WORLD 5

BIDEN CALLS FOR REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

TO DEFEAT 'POISON OF WHITE SUPREMACY'

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AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF FALL

**VIJAYWADA** 





# Dhankar elected VP with LG suspends 11 officials in whopping 3/4th votes

Opp pick Alva gets just 182 votes

PNS NEW DELHI

NDA candidate and former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar was on Saturday elected as the new Vice President of India.

He trounced his rival and Opposition candidate Margaret Alva — a former Union Minister and Governor — by garnering about three-fourths of the votes cast. In percentage terms, Dhankar secured 72.83 per cent of the vote share.

Dhankar's win is bigger than that of outgoing Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, who had bagged 516 votes of the total 760 valid votes or 67.89 per cent vote share in 2017. He had defeated then Opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi by a margin of 272 votes. Gandhi had secured 244 votes. Dhankar will be the 14th Vice President of India.

"NDA candidate Dhankar won by 346 votes as he bagged 528 of the total 725 votes cast. "While 15 were termed invalid, Opposition candidate Alva received 182 votes in the election," Utpal Kumar Singh, Lok Sabha Secretary-General and the returning officer, said.

"Out of the 780 electors comprising elected and nominated members of the Rajya



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice-President designate Jagdeep Dhankar react during a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. BJP national president JP Nadda is also seen

Sabha and elected members of the Lok Sabha, 725 electors cast their votes with the total voter turnout being 92.94 per cent," Singh added.

Intriguingly, Alva got less than the expected around 200 votes from the Opposition camp while Dhankar received more than the little over 515 votes expected to be cast in his favour. Âlva minced no words in making known her anguish. "Unfortunately, some Opp parties chose to directly/indirectly support BJP, in an attempt to the idea of a united oppn... damaging their own credibility," Alva tweeted after the results even as she congratulated Dhankar.

The Vice President election was an opportunity for the Opposition to leave the past behind, to work together, and build trust amongst each other, she maintained.

Notably, the 39-MP-

strong Trinamool Congress (TMC) had announced it would abstain from voting as it said the 17 Opposition parties had finalised Congress veteran Alva's candidature without consultations with it. But despite TMC's announcement, its MPs Sisir Kumar Adhikari and Dibyendu Adhikari — father and brother of BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari- defied the party line and cast their ballots.

# Delhi Excise Policy case

In a major action in alleged **⊥**corruption in formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday recommended suspension and initiation of major disciplinary proceedings against 11 officials, including Delhi Excise Commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna, a 2012 batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) Cadre and Deputy Excise Commissioner Anand Kumar Tiwari, over their alleged involvement.

Krishna is currently posted in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. According to sources, the LG has recommended the Ministry of Home Affairs for suspension and major disciplinary actions against Krishna and Tiwari.

Tiwari was the Deputy Commissioner to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

In the case of nine other officials, including three ad hoc DANICS officers, the Chief Secretary has been asked to take action against them.

The officials who have been suspended are Assistant Commissioner Bhatnagar, Narinder Singh, Neeraj Gupta, Section Officer Kuljeet Singh, Subhash Ranjan and Suman and Dealing Hand Satya Brat Bhargav, Sachin

Solanki and Gaurav Mann. "The L-G has taken this

decision in view of the serious lapses on part of the officers concerned, including irregularities in finalising the tender and extending post-tender benefits to select vendors, as brought out by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) in its report after inquiry," sources in the L-G's office said. The action against the senior officers came following

an enquiry report by Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar and the vigilance department. The said enquiry report

clearly brings out blatant violation of procedures, deliberate misinterpretation and subversion of basic Government financial rules to provide benefit to licencees/tenderers obviously for a quid pro quo. Be it the formulation of the

tender document, award of tenders, undue return of EMD worth ₹30 crore, waiver of ₹144.36 crore licence fee or allowing additional liquor vends by chosen licencees, the entire episode stinks of corruption and connivance.

Officers of departments have tried to equate the failure of successful tenderer selected through bidding process in obtaining NOC from Airport Authorities, with unsuccessful bidders to justify the return of EMD amounting to ₹30 crore of a successful tenderer who failed to obtain NOC from the Airport

Sisodia seeks CBI probe into ex-LG's role in Excise Policy



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing former Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal of creating a mess in the new excise policy, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has written to the Central Bureau of Investigation seeking a probe against the former as to why he changed his stand on the opening of liquor shops in unauthorised colonies just 48 hours before the launch of the

Sisodia claimed that the sudden change in the then LG's stand led to "thousands of crores" of losses to the Government exchequer as close to 300-350 liquor shops that were supposed to open in unauthorised colonies could not be opened.

Addressing a Press confer-

ence here at his Mathura Road residence, Sisodia said he has sent the details of the matter to the CBI and asserted that there should be a probe into it.

"Delhi Lieutenant Governor made changes in the new excise policy two days before shops were to open so he could extend special favours to a few liquor traders.

"The CBI should also find out if the decision was taken independently and without his pressure or coercion. I am fully optimistic that the CBI will investigate

this matter fairly," he said. This is the first time that the AAP Government has acknowledged that it has incurred losses worth "thousands of crores" of rupees under the new excise

## Covid spurt: Centre issues guidelines for State

Stresses on early detection, vaccination

■ BHUBANESWAR

The Central Government, Covid-19 cases in Odisha, has urged the State Government to step up the preventive measures to stop transmission of the virus.

The Union Health Ministry said Odisha has been reporting high average daily new cases for the past one month (845 average cases per day).

The State has also contributed to 5 per cent of the country's weekly new cases and a high positivity of 4.85% in the week ending August 5.

The Ministry stated that 15 districts have reported a decline in the number of total tests conducted in the week ending August 4 as compared to the week ending July 28.

reported an increase in cases during the same period while four districts, including Sundargarh and Sambalpur reported more than 10% weekly positivity in the week ending August 4.

the virus due to possible mass gatherings owing to various festivals in coming days, the Ministry said it is critical for the State to ensure adequate testing is undertaken in all the districts while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR and Antigen tests.

The State must also closely monitor districts reporting higher cases, positivity rates and clusters to prevent further spread of infection.

The Ministry also urged for renewed attention needs to be paid for ensuring of Covid Appropriate Behaviour in crowded places like markets, inter-State bus stands, schools, colleges and railway stations.

It also asked the State to increase the pace of vaccination for all eligible population and accelerate the administration of free precaution doses for 18 plus eligible population at all Government Covid Vaccination Centers (CVCs) under the 'COV 6 Vaccination Apprehending spread of Amrit Mahotsav' till Septem

ber 30.

In view of some changes in symptoms and clinical manifestation of the disease, it is crucial to monitor and report district-wise influenzalike illness (ILI) and SARI cases in all health facilities as per the guidelines, on a regular basis for detecting early warning signals of the spread of infection.

Genome sequencing of prescribed samples of international passengers as well as collection of samples from Sentinel Sites (identified health facilities) and local cluster of new Covid cases is equally important, the Ministry said.

#### Taiwan activates missile systems against Chinese 'simulated attacks'



**AP** ■ BEIJING

Taiwan on Saturday said China's military drills appear to simulate an attack on it, after multiple Chinese warships and aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to

Taipei that infuriated Beijing. Taiwan's armed forces issued an alert, dispatched air and naval patrols around the island, and activated land-

based missile systems in response to the Chinese exercises, the Ministry of National Defense said.

**Detailed report on P5** Chief Minister and president of

Heavy rains hit life in Twin City, Puri

## KCR cites 'Centre's bias', to skip PM-chaired NITI meet

PNS NEW DELHI

¬elangana Chief Minister K L Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) on Saturday declared that he will "stay away" from Prime Minister Narendra Modichaired NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting to be held on Sunday here to strongly protest the Centre "discriminating against the States", "micromanaging schemes, giving complete go by to State-specific needs" and because there is 'no planning and cooperative federalism".

Terming his decision as 'unfortunate", the NITI Aayog responded swiftly dishing out figures to counter his claims.

KCR's announcement came even as reports about Bihar



Telangana CM KC Rao addresses a press conference in Hyderabad on

JD(U), an ally of BJP, Nitish Kumar, also not attending the meeting have Interestingly, while West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Aayog meetings earlier, this time round she is not only attending it but has landed in Delhi a couple of days in advance. Both KCR and Mamata have been separately making efforts to forge an Opposition unity to take on

In a strongly-worded letter the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister expressed anguish against the Centre for not giving States "flexibility to design and modify schemes based on their needs and conditions to ensure maximum benefit to people". His protest, he said, was against the "present trend of Central Government to discriminate against the States and not treating them as equal partners".

## Molestation: Fugitive K'pada teacher held

 ${
m F}_{
m inally,\ Biswambar\ Parida,}$ a fugitive teacher accused in a molestation case involving a student of Class-X, was arrested on Saturday. The crime had occurred on July 18 in Makalapada in the district.

A police squad conducted raids at Bhubaneswar and nabbed Parida. Kendrapada SP Madkar Sandeep Sampat was monitoring the case. Sampat visited the victim minor girl's house and met her in order to motivate her.

. Notably, Parida, a Mathematics teacher of a school under Mahakalapada police limits, allegedly on July 18 had molested the victim who was sitting in the last bench during a class test. He threatened

## Son kills woman in S'garh

 ${f A}$ n elderly woman died after being slapped by her son late on Friday night in Sundargarh district, which came to the fore on Saturday morning and police arrested the accused.

Puni Tanty (65) had been

staying with her son Saroj (35) at Guala Basti of Kumbharpada under the Birmitrapur police station. She had got widow pension two days ago. Saroj asked her to give him the pension amount, but she refused. Saroj slapped her, following which she died on the spot.

#### her not to disclose the matter else he would fail her in the examination. After a complaint by the father of the victim, the DEO had suspended Parida, following the locals, guardians and students staged dharana in front of the school.

Parida would be produced be-

fore court, said police.

After a few days of hot and humid conditions, heavy rains provided respite from the heat but resulted in misery of the residents of twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar by throwing normal life out of Residents in the twin cities,

BBSR records 24

SAROJ MISHRA

BHUBANESWAR

mm rainfall in 3 hrs

Puri and several other towns woke up to cloudy weather. Soon, incessant spells of heavy rains lashed many parts of the In Bhubaneswar, heavy

downpours caused waterlogging in several low-lying and poor-drainage areas such as ISKCON, Nayapalli, Acharya Vihar and Bomikhal, thereby



ging also affected vehicular communication in other parts of the capital city.

Heavy rains also caused inundation in several parts of Cuttack city while a flood-like situation also developed in the holy town of Puri. According to the India Me-

teorological Department's

(IMD) Regional Office, Puri

tween 8.30 add and 11.30 on the day, the highest in the State. Bhubaneswar recorded more than 24 mm of rain followed by 15 mm in Paradip and Chandbali. Moreover, the weather of-

fice issued an advisory for heavy rainfall in the State even as two back-to-back low pressure systems are likely to form over the Bay of Bengal.

## Mo Bus gets trapped in rainwater



Close shave for passengers KHORDHA

he passengers of a Mo Bus had a close shave when the vehicle got submerged up to it window level in stagnant rainwater at the railway underpass at Sitaram

Chhak in Jatni on Saturday.

rescue all passengers from the bus safely. About eight feet to 10 feet

However, locals managed to

rainwater flowed on the road after an intense spell of rainfall in the afternoon. The driver of the bus had misjudged the water level and thought that he would cross it easily. But midway, the bus got

switched off. "Delay in construction of a

stranded as the ignition got

flyover at Jatni has been causing water stagnation frequently here. The authorities should seriously take what happened today. It would have been disastrous if we had not promptly rushed to rescue the passengers," said a local.

# Doc develops 'Sanjivani' to save cardiac victims

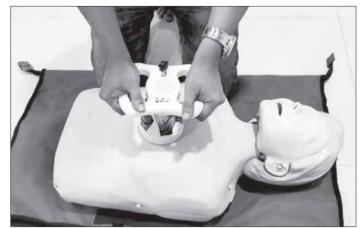
The device provides instructions in local language PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR

A Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) doctor has developed a cost-effective technology that can provide prompt assistance and save a person at home suffering from cardiac arrest. The 'Sanjivani' handheld gadget, as the name suggests, is a critical lifesaving device. Its development assumes significance as various reports and studies have reflected a significant increase in heart attackrelated deaths in recent years.

Now, approximately 85% of sudden cardiac arrests are reported at home or outside hospitals with a survival rate of less than 10%. The device comes as a game-changer,

damage after six minutes of cardiac arrest in the absence of highquality chest compressions, which means pressing the middle part of the chest at a rate of 100 per minute and a depth of at least 5 centimeters while allowing complete chest recoil between two successive compressions

The key to saving a person who has suffered a cardiac arrest is by applying the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) procedure. If initiated early, it can triple the survival rate. Poor emergency medical service, traffic congestion and the large population in India pose a challenge. It's the family members, friends or bystanders who have to initiate the call for help and provide high-quality chest compression till the arrival of emergency medical help. This is where the Sanjivani



said Dr Ashok Kumar Badamali, Associate Professor of Cardiac Anaesthesia, KIMS

Sanjivani comes in quick aid to revive the patient by the immediate respondent while waiting for ambulances. "Human hand has more than 20 small bones in palm area making quality chest compression a difficult job for the rescuer due to 90-degree position of palm and forearm in manual chest compressions. A first responder can perform high-quality CPR till the arrival of the emergency medical team for a victim of cardiac arrest with Sanjivani where the palm and forearm bones are in a longitudinal position," he explained.

The Department of Biotechnology has sanctioned its highest flagship "Biotechnology Ignition Grant" of Rs 50 lakh to Dr Badamali for developing the Sanjivani ecosystem to connect event sites with hospitals and ambulances seamlessly. A team of experts from various IITs, IIMs, and established business consultants have approved the project after a series of scrutiny.

The innovation has been appreciated by Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during the inauguration of the startup building O-Hub in Bhubaneswar. It was also appreciated by the head of medical innovation, WHO, Louise Agarsnap on the World Health Day on April 7 during the inauguration of the first global WHO Medical Innovation Collaboration Centre at Visakhapatnam.

son Charchit he Central Bureau of Investibusinessman

**Paradip Port bribery case** 

CBI arrests Mahima's

gation (CBI) on Saturday arrested shipping Mahimananda Mishra's younger son Charchit Mishra a day after interrogating him in connection with a Paradip Port bribery case registered in Delhi. The CBI arrested him under Sec-

(IPC) and Sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of PC Act. Earlier in the day, Charchit, a Director of Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL), had appeared at the CBI office here. Charchit along with his elder

tion 120b of Indian Penal Code

brother Chandan were grilled by the CBI for the last two days following raids at different places, including residence and office of Mahima

With Charchit's arrest, the CBI has so far arrested five persons in connection with the case. The earlier arrestees are Paradip Port Chief Mechanical Engineer Saroj Kumar Das, port contractor Sumant Rout, KCT Group manager (port operations) Sankha Subhra Mitra and OSL DGM (operations) Surya Narayan Sahoo.

## In a first in SCB hosp Reconstructive surgeries on black fungus patient

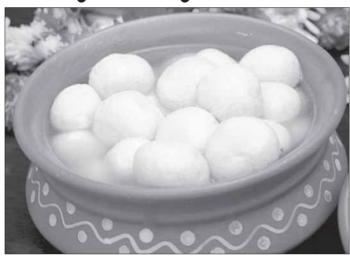
For the first time, doctors at the SCB Medical College Hospital here have conducted reconstructive plastic surgeries on a woman who had been affected from black fungus infection in July last year.

M Meenakumari's upper jaw had been completely damaged by black fungus and she was unable to eat and speak properly. Her face was also disfigured.

Meenakumari suffered from black fungus infection a few days after she tested positive for Covid-19 in July 2021. She was admitted to the plastic surgery ward of the hospital for reconstructive surgeries on July 5 this year.

A team of doctors comprising plastic surgery department chief Bibhuti Bhushan Nayak and senior surgeons Prashant Kumar Bal, Shyam Sundar Behera, Bishnupada Nayak, Ishaan Agnihotri and Nrusingha Charan Das conducted the surgeries on July 18. "The reconstructive surgeries took around seven hours. The patient is doing well. Her health issues relating to black fungus infection have been addressed successfully," said the chief of plastic surgery department.

## Rasagola originated in Odisha: Sourav



PNS CUTTACK

India's former cricket captain Sourav Ganguly has opined that Rasagola originated in Odisha. Amid a battle between Odisha

and neighbouring West Bengal over geographical indications (GI tag) and origin of Rasagola for past several years, BCCI chief Ganguly has given his opinion his popular TV show 'Dadagiri' in Zee Bangla.

A video of the reality show has gone viral in social media.

"Although, Rasagola is quite popular in West Bengal, it belongs to Odisha. History of Jagannath Temple in Puri reveals a lot about its (Rasagola's) origin," Ganguly

"I used to enjoy the syrupy delicacy during my early visits to Cuttack city for playing cricket matches," he further said.

Noted researcher of Jagannath culture and litterateur Asit Mohanty stated that Ganguly has boldly admitted the truth about the origin of Rasagola.

"I have been raising this issue since 2016. I have presented a number of strong evidences pertaining to the origin of Rasagola. After going through the credentials, lots of eminent persons have started accepting the fact," Mohanty added.

## Shah to reach today on 2-day visit

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to reach here on Sunday evening on a two-day visit to the State.

BJP State president Samir Mohanty on Saturday said that Shah would stay at Bhubaneswar on Sunday night and visit the Lingaraj Temple on Monday morning. Then, he would proceed to Cuttack and garland the statue of Netaji at Netaji's birthplace at Odia Bazar.

Later, Shah would be chief guest at the 75th birth anniversary function of newspaper 'Prajatantra' at the Jawahal Lal Nehru Indoor Sta-



In the afternoon, Shah would interact with BJP workers in Bhubaneswar; and in the evening, he would join in a book reading programme "Modi @ 20".

## Pradhan urges people to take booster dose

As 87% in State are yet to be vaccinated

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday called upon people of Odisha to take Covid-19 booster dose during the 75-day Amrut Mahotsav being celebrated by the Government of India from

In a video message, Pradhan said that as once again Covid has started spreading, Prime Minister Modi has fast-pacing on immunisation drive. During 18 months of the pandemic, the Union Government administered



200 crore vaccines.

He reiterated that the Centre is providing booster does free of cost like the previous two doses and all 18 and above-age population is entitled to get it. Unfortunately, over 87% population of Odisha has not taken booster doses. As Covid pandemic may spread fast in rainy season, it's high time all should take the booster dose, he said.

#### +2 Arts, Vocational results on Aug 8

Results of Plus II Arts and Vocational courses examinations conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha will be declared on August 8 at 4 pm at the CHSE office here.

The CHSE on Saturday informed that the results would be available on the CHSE website www.chseodisha.nic.in. Students can also check their scores on www.orissaresults.nic.in.

Notably, on July 27, the CHSE had announced the results of Plus II Science

and Commerce annual examinations. The examinations were held between April 28 and May 31. While 2,13,432 students in Arts steam had registered for the examination, 5,863 students in Vocational courses had registered for the annual examination.

#### **In Baleswar** Youth gets 20-yr RI for raping minor

**UBACHAK MOHANTY** BALESWAR

Special POCSO Court Judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar on Saturday, convicting a rape accused for 20 years' imprisonment, also slapped Rs 10,000 as penaltyon him, in default, another year of jail term.

