW 5-series, I noted that BMW designers had made some subtle modifications to the car's kidney grille, but unlike when BMW updated the 7-series, they had not gone overboard. The updated G30 5-series maintained its relatively sleek kidney grilles and stands out against many of BMW's other new vehicles where these are getting larger and larger and larger. And this has resulted in divided opinions among many automotive journalists, enthusiasts and buyers. I, for one, am not a huge fan of the larger grilles.

Truth be told, at a level this is good for BMW, because this keeps their cars in conversation. We all talk about this, unlike say design updates on BMW's rivals, thus keeping the brand at the top of mind. But why is this becoming such a major talking point? Well, BMW cars had three key design elements for years that made them recognisable to even casual car drivers, other than of course the signature blue-and-white logo, which is not a spinning propeller, as many believe, but borrowed from the flag of Bavaria, the southern German province of which Munich is the capital and where BMW is based and



indeed takes its name from. The other two design elements are the 'Hoffmeister Kink', which is the slight reversal the window line takes at the very end of the car, giving an illusion of speed, and the signature 'Corona Lights'. The kink is not unique to BMW and you can notice that on the new Skoda Octavia as well, for example. And Corona headlights are a thing of the past, not just because of the current pandemic, but were phased out well before that. Why? Well, LED technology has given designers the ability

to play around with design and make the headlights three-dimensional. The inner light on the cars has a slight 'wall', making the Corona impossible. You can clearly see that on the updated headlights on this refreshed 5-series as well. New BMW cars still retain twin LED lights, but the round Corona lights are a thing of the past.

So BMW designers needed to do something with the one signature feature they had left, the grilles, and as has been explained to me over various BMW drive events all across the world,

the Chinese consumer played a major role. Today, China accounts for almost a third of BMW sales and the average well-to-do Chinese car buyer wants his or her car to be noticed from afar, and well, the BMW kidney grilles are noticeable from a distance. So when you take a look at the new 4-series, or the updated 7-series and the new X7, you see massive grilles. True, when you see these huge grilles, on the 7-series and X7, these might not look so large given the gargantuan proportions of those vehicles, but on the new 4-series and M4, that snout looks strange. I'm very sure the new M4 will be a beast to drive, but it really does look odd on an otherwise excellent-looking vehicle.

As for the updated 5-series, it remains an excellent car although it is now a lot more pricey. I drove the 530i M Sport that is priced at ₹62.9 lakh ex-showroom all-India, which is by far the best driving car in its class. The 520d Luxury Line costs a lakh more and the excellent 530d M Sport is quite pricey at ₹71.9 lakh. If you are looking for a bit more space and a different look, the BMW 6-series is also an attractive bet, but if you drive your executive sedan yourself, the 530i remains the best vehicle you can buy. If you're sitting at the back though, BMW's long-wheelbase 3-series, the 'Gran Limousine' is quite a bit cheaper with all the same features and other than the 30d engine option, all the other toys there can save some of the driving assistance features. Honestly, I didn't play around with those during this short drive but do check in this column soon.

You can watch my views on this issue, on my channel on YouTube and if you reading this online, by clicking this link - <https://youtu.be/8b5MqJsPIfW> there is a lot of other cool automotive, aviation and history content all across that channel.

TRENDBLAZER



SHRUTI HAASAN'S FITNESS FORMULA

Actor **SHRUTI HAASAN** revealed what she claims is a formula for fitness — secretly dancing to nineties music. "Back to training hard! I'm obsessed with fight training and mixing it up with good old fashioned cardio and secretly mixing it up with dancing to 90s music for hours," she stated on Instagram. On the work front, the actress will feature alongside Prabhas in the film *Salaar*, which is being shot in Kannada and Telugu, and will be dubbed in Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam.

fairtalk



'Children should not be living in a bubble. We need to help them so that they are in a position to create a better world, tomorrow. Kids need to be made aware of the reality of widespread poverty in India so that when they grow up they can help and make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate than them.'

dailytalk



'I think the medium doesn't matter as long as it helps an actor hone their skills. I don't think we should get too caught up in our comfort zones. The kind of response audience is giving to OTT platforms is amazing and I personally believe that they are creating some amazing content.'

'FIGHTING ALIENS AND CRACKING JOKES'

Actor **CHRIS PRATT**, who stars in and makes his debut as an executive producer in the upcoming sci-fi action thriller *The Tomorrow War*, reveals why he was interested in playing Dan Forester in the film. "I have to confess, making a film where I get to fight aliens and save the world while cracking the occasional joke is right in my wheelhouse," Chris shared. The film is set to premier on July 2 on Amazon Prime Video.





RAISE A TOAST TO PAIRINGS

Chef NIKLESH SHARMA says that coupling spirits with food not only enhances the dining experience but also upscales the flavours of the meals and provides the diners with a heightened sensory experience

art of matching wines to the meals. However, both these strategies work equally well.

There is no right or wrong way of pairing wine with food. In the case of complementary pairing, similar flavours enhance each other. While the alike burst of flavours adds to each other, the minute differences are interesting and quirky for the taste palette. On the other hand, in the case of contrasting flavours, the extreme ends of the taste fill each other's gaps and provide an appetising experience to the taste buds.

THE ART OF PAIRING

There are three flavouring components in wine that contribute to their pairing with the gourmet feasts — tannins, sugar, and acid. Tannins interact well with hard cheese variety, red meats, oily foods along with meals prepared with grilling and blackening methods that have a charred taste. Sugary wines go well with spicy foods, meals rich in salt and pepper, along slightly sweet desserts so that the sugar from the wine overpowers that of the sweet course. Furthermore, acidic wines gel well with acidic dishes like oysters and with greasy and fatty foods.

The rule of thumb usually states that white wine pairs well with fish along with dishes rich in garlic and chives whereas red wine goes with earthy herbs and red meat. However, certain specific wines couple well with a certain specific type of food. For instance,



heavy wines like Cabernet Sauvignon can elevate a delicate dish like a quiche, whereas light wines like Pinot Grigio can match well with a sumptuous stew.

The renowned Chardonnay matches with salmon or fish prepared in buttery and herby sauces along with seafood, especially prawns. The celebratory Champagne is much more than a drink suitable for popping open on special occasions and it pairs well with salty foods and appetisers. The

beloved Dry Rosé matches perfectly with diverse variants of cheese. Malbec, on the other hand, tastes extremely tantalising with powerful flavours of a mixture of sweet and spicy. It also combines well with herb-based dishes and feasts prepared with barbecue sauces.

SUM-UP

It is highly advisable that you first try out different food items with wine. Once you have an idea of the elements that gel well with the

wine, you can go ahead by sampling the combination with the completely prepared dishes. However, wine and food pairings are not just restricted to combining them both individually. Cooking with wine is another way of coupling both the elements together and is also a recent phenomenon in the culinary world that is gradually gaining prominence. It is contributing majorly to extending a scrumptious and luxurious dining experience.

Food and wine pairing have, indeed, emerged as an upselling tool for the culinary industry. It upscales the dining experience and renders it a high-end, elegant, sophisticated, premium, and top-notch touch.

The food-wine coupling can go extremely well and hit the charts or go down the drain. This fad is extremely subjective with no right or wrong way of doing it but it is all about being excited about the pairing and being experimental to try something new. Matching feasts with wine is certainly an art and requires creativity and thoughtfulness. But its acceptance or rejection is solely based on an individual's palate and preferences. Hence, one should be open to experimenting and should have an innovative approach. The idea behind the concept of pairing wine with meals is to try and try until you succeed and find the right combination as per your taste palette.

(The chef is the founder of a group of professional culinary & pastry schools with pan-Asia presence.)

Binge guilt-free

While working out to ensure physical wellness has become essential these days, diet also plays a vital role when it comes to good health. Baked with the goodness of nuts, seeds, and grains, here are a few benefits that granola has on offer, shares PURVI PUGALIA

The past year has seen health and wellness rise to the top of our priorities. Even then, with most of us leading a sedentary lifestyle working from home, these tend to take a back seat. While working out to ensure physical wellness has almost become essential these days, diet also plays a vital role when it comes to ensuring good health.