The convict Dinesh Marandi (22) of village Panpana (Polobasha) under the Khantapara police station had sexually assaulted a 13-year-old girl of same village on January 15, 2021. He committed the offence after taking the girl on some pretext without knowledge of her parents. After the parents learnt about the incident, they were threatened and attacked by the accused when he was asked about the incident.

The girl's mother lodged an FIR with police. Dinesh was arrested and tried under different Sections of the POCSO Act.

"The court awarded different jail terms which would run concurrently and penalties for different sections aggregating 20 years of RI and Rs 10,000-fine. Twelve witnesses were examined and 18 documents were exhibited. The court also awarded Rs 4 lakh as compensation for the victim," said Special Public Prosecutor, POCSO, Pranab Panda.

## State records 836 new Covid cases

▲ he State on Saturday registered 836 new Covid-19 cases in 29 districts and the State pool, taking the total tally to 13,18,145.

Among the newly-infected were 148 children in the age group of 0to 14 years.

Notably, the State on Friday had recorded the same number of Covid

Out of the new cases, 490 were reported from quarantine and 346 local contacts.

Sundargarh district reported the maximum 175 new cases followed

by Khordha with 91, Sambalpur 83, Mayurbhanj 72, Bargarh 47, Kalahandi 37, Cuttack 34, Balangir 33, Nabarangpur 32, Boudh 23, Kandhamal 21, Nayagarh 17, Nuapada 14, Koraput 12, Keonjhar 10, Baleswar and Subarnapur 16 each, Gajapati seven, Bhadrak four, Ganjam three, Kendrapada and Puri three each and Jagatsinghpur and Angul two each.

Besides, 21 cases were reported from the State pool.

The active cases numbered 6,005. So far, 13,02,941 persons have recovered from the disease in the

#### **Aug 7 National Handloom Day**

# Needed: Export-led handloom clusters in each State

tional Handloom Day today to promote the handloom sector and millions of weavers upholding their tradition and occupation for thousands of years. Imagine the world before industrialisation; it was handloom that clothed the world. This indigenous craft has a rich heritage that has been persevered through time immemorial and always remained

Since 2015, August 7 has been celebrated as the National Handloom Day to honour millions of weavers and to instill a sense of pride in them. The objective is also to generate awareness about the handloom sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country and at the same time, to increase income of handloom weavers.

Undoubtedly, this historic decision to celebrate a National Day in



the name of handloom has brought in a sense of belongingness, pride, respect, awareness and increased demand for handloom products in the domestic and international market. The handloom sector has seen many ups and downs throughout the history, but its role and impor-

tance has never gone down. Today, the sector offers an incredible opportunity for further expansion, growth and acceptance with rising consciousness about environment and climate change.

The handloom sector is the second-largest employment provider after agriculture in rural India, employing 35.25 lakh people including 25.46 lakh (around 70%) women according to the 4thAll India Handloom Census 2019-20. But unfortunately, there is a continuous decline of weavers' population. Between the last two Handloom Censuses, more than 8 lakh weavers left their traditional occupation as weavers. This is an alarming situation. But surprisingly, there is an increase in the

number of handloom weavers' households during the same period. The positive message is

handloom production has increased

quite significantly, despite the fall-

dicates an increase in the yield. Handloom production data is not available for the current years. As per the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, a total of 7,990 million sq meter of handloom was produced in the year 2017-18 which amounts to Rs 60,000 crore and handloom exports are close to Rs 2500 crore.

Historically, handloom is produced in almost every State with unique products, designs, motifs and names. So far, the country has registered 72 handloom products under Geographical Indications (GI). Last year, on the eve of the National Handloom Day celebration, Union Minister of Textiles Piyush Goyal called for increasing handloom exports to Rs 10,000 crore and doubling of handloom production to Rs 1.5 lakh crores by 2024. A year has gone and we need to evaluate our efforts and means

A vast majority of our handloom products exported are home textiles, rugs, mats carpets, durries, bed sheets, cushion covers, etc. We have tremendous potential for exports in other handloom-based value added products like fabric, readymade garments, stoles, scarves and of course, sarees, dupattas and dress materials for a colossal Indian diaspora living across the globe. The Government should take special measures for export-led handloom clusters in each State based on their uniqueness and competencies. There is always a question mark on us, as the country produces 95% of the handloom produced in the world, but we stand as the second largest exporter of handloom products in

Consumers are responding now to the growing concern and urgency towards environmental im-

pact and climate change. They are becomingvocal about their choices for environment-friendly fashion and ready to sacrifice more for ecofriendly products. Taking advantage of this rising appetite, a vast majority of brands are busy greenwashing and exaggerating their environmental efforts to woo the consumers towards their false green credentials.

Fashion industry is considered to be the second largest polluting industry in the world, responsible for about 10% of global Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, produces 20% global wastewater and about 35% of the total micro-plastic pollutions. This data is echoing everywhere and radically transforming the fast fashion consumers to ecoconscious consumers; hence, creating an ever-rising market for sustainable fashion.

There is an urgent need to revamp the handloom ecosystem and appropriate for this fast changing landscape. There is not a single national or State level organization of weavers in the country. For putting the handloom sector back on the track, making it a more lucrative sector for income generation and employment, we need to organise and educate the weavers first about the growing opportunities. There is a need for a national and State level association of handloom weavers to make their voices heard. On this National Handloom Day, attempt should be made to empower the handloom sector through formation of an all India association of weavers.

(The writer is Professor at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhubaneswar and Chairman of Textile Association of India, Odisha unit. The views expressed are personal)

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5 held for poaching in separate cases

Woman staff alleges sexual harassment by CSO

## **Protests mount against Fatak station closure**

Rally before RDC tomorrow NIMAI CHARAN SAHU

SAMBALPUR

here will be a mass congregation in front of the office of the RDC (ND) here on August 8 to protest the demolition of the Fatak Station, Sambalpur, by the Railways where political parties cutting across party lines, students and the general public will take

"If the Railways does not desist from its illegal activities,

Forest officials on Saturday

arrested and forwarded to

court four poachers, who were

involved in poaching animals

identified as Bamadeb Pradhan

of Kandhadeobhuin village,

Sankar Parida of Kandhal vil-

lage, Niranjan Aruka and

Santosh Guru of Deobhuin

village under the Narsinghpur

in connection with the death

of a male elephant in

Narsinghpur West Range few

days ago. Information about

some more accused involved

in the above case has been re-

ceived and further investiga-

 ${f A}$  woman employee of the

Balangir district Civil Supplies

Office on Saturday levelled al-

legations of sexual harassment

to her by the Civil Supply Of-

According to the complain-

ant, when she joined, CSO Mir

Raja Ali demanded Rs 30 lakh

from her. When she expressed

her incapability to pay the

bribe, he reduced the amount

As she still refused to oblige,

Ali started harassing her both

mentally and physically. He

even made her work for long

hours at night. Besides, he used to call her to his chamber when

**Electrocution death** 

**BHUBANESWAR** 

he National Human

Rights Commission (NHRC)

has directed the Odisha Chief

Secretary to pay a compensa-

tion of Rs 3 lakh to the family

of a minor boy who was elec-

trocuted. The order was passed

taking cognisance of a peti-

tion filed by human rights ac-

Sanjay Majhi of Karanajamala

GP under Chandbali block of

Bhadrak district came in con-

Tripathy had stated that

tivist Sitakanta Tripathy.

he was alone, she alleged.

ficer (CSO)

to Rs 10 lakh

In Balangir

They were earlier detained

block in the district.

The arrested poachers were

like deer and wild pigs.

In Athagarh

there will be Sambalpur Bandh, an indefinite rail-roko and large scale protests and for any untoward situation, the Railways will be held responsible," said Sapan Mishra of Sachetan Nagarika Committee (SNC), a forum fighting for the station's revival and improve-

The Railways is determined to close the station forever in the name of development. But it is a 107 years old and is important in many respects due to its central location in the city near the GM University and Budharaja area,

tion is going on to nab the culprits, said Athagarh DFO

Sudarshan Gopinath Jadav.

In another development,

an accused, Dhaneshwar

Behera, of village Satgocchia

under the Badamba police sta-

tion in Cuttack district was also

arrested and forwarded to

court after his involvement

was found in the poaching of

a male elephant in Janipadar

Beat of Badamba Range in

lier also for his involvement

in the poaching of two tuskers

in Badamba Forest Range in

February, 2018. He is also in-

volved in killing of a tusker in

the Vegia area of Hindol For-

est Range of Dhenkanal For-

est Division in February 2021.

She also alleged that the

CSO used to make fun of her

as she was unmarried. She

claimed that she has proof of

allegations and that investiga-

Meanwhile, taking the alle-

gations seriously, Balangir

Collector Chanchal Rana has

She is a senior employee,

but her performance is not up

to mark. When he told her this

in front of other employees,

she has levelled false allega-

tact with a live electric wire

which had snapped from an

11-KV pole when he had gone

to a relative's place at Harishpur

of Chaddia GP under the

The commission observed

that the DISCOM TPNODL is

liable for the accidental death

and recommended payment of

the compensation. The NHRC

has also directed the Chief Sec-

retary to submit a compliance

report of payment of the com-

pensation along with the proof

of payment within six weeks.

Bansada police station.

tions, he said.

NHRC asks Govt to pay Rs 3L aid

tions would reveal the truth

He had been arrested ear-

Athagarh Forest Division.

The memory of Mahatma Gandhi is also attached to the station. "Once it is closed, the people have to bear extra expenditure from city or Sambalpur station to come to the town," they said.

In the year 2007, a similar effort was made by the then Government at the Centre. But due to virulent protest, and strong attitude of the district administration, this could not be done. But the BJP Government at the Centre has made a fresh effort to close it 'D'garh girl original singer of Har Har Sambhu' Wrong info by TV channels

decried NIMAI CHARAN SAHU

■ SAMBALPUR

 $S_{\text{ome TV channels which}}$ narrated Duti Chand to be a girl from Rajasthan have also done the same thing in the case of Odia singer Avilipsa Panda, a girl from Deogarh district.

Recently, Avilipsa has gained huge popularity for her devotional song 'Har Har Sambhu'. First, she sang it on April 27 this year. The song

was so sweet, sonorous and heart-touching that the viewers have crossed more than seven crores as of today.

But some national chan-

nels telecast that Farmani Naaz is the real singer of the devotional song. They also telecast the interview of Farmani on it that hurt sentiments of the Odia people here since they never heard this song before Avilipsa. "The whole intention of the national channels is to twist the truth and give credit to some other than the real singer of the song," alleged Tarpan Kumar Pradhan, an

artist cum singer, and many others too. "Not only are the national channels propagating lies, but also they are suppressing the truth since they can't tolerate the popularity of an Odia girl," added Pradhan.

However, Avilipsa's father, Ashok Kumar Panda, while contacted, said: "I don't want to comment on this issue. It is a matter of credit for us that my daughter has brought laurels to the State through her extraordinary talents and devotion to Lord Siva Sambhu. The Lord will judge those who spread lies."

#### **INBRIEF**

#### PLEDGE TO PROTECT TREES ON FRIENDSHIP DAY

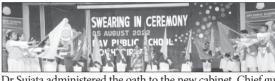
Bhubaneswar: Trees are the real friends of human beings. When we plant a tree, we plant a life. Trees help us provide oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide and offer countless other benefits.



This was stated by speakers at the Friendship Day celebration organised by Sahajya at Kargil Road here on Saturday. The participants took pledge to protect trees and tied friendship band to trees. At the meeting presided over by Sahajya president Dr Lingaraj Sahoo, preacher Maharshi Nachiketa, Ramesh Nanda, Saroj Sahoo, Pramod Das and Chittaranjan Bhanja urged the younger generation to save the environment.

#### |Cabinet swearing-in at DAV Pokhariput

Bhubaneswar: The DAV Public School, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar conducted swearing-in ceremony of the newly-selected members of the school cabinet for 2022-23 on Friday. The programme began with Shloka chanting. Charges were handed over by the outgoing members of the cabinet to the new members. Principal



Dr Sujata administered the oath to the new cabinet. Chief guest Sqn Leader Amrit Khuntia, Commanding Officer 1(0) Air Sqn, NCC, Bhubaneswar, urged the cabinet to create and sustain the dignity of leadership. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by cabinet coordinator Jharna Mishra.

#### **SNLF HOLDS SENIOR CITIZENS' CAMP**

Bhubaneswar: Satyanagar Ladies' Forum (SNLF) on Saturday organised a camp for identification and health checkup for local senior citizens at the



Royal Lagoon Apartment. Forum members Sovedita Roy, Davinder Kaur, Kajal Mohapatra and Abinash Choudhury actively participated in the programme. Fifty senior citizens' cards were registered. Nandankan police station IIC Senapati explained the benefits of the cars. Forum secretary Anuradha Dash coordinated the programme.

#### TUMOUR REMOVED FROM DOG AT SOA VET HOSP

Bhubaneswar: Vets at the SOA Urban Veterinary Hospital at Nuagaon here have surgically operated on a golden retriever dog to remove a large lump from its lower abdomen. The dog, which was in great discomfort, had been brought to the hospital on July 28 by its owner; and on examination, it was found that there was an abnormal growth on its right lower abdomen. The swelling appeared to be a lipoma (a fatty mass or lump) situated between the skin and the underlying muscle layer. The treating vets decided to undertake surgical intervention on July 29.

#### 2 YOUTHS HELD FOR DRUG SALE IN PRADIP

Paradip: The Paradip Model police arrested two youths on the charge of selling brown sugar on Friday and prosecuted them. The accused were Lalatendu Mohanty (27) of Marichipur under the Balikuda police station of



Jagatsinghpur district and Satosh Gochayat (23) of Panchpada village under the Malangpur PS of Jajpur district. Police caught them red-handed. In the presence of a magistrate, 6.6 grams of brown sugar and cash worth Rs 1,070 were seized from them. Both were sent to the Kujang court.

#### Chandiposhi iron ore mine to be operational soon and EE, SPCB, Rourkela,

Locals give nod in public hearing

PNS ROURKELA

he Chandiposhi iron ore mine of Rungta Mines Limited has got the consent of the locals in a public hearing organised at Sanindpur village under Koira Tehsil of Sundargarh district. The project would be for production of 1.0 MTPA iron ore over an area of 131.582 hectares.

While ADM Sundergarh Shiv Shankar Toppo presided over the public hearing, Regional Officer of SPCB, Rourkela Dr Binod Bihari Das

present. Company's officials committed to commence its ini-

Rashmi Ranjan Das were also

tiatives in environment, socioeconomic and socio- cultural development of the area and requested the stakeholders to extend their support for the project. About 400 stakeholders from nearby areas participated and gave their consent in favor of the project. In another public hearing, the proposal of Purheibahal iron ore block of Rungta Mines for production of 1.0 MTPA iron ore over an

Koraput theatre group organises 3-day event

area of 64.337 hectares was also supported by the locals.

## B'pur SP reviews cases at crime meet

**B**rahmapur Superintendent of Police Dr Sarvana Vivek M conducted a crime meeting here on Friday in which all IICs, SDPOs and Additional SPs were present. The meeting, among other things, discussed threadbare about all pending criminal cases and reviewed their progress/status.

Dr Vivek issued strict instructions to all the IICs for proper investigation and timely submission of charge sheets of all the cases pending under their respective jurisdic-

In addition to the review, two more special sessions, one by the Forensic Medicine Department and the other by Sakhi Centre were held.



Head of Forensic Medicine Dr Sudipta Das along with Associate Professor and Assistant Professor of the Department who were present in the meeting shared some of the pressing issues relating to "medico legal cases" and put forth some valuable inputs as to how to strengthen the pros-

ecution of rape and POCSO cases for information of the Investigating Officers.

Similarly, members of the One-stop-centre: Sakhi Centre vividly explained their roles and responsibilities, particularly their role in providing counselling to victims of domestic violence and shared

some valuable inputs pertaining to handling of family dispute cases. Expertise of "one stop centre" will be utilised while handling domestic violence and family dispute cases for settlement of such sensitive cases amicably in the interest of both the parties, said Dr Vivek.

Fishermen demand action against Shareen Traders

PNS PURI

initiated an inquiry into the However, Ali has refuted the allegations and said he has never called the concerned employee to his chamber since she joined office

he fishermen of Konark have filed a complaint petition before the district Collector, Puri, alleging that Puri-based "Shareen Traders" has illegally transported the boat engines meant for them under State Government subsidy scheme, to Andhra Pradesh for pecuniary benefits.

They have submitted a copy of the petition to the Chief Minister, Director General of Vigilance, Director of Fisheries and Director General, State Crime Branch, for necessary legal action against the trad-

In the petition, it is alleged that the Greaves Company had supplied boat engines to the fishermen through the State Government, Odisha, under subsidy scheme but "Shareen Traders", CT Road, Puri, Penthakota, has illegally transported the same to Andhra Pradesh. One K Prasad and his son K Mark are owners of the Sharinee Traders and they have been involved in the scam for

the last 30 years and grabbing the subsidy amount. On July 27, a Special Squad of Puri Commercial Tax seized

10 boat engines with an Ashok Leyland mini truck bearing Regn.No.OD-13Q 7725 at Sukala Chhaka under Puri district. The fishermen have demanded an impartial inquiry against Shareen Traders and stern legal action against the company owners.

## B'garh mentally disabled woman rescued Thanks to

#### Sankalp Family BARGARH

mentally disabled woman who was lying in a coma in Dalab Panchayat's Khuntilipali market under Bheden block was rescued by members of social organisation Sankalp Family and settled in Missionary Charitable Organisation, Sambalpur.

According to information, a mentally disabled woman who has been living in Khuntilipali market for a long time had been ill for the past few days. Although she was able to eat with the help of some local people, her health had started to deteriorate due



to lack of medical treatment. The members of the

Sankalp family drew it to the attention of the district administration, besides flashing it in media, including social

media. Later, on the request of the District Social Security Officer, Sankalp Family members Bikash Agrawal and Sandeep Kumar Seth reached Khuntilipali village and res-

cued the woman. Later, they admitted her at the District Head Hospital, Sambalpur and lodged her at Missionary Chari-Organization, table

#### In Jagatsinghpur

## Orthosis, prosthesis patients identified

**JAGATSINGHPUR**  $oldsymbol{A}$ n assessment camp for fitment of orthosis and prosthesis (OP) patients was conducted by the Advanced Rehabilitation Centre (ARC),

Bhubaneswar in Jagatsinghpur

on Friday. As many as 31 OP beneficiaries participated in the camp among which 12 were identified as prosthesis (artificial leg), nine orthosis (artificial limb) and 10 children recognised for modified shoes. The RBSK team and two OP professionals as Nihar Ranjan Singh and Udyanath Maharthi from ARC attended the assessment and measurement camp.



The identified beneficiaries will be sent to ARC, Bhubaneswar for further fitment and confirmation of OP items to provide them as soon as possible, official report said. Jagatsinghpur district

Collector Parul Patwari, ADM Satchidananda Sahoo, DSSO, officers from BSSO from different blocks, RBSK manager and representative from Jagatsinghpur Municipality were present.

## Deomali nat'l theatre fest

**NISHAN PATTNAIK** ■ JEYPORE

The Nandanik, a local theatre group, organised a threeday programme at Koraput from August 1 to 3. On the eve of its 9th Foun-

dation Day, Nandanik arranged a lecture on 'Ek Patriya Natya Yatra-Lekhan se Manchan tak' by Padma Shri Shekhar Sen, a singer-actor of international repute.