While there are different kinds of breakfast and mid-meal snacking options available today, we still find ourselves in a fix looking for easy, guilt-free and versatile options. Some key aspects, for a few people, also include taste and preparation time. One product that has stood out over the years is granola. Baked with the goodness of nuts, seeds, and grains, this fibre-rich food is as versatile as it is convenient to prepare. Its versatility ensures that we are never out of new and exciting snacking options, while its health benefits greatly reassure us.

Still not convinced? Read on for reasons to make granola a part of your diet.

A protein-packed snack that's also ideal for post-workout intake

The high quantity of dried fruits, seeds, and nuts present in granola makes it a protein-packed snack ideal for you to munch on post your workout. Not only does it help build your muscles, but also leaves you feeling energised. Further, micronutrients such as magnesium, zinc, and iron found in granola help build a stronger immunity and produce greater energy.

Guilt-free binge for a healthier gut

Prebiotic fibre plays an active role in retaining the healthy bacteria in your gut. Whole grain, a primary ingredient that makes up granola, is rich in fibres that aids digestion and helps maintain healthy bacteria levels. The presence of prebiotic fibres explains why granola is perfect to munch on all day.

A chai-time snack that keeps your cholesterol in check

Primarily made up of oats, granola is a great source of beta-glucan — a fibre that lowers the risk of heart disease by maintaining the total and bad cholesterol present in your body.

Fulfill your antioxidant intake

Chia seeds, coconut, and nuts in granola are a rich source of antioxidants, which are proven to improve



overall health by providing the body with sufficient quercetin, selenium, vitamin E, and gallic acid.

Leaves you feeling full and satisfied

Largely made up of oats and whole grains, granola is a high-fibre food that leaves you feeling full for longer. Fibre has also proven to greatly reduce the rate at which sugar and carbohydrates are digested in your body, reducing the risk of a spike in blood sugar levels.

(The writer is the co-founder of a granola company.)

R E C I P E S

CRANBERRY ORANGE ALMOND QUICK BREAD

WHAT YOU NEED

- All-purpose flour: 3 cup
- Sugar: 3 tbsp
- Baking powder: 1 tbsp
- Salt: 1/2 tsp
- Californian dried sliced cranberries: 1 cup
- Roasted and salted almonds: 1/2 cup
- Egg at room temperature: 1
- Fat-free milk: 1 cup
- Canola oil: 1/3 cup
- Orange zest (grated): 3/4 tsp
- Almond extract: 3/4 tsp

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 350°C.
- In a large bowl, whisk together three cups of all-purpose flour, three tablespoons of sugar, one tablespoon of baking powder, half teaspoon of salt.
- Add in the Californian dried sliced cranberries and roasted-salted almonds.
- In another bowl, whisk together egg, milk, oil, zest and extract.
- Combine the dry and wet mixtures and stir until it is moistened.
- Transfer to a 9x5-in loaf pan greased with butter.
- Bake until a toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. This should take around 40 to 50 minutes.
- Do not over bake.

Courtesy: Happilo.



PHILADELPHIA ROLL

WHAT YOU NEED

For sushi rice:

- Japanese sticky rice: ½ cup
- Vinegar: 1/5 cup
- Sugar: 1/5 cup
- Salt: 1 tsp

For sushi rolling:

- Smoked salmon: ½ cup
- Gari: ½ cup
- Wasabi: 1 tsp
- Sushi nori: 1
- Soy: 2 tsp
- Cream cheese: 1 tsp
- Spring onion (chopped): 1 tsp
- Sesame seeds (black): 1 tsp
- Sesame seeds (white): 1 tsp
- Cucumber: 1

METHOD

For cooking rice:

- Wash and rinse the sushi rice in running water to extract the excess starch from the rice grains, and then boil them.
- Make the sushi vinegar by mixing vinegar, sugar and salt.