Sen described the creative process of producing his famed musical mono acts like Kabeer, Surdas and Vivekananda and his inspiring association with

theatre greats like Dharmvir

On 2nd day, the 7th Deomali National Theatre Festival was inaugurated at Municipal Auditorium, Koraput in the presence of Collector, Koraput Abdal Akhtar, Chairman, Koraput Municipality Lalit Ranjan Sethy, eminent actress Bhaswati Basu, veteran theatre artist and author Umakant Das and creative director, Nandanik Dr Sourav

Akhtar appreciated the efforts of Nandanik and extended warm support to its endeavours.

Sourav Gupta informed that the Deomali National Theatre Festival is the only national level festival in undivided



plays in Odia, Bangla and Hindi are being showcased. The festival commemorates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Asim Basu Award 2022 was

conferred on Ajay Edding, a theatre artist of Nandanik from Semiliguda by Bhaswati

The award is jointly awarded every year by Nandanik in association with Asim Basu Foundation, Bhubaneswar in memory of

late Asim Basu, Odisha's theatre icon since 2018. Basu reminisced her father's association with Koraput and praised the theatre activism of Nandanik at Koraput.

Two Odia plays were staged by Nandanik. The first is Shahid Laxman Nayak, written by Gauriprasad Rath and directed by Saumendra Swain. The second is Takkhyaka, written by Manoj Mitra and directed by Sourav Gupta.

A mono action, Kiss of

Sunny, a PhD research scholar from Central University of Odisha. On the third day there were two plays such as Target in Hindi performed by Titli Foundation, Rourkela, and Kouto in Bangla performed by Bisargo Theatre, West Bengal. The Hindi play is written by

Shibankar Chakrabarty and directed by Pallav Chatterjee. The Bangla play is written by Mohit Chattopadhyay and directed by Dwaipayan.

While the first play dealt with Left extremism, the second play explored existential crisis of human beings in a experimental theatre pattern. People gathered in large numbers to watch the plays and appreciated the artists.

## Centre issues advisory to Delhi, 6 States as Covid cases soar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

mid a rise in coronavirus A finfections in some parts of the country and the festival season round the corner, a worried Central Government has issued an advisory to Delhi and six States asking them to ensure adequate testing, promote Covid-appropriate behaviour and increase the pace of vaccination to contain the surge.

In a letter to Delhi, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan sounded alert about the upcoming festivals and mass

of the country, saying that they may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

It is critical to ensure adequate testing is undertaken in all the districts of the state while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR and antigen tests. The state must also closely monitor districts reporting higher cases, positivity rates and clusters to prevent further spread of infection and effective case management, he stressed in the letter dated

In his letter to Delhi, Bhushan said the national capital has been reporting high cases) for the past month with a high of 2.202 new cases reported on August 5.

Delhi has contributed 8.2 per cent of India's weekly new cases in the week ending August 5 and has also recorded 1.86 times increase in average daily new cases from 802 in the week ending July 29 to 1,492 in in the week ending August 5.

An increase in the weekly positivity rate was also reported in Delhi — from 5.90 per cent in the week ending July 29 to 9.86 per cent in the week ending August 5.

Bhushan said Kerala reported 2,347 average cases

Maharashtra 2,135 cases. He also cited district-wise spread of infection. On Friday, Karnataka had reported 2,042 new Covid-19 cases and the positivity rate for the day was 6.32 per cent.
The Health Secretary

requested states to ensure effective compliance of the revised surveillance strategy for COVID-19 which has been shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"In view of some changes in symptoms and clinical manifestation of the disease, it is crucial to monitor and report district-wise influenza-like illness (ILI) and SARI cases in all

health facilities as per the guidelines, on a regular basis for detecting early warning signals of the spread of infection. This will enable us to take pre-emptive action if required, in any areas of concern," he said. Stressing genome sequencing of prescribed samples of international passengers as well as collection of samples from sentinel sites and local cluster of new COVID-19 cases is equally important, Bhushan said such samples must be sent promptly by the states and union territories to the designated lab of INSACOG net-

work for genome sequencing. "Renewed attention needs to be paid for ensuring of

in crowded places like markets, inter-state bus stands, schools, colleges, railway stations, etc," "States should aim to

increase the pace of vaccination for all eligible population and accelerate the administration of free precaution doses for 18plus eligible population at all Government Vaccination Centres (CVCs) under the 'COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsav' till September

States were advised to diligently follow the five-fold strategy of test-track-treat vaccination and adherence to Covidappropriate behaviour within

30," he stated.



India saw a single-day rise of 19,406 Covid-19 infections, taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,41,26,994. As per

the latest data, the active cases declined to 1,34,793 today. The death toll climbed to 5,26,649 with 49 new fatalities.

## PM among first to congratulate Dhankar after his thumping win

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

s Jagdeep Dhankhar was As Jaguce Phanes President of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accompanied with BJP president JP Nadda and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, arrived at his residence and congratulated him.

Prime Minister was among the first to reach 11, Akbar Road, (residence of Pralhad Joshi) to greet the vice-president-elect for his stupendous victory.

In the visuals, a smiling Modi was seen offering a bouquet to Dhankhar and congratulating him.

Congratulations to Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji on being elected India's Vice President with resounding support across party lines. I am confident he will be an outstanding Vice President. Our nation will gain tremendously from his intellect and wisdom,"

Modi tweeted later

"I thank all those MPs who have voted for Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. At a time when India marks Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are proud to be having a Kisan Putra Vice President who has excellent legal knowledge and intellectual prowess," the PM said further.

Union home minister Amit Shah in his congratulation message said he was confident that Dhankhar would prove himself to be the ideal protector of the Constitution".

"The Upper House will definitely benefit from his [Dhankar's] experience and close understanding of ground issues," said the home minister. Shah expressed his gratitude to all those parties who extended their support to the NDA Vice-Presidential can-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the new



Jagdeep Dhankhar on winning the Vice Presidential elections. His long public life, wide experience and deep understanding of people's issues will certainly benefit the nation. "I am confident that he will make an exceptional VP & Rajya Sabha Chairman," he said. Shah, Rajnath and Speaker Om Birla met Dhankar and congratulated

am so happy. I con-Vice-President saying: gratulate him. It was a decisive and impressive victory. He is

Constitution and she has a sacrosanct right to

a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy

and freedom. Live-in relationships have been

AIIMS. Delhi to constitute a medical board in

terms of the provisions of the MTP Act and said

in the event it concludes that the foetus can be

aborted without danger to the life of the

woman, a team of doctors at the facility shall

ing the petitioner to suffer an unwanted preg-

nancy will be contrary to the intent of the law

pregnancy, on a proper interpretation of the

statute, prima facie, falls within the ambit of the

statute and the petitioner should not be denied the benefit on the ground that she is an unmar-

ried and unmarried woman does not bear a

nexus to the basic purpose and object that is

sought to be achieved by Parliament which is

conveyed specifically by the provisions of

before she had completed 24 weeks of pregnancy.

The delay in the judicial process cannot work

amending the MTP Act through the Act of 2021

intended to include unmarried women and single women within the ambit of the law which

is evident from the replacement of the word 'hus-

band' with 'partner'. It, however, pointed out

there is a gap in the law as while Section 3 trav-

els beyond conventional relationships based on

marriage, Rule 3B of the MTP Rules does not

envisage a situation involving unmarried

women, but recognises other categories of

"The petitioner had moved the High Court

The top court had said Parliament, by

Explanation 1 to Section 3 of the Act.

to her prejudice," it had said.

The court said it was of the view that allow-

Allowing the petitioner to terminate her

It had added the distinction between a mar-

recognized by this Court," it had underlined.

"Denying an unmarried woman the right to

The court had requested the Director of the

an eminent lawyer and a farmer, this is a rare combination: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, at whose official residence Dhankar is staying, said.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal said Dhankar will be a wonderful Rajya Sabha chairman, an outstanding Vice President. "The nation is blessed to have the son of a farmer and an eminent jurist as VP of India. We're fortunate we will have a chance to work with him," he added.

## Rahul slams Govt over glitches in CUET

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday targeted the Government over glitches in the conduct of the common university entrance test (CUET), and alleged the "dictatorship of four people is leaving no stone unturned to ruin the country".

His attack came after technical glitches marred the CUET for admission to undergraduate courses in central universities, "New education policy of 'Amritkal': Before the exam 'discussion on the exam'. 'No paper, no discussion' during the exam. Future in darkness after the exam. What is happening with the students of #CUET is the story of every youth of the country today," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The dictatorship of four people is leaving no stone unturned to ruin the country," Rahul Gandhi said. He, however, did not name anyone.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also took to Twitter to say that 'technical' snags have led to over 50,000 students being unable to take the CUET exam.

"Is this government so aloof and insensitive to our students that it can't see the repercussions of such a serious policy paralysis on its part? Is this what the youth of our country deserves?" she tweeted.

Technical glitches on the second day of the CUET-Undergraduate on Friday forced the National Testing Agency (NTA) to postpone the exam at 50 centres across the country. Some students also claimed to have received communication from the NTA late in the night, telling them that their exam scheduled for Saturday had been postponed due to "administrative and logistical reasons".

On Thursday, the exam was cancelled at a few centres across 17 states in the first shift, while the second shift exam was cancelled at all 489 centres.

Several students complained that they waited for two hours only to be informed that the exams had been called off.

## BJP diverting issues affecting people using name of Ram: Cong

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

The Congress on Saturday hit back at Home Minister Amit Shah for linking the party's protests to the Ram temple foundation day alleging that the BJP was trying to divert the attention of common people by resorting to their only weapon 'Ram'.

Reacting to Shah's comments, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the party was protesting against "astronomical price hike and unprecedented rate of unemployment which can't be tolerated by them (BJP).

"In the name of 'Ram', this Government has been worshipping 'Raavan'. People are afflicted under their rule. The Congress has exposed this government as anti-people and pro-corporate," Chowdhury when sought his reactions on the sidelines of voting of Vice President elecCongress general secre-

ary Jairam Ramesh alleged that it was a desperate attempt by the government to "divert, distract, polarise and give a malicious twist" to its democratic demonstrations against price rise.

"It's only a sick mind which can produce such bogus arguments. Clearly the protests have hit home," he tweeted. Party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi said fighting

against the burden of inflation falling on the poor and the middle class across the country is the path shown by Lord "The one who inflicts

pain on the weak by increasing prices, attacks Lord Ram. The one who misrepresents those agitating against inflation, insults Loknayak Ram and the people of India," Priyanka said in a tweet mes-

## Unmarried woman can end 24-week pregnancy, SC to craft its verdict



bodily integrity.'

carry out the abortion.

enacted by Parliament.

ried woman, it had said.

Taving ruled that denying an unmarried Having ruled that deligning and woman the right to safe abortion violates her personal autonomy, the Supreme Court will now interpret the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the related rules to see if unmarried women could be allowed to abort a 24-week pregnancy on medical advice.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and JB Pardiwala on Friday asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, to assist the court in the exercise.

"When there are exceptions provided under the law, then why unmarried women can't be included to terminate 24-weeks pregnancy, if the medical advice so permits. The parliamentary intent appears to be clear as it has replaced "husband" with "partner". It shows that they have considered unmarried women also in the bracket of those allowed to terminate 24-weeks pregnancy," Justice Chandrachud said. The bench said it needs to craft its verdict

in a way that unmarried women are also allowed to terminate their 24-week pregnancy like divorcees, widows or those in judicial sep-

Bhati contended there is a reason for not allowing unmarried women to terminate pregnancy after 24 weeks as it could take a toll on their health.

"The experts have their views over this. We need to place those views before the court. The termination of pregnancy at 24 weeks carries immense risk and could even cost the life of the women," she said.

The bench allowed Mr Bhati to place the views of experts before it and said it needs her assistance on the issue.

At the outset, the bench was informed a 25year-old woman, who was allowed to terminate her 24-week pregnancy on July 21, is safe after a successful procedure.

On July  $\hat{2}1$ , the top court had expanded the scope of the MTP Act to include unmarried women and allowed the 25-year-old to abort her 24-week pregnancy arising out of a consensu-

women such as divorcees, widows, minors, disabled and mentally ill women and survivors of The top court had said, "A woman's right sexual assault or rape.

#### PM's global initiative LIFE to be India's theme at its COP27 pavilion in Egypt PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

LIFE - Lifestyle for the Environment, a global ini-Minister Narendra Modi, will be the theme of the India pavilion at the upcoming COP27 at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt, the Union Environment Ministry said on Saturday.

Modi had proposed the one-word mass movement "LIFE" at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at Glasgow last November.

Subsequently, he launched 'Lifestyle for the Environment – LIFÉ Movement' on June 5. The vision of 'LIFE' is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. The people who live such a lifestyle can be called "Pro-Planet People", the ministry

India has been setting up its pavilions at COPs since 2015 to showcase its achievements in climate actions. Several think tanks, civil society organisations, industry bodies and private sector organise side events at the



India pavilion.

The Union Cabinet has already approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) incorporating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Panchamrit' strategy announced at the Glasgow conference aiming to strengthen global efforts to tackle climate change.

India aims to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level, and achieve about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from nonfossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. India also aims to reduce total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and carbon intensity of the economy to less than 45% by 2030. Further, under the commitment India aims to achieve net zero carbon emis-

#### Navy ships to visit all continents to mark 75 years of India's Independence PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{he\ Indian\ Navy\ ships\ are}$   $tinents\ as\ part\ of\ Azadi\ Ka$ Amrit Mahostav to celebrate 75 The ships will hoist the national flag onboard on August 15 in these ports spread across six continents and six different

Giving details here on Saturday about this unique event, officials said the flag will be hoisted in the presence of the Indian diaspora and distinguished local dignitaries.

Other activities being planned include official calls by the Indian Navy crew on senior leadership of the host country, participation by the naval contingent at the Flag Hoisting Ceremony in the respective Embassies and band performance at a prominent public place. Also, the ship will be open to visitors, school children and Indian diaspora with a deck reception and various cultural events to be organised by the Indian Embassies.

At London, the crew of INS Tarangini will pay homage to the Indian soldiers, who gave the supreme sacrifice during the two World Wars, at the Commonwealth Memorial



gates. Similarly, a ceremonial wreath laying by the Indian ship is scheduled at the Kranji War Memorial and the Indian National Marker(INA)Marker at Singapore.

At Mombasa (Kenya), the naval crew will participate in the inauguration of a commemorative pillar in the Battlefield area of Taita Taveta region where Indian soldiers fought and sacrificed their lives whilst serving under East Africa campaign of World War One.

The commemorative events will also include battlefield tours, a mobile exhibition and a Light and Sound show at Fort Jesus highlighting the contribution of the Indian soldiers in World War one as well as India's struggle for independence.

The visits to foreign ports include Muscat Singapore(Asia), Mombasa, Kenya(Africa), Perth(Australia), San Diego(USA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil(South America) and London(Europe). The 75th year of India's

Independence, marked by Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is an occasion to reinvigorate and reemphasise India's maritime moorings, officials said. Towards this, a large num-

ber of activities were undertaken by the Indian Navy over the last one year both within the country and abroad. Commemorative ship visits

to 75 Indian ports in the year 2021-22, President's Fleet Review\* aligned with the 75th year of independence, 'Lokayan 2022 (sail ship expedition)', display of monumental national flag at Mumbai, community outreach programs across all coastal districts of India, 'freedom run' in various cities, sailing regattas and mountaineering and cycling expeditions. The Navy also felicitated gallantry award winners and war veterans (born in or before

## IAF chief flies 3 desi Naidu India's most aircraft in Bangalore

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari on Saturday flew three indigenous aircraft- Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40)- which are being inducted into IAF as part of its drive towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. The IAF chief was demon-

strated the capabilities of the LCH and HTT-40 as well as updates on the Tejas. He also interacted with the designers and test crew to understand the current status and future plans. He later delivered the Air



Memorial Lecture which was attended by serving & retired officers of IAF, HAL and other stakeholders from the aerospace industry. The IAF chief also spoke on 'Capability and Force Development Plans of IAF' towards making it a future ready combat force.



ends next week. the Upper House to start with in 2017 and a recovery later. According to officials of the Vice President Secretariat, out

#### travelled VP PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ of the 13 full sessions Naidu witnessed disruptions and presided over till the Budget

Venkaiah Naidu has been the most travelled Vice President of India having visited almost all State Capitals and UTs including the North-Eastern States and the far and remote places of the country during ĥis tenure. His tenure

Besides his tenure as exofficio chairman of the Ràjya Sabha, Naidu's period was marked by low productivity of

sittings of Rajya Sabha have

session this year, the productivity of the first five sessions has been in the range of only 6.80 per cent to 58.80 per cent. It substantially improved in six of the next eight sessions clocking productivity in the range of 76 per cent to 105 per cent with five sessions working for about 100 per cent of the scheduled

Fifty eight issues were primarily responsible for the disruptions and forced adjournments of the House during this

Fifty seven per cent of the

forced adjournments of the House for either part of the day or a full day. The issue of Special

Category Status for Andhra Pradesh was raised in 36 sittings across four sitting starting with the highest number of 24 times during the Budget session of 2018," said a official statement. The next four issues

included the passing of three farm laws and farmers' protests, the Pegasus spyware, constitution of Cauvery Water Management Board and the suspension of 12 Members in the winter session of 2021.

## China military drills appear | Ukrainian unit digs in for to simulate attack: Taiwan



**AP** ■ BEIJING

¬aiwan said on Saturday that China's military drills appear to simulate an attack on the self-ruled island, after multiple Chinese warships and aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei that infuriated Beijing. Taiwan's armed forces issued an alert,

dispatched air and naval patrols around the island, and activated land-based missile systems in response to the Chinese exercises, the Ministry of National Defense said. China's Ministry of Defense said in a statement Saturday that it had carried out military exercises as planned in the sea and airspaces to the north, southwest, and east of Taiwan, with a focus on "testing the capabilities" of its land strike and sea

China launched live-fire military drills following Pelosi's trip to Taiwan earlier this week, saying it violated the "one-China" policy. China sees the island as a breakaway province to be annexed by force if necessary, and considers visits to Taiwan by foreign officials as recognising its sovereignty. Taiwan's army also said it detected four unmanned aerial vehicles flying in the vicinity of the offshore county of Kinmen on Friday night and fired warning flares in The four drones, which Taiwan believed

were Chinese, were spotted over waters around the Kinmen island group and the nearby Lieyu Island and Beiding islet, according to Taiwan's Kinmen Defense Command. Kinmen, also known as Quemoy, is a group of islands only 10 kilometers east of the Chinese coastal city of Xiamen in Fujian province in the Taiwan

Strait, which divides the two sides that split amid civil war in 1949.

"Our government & military are closely monitoring China's military exercises & information warfare operations, ready to respond as necessary," Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen said in a tweet. "I call on the international community to support demo-cratic Taiwan & halt any escalation of the regional security situation," she added. The Chinese military exercises began Thursday and are expected to last until Sunday. So far, the drills have included missile strikes on targets in the seas north and south of the island in an echo of the last major Chinese military drills in 1995 and 1996 aimed at intimidating Taiwan's leaders and voters.

Taiwan has put its military on alert and staged civil defense drills, while the U.S. Has deployed numerous naval assets in the area. The Biden administration and Pelosi have said the US remains committed to a "one-China" policy, which recognises Beijing as the government of China but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei. The administration discouraged but did not prevent Pelosi from visiting. China has also cut off defense and climate talks with the U.S. And imposed sanctions on Pelosi in retaliation for the visit.Pelosi said Friday in Tokyo, the last stop of her Asia tour, that China will not be able to isolate Taiwan by preventing US officials from travelling there.

Pelosi has been a long-time advocate of human rights in China. She, along with other lawmakers, visited Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1991 to support democracy two years after a bloody military crackdown on protesters at the square. Meanwhile, cyberattacks aimed at bringing

down the website of Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had doubled between Thursday to Friday, compared to similar attacks ahead of Pelosi's visit, according to Taiwan's Central News Agency. The ministry did not specify the origin of the attack

Other ministries and government agencies, such as the Ministry of Interior, also faced similar attacks on their websites according to the report. A distributeddenial-of-service attack is aimed at overloading a website with requests for information that eventually crashes it, making it inaccessible to other users.

Also Saturday, the Central News Agency reported that the deputy head of the Taiwan Defense Ministry's research and development unit, Ou Yang Li-hsing, was found dead in his hotel room after suffering a heart attack. He was 57, and had supervised several missile production projects. The report said his hotel room in the southern county of Pingtung, where he was on a business trip, showed no signs of intrusion.

Taiwanese overwhelmingly favour maintaining the status quo of the island's de facto independence and reject China's demands that the island unify with the mainland under Communist control. Globally, most countries subscribe to the "one-China" policy, which is a requirement to maintain diplomatic relations with Beijing. Any company that fails to recognise Taiwan as part of China often faces swift backlash, often with Chinese consumers pledging to boycott its products.

On Friday, Mars Wrigley, the manufacturer of the Snickers candy bar, apologised after it released a video and materials featuring South Korean boy band BTS that had referred to Taiwan as a country, drawing swift criticism from Chinese users.

# Russian assault on eastern city

Ukrainian military personnel are fortifying their positions around the eastern city of Sloviansk in expectation of a fresh Russian attempt to seize the strategic point in the fierce-ly fought-over Donetsk region. As heavy ground fighting continues on the front line only

miles to the east, southeast and north of Sloviansk, members of the Dnipro-1 Regiment are digging in after a week of relative calm. The last Russian strike on the city occurred on July 30.

While the lull provided Sloviansk's remaining residents a reprieve after regular shellings between April and July, some unit members say it could be a prelude to renewed attacks.



"I think it won't be calm for long. Eventually, there will be an assault," Col Yurii Bereza, the head of the volunteer national guard regiment, told The Associated Press on Friday, adding that he expected the area to get "hot" in the coming days. Sloviansk is considered a strategic target in Moscow's ambitions to seize all of Donetsk province, a largely Russianspeaking area in eastern Ukraine where Russian forces and pro-Moscow separatists control about 60% of the terri-

Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk province, which Russia has almost entirely cap-

withdrew in early July from the remaining cities under their control, together make up the industrial Donbas region. The separatists have claimed the region as two independent republics since 2014, and Russian President Vladimir Putin recognised their sovereignty before he sent troops into

Seizing Sloviansk would put more of the region under Russian control, but it also would be a symbolic victory for Moscow. The city was the first to be taken by the separatists during an outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine in 2014, though it was later brought back under Ukrainian

## Indiana becomes 1st state to approve abortion ban post Roe

Indiana on Friday became the I first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, as the Republican governor quickly signed a near-total ban on the procedure shortly after lawmakers approved it.

The ban, which takes effect Sept 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10-weeks post-fertilisation; to protect the life and physical health of the mother; and if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly. Victims of rape and incest would not be required to sign a notarised affidavit attesting to an attack, as had once been proposed. Under the bill, abortions can

be performed only in hospitals or outpatient centres owned by hospitals, meaning all abortion clinics would lose their licenses. A doctor who performs an illegal abortion or fails to file required reports must also lose their medical licence — wording that tightens current Indiana law that says a doctor "may" lose



"I am personally most proud of each Hoosier who came forward to courageously share their views in a debate that is unlikely to cease any time soon," Gov Éric Holcomb said in the statement announcing that he had signed the measure. "For my part as your governor, I will continue to keep an open ear."

His approval came after the Senate approved the ban 28-19 and the House advanced it 62-38. Indiana was among the earliest Republican-run state legislatures to debate tighter abortion laws after the Supreme Court ruling in June that removed constitutional protections for the procedure. But it is the first state to pass a ban through both

chambers, after West Virginia lawmakers on July 29 passed up the chance to be that state. "Happy to be completed

with this, one of the more challenging things that we've ever done as a state General Assembly, at least certainly while I've been here," Senate President Pro-Tem Rodric Bray told reporters after the vote. " I think this is a huge opportunity, and we'll build on that as we go forward from here.

Senator Sue Glick of LaGrange, who sponsored the bill, said that she does not think "all states will come down at the same place" but that most Indiana residents support aspects of the bill.

#### North Korea calls Pelosi 'destroyer of international peace'

**AP** ■ SEOUL

North Korea on Saturday called US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "the worst destroyer of international peace and stability," accusing her of inciting anti-North Korea sentiment and enraging China during her Asian tour earlier this week

Pelosi travelled to South Korea after visiting Taiwan, which had prompted China to launch military exercises including missile strike training in waters near the selfgoverned island.

China views Taiwan as part of its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

While in South Korea, Pelosi visited a border area with North Korea and discussed the North's nuclear programme with South Korean National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin Pyoʻ. According to Kim, the two agreed to support their governments' push for denu-clearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula based on strong, extended deterrence against the North and diplo-

## Explainer: What is driving current Israel-Gaza violence

 ■ the Gaza Strip were exchanging fire Saturday in the worst bout of crossborder violence since an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas last year. Israeli airstrikes have killed 11

people, including a senior commander from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an Iran-backed militant group, who was slain in a targeted attack. Israel has carried out several

deadly airstrikes, among them the targeted killing of a senior commander from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, an Iran-backed militant group.

Militants have fired dozens of rockets at Israeli cities and towns, disrupting life for tens of thousands of people.

#### Here's a look at the latest round of violence: IN HAMAS' SHADOW

Islamic Jihad is the smaller of the two main Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip, and is vastly outnumbered by the ruling Hamas group. But it enjoys direct financial and military backing from Iran, and has become the driving force in engaging in rocket attacks and other



confrontations with Israel.

Hamas, which seized control of Gaza in 2007 from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, is often limited in its ability to act because it bears responsibility for running day-to-day affairs of the impoverished territory. Islamic Jihad has no such duties and has emerged as the more militant faction, occasionally even undermining Hamas' authority.

The group was founded in 1981 with the aim of establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza and all of what is now Israel. It is designated a terrorist orga-

nization by the U.S. State Department, European Union and other governments, Like Hamas, Islamic Jihad is sworn to Israel's destruction.

THE IRANIAN CONNECTION Israel's archenemy Iran supplies Islamic Jihad with training, expertise and money, but most of the group's weapons are locally produced. In recent years, it has developed an arsenal equal to that of Hamas, with longer-range rockets capable of striking central Israel's Tel Aviv metropolitan area. Air raid sirens went off in the suburbs just south of Tel Aviv on Friday, although no rockets appear

Damascus, where it maintains close ties with Iranian officials.

Ziad al-Nakhalah, the group's top leader, was in Tehran meeting Iranian officials when Israel began its operation in Gaza on Friday TARGETING COMMANDERS

This isn't the first time Israel has killed Islamic Jihad leaders in Gaza. The commander it killed Friday, Taiseer al-Jabari, replaced Bahaa Abu el-Atta who was slain by Israel in a 2019 strike. His death had been the first high-profile assassination of an Islamic Jihad figure by Israel since the 2014 war in the Gaza Strip.

Al-Jabari, 50, was a member of Islamic Jihad's "military council," the group's decision-making body in Gaza. He was in charge of the Islamic Iihad militant activities in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip during the 2021 war. Israel said he was preparing to launch an anti-tank nissile attack against Israel.

His death came on the heels of the arrest by Israel of a senior Islamic Jihad commander in the West Bank earlier this week. Bassam al-Saadi, 62,

is a senior Islamic Jihad official in the Although its base is Gaza, Islamic northern West Bank. According to deepen the group's reach in the West Bank and expand its capabilities.

Al-Saadi spent a total of 15 years over several stints in Israeli jails for being an active Islamic Jihad member. Israel killed two of his sons who were also Islamic Jihad militants in separate incidents in 2002, and destroyed his home during a fierce battle in the West Bank city of Jenin the same year.

Once you will hit the commanders it will affect immediately all the organization," said Zvika Haimovich, the former head of the Israeli military's air defense force.

"It immediately creates a big mess in the Jihad. A DELICATE BALANCE

Since seizing power in 2007, Hamas has fought four wars with Israel, often with support from Islamic Jihad fighters. Aside from a flare-up earlier this year, the border has largely been quiet since last year's 11-day war and Hamas appears to be staying on the sidelines of this current conflagration, which might keep it from spilling over into all-out war.

## Biden calls for reducing gun violence to defeat 'poison of white supremacy'

#### 10th anniv of Wisconsin gurdwara attack

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

 $P^{\text{resident Joe Biden has called}}_{\text{for reducing gun violence}}$ and banning assault weapons in the US to defeat "domestic terrorism" and hate in all its forms, including the "poison of white supremacy", as he con-demned the attack on a Sikh gurdwara in Wisconsin in 2012 on the 10th anniversary of the heinous act. On August 5, 2012, a white

supremacist opened fire inside the Oak Creek gurdwara in Winconsin, killing six people. A seventh person who was severely paralysed died from his injuries in 2020.

"The Oak Creek shooting was the deadliest attack on Sikh Americans in our nation's history. Tragically, attacks on our nation's houses of worship have only become more common over the past decade. It is up to all of us to deny this hate safe harbour. No one should fear for their life when they bow their head in prayer or go about their lives in America," Biden said in a statement on Friday.

The President said the Oak Creek incident has shown "us the way" and recalled how after the attack, the Sikh community returned to their Gurdwara and insisted on cleaning it themselves. The son of one of the victims became the first Sikh in American history to testify before Congress, successfully calling for the federal government to track hate crimes against Sikhs and other minority groups.

Every year, the congregation now hosts an annual memorial run to honour the victims. The event bears the words 'Charhdi Kala', meaning "eternal optimism", he noted.

"Fuelled by that spirit of eternal optimism, we must continue to take steps now to reduce gun violence and keep our fellow Americans safe. We must do more to protect places



forms, including the poison of white supremacy. "We must ban assault weapons- used in many mass

shootings at houses of worship and other sites across the country- as well as high-capacity magazines," Biden asserted.

Underlining that the House of Representatives last week passed a bill to do that, he said the Senate must act as well.

"To stand in defence of religious freedom, we must all stand together to ban the weapons that terrorise congregations around our country," Biden said

Recalling the attack, the President said when generations of Sikh-Americans in Oak Creek constructed their place of worship after years of renting local halls, it was a sacred place of their own and a connection shared with the broader community. That sense of peace and belonging was shattered on August 5, 2012, when a white supremacist wielding a semiautomatic handgun arrived at the Gurdwara and began shooting. "The gunman murdered six

people and wounded four that day, as well as another victim who survived his wounds only to succumb to them years later. Jill and I know that days like today bring back the pain like it happened yesterday, and we mourn with the victims' families, the survivors, and the community devastated by this heinous act," he said.

#### Hiroshima vows nuke ban at 5.3-magnitude 77th memorial amid Russia threat earthquake jolts

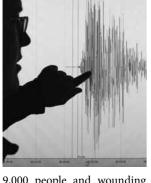
central Nepal **PTI** ■ KATHMANDU

An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted Kathmandu Valley and other parts of central Nepal on

Saturday morning.
However, there were no reports of any damage or casualties, officials said.

According to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, the 5.3-magnitude earthquake, which occurred at 5:26 am, had its epicentre in Belkot Gadhi of

Nuwakot district. In April 2015, a devastating earthquake of 7.8-magnitude rocked Nepal, killing nearly



9,000 people and wounding nearly 22,000 others. It also damaged over 800,000 houses and school buildings.

Hiroshima on Saturday remembered the atomic bombing 77 years ago as officials, including the head of the United Nations, warned against nuclear weapons buildup and as fears grow of another such attack amid Russia's war on Ukraine. "Nuclear weapons are nonsense. They

guarantee no safety — only death and destruction," said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who joined the prayer at the Hiroshima Peace Park. Three quarters of a century later, we

must ask what we've learned from the mushroom cloud that swelled above this city in 1945," he said. The United States dropped the world's

first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. It dropped a second bomb three days later on Nagasaki, killing another 70,000. Japan surrendered on Aug 15, ending World War II and Japan's nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.



grown amid Russia's threats of nuclear attack since its war on Ukraine began in

"Crises with grave nuclear undertones are spreading fast" in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula, Guterres said. We are one mistake, one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from Armageddon."

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, in his peace declaration, accused Putin of "using his own people as instruments of war and stealing the lives and livelihoods

Russia's war on Ukraine is helping build support for nuclear deterrence, Matsui said, urging the world not to repeat the mistakes that destroyed his city nearly eight decades ago. On Saturday, attendees including gov-

ernment leaders and diplomats observed a moment of silence with the sound of a peace bell at 8:15 am, the time when the US B-29 dropped the bomb on the city. About 400 doves, considered symbols of peace, were released.

Guterres met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida after the ceremony and raised alarm over the global retreat in nuclear disarmament, stressing the importance for Japan, the world's only nation to have suffered nuclear attacks, to take leadership in the effort, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

Kishida escorted Guterres in the peace museum, where they each folded an origami crane — a symbol of peace and nuclear weapons abolition.

## **India's forex reserves rises** after four weeks of fall

rose around \$2.4 billion during the week ending July 29 after falling for the four consecutive weeks. The rise was seen on back of positive inflows by the foreign investors in the Indian

equity market.

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$2.315 billion to \$573.875 billion during the week ending lune 29 according to the June 29, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly supplementary statistical data.

"India's foreign exchange reserves, supplemented by net forward assets, provide insurance against global spillovers. Our umbrella remains strong," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

"The Reserve Bank has also used its foreign exchange reserves accumulated over the years to curb volatility in the exchange rate," he added.

During the current financial year (up to August 4), the US dollar index (DXY) has appreciated by 8.0 per cent against a basket of major currencies. In this milieu, the Indian rupee has moved in a relatively orderly fashion depreciating by 4.7 per cent against the US dollar during the



same period, faring much better than several reserve currencies as well as many of its EME and Asian peers.

The depreciation of the Indian rupee is more on account of the appreciation of US dollar rather than weakness in macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy.

'Market interventions by the RBI have helped in containing volatility and ensuring orderly movement of the rupee. We remain watchful and focused on maintaining stability of the Indian rupee," Das

In July, foreign investors turned net buyers in the Indian equities nearly after 10 months,

with an investment of around Rs 4,980 crore in the Indian equity markets. This comes heavy sell-off by these entities of around Rs 50,203 crore.

According to the data NSDL data, investment of foreign investors in July month stood at Rs 4,989 crore, as compared to over Rs 50,000 crore outflows in June, Rs 39,993 crore in May and Rs 17,144 crore in April.

The other central banks of the asia also used their foreign exchange reserves to defend their currency. Despite the resultant draw-

down, India's foreign exchange reserves remain the fourth from payment devices. The company's user engagement, measured by largest globally.

#### jumps 89% to ₹1,680 cr in Q1 New Delhi: Digital financial services giant One97 Communications, that operates the brand Paytm, on Friday reported its Q1FY23 results, where it saw a massive jump in

Paytm's revenue

monthly transacting users (MTU), grew 49 per cent Y-o-Y to 74.8 million during the quarter, while the merchant base expanded 30 per cent Yo-Y to 28.3 million. This has resulted in a 101 per cent Y-o-Y jump in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), which stood at Rs 2.96 lakh crore during the quarter. Paytm continues to dominate the offline payments segment, with a total of 3.8 million total devices deployed, of which 2.8 million were added in the past 12 months and 0.9 million during the quarter.

The company's revenue from financial services grew 393 per cent Y-o-Y during the quarter, led by massive growth in Paytm's loan distribution business. During the quarter, Paytm disbursed 8.5 million

## AIPEF seeks PM intervention to ensure wider consultation on new electricity bill

Engineers Federation (AIPEF) has sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for referring the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, to the Parliamentary standing committee to ensure wider consultations on the proposed law.

After the announcement of

Union Power Minister R K Singh to place and pass Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, on August 8 in Parliament, AIPEF Chairman Shailendra Dubey in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought his intervention in the matter and has appealed him that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee of Parliament for detailed discussion with all stakeholders, an AIPEF statement said.

According to the statement, the National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees & Engineers (NCCOEÉE) and the AIPEF have already served a notice to the Ministry of Power that as and when the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2022 is placed in Parliament, all power employees and engineers across the country shall loans, representing a growth of 492 per cent Y-o-Y and 30 per cent Q-o-Q.

PTI

be forced to cease the work and hold demonstrations throughout the day to register their



The bill seeks to create competition in the power distribution (retail) segment. It proposes that a discom can use other power distribution

licensee's network. The bill also seeks to strengthen payment security mechanism and give more powers to regulators.

"It has become necessary to strengthen the regulatory mechanism, adjudicatory mechanism in the Act and to bring administrative reforms through improved corporate governance of distribution licensees," states the bill.

continuing as well as new challenges of sustainability of the power sector, contract enforcement, payment security mechanism, energy transition and the need to provide choice (of multiple service providers) to consumers in order to promote competition and the like, it has become necessary to make certain amendments in the

The AIPEF said that the bill no. 187 of 2022 contains a statement of objects and reasons which has been signed by the Minister (R.K. Singh), late on August 2, 2022.

Electricity Act".

#### HPCL reports record loss of ₹10,196 cr on petrol, diesel price freeze

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly net loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore in the June quarter as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision wiped away record refining

कार्य का नाम

राज्य योजना के अर्न्तगत विधानसभा

क्षेत्र बाजपुर में मुकुन्दपुर पैगा ढिकया

गुलाबो मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग सं0 105) के

चैनेज 13.700 से चैनेज 16.000 तक

(वीरपर से कटैया) पुनः निर्माण/

सुद्डीकरण का कार्य

10,196.94 crore during April-June compares with a net profit of Rs 1,795 crore in the same period a year back, according to a company's filing with the

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

वतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रूद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)

Phone Fax: 05944.240921 E-mail - sepwdusn@gmail.com

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लो०नि०वि० रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वार

निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई–टेण्डरिंग द्वारा टू–बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित

निविदा प्रपत्र

(रू० में)

निविदा की

120 दिन

कार्य पूर्ण

करने का

समय (माह में)

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्घात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 16.08.2022 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

घनराशि

(लाख में)

During the quarter, HPCL A standalone net loss of Rs and other state-owned fuel

retailers Indian Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) did not revise petrol and diesel prices in line with rising costs to help the gov-

दिनांक 05/08/2022

ठेकेदार की

सरकार के विभाग

कार्यों हेतु श्रेणी A/A+ पंजीकृत

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

ernment contain runaway

revenue from operations driven by strong monetiSation in payments, device subscriptions and accelerated adoption of

high-margin businesses such as

lending. In addition to 89 per cent

Y-o-Y revenue growth to Rs

1,680 crore, the company also

saw EBITDA (before ESOP)

reduce to Rs 275 crore, an

improvement of Rs 93 crore Q-

o-Q. As a result, the company's

contribution profit grew 197 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 726 crore,

leading to an increase in con-

tribution margin to 43 per

cent of revenues in comparison

revenue grew by 69 per cent Y-

o-Y (3 per cent Q-o-Q), sup-

ported by rapid growth in user

engagement, merchant base,

use cases on the Paytm super

app and subscription revenue

Paytm's payments services

to 35 per cent in Q4FY22.