WALNUT, AUBERGINE & MUSHROOM KEEMA CURRY

WHAT YOU NEED

- California walnuts (chopped): 150 gm
- Oil: 1 tbsp
- Onion (chopped): 1
- Red chilli (finely diced): 3/4 tsp
- Curry powder: 1 tsp
- Turmeric: 1 tsp
- Aubergine (cut into 1 cm

METHOD

- dice): 1
- Mushrooms (sliced): 200 gm
- Tomatoes (chopped): 400 gm
- Baby spinach: 100 gm
- Basmati rice (cooked): 225 gm

METHOD

- Soak the walnuts in lukewarm water for 20 minutes, drain well.



- Once the rice is cooked, mix them and the sushi vinegar together and keep it covered with a moist cloth until used further.

For rolling the sushi:

- Place the nori sheet on the sushi mat and uniformly spread a handful of sushi rice on the sheet.
- Sprinkle a mix of white and black sesame seeds on the sushi rice.
- Flip the nori sheet in such a manner that

the sushi rice is facing the sushi mat.

- Spread the cream cheese in a line on the nori sheet and place the neatly cut scallions, English cucumber and smoked salmon.

- Gently roll the sushi into a square shape, applying even pressure throughout the roll and cut into eight equal pieces with a sharp knife.

- Serve it with gari, wasabi and soy.

Courtesy: Masterchef Amit Patra at Edo restaurant, ITC Gardenia, Bengaluru.



- Meanwhile, heat the oil in a large frying pan. Fry the onion and chilli for four to five minutes. Add the spices and then the aubergine and mushrooms, cook for a further four to five minutes.

- Stir in the tomatoes, 100 ml water and the walnuts, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Stir in the spinach until just wilted and season.

- Serve with the cooked basmati rice.

Courtesy: California Walnuts.



WALNUT FALAFEL WITH MANGO PICKLES

WHAT YOU NEED

For falafel:

- Dried green split peas: 250 gm
- Onions: 2
- Garlic cloves: 2
- Green chilli pepper: 1
- Coriander: ½ bunch
- Salt
- Baking soda: 1 tsp
- California walnuts: 40 gm
- Chickpea flour or wheat flour: 50 gm
- Oil for frying

For pickle:

- Mango: 1
- Green chilli pepper: 1
- Oil: 2 tsp
- Turmeric: ½ tsp
- Brown sugar: 1 tsp
- White wine vinegar: 1-2 tbsp
- California walnuts: 40 gm

METHOD

- Soak all peas overnight in cold water.
- For falafel, peel and chop the onions and garlic. Rinse

chilli pepper and chop finely. Rinse the coriander, separate the leaves and chop finely.

- Drain the peas and blend with onions, chilli pepper, garlic and turmeric in a blender.

- Season the mix with salt and stir in baking soda. Chop walnuts and roast them briefly.
- Then mix walnuts and flour with the peas to form balls from the dough.

- Heat the frying oil to 160°C and fry the balls for three to five minutes until golden brown. Let them dry on paper towels.

- For pickle, peel the mango, remove the pulp from the stone and cut into dices. Wash the chilli pepper and chop finely.

- Heat oil and sauté the chilli pepper briefly. Add turmeric with sugar and let it stew for about one to two minutes. Add vinegar and raise heat for a minute.

- Chop walnuts, toast them in a small pan and mix them with the pickles. Serve the falafel with the mango pickle.

Courtesy: Chef Sabyasachi Gorai.



RECORD BREAKING RONALDO

Cristiano equals Ali Daei's all-time record of 109 international goals, surpasses Klose for most goals (21) by a European player at Euros & WC combined with brace in 2-2 draw against France

AFP ■ BUDAPEST
Cristiano Ronaldo scored two penalties to equal the all-time International goalscoring record and help holders Portugal edge into the last 16 of Euro 2020 with a 2-2 draw against France in Budapest on Wednesday.

Portugal will face the world's top-ranked side Belgium in the first knockout round in Seville on Sunday.

Fernando Santos' men moved through as one of the four best third-placed sides, for the second straight Euro, from Group F behind France and Germany.