The basket of crude oil India imports averaged USD 109 per barrel but the retail pump rates were aligned to about USD 85-86 a barrel

#### MGL net falls 9% on higher gas cost

New Delhi: Mahanagar Gas Ltd, which retails CNG and piped cooking gas in Mumbai and other cities, on Saturday reported a 9 per cent drop in its June quarter net profit as higher gas cost negated a rise in

Net profit of Rs 185.20 crore in April-June compared with Rs 204.08 crore in the same period a year back, according to a company's stock exchange filing. Revenue from operations soared more than twofold to Rs 1,613.19

crore.
Cost of natural gas, which is converted into CNG for sale ural gas for sale to households for cooking, jumped to Rs 1,004.53 crore from Rs 191.04 crore last year.

#### **Basmati rice exports up** 26% in Q1 to USD 1.15 bn



**New Delhi:** Exports of basmati rice increased by 25.54 per cent in April-June 2022-23 to USD 1.15 billion, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. The exports stood at USD 922

Non-basmati rice exports too increased by 5 per cent in June quarter to USD 1.56 billion, it said. Exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 31 per cent in the quarter to USD 7.4 billion.

million in the year-ago period.

For financial year 2022-23, an export target of USD 23.56 billion has been fixed by the Agricultural and Processed Development Authority (APEDA) for the agricultural and processed food products

these products, sectors which recorded growth during the period under review include fresh fruits and vegetables, and cereals. "The export of meat, dairy and poultry products increased by 9.5 per cent...Dairy products alone recorded a growth of 67.15 per cent as its export rose to USD 191 million in the first three months of the current fiscal," the ministry said. M Angamuthu, Chairman, APEDA, said by creating a

necessary ecosystem of exports along with collaboration with key stakeholders in the agriaiming to sustain the growth in India's agricultural and processed food exports in the current fiscal as well".

## SBI net profit drops 7% to ₹6,068 cr in Q1

biggest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday posted a 7 per cent decline in standalone net profit at Rs 6,068 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year due to fall in income.

The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 6,504 crore in the April-June quarter of 2021-

Its standalone total income declined to Rs 74,998.57 crore in the first quarter of 2022-23, as against Rs 77,347.17 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI

said in a regulatory filing.

The operating profit of the bank slipped by 33 per cent to Rs 12,753 crore from Rs 18,975 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal, impacted by Mark to Market (MTM)

"The MTM hit also had an adverse impact on bank's Return on Asset and Return on **PTI** | Equity, which stood at 0.48 per

Google launches 'India Ki Udaan'

to mark 75 years of Independence

cent and 10.09 per cent respec

However, interest income of the bank moved up to Rs 72,676 crore as against Rs 65,564 crore earlier. At the same time, net interest income increased to Rs 31,196 crore from Rs 27,638 crore in the first quarter of the last fiscal.

Net interest margin rose to 3.23 per cent as against 3.15 per

The bank's gross non-performing assets (NPA) ratio improved to 3.91 per cent from 5.32 per cent at June-end last year. Similarly, net NPAs declined to 1.02 per cent in June 2022 from 1.7 per cent a

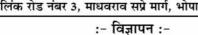
As a result, the provisions for bad loans declined to Rs 4,268 crore from Rs 5,030 in

Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved by 719 basis points to 75.05 per cent on annual basis.

#### लिंक रोड नंबर 3, माधवराव सप्रे मार्ग, भोपाल ( 462003 ) :- विज्ञापन :-

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश

( लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन )





विज्ञा.क्र./रा.स्वा.मि./मा संसा./सेल-1/2022/5365

भोपाल, दिनांक : 02.08.2022

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. के अन्तर्गत राष्ट्रीय बाल स्वास्थ्य कार्यक्रम में संविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक (डीईआईसी) के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2023 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षों की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा :-

क्र.	पदनाम	रिक्त पद	मासिक मानदेय	अनिवार्य शैक्षणिक योग्यता	आयु सीमा			
1	संविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक ( डीईआईसी )	22	30,000/- रूपये प्रतिमाह	किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान/विश्वविद्यालय से बैचलर ऑफ डेंटल सर्जरी (बी.डी.एस.) उत्तीर्ण। म.प्र. राज्य डेन्टल काउसलिंग में स्थायी जीवित वैद्य पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र होना अनिवार्य।	21-40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति अन्य पिछडा वर्ग, निशक्त जन/महिलाअं (अनारक्षित /आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा में 5 वर्ष की छूट) (01.01.2022 की स्थिति में)			

आवेदन सेम्स लिमिटेड के वेब पोर्टल www.sams.co.in के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है, आवेदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 08.08.2022 से उपलब्ध की जायेगी। ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 08.09.2022 है। ऑफ लाईन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य/स्वीकार नही किये जावेगें।

पद का नाम	कुल सीटें	अनारक्षित		आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर		अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग		अनुसूचित जाति		अन्य पिछडा वर्ग		रिक्तियों में मध्यप्रदेश की मूल निवासी दिव्यागंजन अभ्यार्थियों हेतु आरक्षित पदों की संख्या			
संविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक ( डीईआईसी )		ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन		VH व्ही. एच.	HH एच. एच.	OH ओ. एच.	MD एम डी.
	22	5	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	4	2	-	1	-	-

- दिव्यागजन का आरक्षण क्षैतिजिक (Horizonatal) के आधार पर 06 प्रतिशत का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है। नि:शक्तजन के लिए कुल रिक्तियों में से 06 प्रतिशत पद नि:शक्तजन के लिए आरक्षित है, जिस श्रेणी का नि:शक्तजन इन पदों के लिए चयनित होगा उसे उसी श्रेणी हेतु मान्य किया जावेगा। यह पद प्रत्येक श्रेणी की बिना वर्ग/ओपन नियुक्तियों में सम्मिलित है
- कोविड-19 के अंतर्गत अस्थायी एवं आकस्मिक रूप से कार्य करने वाले दंतशल्य चिकित्सक जिनसे न्युनतम् अविध 89 दिवस कार्य किया हो उसे संविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक (डीईआईसी) की भर्ती प्रक्रिया में 10 प्रतिशत अधिभार अंक (Weightage) प्राप्त करने की पात्रता होगी।
- निर्धारित प्रारूप में नहीं किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवदेन स्वयमेंव निरस्त माने जायेंगे।
- 5. अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- 6. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत निरस्त करने अथवा प्रक्रिया को निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन

मिशन संचालक

मध्यप्रदेश

## CAMS Q1 PAT up 2.4% to ₹65 crore

New Delhi: Registrar and transfer agent for mutual funds Computer Age Management Services on Saturday reported a 2.4 per cent growth in profit after tax to ₹64.78 crore for the April-June quarter of this fiscal. The company had posted a PAT of ₹63.24 crore in the same quarter of the last fiscal, Computer Age Management Services Ltd (CAMS) said in a statement.

Its revenue rose 17.6 per cent to ₹236.65 crore in the quarter under review from ₹201.18 crore in the three months to June 2021. Anuj Kumar, Managing Director CAMS Ltd, said that despite the volatile market situation, individual investor confidence remained high with buoyant equity net inflows supported by predictable, strong SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) collections of nearly ₹7,000 crore every month.

New SIPs clocking 10 lakh plus monthly registrations is another key trend pointing to mutual fund as the preferred route for long-term investors, he said. "Our share in assets under management (AUM) is at a robust 69 per cent serving 10 of the top 15 mutual funds. Our equity AUM expanded by 2.6 per cent quarter on quarter while our overall AUM saw a marginal decline of 1.6 per cent," he added.

#### New Delhi: Capturing the milestones India has achieved in its journey of 75 years since Independence, software giant Google on Friday unveiled a vibrant online project drawing from rich archives and featur-

ing artistic illustrations to tell the story of the country. Named 'India ki Udaan', the project executed by Google Arts & Culture celebrates the country's achievements and is"themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years".

The project was officially launched at a glittering event held at the Sunder Nursery here in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy and senior officials of the Culture Ministry



and Google.

As part of the countrywide celebrations, Google also announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Culture focused"on reaching informative online content that showcases the contributions of Indians and the evolution of India since 1947 to support the Government's year-long 'Azadi

Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme", the search giant said in a statement. It also announced that its

popular Doodle4Google contest for 2022, themed on 'In the next 25 years, my India will ..., is now open for entries to students of classes 1-10.

"The winner of this year's Doodle4Google will see their artwork on the Google homepage in India on November 14, and win a Rs 5,00,000 college scholarship, a Rs 2,00,000 technology package for their school/non-profit organisation, a recognition of achievement, Google hardware, and fun Google collectibles. Four group winners and 15 finalists will also win exciting prizes," it said in the statement.

#### Max Estates wins bid to acquire 4 acres land in Noida for ₹220 cr

New Delhi: Max Ventures & Industries Ltd (MaxVIL) has won a bid to acquire about 4 acres of land in Noida for ₹220 crore for development of a commercial project.

In a statement, MaxVIL said its real estate arm Max Estates through its special purpose vehicle (SPV) had bid for the two land parcels being auctioned Bank.
"Axis Bank has sent a con-

firmation letter ascertaining the company as the successful bidder for both the land parcels," MaxVIL said. The two land parcels are

and next to Max Estates' under-



mercial office project 'Max

The acquisition of the two land parcels contiguous to the Max Square project will enable the company to create a 6.6 acre office led multi-use located in Sector 129, Noida campus, MaxVIL said.

The construction work in

Max Square project is on track and expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of this fis-

"The company will acquire both these land parcels at a total cost of ₹220 crore subject to customary statutory approvals," MaxVIL said. The total development

size including Max Square (0.7 million square feet) for this campus will be 1.5-2 million square feet.

Under its strategy of 'One region and multiple asset classes', Max Estates plans to acquire and develop 1 million square feet of premium residential and commercial office spaces

#### 11 SRM medical students placed for US @ ₹55L/A

moment of pride for the students of Allied Health Sciences of Medical College Hospital and Research Centre at Kattankulathur near



Chennai. About 11 students from MSc Audiology and Speech Language Pathology department have been placed in United States of America (USA)at a very handsome pay package. Founder chancellor of SRMIST Dr T R Paarivendhar showered praises on the students who have won the placement with great pay package. The 11 students have been placed at Pleasanton in California

amounts to about ₹55 lakhs in the Indian estimates. The students have won applauds from every one at a function held in Chennai Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical and Health Sciences) at

of USA with a salary package of 72,000 USD per annum which

SRMIST Dr. A. Ravikumar said it is a matter of pride for the institution that trained these students.

G-15127/22

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी।

YOU WILL ALWAYS

BE ABLE TO

SUCCEED

EFFORTLESSLY, IF

YOU LOVE WHAT

YOU DO AND ARE

SURROUNDED BY

**SUPPORTIVE** 

FRIENDS AND

FAMILY.

THE DESIRE TO

CREATE SOMETHING

NEW IS THE ONE

QUALITY THAT IS

LEADING TODAY'S

TALENT AWAY FROM

**HOPELESSNESS** 

AND TOWARD

ENLIGHTENMENT



■ What was the thought behind creating the song Mutiyare Ni?

Singing is my passion. I have always said that singing is my first interest and Mutiyaare Ni is a very beautiful pop song that, unsurprisingly, has gotten immense positive feedback from my admirers. According to me, every upcoming song possesses an intention to entertain the audience with a fresh interpretation and requires a new effort.

■ Please tell us about your experience of shooting Mutiyare Ni with Olya Kryvenda?

She was effortless in her performance, and that, in my opinion, was her best attribute. It was an awesome experience to work with a wonderful artist. She has my best wishes for a successful future.

■ What are your thoughts about the current independent music scene in the country and how has it

With each passing year, a fresh singing technique is created, shared and enjoyed by the audience. Surprisingly, people of all ages enjoy it. The desire to create something new is the one quality that is leading today's talent away from hopelessness and toward enlightenment.

Your current Bollywood track Nach Punjaban is still ruling the charts. How do you feel about it?

Being a part of the track was an amazing experience for me and I'm extremely appreciative of the audience's support for it. The tune features all the unique Punjabi components that make the song so special, and I'm very happy about that.

What is your take on social media and its impact

on the popularity of music? Punjabis are great admirers of music and it has only enlightened with time. Yes, social media plays a big part in boosting the art of music.

You are an actor, singer, film director and producer. How do you juggle between

In this scenario, I would only state that you will always be able to succeed effortlessly, if you love what you do and are surrounded by supportive friends and family.

■ What's next in the music and movie space.

Finally, how has your experi-

ence been with Believe India? Currently, my upcoming movie Yaar Mera Titliyan Warga, which will release on September 2, is something I'm looking forward to.

looking forward to.

Talking about my upcoming projects, there will be a rollercoaster ride of entertainment back to back.

Singing is my USP, and this song holds a great place in my singing career. Mutiware

in my singing career. Mutiyare Ni is a song that has another level of authentic vibe that definitely makes your legs shake with every beat.

It's been an incredible journey with Believe Artist Services. The team in India is a very well-informed group of people and with their guidance and support on strategic and innovative marketing services, they are clear in their vision and do the job with clarity.

#### A Pawfect Day

Book Shaman in the City

is the thriller you were



DCC (Dogs Cats & Companions) Animal Hospital, a multi-specialty stateof-the-art pet care chains, has now opened its doors to pet parents at Uday Park, South Extension, New Delhi

A massive milestone for DCC, the inauguration took place on July 28, 2022, with a day-long series of fun-filled activities. President of the Veterinary Council of India (VCI),

looking for

Co-written by Vikas Trivedi and Smita Agarwal,

Shaman in the City is a

innocent lives lost that

published three books

together-The Hidden

been on the bestseller

14/2 the Attack of

Spark, 42 Days of Love &

Pulwama. Their books have

charts on Amazon. The new

readers hooked till the end."

receive praises from all across the world.

"I really enjoyed writing this book as it was somewhere connected to our own belief system as healers and believers in the powers of the universe. I can say we both loved the

experience, especially when we were brain-storming the plot,"

Agarwal says: "I and Vikas love to weave stories that give

hopes to people and make them believe in strange powers that we as humans possess and also the fact that our stories make

The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart and bookstores in

book Shaman in the City

was released earlier this

year and continues to

strangely connects to the

The duo has previously

psychological thriller about

hauntingly obsessive vision and unsolved past of some

Dr Umesh Sharma, was one of the key guests at the

Dignitaries from the Japanese Embassy in Delhi and the Director General of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Takashi Suzuki, were also in A caricature artist and

a mind games expert (behaviourist) were also present at the venue, keeping several socialites and pet parents entertained, especially the furry friends.

Presentations by senior doctors and Head of Veterinary Services, Dr Vinod Sharma were a reflection on the pet health category, where the need for efficacy of vaccines, focus on preventive care and also the need for deep diagnosis in animal health was well reflected.

VIKAS TRIVEDI

SMITA AGARWAL

# SMILE WITH CONFIDENCE

Let's not limit our oral health to just oral hygiene day. Cleanliness of your mouth tells a lot about your overall health. DR RIYA GUPTA answers some of the frequently asked questions, which every individual should be aware of

■Why is oral hygiene important?

Our body is made up of many complex systems. Each system works in harmony with the other system. In the same way, our oral health is the gateway for overall health.

Researches have proven that if a tooth decay is left untreated, harmful micro-organisms from the tooth can travel to the heart and brain (through the bloodstream) and can lead to infective endocarditis and stroke respectively. It has also been noted that if a pregnant woman has poor oral hygiene, it can lead to malnourished infants. Many systemic diseases, for example diabetes in their early stage shows their reflection in our mouth.

■What are some of the tooth friendly foods?

The foods we eat and our daily dietary pattern play an integral part in overall health and wellness of both the hard and soft tissues of our oral

Healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, milk, unsaturated fats benefit overall health.

For a good dental health, fiberrich crunchy food should be chosen as compared to boiled vegetables like carrots, cabbage and spinach. These crunchy foods will help in secretion ticles from sticking to tooth surface.

Milk is the best natural source of calcium. This helps in good growth of teeth and jaws. Milk is not only important for children growth but also for denture wearers to maintain optimum density of jaw bones.

Vitamin C helps in maintaining a proper gum health. Eating one piece of citrus fruit (like oranges, grapefruits or a kiwi) will prevent bleeding gums.

Citrus fruits should always be taken in moderation because acidic content in citrus fruit can lead to erosion of outer surface of tooth.

In this COVID Pandemic when it is of paramount importance to wear masks but wearing masks for long



hours can lead to dry mouth which can lead to tooth decay. This can be prevented by drinking water at regu-

■What are the oral hygiene practices that reduces the risk of oral health

A good oral health care routine keeps dental problems at bay. A good oral health care routine includes: -

Brushing twice a day with a fluoridated toothpaste and a soft toothbrush. This routine is also important for denture wearers they should also clean their dentures twice a day.

Tongue should be cleaned with a tongue scraper twice a day

After brushing, use floss or an interdental brush to prevent interproximal tooth decay.

Always change your toothbrush

after 3 months

It is of immense importance to gargle with warm saline water twice infection but promotes a good gum

Rinse your mouth with plain rater, after eating to prevent food particles from sticking to teeth. Avoid chewing tobacco and

drinking alcohol as it can lead to oral cancer. Do not use your teeth as tools for

cutting tapes and tearing packets

Do not share your oral hygiene kit between each other's as it can lead to transfer of harmful micro- organisms.

Regular dental check - ups after 6 months or as advised by your dentist helps in maintaining a healthy yet beautiful smile.

who are bottle fed or partial breast fed. Advise for breast feeding mothers

> Every effort should be taken to breast feed the babies exclusively for 6 months

■Oral Hygiene care for breast feed-

observed as "Breastfeeding Week". It

becomes important to say that breast-

feeding has direct link with develop-

nutritious containing antibody and

anticariogenic property which reduces

the risk of dental decay in children.

infants who are breastfed exclusively

for 6 months have less chances for

misalignment as compared to those

ment of jaws in infants.

1st August to 7th August is also

Mother's breast milk is highly

Researches have even proven

ing mothers?

During breast feeding, mothers should not neglect their oral hygiene.
They should not forget to brush

their teeth, tongue cleaning, flossing twice a day and prescribed dental visit. A mother with poor oral hygiene can transfer harmful micro-organisms

to infants via kissing. After breastfeeding, it is very essential to clean the gum pads of the child with a gauze piece or a cotton

cloth. This will not only maintain a be created for cleaning gum pads. Parents should also ensure that

their children sleep with their lips closed and they do not develop habits like digit or thumb sucking

Increase in stress among breast feeding mothers might make them grind their teeth which can lead to tooth decay, tooth ache and sometimes jaw pain.

If someone is facing this issue it is of immense importance to visit den-

tist and your dentist might suggest you a night guard. Every smile makes a person a day

younger.