Ronaldo gave his side the lead just after the half-hour mark with his first spot-kick, before France hit back through Karim Benzema's two goals either side of half-time.

But, with Portugal heading out as it stood with Hungary leading Germany, Ronaldo helped win and then scored their second penalty with half an hour remaining.

The 36-year-old's fifth goal of the group stage extended his record tally of Euro goals to 14 and drew him level with former Iran striker Ali Daei, in his 178th International match. World champions

France will next take on Switzerland in Bucharest on Monday.
The first real chance of the game fell to France forward Kylian Mbappe after quarter of an hour, but the 22-year-old's wait for a Euro goal was extended by Rui Patricio's parried save.
But it was Portugal who made the breakthrough, as they

were awarded a 31st-minute penalty as France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris tried to punch the ball away, but instead caught Danilo Pereira in the face, leaving the Portugal midfielder needing treatment on the pitch.
Ronaldo stepped up to score his fourth goal of the tournament, sending Lloris the wrong way.

VAR CONTROVERSY
France drew themselves level in controversial circumstances in first-half stoppage time.

EURO 2020 KNOCKOUTS



stances in first-half stoppage time.
Referee Antonio Mateu Lahoz gave a penalty after Mbappe collided with Nelson Semedo while trying to get on the end of a pass into the box.
Benzema, who had missed his last three penalties, made no mistake from the spot this time, scoring his first goal for France since October 2015, having been recalled for the tournament after a five-and-a-half year exile. It was also the Real Madrid

striker's first goal at a European Championship in his ninth match.
France moved ahead for the first time shortly after the restart, though, as Paul Pogba's excellent pass released Benzema to slot in off the post.
The linesman flagged the Frenchman offside, but a VAR check overturned the decision.
France were left without a recognised left-back when Lucas Digne hobbled off six minutes after coming on at the

interval for Lucas Hernandez. But it was right-back Jules Kounde who conceded the second spot-kick for a handball from Ronaldo's cross, and the Juventus star stepped up to level the all-time record, with Lloris guessing incorrectly again.
Portugal knew a defeat would send them out if Hungary beat Germany, and they needed Patricio to make a wonderful double save midway through the second half.



Leon Goretzka (18) celebrates after he scores Germany's second goal AP

Goal-rettzka comes to rescue Germany

AFP ■ MUNICH

Leon Goretzka came off the bench to rescue Germany's Euro 2020 campaign with a late equaliser as a nerve-shredding 2-2 draw against Hungary in Munich on Wednesday sent them through to the last 16.
Captain Adam Szalai gave Hungary a shock early lead and although Germany drew level through Kai Havertz in the second half, the Hungarians went back in front almost immediately through Andras Schaefer.
With six minutes left, Goretzka fired home a crucial equaliser to set up a blockbuster tie against England at Wembley on Tuesday, eliminating Hungary who finished bottom of Group F.

looked on in silence.
Hungary taking the lead with just 11 minutes gone sparked Germany into action as Hummels hit the crossbar, then Ginter fired straight at visiting goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

A cloudburst over north Munich soaked the Allianz Arena pitch as Germany poured forward in a desperate search for an equaliser.

The euphoria felt across the country after Germany's spectacular 4-2 win over Portugal just four days previously had suddenly evaporated.
But the hosts drew level on 66 minutes when Gulacsi failed to catch a Joshua Kimmich free-kick, Hummels headed the ball on and Havertz nodded into an empty net.

The joy in the German ranks was short-lived as Hungary regained the lead straight from the restart.

A long ball found Szalai, who lofted a pass over the defence where Schaefer got between the scrambling German defenders to head past an onrushing Neuer.

The crucial second German equaliser was down to two substitutes.

Teenager Jamal Musiala's cutback found his Bayern Munich team-mate Goretzka, who set up Timo Werner for a blocked shot.

But the rebound dropped to Goretzka who smashed the ball into the back of the net to avoid a humiliating group-stage exit.

Benzema delighted to lift 'pressure'

AFP ■ BUDAPEST

Karim Benzema said he was delighted to score his first goals for France since 2015 against Portugal on Wednesday, as there was 'a little pressure' on him across the country.