Dr Riya Gupta, Dental Surgeon

#### How the role of leadership is changing

he past couple of years have impacted the global economy in unprecedented ways. The pandemic, a raging war, an uncertain political climate, and inflation at large have brought more volatility and uncertainty into the business world

CEOs and senior leaders cope with unprecedented demands, being forced to make decisions about uncharted territory, leading in times of crisis. Leaders are no longer simply accountable for financial performance or creating shareholder value but report to a rising number of stakeholders. Their role has also become more publicfacing with the rise of social media and PR.

This is a tall order to navigate and it means reimagining senior leadership roles in the wake of these expectations. Senior leaders have to gain a global perspective, redefine their critical thinking abilities, embrace digital transformation trends, and wear multiple hats successfully to battle disruption and innovate at the pace of

—John Kallelil, Founder & CEO, XED

#### Creating a safe space

O<sup>2</sup> Cure, a renowned air purification solution provider under Zeco Aircon Limited, extended its support to ITC Hotels Group in providing a safe environment for its clients amidst and post-pandemic, by making its properties immune to airborne cross-infection such as flu. microbes, and viruses transmitted from one person to another. As per the association, Zeco Aircon has equipped more than 20 ITC Hotel properties in India with over 650 PHI-Cells (Photohydroionization Technology) to decontaminate 150 million ft2 of air.

This technology is capable of eliminating airborne pathogens. While airborne microbes spread using air as a medium, PHI-Cell technology uses the same medium for decontamination. It is one of the few technologies tested by global virology labs to neutralise the deadly virus in the air and on surfaces. ITC Hotels has put many efforts into providing a safe and healthy environment for its clients

#### Priyanka Agarwal astounds people with her content



The closer we look around, the more we find stories about how men have gone ahead in taking over varied industries and sectors around the world. However, people have now started holding more discussions around the successes of women because they have stunned the world with their innate skills, knowledge, and talents, which they have been doing for years and have proved why they deserve to gain equal or perhaps more recognition in all that they

RKYTALE

choose to do in their careers and lives. It is essential to throw more light on their journeys because they have the power to ignite the fire within others to follow their dreams and fulfil the same. Priyanka Agarwal is one among those who showed people what it takes to become one's best version. She is this vivacious personality, a lover of travel, animals, and photography who has created her unique niche in social media.

meeting people online. Acing the game in social media is Agarwal, who does the same with her content on travel and her photography of the wild animals she feels passionate about.

her captures of wild animals to showcase to the world what "real beauty" is. This has what earned her a colossal number of fans and followers, who today excitedly wait for her to drop new content and mesmerise them with her photography skills. "I love being in and around nature and the forests. It represents true beauty for me in the most vulnerable form. It makes me feel grateful for the nature and wildlife we have, and clicking their pictures only fills my soul with much happiness and joy," says the wildlife enthusiast.

Agarwal (Instagram: @priagarwal) loves the life she has created for herself, where she travels to different places and enjoys every moment to the fullest.

## An optimistic mind can spread



Social media has gone beyond being only a social platform for

Agarwal posts incredible content around her travel stories and

## goodness in others: Ishu Kalra



■How can we enjoy sweets without

Sweets and refined sugars are very

It is advised to eat sweets before

Always rinse mouth with plain

Try consuming sweets and refined

sugars only once a day because a sin-

gle exposure of mouth to a large

amount of sugary food is less cario-

genic than multiple exposure of sug-

ly after eating sweets this can lead to

tooth erosion (wait for at least 15 to

30 minutes till then chew on fibrous

color as it can stain your teeth

Avoid sweets containing artificial

Avoid brushing teeth immediate-

harming our teeth?

water after eating.

ars throughout the day.

fruits like apples)



parts of the world, where many such youngsters have gone beyond making a mark in their careers and have taken multiple steps in philanthropy to serve their countries better and be there for their community and people. We saw how Ishu Kalra did the same as a growing social worker whose humanitarian works have earned him incredible respect and recognition.

Kalra is truly changing the landscape of social work in Punjab India, through his one-of-a-kind non-profit Humanity NGO, which he spearheads with the genuine purpose of being there for his people and serving them the best in times of need. He recalls how during the pandemic, where lives were disrupted, he and his organisation came forward to do their bit, distributing masks and sanitizers and providing

medicines and rations to them. Not just that, Kalra is also the one who has come forward to fight for the rights of women and support women empowerment. His NGO has been doing impeccable work serving all those in need, and their work has also been supported by celebrities like Sania Mirza and Nimrat Khaira.

Kalra (Instagram: @ishu\_kalra99) requests more and more people to join in the bandwagon of serving people and encourage them to contribute their efforts to society to bring in a positive change they wish to see around them.

## Dyson unveiled its best-performing and most

efficient Airwrap yet - the Dyson AirwrapTM multi-styler today for the Indian market. Relentlessly dissatisfied, Dyson engineers challenged their own design to miniaturise and multiply the Coanda effect, pioneering a fully customisable styling tool to deliver a range of styles for all Indian hair types, without extreme heat.

Enhanced styling versatility: Led by Dyson's continued dedication to better understand hair damage and hair types, the new multistyler now caters to more hair types and styles Engineering in a

simulated world: Iterating virtually through advanced computational fluid dynamics, machine learning and intelligent digital design software allowed for fewer physical prototypes and more sustainable development practices in Dyson's R&D process.

## INDIA BEAT ENGLAND BY FOUR RUNS TO ENTER CWG FINAL

ll-rounder Sneh Rana showed nerves of steel by choking runs in death overs as Indian women's cricket team pipped hosts England by four runs to enter the final of the Commonwealth Games on

Needing 165 to win, England were cruising along at 132 for 3. The hosts required only 33 runs off 24 balls but offspinner Rana (4-0-28-2) bowled extremely well. She gave away only 3 runs in the 18th and 9 runs in the final over. England finished at 160 for 6 and even a last-ball maximum from Sophie Ecclestone couldn't save the day for the hosts with Harmanpreet Kaur's brigade earning a sweet revenge of the 2017 ODI World Cup final defeat at the Lord's

If Smriti Mandhana's 32ball-61 was a treat for the eyes, Rana, India's forever 'MVP', Deepti Sharma (4-0-18-1) and Pooja Vastrakar (3-0-20-0) didn't err in line or length under pressure. The match seemed to have decisively tilted in favour of England when



Shafali Verma, whose friendly "donkey drops" in the 16th over fetching the home team 15 runs. But Deepti and Rana collectively gave away only six runs in the 17th and 18th over respectively.
Pooja leaked 13 runs in the

19th over but the Mandhana-Taniya Bhatia combination pulled off a brilliant run out of the dangerous Nat Sciver to change the course. It was then left to Rana to bowl at least five good balls that

assured a medal for India in the inaugural edition of women's cricket. Earlier Mandhana's elegant yet brutal knock of 61 along with Jemimah Rodrigues' useful 44 not out powered India to a healthy 164 for 5 in 20 overs.Mandhana's 32-ball assault in the Powerplay laid the platform while Rodrigues, who is finally doing justice to her enormous potential, improvised well during his 31-ball unbeaten stay at the crease.

En route her knock, Mandhana also recorded the fastest T20 International fifty in women's cricket off only 23



#### Boxers Nitu, Amit Panghal storm into finals, eye CWG gold medals

**PTI** ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian boxer Amit Panghal (51kg) displayed his class as he reached his second consecutive Commonwealth Games final while Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) also remained on course for a gold in her maiden appearance here on Saturday.

Panghal, who is vying to

win the yellow metal after his silver in the last edition, came from behind to beat an aggressive Patrick Chinyemba of Zambia with a 5-0 unanimous decision win.

Nitu, on the other hand, prevailed over Canada's Priyanka Dhillon as she notched a RSC (Referee Stops Contest) win in the minimum weight category

Such was the 21-year-old Nitu's confidence that she played with an open guard, inviting her opponent to strike while using her straight jabs and combination punches to great effect. In the end, the referee had to end the contest.

Both the boxers will have to overcome local challengers in Kiaran Macdonald (men's fly) and Demie-Jade Resztan (women's minimum) in their respective finals on Sunday in pursuit of their maiden gold

## Sindhu enters women's singles semis, Kashyap's campaign ends in CWG

Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu struggled past Malaysia's Goh Wei Jin in women's singles quarterfinals to stay on course for a maiden individual gold medal at the Commonwealth Games here on

A former world champion, Sindhu registered a come-from-behind 19-21 21-14 21-18 win over Goh, ranked 60th, to enter her third successive semifinals at the Commonwealth Games

However, young Aakarshi Kashyap's CWG debut ended with a 10-21 7-21 defeat to Scotland's Kristy Gilmour, a silver and bronze medallist in 2014 and 2018 editions respectively. Sindhu, who had won a bronze and silver in the last two editions, looked slightly shaky against Goh, whom she had defeated in two tight games in the mixed team championship final.

Goh's attacking prowess was once again on display as she made the Indian work hard in the opening game.
The 27-year-old from Hyderabad

had a two-point cushion in the midgame interval but Goh managed to turn



the tables with her better display in the second half of the first game to take a 1-0 lead in the match.

A vastly experienced Sindhu, however, got back her bearing soon as the duo engaged in some superb rallies with the Indian managing to grab a three-point advantage at the break.

Sindhu, ranked world number 7, extended her lead to 19-14 and soon roared back in the contest.

rallies with the duo moving neck-andneck till 6-6. Sindhu managed to eke out a 8-6 lead but Goh soon reeled off three points to turn the tables

The decider saw some enthralling

third successive gold. Vinesh has been struggling for

Tokyo Games silver medallist Ravi Kaumar Dahiya was also too good for his field. He won both his bouts — against Suraj Singh of New Zealand and Pakistan's Asad Ali -

He will face Ebikewenimo Welson for his maiden

## **Intimidating Vinesh**

PTI BIRMINGHAM

**Phogat in line for** 

**CWG** gold, Dahiya

eases into final

Putting aside the mental and physical struggles that pegged her back, an intimidating Vinesh Phogat pounced on her rivals to put herself in line for a hat-trick of CWG gold medals while the formidable Ravi Dahiya too cruised into the final, here on Saturday.

In what was expected to be a tough opener against world championship bronze medallist Samantha Leigh Stewart, Vinesh reduced it to a no contest and finished it in mere 36 seconds. Vinesh had the Canadian in a head lock from where she pushed her on the mat and in no time pinned her

Even before people could warm up to the contest, it was all over.

Next up for the 27-year-old Vinesh was Nigeria's Mercy Bolafunoluwa Adekuoroye, who tried to resist a bit but soon the Indian had her in an iron grip. Vinesh kept her in that position for more than a minute in a magnificent show of power. With only four wrestlers in the women's 53kg draw, Vinesh now needs to beat Sri Lanka's Chamodya Keshani Maduravlage Don to win her

form and fitness ever since her defeat at the Tokyo Games, where she entering the field as the hot favourite for the gold medal.

by technical superiority.

#### OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL: RAMBHA e- Procurement Notice No 1758 Dt. 03/08/2022 **Tender Reference No.- RAB-NAC-**

The Rambha N.A.C. invites online bid in single cover system through e-

Value of works - Rs. 3,12,000 to Rs 4,60,000.00. Date and time of availability of bids documents in the portal from 10.00 A.M of 06.08.2022 to

05.00 P.M of 23.08.2022 Last date of receipt of bids in the portal dt. 23.08.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.

Last date of submission of original documents in the Office of NAC Rambha is dt.24.08.2022 up to 12.00 Noon.

Date of opening of tender: - Dt. 24.08.2022 at 01.00 PM in NAC Office, Rambha. Further details can be seen from the website:- https://tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR-13114/11/0004/2223

**Executive Officer** 

Ltr. No.6822// Dtd.02.08.2022

Total Numbers of work: 03 Nos.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Superintending Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar
one/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E -mail: eernbbngr@y INVITATTIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E -BNJ-R&B- 10 / 2022-23.

Name of work **Building Works** No. of works One No. of Works

No. of Covers Rs.27.965 lakhs

Date of time of availability of bid document in

From 12.00 Noon of dated 12.08.2022 to 5.00 PM. of dated 22.08.2022.

Up to 5.00 PM, of dated 22.08.2022. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the porta Date of opening of bid documents At 11.00 A.M. of 23.08.2022.

Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjal

Further details can be seen from the e-P be hosted in the website only

RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EESNG-14 of 2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

:- 01 no Road

Total No. of works Estimated cost :- Rs. 53.10 Lakhs

Period of completion :- 04 calendar months

Type of Tender :- Double Cover

Other details

Availability of Tender On-line for Procurement Office Bid Identification No. Superintending Engine Online-EESNG-14 24.08.2022 05.30 P.M 08.08.2022 10.00 A.M Sundargarh.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in OIPR-25046/11/0017/2223 Rural Works Division, Sundargar

#### World U20 Athletics C'ship: Triple jumper Selva P Thirumaran clinches silver

PTI CALI (COLOMBIA)

▼ndian triple jumper Selva P Thirumaran Limproved his personal best to clinch the silver medal at the World U20 Athletics Championship here. The 17-year-old managed a distance

of 16.15m to finish two centimetres ahead of Estonia's Viktor Morozov. The gold went to Jamaican Jaydon Hibbert who broke the Championship

Record with his 17.27m effort.

came in his second attempt. The Indian women's team qualified

for the 4x400m relay finals. The quartet of Summy, Priya

Habbathanahalli Mohan, Rajitha Kunja and R upal clocked 3:34.18 to finish second in heat 3 and fourth fastest Olympic champion javelin thrower

Neeraj Chopra was the first Indian to win a gold in the championships in 2016 in



Poland. Indian athletes have picked up three medals at the tournament, which was earlier known as World Junior Championships, so far, including two silver and a bronze.

In the last edition in Nairobi in 2021, India had won three medals — 2 silver,

## Steeplechaser Sable, race walker Priyanka clinch silver medals in CWG



**PTI** ■ BIRMINGHAM

vinash Sable broke his own Anational record to win a silver in the men's 3000m steeplechase while Priyanka Goswami also clinched a medal of the same hue in the women's 10,000m race walk on a productive day for India in the Commonwealth Games athletics competition here on Saturday.

Goswami also scripted history as she became the first Indian woman to win a medal in race walk with a silver in 10,000m event. With the two silver, the

count swelled to four and it has already gone past the number in 2018 Gold Coast where the country had won a gold, silver and bronze each in track and High jumper Tejswin

Indian athletics team's medal

Shankar and long jumper Murali Sreeshankar had won a bronze and silver respectively in Birmingham. The 27-year-old Sable clocked 8:11.20s to better his earlier national record of

8:12.48 and finish behind Kenyan Abraham Kibiwot (8:11.15). Another Kenyan Amos Serem took the bronze with a time of 8:16.83. Kibiwot had finished fifth

in the World Championships in Eugene, USA, last month with a time of 8:28.95s while Sable had ended a disappointing 11th, clocking 8:28.95s in the slowest ever 3000m steeplechase in the history of the

With the silver, Sable made amends for his disappointing performance in the World Championships.



## ରାଜ୍ୟଞ୍ଚରୀୟ ଜାତୀୟ ହୁଞ୍ଚତନ୍ତ ଦବସ

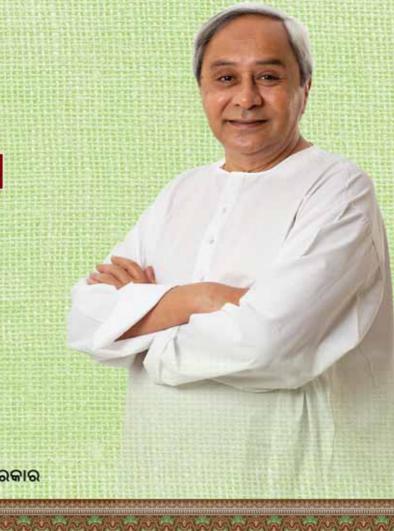
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ଆମ ବୁଣାକାର, ଆମ ହୟତନ୍ତ ଆମ ପରମ୍ପରା, ଆମ ଗୌରବ ।

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ଆୟୋକକ: ବୟନିକା ଓ ବୟନଶିଳ୍ପ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟ ହଞ୍ଚତନ୍ତ, ବୟନ ଓ ହଞ୍ଚଶିଳ୍ପ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର



August 7, 2022

# a Comment of the pioneer of the pion

"Your regrets aren't what you did, but what you didn't do. So take every opportunity"



India's telecom auction process has a long history associated with politics, corruption, and legal cases, writes J GOPIKRISHNAN

## FROM 2G TO 5G AUCTION

# THE GREAT INDIANT TELECON SAGA

he 5G spectrum auction has reaped a whopping sum of ₹1,50,173 crore for the public exchequer. This massive figure is the highest value collected in India through not only spectrum auctions but also from any kind of bidding process, be it coal or power, or land auctions. As expected, the country's leading telecom operator Mukesh Ambani-headed Reliance Jio made the highest bid for 5G waves in all 22 circles as well as for other frequencies and paid ₹88,078 crore.

Jio was followed by India's first private telecom operator Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel, which made a successful bid of ₹43,084 crore by competing in all 22 telecom circles. Cash-strapped Vodafone Idea headed by Aditya Birla Group, which continues to struggle with financial woes despite Government's grand bailout packages, bid only in 17 circles and bought spectrum for ₹18,799 crore only.

Adani Group also bid for 5G to operate their private network installed in airports, sea ports, and power stations by paying ₹212 crores for 400 MHz.

As per the convention, Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) BSNL and MTNL did not attend the auction. They will be allotted 5G spectrum at the highest price reached in auction at each circle. Sadly, these two PSUs have not yet optimized the service and even in the usage of 4G. It has to be seen how much time they take to activate 5G on their networks.

Interestingly, the 5G auction turned out to be the only auction where Chinese telecom giants have been kept out from supplying gears, machinery, etc., ringing in cheers for European telecom equipment giants like Nokia, Ericson, and Korean behemoth Samsung.

India's auction process has a long history associated with politics, corruption, and legal cases. The government decided to conduct the auction for the first time in the telecom sector in 2001. Then India had only four million mobile phone users, and through pan Indian (all the 22 telecom circles) auction, telecom license fee with spectrum allotment arrived at a handsome figure of ₹1651 crore. Undivided Reliance and Tata Group entered the telecom sector through this process. Earlier, players like Airtel and BPL were cajoled by the Government to enter the sector in 1994 at a very low price. Those were the days when the incoming call rate was Rs Eight and outgoing ₹16 per minute on a minuscule customer base.

While the ruling BJP rejoiced over the final figures of the 5G auction that came out on August 1 after four days of bidding, 2G Scam-hit former Telecom Minister A. Raja got his chance to take a jibe at the NDA government. Raja called for a probe into the auction asserting that the 5G spectrum should have been sold for ₹5 lakh crores. Raja compared the 5G spectrum amount of ₹1.5 lakh crore with the notional loss of ₹1.76 lakh crore in the 2G auction during his tenure as calculated by the CAG and said that 5G has more spectrum, it should have fetched more for the government.

"When I recommended only 30 MHz of spectrum to TRAI, the regulatory authority, the then CAG Vinod Rai said? ₹1.76 lakh crore loss to the Government. But now 5G only for ₹1.5 lakh crore?" Raja asked.

Raja and several other Opposition leaders vented their anger against the then CAG Vinod Rai for "sabotaging the UPA regime" and providing a platform for the rise of the BJP by alleging a scam in the 2G auction. These allegations are laughable given the gross procedural irregularities in the allotment of the spectrum during Raja's regime.