The Real Madrid striker was brought back for Euro 2020 by Didier Deschamps after a five-and-a-half year exile from International football over his alleged role in a blackmail plot. Benzema failed to score in his first four matches since returning for France, who won the 2018 World Cup without him.

But he netted a first-half penalty in the final Group F game against Portugal before slotting in a second to end his long wait. "A lot of joy, a lot of pride," he said to *BeIN Sports*. "I think everyone was waiting for it. There was a little pressure on me from all over the country but I'm a footballer, a professional — I need that pressure." A 2-2 draw on Wednesday sent



France's manager Didier Deschamps congratulates Karim Benzema, center, at the end of Group F match AP

France through as group winners. Deschamps' men will face Switzerland in the last 16 on Monday in Bucharest. "He (Benzema) was looking for that. He

hasn't lost his confidence, or mine," Deschamps told *TFL*. "We will recover well and then we'll prepare for that (Switzerland game) as well as possible."

Kohli hints at overhaul of Test side

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

India skipper Virat Kohli has indicated an overhaul of his Test team after the stunning loss to New Zealand in the World Test Championship final here, saying that "right people who have the right mindset to perform" will be brought in following a reassessment.

After his side lost the WTC Final by eight wickets in Southampton on Wednesday with batting being a major let-down, the Indian captain didn't take any names but expressed his displeasure at some players for not showing enough 'intent' to score runs.

Senior batsman Cheteshwar Pujara managed 8 off 54 balls in the first innings and consumed 35 balls for his first run. He then scored just 15 runs off 80 balls in the second essay.

"We will continue to reassess and continue to have conversations around what are the things required to strengthen our side and not follow or fall prey to certain patterns," Kohli said at the post match conference.

It can be safely assumed that some of the seniors will be on borrowed time and only a stellar performance in the five-Test series against England in August can secure their futures.

"We will not wait for a year or so and have to plan ahead. If you see our white ball team now, we have great depth and guys are ready and confident. Same thing needs to be done with Test cricket.

"You have to reassess and replan and understand what dynamics work for the team and how we can be fearless. Bring in right people who have right mindset to perform," the skipper added.

For the current management, a 50 off 80 balls is of more value than a 15 off 80 which can put unnecessary pressure on batsmen coming after someone with an ultra-defensive mindset.

Kane Williamson scored seven runs in a session during the first innings but when it mattered, he scored a half-century of 80 odd balls during final session of the Test match.

"I think evolving with the game and improving yourself with the game is very important and when you have been a top side for few years in a row, you don't want to suddenly drop your standards..."

"We will certainly take those decisions and have those conversations and in near future," the skipper looked visibly hurt and in a mood to take some tough calls in near future.

He also spoke about finding ways to score runs against quality attacks like that of New Zealand. India scored only 217 in the first innings and were all out for 170 in the second effort.

"We definitely need to work out better plans on understanding how to score runs. We have to stay in sync with the momentum of the game and not let the game drift away too much. I don't think there are any technical difficulties as such," he asserted.

Virat calls for WTC final to be played over 3 matches

Southampton: Echoing the views of head coach Ravi Shastri, India skipper Virat Kohli has said that the best Test team in the world should be decided by a best-of-three final and not a one-off game like it was in the inaugural edition.

India were able to bounce back to win the series against Australia and England but couldn't do so with the World Test Championship final, a one off game against New Zealand which ended with Kohli's men losing by eight wickets.

"Well, look, firstly, I'm not in absolute agreement of

deciding the best Test side in the world over the course of one game, to be very honest," Kohli said in the post-match press conference.

"If it is a Test series, it has to be a test of character over three Tests, which team has the ability to come back into the series or totally blow away the other team.

"It can't just be a pressure applied over two days of good cricket and then you suddenly are not a good Test side anymore. I don't believe in that."

Shastri had advocated a three-match finale before the team departed for England earlier this month. PTI

AFP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazil continued their winning romp through the Copa America on Wednesday, eking out a controversial 2-1 victory against Colombia after struggling most of the match to answer a magnificent bicycle-kick goal by Luis Diaz.