#### AUCTION OF SPECTRUM, COAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Government was forced to conduct a 3G and BWA spectrum auction in April 2010, when the 2G Scam of 2008 made headlines. The scamhit UPA Government formed a Group of Ministers headed by then Finance Minister



THE MERIT OF THE **AUCTION CAN BE SEEN** IN THE RISE OF RATES FROM 2014 ONWARDS. IN FEBRUARY 2014. THE SPECTRUM **AUCTION BAGGED** ₹62.162 CRORE TO THE **PUBLIC EXCHEQUER** AND THE RATES WERE HIGHER THAN THE 2010 3G AUCTION, JUSTIFYING THE CAG'S LOSS FIGURE BASED ON THE 3G AUCTION RATES. IN MARCH 2015, THE SPECTRUM **AUCTION FETCHED THE** GOVERNMENT ₹1,10,000 CRORE, AND IN DECEMBER 2016 THE SPECTRUM **AUCTION BROUGHT IN** ₹65,789 CRORE TO THE PUBLIC EXCHEQUER. AGAIN IN MARCH 2021, THE SPECTRUM AUCTION GAVE ₹77, 814 CRORES WHEREAS THE RECENT 5G **AUCTION PROVIDED** THE HIGHEST FIGURE ₹1,50, 173 CRORES, **TOTALING AROUND** ₹5.9 LAKH CRORES TO THE PUBLIC **EXCHEQUER BY AUCTION** 



a telecom business

than ₹4,500 crore.

In November 2010, the CAG submitted a report to Parliament outlining the illegalities in the 2G Scam allotment and claiming a notional loss of ₹1.76 lakh crore in the auction. For this, CAG Vinod Rai was maligned and bullied by

Pranab Mukherjee, sidelining Telecom Minister

A. Raja and the public exchequer got a huge sum

of ₹1,06, 200 crores. This figure ignited the anti-

corruption wave and opposition demanding the

removal of Telecom Minister A Raja who allot-

ted 2G Spectrum and 122 licenses to many com-

panies, most of them from real estate sectors, at

out auction in 2008 at a price arrived in 2001. In

2001, the pan-Indian license (total 22 licenses)

value was ₹1651 crore when India had just four

million mobile phone users. But in 2008, India's

number of mobile phone users crossed 300 mil-

lion, and the Minister, ignoring Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh's direction, gave away licens-

es and spectrum at a seven-year-old fixed rate.

Among the 122 licenses, around 86 licenses, did

not get clearance from the Regulator TRAI to start

and lawyer Prashant Bhushan approached the

Supreme Court demanding the cancellation of all

122 tainted licenses granted by Raja and conduct-

ing fresh auction. The CBI in its FIR in 2009 on

the 2G Scam pegged the loss to the public exche-

quer at 30,000 cr. Things got murkier when the

beneficiary companies started selling their shares

to multinational companies for huge premiums.

For example, Swan Telecom sold around half of

its shares to UAE telecom giant Etisalat for more

By that time BJP leader Subramanian Swamy

Raja gave telecom licenses and spectrum with-

a throwaway price of just ₹9, 200 crores.

Congress and DMK MPs in JPC and PAC and in the public domain. How the auditors finalised the loss figure is a matter of record in the CAG's depositions before JPC and PAC. The auditors had derived around 10 types of rates for calculating the expected loss to the public exchequer.

The figures were based on the sale of shares to multinationals by the beneficiary companies in the 2G scam and the companies reaping the benefit of Dual Policy (Anil Ambani's Reliance, Tata, and Shyam Telecom). Somehow probes against the Dual Policy, the fountainhead of 2G Scam fizzled out. The lowest loss figure arrived at was a ₹60,000 crore loss based on the sale of shares of Swan Telecom to Etisalat. The highest loss figure arrived at was ₹4.25 lakh crore based on the sale of Tata shares to Japanese firm DoCoMo. As this price was based on the brand value of Tata, the auditors did not consider it.

At last CAG auditors after deliberations decided to stick to the rates of the 3G and BWA auction of April 2010, and based on these rates the 2G Scam loss was estimated at ₹1.76 lakh crore. Interestingly, the BWA spectrum was later conveniently termed the 4G spectrum. This was seen as a real Indian Jugad. In February 2012, Supreme Court cancelled all 122 licenses allotted by Raja and ordered an immediate auction and also called for an auction of all natural resources, later leading to the cancellation of all coal blocks. The Government went for Presidential Reference in the Supreme Court, which justified its decision to auction all natural resources in place of arbitrary allocations

Many of the operators and the authorities resorted to every possible trick to sabotage the first auction in November 2012 after the Supreme Court verdict of Justices GS Singhvi and AK Ganguly. Airtel's Sunil Mittal even said the auction would not last a day. But just 19 licenses were

sold at ₹9400 crore, while in 2G Scam 122 licenses were given away arbitrarily for just ₹9,200 crore.

The merit of the auction can be seen in the rise of rates from 2014 onwards. In February 2014, the spectrum auction bagged ₹62,162 crore to the public exchequer and the rates were higher than the 2010 3G auction, justifying the CAG's loss figure based on the 3G auction rates. In March 2015, the spectrum auction fetched the government ₹1,10,000 crore, and in December 2016 the spectrum auction brought in ₹65,789 crore to the public exchequer.

Again in March 2021, the spectrum auction gave  $\ref{77}$ , 814 crores whereas the recent 5G auction provided the highest figure  $\ref{1,50}$ , 173 crores, totaling around  $\ref{5.9}$  lakh crores to the public exchequer by auction.



The full optimization of 5G technology will be reached only when the country's BSNL and MTNL are equipped with the 5G technology. It is high time for the merger of BSNL and MTNL by delisting MTNL from stock exchanges. Sadly, BSNL and MTNL are not yet fully equipped with 4G. The Narendra Modi Government has come out with a huge package to revive these two strategic PSU telecom companies. If the plans work out, then only the 5G technology could reach most of the users across the country.

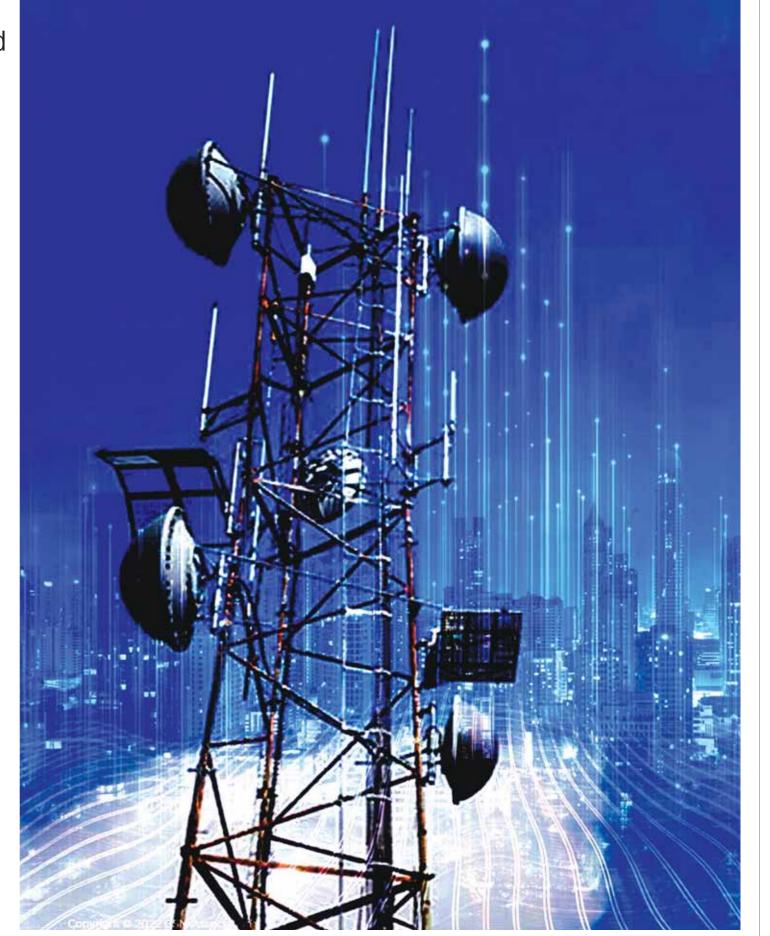
Incidentally, all the private operators only roll out their technology in Metros Cities and urban areas based on commercial viability. Since only BSNL can reach out to the entire country, hence 5G and all technologies must be made available to the public sector telecom firm for the benefit of the entire Indian population.

(The writer is a Special Correspondent of The Pioneer)



The Uttar Pradesh Government has dismissed as "baseless" the report "Money spinner transfer industry" published in the agenda section of the Pioneer dated. July 31, 2022. Additional Chief Secretary, Information department, Navneet Sehgal has issued a strongly-worded rebuttal to the report and said it is not based on fact.

The Pioneer would like to clarify it has no intention to cast aspersion on the functioning of the state government and has even highlighted the stern steps taken by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to curb corruption. The story talks at length about how the Chief Minister has taken administrative action against over 1,000 officials to weed out corruption in the government departments. The transfer rates mentioned in the story were hearsay without corroborating the facts and were unintentional and regrettable.



August 7, 2022

# LONELINESS-A SILENT KILLER

Loneliness can affect anybody. Experts define it as a "distressing feeling that accompanies the perception that one's social needs are not being met by the quantity or especially the quality of one's social relationships." Covid-19-induced restrictions have just added to the woes. The experts tell ARCHANA JYOTI that everyone who may be feeling lonely, or isolated should reach out to someone, and if they know someone who they feel might be lonely, or isolated to get in touch.

Seventy years old Kamlesh Patel (name changed) who retired as a senior bureau-crat, is a lonely man now. With his wife passing away two years ago, both the children settled abroad, and no close friends and relatives around, he is leading a secluded life in his 3-BHK apartment in a posh locality in the national capital. When in job, Patel failed to balance his personal/professional and social life. So, he is now rejected by those who really mattered in his life then. Now, he cannot blame anyone but himself for this situation that led him to loneliness.

\*Thirty-five years old Sanjay Rastogi is surrounded by so many people, but he is still leading a lonely life. It's all because of an inferiority complex, he developed when he failed to convert his dream of becoming an IAS into reality. A brilliant student, Rastogi couldn't accept any job lower than an IAS officer. Now, he avoids social contact and is in a kind of confinement because of low self-esteem, sadness, and fear of being repulsed/rebuffed.

These two cases are just the tip of the iceberg. As per the findings of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) released in 2017, over12 per-cent of Indian youth reported feeling depressed often, and 8 per cent reported feeling lone-

ly quite frequently.
A study "What causes loneliness among household heads: a study based in a primary setting in Mumbai, India" found that around 7 per cent of respondents often felt lonely, while 21 per cent sometimes experienced loneliness in the last seven days preceding the survey date.

"Household heads with two or more chronic diseases had higher odds of loneliness than household heads without any chronic disease. The odds of loneliness were almost 3 times higher among females as compared to males. Household heads living alone (single) had higher odds to suffer from loneliness than those living in a joint family," it said.

The study conducted by Vidya Yadav, Assistant Professor P.G. Department of Geography, College of Commerce, Arts & University, Patna, Shekhar Chauhan and Ratna Patel, Department of Public Health and Mortality Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai has been published in the BMJ

Public Health. They researchers noted that lifestyle of urban dwellers adversely affects their health not only physically but mentally too. In this context, loneliness rapidly emerged as a public health concern in the urban



"Furthermore, many identified the risk factors of loneliness that could be avoided if timely preventive measures could be taken along with adequate care. Improvement in the aesthetic design of future slum rehabilitation projects can promote a socially cohesive environment," they found.

Situation is not encouraging elsewhere. A study in 2020 by Cigna found that 61 per cent of Americans reported being lonely in 2019, up from 54 per cent in 2018. Some figures suggest loneliness affects the well-being of as many as 3 in 10 people. Similarly, yet another study same year but conducted by the University of Edinburgh suggests that the causes of loneliness differ depending on the age of the individual.

For example, older adults experience loneliness more frequently as a result of living alone, while middle-aged individuals aren't as likely to report living alone as a cause of their loneli-



JR Gupta, President of Senior Citizens Council of Delhi avers saying that "Older individuals are more likely to have lost friends and family members, and they are more likely to experience medical or physical limitations that restrict their opportunities for activities and socializing."

Recently Longitudinal Ageing Study of India too says that approximately 23% of the elderly stay

and affects almost everyone at some point in time. Gupta says that on their part they have been organising various tours and get together events so that their elder members do not feel that they are alone in their travail. "Sharing

reduces the pain of loneliness,

alone, without children. While

loneliness can have an impact

across ages and be relevant irre-

spective of whether you stay

alone or in a full house, it is most

common among those above 60



Dr. RK Dhamija, Director Delhi-based Institute of Behaviour Human Allied Sciences (IBHAS) emphasizes that loneliness is both a cause and consequence of mental health disorders. Sometimes though, "loneliness may result in lifestyle modifications such as joining fitness classes, seeking outdoor adventure."

Although loneliness and fused, being alone doesn't necessarily mean someone is lonely. "Loneliness is a feeling while being alone is a situation or state of being, which is not inherently negative," says Nina Vasan, psychiatrist and professor at Stanford University School of Medicine and chief medical officer at Real, an online mental wellness membership site.

'You can feel lonely even when you're surrounded by other people—such as a partner, family, co-workers or friends," Dr. Vasan says.

#### Tips to Manage that Feeling

But there is light at the end of tunnel. RABYA KHATOON, Delhi-based clinical psychologist talks about how to beat Ioneliness

Take control of your time: When you feel lonely. It means time for yourself to make a list of your goals and try to accomplish them. · Selfcare: It tends to improve mood, quality of life, and physical and mental health · Manage your leisure time with your skills: You allow doing your skills like painting, cooking, dancing and some other activities. Join a social group: Join dance class. club, swimming, and some other social groups help to reduce your loneliness and it also helps to increase your physical and mental energy. Give priority to close relationships: Relationship matters in loneliness. Keep in touch with your loved one whether you touch it online or offline. · Self-love: Be your own

your own work. It helps to improve your self-esteem which supports physical and psychological growth. · Enjoy your own company: Connect with your own pleasant memories. · Active lifestyle: You can beat your loneliness with your active lifestyle. Make activity schedule include your sleep 6-7hour, healthy foods,

exercise, fun, and traveling. Enjoy the little moment: Celebrate little moments like birthdays, organize a small party for fun, reading books that help to improve mental and physical health. · Count blessings: Count your achievements and do appreciate them. It develops a

positive approach toward

#### Nations Gear up to Tackle Loneliness



Delhi Government has started 'Happiness Curriculum' to teach students how to keep the stress and loneliness at bay

 $V_{
m the}$  world are gradually waking up to this silent killer. If the UK appointed a designated loneliness minister in 2018 to reach out to its older people. Japan last vear took similar step after it felt that loneliness is groups, including children, young people, women and older people. Rising cases of suicide was immediate trigger.

In India, Delhi Government has started 'Happiness Classes' while a few years ago, Madhya Pradesh set up a 'Happiness Department', with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan saying it will work to ensure "happiness in the lives of the common people" along the lines of the neighboring country Bhutan. Since 2008, Bhutan has

is a column to fill in the information about citizens' level of life satisfaction. This information is acquired using measuring citizens' happiness and well-being that also provides guidelines to design evidence-based policies. Happiness classes have brought a pathbreaking change

established the Ministry of

Happiness to measure the

happiness of its citizens. In the

nonulation census form, there

in the student's mindset, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia says explaining that the "curriculum has changed students' learning experience for the better and how to tackle stress. Students' focus on studies (is) increasing. Children are staying stress-free.'

Dr Dhamija agrees as he cautioned that solitude and loneliness should not be explained in similar ways. Solitude is enjoyed by people and it leads to creativity, and self-arelization, and is totally an realization, and is totally an approach to developing one own individual space.

Loneliness is basically of three types - Emotional, Social, and Situational. Situational loneliness is when we lose someone close to our heart (bereavement), get bullied, physically/ mentally abused, have chronic disease, and post-retirement fear of loss of Income, elaborates Dr Smita Deshpande, a professor of psychiatry at St. John's Research Institute, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences in Bangalore.



Secondly, our egoistic attitude, underestimating/avoiding people for not being of our standard creates hatred for us, and people gradually start leaving us. And our high ambition to see our children get good jobs and earn a lot of money takes them away from us. They run after money leaving us behind and getting detached from us due to their busy/hectic work schedule, she points out.

Rajeev Kumar, Official on Special Duty (OSD) in Delhi Government's Education Department who has gone through isolation stage as a Covid patient feels that people do not have time to talk to each other in this net-savvy world. New concept that "it's no use of telling or advising anybody' is fast catching up. This also lead to loneliness even you when you have friends. Sometimes even when living in the same house they talk through Whatsapp or phone calls from their rooms. This is leading to decline in verbal communication, he says matter-of-factly. Dr Dhamija concludes with

ings of loneliness can have huge adverse impact on anybody's quality of life. If left untreated, these feelings can lead to more serious issues such as depression or other mental health condi-

"These can be Cognitive decline/Depression/Heart disease/High blood pressure (hypertension)/Obesity/ Weakened immune system /Alzheimer's disease. Hence, it is important to reach out to a mental health professional, if you are feeling lonely."



## 2,400-bed Amrita **Hospital in Faridabad** on August 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will inaugurate Amrita Hospital, Sector 88 in Faridabad, Haryana on August 24, 2022.

After making its mark in South India, Amrita Hospital is being started to cater to the patients in North India under the auspices of the Mata Amritanandamayi Math (MAM), a world-renowned humanitarian and spiritual leader who will also grace the occasion. State Governor Bandaru Dattatreva and State Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, will also attend the function along with other dignitaries.

The 2,400-bed healthcare institution will be India's largest private sector hospital. This is the second large-scale Amrita Hospital in India after the iconic 1,200-bed Amrita Hospital, Kochi, that was established 25 years ago by the Mata Amritanandamayi Dr. Sanjeev K Singh

Resident Medical Director of Amrita Hospital, Faridabad said that cutting-edge medical research will be a strong thrust area. "The hospital will have a dedicated research block spread across a sevenfloor building that totals three lakh sq. ft. with exclusive Grade A to D GMP labs. There will be a focus on identifying newer diagnostic ΑI, markers. Bioinformatics, etc. We are in the process of entering into research collaborations with some of the world's biggest names in medical science," he said.
"The comprehensive

transplant program offered by the hospital will be among the biggest in the country," Dr.

Dr Prashant Mehta, Senior Consultant and Asst Professor, Department of Hematology/Medical Oncology and BMT at the Hospital added that the institute will be one-of-its kind in the country, trying to reach out to the poor and needy.

'There will be a special focus on indigenous research and innovation so as to develop therapies and solutions relevant to our country and our specific health related HARYANA **GOVERNOR** BANDARU DATTATREYA AND CHIEF MINISTER MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR WILL ATTEND THE **FUNCTION ALONG** WITH OTHER DIGNITARIES

"This indigenous innovation is an important step towards reducing the cost of healthcare in India more importantly for major illnesses like cancer, severe heart, kidney and liver ailments, solid organ and bone marrow transplants, and multi drug resistant infections," he said.

The hospital's benefits will go beyond providing access to the latest in healthcare technology and highquality patient care in the Delhi-NCR. Once fully operational, the hospital will have around 10,000 staff and more than 800 doctors.