The 11th-hour win gave the Selecao a perfect nine points from three matches in the South American championships, and extended their current winning streak to 11 matches.

However, the victory was steeped in controversy: Brazil's second-half equalizer, a Roberto Firmino header, was preceded by a Neymar pass that glanced off Argentine referee Nestor Pitana.

Colombia heatedly argued afterward that play should have been stopped, but Pitana, who refereed the 2018 World Cup final, ruled the goal valid after checking the video.

"It's sad that with all the

11 wins in a row

Firmino, Casemiro on target in Brazil's 2-1 comeback win against Colombia



Brazil players pose for photo in the team's change room after win ©CBF_Futebol

effort we made against one of the best teams in the world, we lost the match on a call like that,"

refereed at the World Cup, makes a mistake and hurts the match. We never got past that play." Disgruntled Colombia fans on social media turned the referee's name into a viral hashtag, joking he had played as 'Brazil's 12th man'.

Insult was added to injury 10 minutes into stoppage time, when Casemiro headed a Neymar corner past a distracted Colombia defense to give Brazil the win.

However, Colombia, who are second in Group B with four points from four matches, still secured a spot in the quarter-finals.

In the early match, Ecuador and Peru failed to settle who advances to the quarter-finals, drawing 2-2 in Goiania.

Kane credits his 'bits & pieces' cricketers for WTC triumph

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson saluted the commitment of his star-shorn side as he savoured the 'special feeling' of winning the inaugural World Test Championship mace by beating India, relying on "bits and pieces to stay in games and be competitive".

With the World Test Championships triumph, the 'nice guys' of world cricket showed that they don't always finish last. The win over the mighty India has also made up for the heartbreak of successive ODI World Cup final losses in 2015 and 2019.

Williamson termed their final win over India as the 'pinnacle' but stopped short of calling it the country's biggest achievement in the game. "I've been part of (New Zealand cricket) for a short while, it's a very special feel-



Trent Boult (18) and Tim Southee, second from right, give winner's medal to Kiwi teammates Kyle Jamieson, left, and Neil Wagner, right ©BLACKCAPS

ing, the first time in our history we've come away with a world title," Williamson said in post-match press conference.

"We've had 22 players over the last two years, and they've all played their part and the support staff and the guys who

played this match, it's a special achievement to be savoured.

"I think for us, we know we don't always have the stars, and we use our bits and pieces to stay in games and be competitive," added the likeable captain in the post-match presentation.

He said it is nice to be finally end up on the right side of the result.

"Well, obviously it's the pinnacle, isn't it, really, being involved in the final. Like I said, a formidable side in India. 2019 was a great occasion and a brilliant game of cricket, as well.

"But obviously a slightly different feeling being on the right side of the result for us," he said minutes later in the media interaction.

It was just the second major international trophy won by New Zealand in their history, following their ICC Knock Out triumph back in 2000, leaving the skipper ecstatic.

"For us a very proud moment in our history and a proud moment just as a team really, to stick to what we do well and come away with the win, which is a really great feeling."

Ramkumar fails to enter Wimbledon main draw



London: India's Ramanathan Ramanathan saved four match points in a marathon five-setter against Marc Polmans but a Grand Slam main draw eluded him yet again as he lost the final qualifying round at the Wimbledon championships, here on Thursday.

Showing nerves of steel, Ramkumar saved one match point after another but eventually lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-7(2), 6-3, 9-11 to his Australian rival after battling his heart out in a three hour and 30-minute contest.

In the current generation of Indian men's player, Ramkumar is the only one who has not yet competed in a tennis major. It was his 21st attempt to qualify for a tennis major since 2015.

THIEM PULLS OUT

Reigning US Open champion Dominic Thiem pulled out of Wimbledon and two other tournaments because of an injured right wrist.

"I'm going to do everything the doctors say in order to recover as quickly as possible," Thiem said. "They've informed me that I might be out for several weeks, but I will do my best to be back on court soon." PTI