As part of its community initiatives, Amrita Hospitals has already started medical outreach programs at various residents welfare associations in and around Faridabad. These include awareness programs for the elderly with a focus on those suffering from neurological ailments, health talks for school children, general health checkups, and many more.

The Hospital is considered one of the country's largest green-building healthcarbon footprint, and it is an end-to-end paperless facility with zero waste discharge.

Amrita Hospital at Kochi has many firsts in its credit. For instance, in 2015, South Asia's first ever successful Bilateral Hand Transplant Surgery was done at the Hospital. The same year, it won the British Medical Journal Award for the Best Surgical Team in South Asia after also completing the region's second successful double hand transplant.

## That Incomparable Born Again Feeling After Dying A Million Deaths

There are bad days and there are horrific days. Even in the 'best' of malignancies, one cannot predict which way it will go. You have to tread the slow and painful path to reach the other side, DR NITA RADHAKRISHNAN, a child cancer specialist, shares her experience about how important it is to make sure those patients, most of whom come from the poor strata, are taken care of in every necessary aspect, from diagnosis to survivorship.

 $Y^{
m esterday,\ one\ more\ kid}$  passed the golden hoop of 5 years to reach the other side of cancer care. The team that stood with her heaved a collective sigh of relief as she got the 'survivor' label. We hope and pray that she lives a full life without any side effects of cancer or its treatment. She hails from Uttarakhand and was diagnosed in 2016 with lymphoblastic lymphoma. The entire treatment over 2 years needed a lot of patience and perseverance from both sides; the family and the hospital. There were bad days and there were horrific days. Even in the 'best' of malignancies, one cannot predict which way it will go. You have to tread the slow and painful path to reach the other side. Every blood test, every hospital visit and every admission is a hurdle you have to jump to reach the finish line.

As a person working with sick children, I have realised that health undoubtedly is the biggest luxury for all of us.



Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology, Post-Graduate Institute of Child Health, Noida

We do not have any control over who gets a disease or who doesn't. In most cases, we don't even know why someone gets a disease in the first place. We also don't have much control over who will make it and who will not. Many children whom we think will never survive, come

out beautifully. Cancer indeed is a great leveller. Although gaps do exist between high and low-

**Cancer indeed is** a great leveller. Although gaps do exist between high and low-income countries and between affluent and poor families, most of those are superficial or cosmetic. The biological probability of responding to treatment remains uniform



A doctor-patient interaction is held on the last Friday of each month to boost the courage of the families at the Noida Hospital

income countries and between affluent and poor families, most of those are superficial or cosmetic. The biological probability of responding to

treatment remains uniform. Things may not go as hoped for in the best of countries and the best of centres; often there are horrible infections that

don't give you time to react. Often there are dreadful cancers that don't respond to

When we start treatment

for cancer, this is what most doctors tell their patients. That there is a process to it and timelines to follow. I often draw a mountain and tell them we are at the beginning of this trek uphill. We need to work together to reach the top. Everyone in the team should speak the language of hope and comfort. We need to continue the trek. The family has to put their life on hold for the duration of treatment; festivals, weddings and parties will be there next year also. We try to compensate for lost childhood and replicate life's little joys in our hospital wards.

It can be overwhelming for the hospital team as well. We go through this rite of passage of analysing each and every child who did not do well. Abandoning treatment is perhaps the biggest tragedy of pediatric cancer care in our country. It is understandable if we lose a child to an aggressive disease. But to lose a child with a "perfectly curable" disease due to the ignorance of parents or relatives is unacceptable. A small part of you dies with each difficult patient. You are never the same as you were yesterday; you are warrier in each situation, richer in experience, calmer as a person and more restrained in your As Gibran said, "the river cannot go back". One has to

keep going, with faith in a higher power, in yourself and in humanity and a promise to yourself to do your best. Each decision is vital; every child and every outcome stays with you. Happiness and sadness become parts of the same continuum. We learn to accept both; we pray. As doctors, we also realize that our profession is one of the biggest customer satisfaction portals. That at every age and stage of our lives, we are "rateable". Most of them understand and stand with you in fighting the bigger battle of the disease. Many of them continue with you as your extended family.



# Indian foreign policy comes of age

*G-7 underscoring the country's* growing geostrategic role in the world...As the world enters this dangerous new era, India could be the deciding factor, so no matter where you are in the world, the choices made in New Delhi mattered."

- DW News (German news channel)

 $P_{\text{was known for its idealistic}}^{\text{ost-Independence India}}$ foreign policy: The famous "non-alignment". Did it best serve the Indian interest at the time? Did India receive the support of the international community on Kashmir, and China or Pakistan wars? Under Indira Gandhi, India's diplomacy turned realistic; if the Indian help in the Independence of Bangladesh was a smashing success, alienating the US was the cost.

Afterwards, hitherto foreign policy can be defined more by its passivity, accomplishments rather erratic; marked by the lack of a long driven, well-planned, sharply strategised, clear eyed, crisply defined policy. The advantages India accrued had more to do with its geo-strategic and economic position and lesser with astute diplomatic haggle. Outcome: India could never punch above its weight in the geopolitical arena, and thus spoke from a position of weak-ness, feigned helplessness towards its two hostile neighbours, and consoled itself as a

Post the surgical strikes in Pakistan, Galwan clashes and standing up to the Western pressure over trade with Russia, every single world capital knows that India is no longer just a "soft power". With missions like Vande Bharat and Operation Ganga, India has proved its capability and commitment to safeguarding every

"India has been invited to one of its citizens abroad. From dealing with Taliban to handling Sri Lankan economic collapse, India's diplomacy has proved that it is nimble-footed and ready for any challenge. India is a major strategic player in the fast-changing, unpredictable and turbulent geopolitical landscape of our times, courted and respected by all. Even in its difficult neighbourhood, India has been able to bring about a sense of stability in its relations with smaller neighbours, which are being seduced by Beijing to no end; emerging as a reliable and most dominant player.

It took the Modi Government's advent at the helm to replace the "non-alignment" with "multi-alignment" or "strategic autonomy", what that has broadly translated into is a wider alignment with Washington, and adoption of its China containment Indopacific policy, without surrendering autonomy over other issues, like relationship with Russia; and creating strategic issue-based convergences with different nations, including China. Today, the Indian foreign policy is one of the sharpest, clearly, boldly and assertively driven by its own national interest, capable of withstanding big power pres-

#### Modi-Jaishankar foreign policy construct

"In this world of all against all, India's goal should be to move closer towards the strategic sweet spot," said S Jaishankar in his book "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World".

The present foreign policy couldn't exist without either of its two main pillars: Prime Minister Modi and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar — the dexterous ball jugglers, the risk-takers, the realists —



whose personal qualities. coherent ideological moorings and shared ambitious vision of India's place in the world, have been essential for the effective construct and execution of the present policy. The main objectives of the foreign policy today are: Changing India's image in the world, creation of partnerships on equal terms with generosity towards smaller nations, proactively shaping the global agenda and big issues, actively exploring and leveraging foreign relationships for domestic development, creating people-centric foreign policy and use of Indian culture and thoughts in influencing international initiatives and

discourses. The priorities to be achieved through foreign policy are national security, economic development and national progress. Geographically, India's focus

areas are: India's neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood (South East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Indian Ocean region), big powers (US, Europe, Japan, Russia), developing larger footprints, more relationships and more visibility (when it comes to strategically located nations). Deft balancing of nations and alliances hostile to each

other is one of the greatest accomplishments of the Indian diplomacy. Engaging influentially in QUAD, BRICS and G-7 summits and developing understanding of Indian position on Ukraine by all of India's partners; India today is a singular nation that buys S-400 missiles and oil from Moscow while maintaining historically closest ties with the Washington and other QUAD partners. Even to the envy of US, India has cultivated intimate relations with the Gulf nations (especially UAE) and Israel while preserving good terms with Tehran.

The proactiveness of Indian foreign policy is visible in conducting first-ever summits of: International Solar Alliance, Summit with Central Asian nations, Summit with Pacific Island nations and India-Nordic Summit. India is shouldering global responsibilities by supplying vaccines and medicines to the world amid pandemic, providing humanitarian help to Ukraine and supplying wheat to needy nations.

The quintessential Modi style of diplomacy is to have a great personal rapport with the leaders of other nations, which paid off dividends when he rang up Putin and Zelensky, rescuing Indian students stuck in Ukraine's crossfire.

Successfully standing up to Western moral supremacy is

another significant development in the Indian diplomacy: For the first time the Indian foreign policy establishment has alluded, that no nation is entitled to sit as a judge over others when it comes to human

Partnerships and alliances

rights. Samantha Power,

administrator USAID, on her

recent visit to India, spoke of

the divisive forces in "US and

The Ukraine war is a reminder of the lesson that success in a conflict depends not just on economic and military power of a nation but also the number of its friends. Between India and China, that could be a deciding factor. While China is out losing friends and credibility, India's actively building and strengthening alliances and deepening bilateral engagements. Apart from joining QUAD, I2U2 and Indo

Pacific Economic Framework India is also reinvigorating BIMSTEC.

The alliances are not just for hedging security concerns for future, but are actively pursued to serve national interest at present, like setting up of "integrated food parks" and renewable energy projects in India by I2U2 partners, supply chain resilience initiative with Japan and Australia, signing critical defence technology transfer pact with US, receiving US investment and technology in crucial areas, selling missiles to Vietnam and Philippines, signing FTAs with UAE and Australia, Japanese partnership in infrastructure, technology, innovation and startups and undertaking projects in collaboration in third countries in South Asia and Africa, exponential increase in Indian-Israel defence cooperation and collaboration in developing next generation technologies, France's active collaboration in "Atmanirbhar Bharat" in defence projects.

Investment by UAE in J&K, India's plans of holding the G-20 summit in 2023 there, passing the torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad through Srinagar, is how India is utilising foreign engagements for furthering its security and territorial sovereignty goals. In the words of Jaishankar,

"India is reclaiming its space in the world today as a civilization", "as a power that can bridge divides". Utilising this effective foreign policy for economic progress, would require systemic transformation of economic ecosystem. Does India possess the capability and discipline to become a global power and not just a regional one, resolve global disputes and create global narratives? Only time will tell.

(The author is a foreign policy expert and a lawyer)

Post the surgical strikes in Pakistan, Galwan clashes and standing up to the Western pressure over trade with Russia, every single world capital knows that India is no longer just a "soft power". Today, the Indian foreign policy is one of the sharpest, clearly, boldly and assertively driven by its own national interest, capable of withstanding big power pressure tactics



SONAL SHUKLA

#### **PERSPECTIVE**

# US economy growing but still slowing

**US** employers added an astonishing 5,28,000 jobs last month despite flashing warning signs of an economic downturn. **Economists** had expected only 2,50,000 new jobs in America last month, in a drop-off from June's revised 3,98,000. Instead, July proved to be the best month since February. Unemployment dropped another notch, from 3.6 per cent to 3.5 per cent, matching the more than 50-year low

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nether the US economy **VV** is heading for a recession got more difficult to answer on Friday, when a report showed employers hired hundreds of thousands more workers last month than expected. American employers added an astonishing 5,28,000 jobs last month despite flashing warning signs of an economic downturn, easing fears of a recession and handing President Joe Biden some good news heading into the midterm elections. Economists had expected only 2,50,000 new jobs in America last month, in a drop-off from June's revised 3,98,000. Instead, July proved to be the best month since February. Unemployment dropped another notch, from 3.6 per cent to 3.5 per cent, matching the more than 50year low reached just before the pandemic took hold.

The stunning strength made clear that a linchpin of the economy remains solid. That's even though inflation is running at its worst pace in 40 years, the economy's output shrunk through the first half of the year and rising interest rates are dragging on housing and other industries. All the confounding numbers only make the long-term outlook for the economy more muddied.

On one hand, two straight quarters of economic contraction is a long-held, though informal, definition of a recession. It would mark a quick turnaround barely two years after the official end of the pandemic recession. Yet can a recession really occur when so many people still have jobs and are making more money?

It's the latest head-scratcher regarding an economy that has confounded Federal Reserve policymakers and many economists since growth screeched to a halt in March 2020 as Covid-19 struck and 20 million Americans were suddenly thrown out of work.

While most economists and Fed Chair Jerome Powell — have said they don't think the US economy is currently in a recession, with Friday's data cementing the case for many, expectations are still high for an economic downturn to begin later this year or next.

Friday's strong jobs report may actually increase the chances of a recession because it could embolden the Federal Reserve to stay aggressive in hiking interest rates in order to beat back inflation. Higher rates slow the economy by making purchases of homes, cars and things bought on credit cards more expensive, and the Fed is jacking up rates at the fastest pace since the early 1980s.

Perhaps even more important than whether a recession occurs is whether workers' paychecks catch up with inflation. So far, gains in average wages have not, and the pain is disproportionately hitting lower-income and Black and Hispanic households. As a result, Americans have increasingly soured on the economy.

That may be what moves more people in November's midterm elections than whether or not a recession has officially begun.

So how, exactly, do we know when an economy is in recession? Here are some answers to such questions:

#### Who decides when a recession has started?

Recessions are officially declared by the obscure-sounding National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a group of economists whose Business Cycle Dating Committee defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months."

The committee considers trends in hiring as a key measure in determining recessions.



A sign advertises for help The Goldenrod, a popular restaurant and candy shop on June 1, 2022, in York Beach, Maine

It also assesses many other data points, including gauges of income, employment, inflation-adjusted spending, retail sales and factory output. It puts heavy weight on jobs and a gauge of inflation-adjusted income that excludes Government support payments such as Social Security. Yet the NBER typically

doesn't declare a recession until well after one has begun, sometimes for up to a year. Economists consider a halfpoint rise in the unemployment rate, averaged over several months, as the most historically reliable sign of a downturn. On Friday, the latest jobs report showed the unemployment rate matched its lowest level in more than 50

#### Do two straight quarters of economic contraction equal a recession?

That's a common rule of thumb, but it isn't an official definition. Still, in the past, it has been a useful measure. Michael Strain, an economist at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute, notes that in each of the past 10 times that the economy shrank for two consecutive quarters, a recession has resulted.

Still, even Strain isn't sure we're in recession now. Like many economists, he notes that the underlying drivers of the economy - consumer spending, business investment, home purchases — all grew in the first quarter.

Overall gross domestic product — the broadest measure of the nation's output declined at a 1.6 per cent annual rate from January through March because of one-off factors, including a sharp jump in imports and a post-holiday season drop in businesses' inventories. Many economists expect that when US GDP is revised later this year, the first quarter may even turn out to be

"The basic story is that the economy is growing but still slowing, and that slowdown really accelerated in the second quarter," Strain said.

Don't a lot of Americans

think a recession is coming? Yes, because many people now feel more financially bur-

dened. With wage gains trailing inflation for most people, higher prices for such essentials as gas, food, and rent have eroded Americans' spending Walmart recently reported

that higher gas and food costs have forced its shoppers to reduce their purchases of discretionary spending such as new clothing, a clear sign that consumer spending, a key driver of the economy, is weakening. The nation's largest retailer, Walmart reduced its profit outlook and said it will have to discount more items like furniture and electronics.

And the Fed's rate hikes have caused average mortgage rates to nearly double to 4.99 per cent, causing a sharp fall in ome sales and construction.

Higher rates will also likeweigh on businesses' willingness to invest in new buildings, machinery and other equipment. If companies reduce spending and investment, they'll also start to slow

hiring. Rising caution among companies about spending freely could lead eventually to layoffs. If the economy were to lose jobs and the public were to grow more fearful, consumers

The Fed's rapid rate hikes have raised the likelihood of recession in the next two years to nearly 50 per cent, Goldman Sachs economists have said. And Bank of America economists now forecast a "mild" recession later this year, while Deutsche Bank expects a recession early next year.

would further reduce spending.

#### What are some signs of an impending recession?

The clearest signal that a recession is under way, economists say, would be a steady rise in job losses and a surge in unemployment. In the past, an increase in the unemployment rate of three-tenths of a percentage point, on average over the previous three months, has meant that a recession will soon follow.

Many economists monitor the number of people who seek unemployment benefits each week, which indicates whether layoffs are worsening. Weekly applications for jobless aid, averaged over the past four weeks, have been rising recently and have topped 250,000. While that is a potentially concerning sign, it is still a low level historically.

#### Any other signals to watch

Many economists also monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted vield curve." This occurs when the yield on the 10-year Treasury falls below the yield on a short-term Treasury, such as the 3-month T-bill. That is unusual. Normally, longerterm bonds pay investors a richer yield in exchange for tying up their money for a

longer period.

Inverted yield curves generally mean that investors foresee a recession that will compel the Fed to slash rates. Inverted curves often predate recessions. Still, it can take 18 to 24 months for a downturn to arrive after the yield curve inverts.

For weeks, the yield on the wo-year Treasury has exceeded the 10-year yield, suggesting that markets expect a recession soon. Many analysts say, though, that comparing the 3month yield to the 10-year has a better recession-forecasting track record. Those rates are not inverted now, though the gap has narrowed.

#### Will the fed keep raising rates even as economy slows?

The economy's flashing signals — slowing growth with strong hiring — have put the Fed in a tough spot. Chair Jerome Powell is aiming for a 'soft landing," in which the economy weakens enough to slow hiring and wage growth without causing a recession and brings inflation back to the Fed's 2 per cent target.

But Powell has acknowledged that such an outcome has grown more difficult to achieve. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's Covid-19 lockdowns have driven up prices for energy food, and many manufactured parts in the ÚS.

Powell has also indicated that if necessary, the Fed will keep raising rates even amid a weak economy if that's what's needed to tame inflation.

"Is there a risk that we would go too far?" Powell asked last month. "Certainly there's a risk, but I wouldn't agree that's the biggest risk to the economy. The biggest mistake to make...would be to fail to restore price stability."

(Courtesy: AP)







sunday magazine the pioneer agazine



















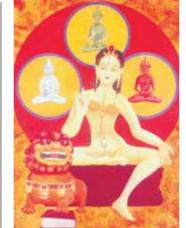




#### ARIES March 21-April 19

Your energy and vitality will be high this week. Though this is a positive sign and you'll be quite active, make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. You can take care of yourself and when faced with health challenges, with a positive mindset you will not only face them but will be able to overcome them. At your workplace, you may find yourself engaging in conflict or disagreeing with others. This might be due to your behaviour. Trying to accomplish your personal goals with disregard to their consequences on others, you might think to be a winner but still, end up being a loser. On the personal front, maybe you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs, but this might be interfering with your relationship. The workload is not letting you take out time for each other.

Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



#### **LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week is not so lucky in health matters. There may be some seasonal ailments that you may suffer. Drink plenty of water and consume green salads. You are advised to avoid tea and coffee, or any kind of addiction this week. Stay away from black colour and try to include light pastel colours in your daily routine. On the work front, your wish could be accomplished this week. Those who are searching for a job; will get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends' support will boost your morale high. In the matter of love, you need to be a little soft and considerate in relations else you might spoil them. Avoid conflicts and confrontations which are likely to occur this

Lucky number 12 Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Tuesday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

This week moderation and balance are the keys to good health. Ensure that you are eating well, sleeping well and exercising the right amount. You need to take all this into account to stay in shape. Look where you are out of balance and try to remedy it. Work-wise, this week you will be enthusiastic about your work. Your confidence levels will be high and you are ready to take on new projects. However, you also tend to be impulsive. Don't rush into things and take into account what consequences of your actions can be in the future. On the personal front, you will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. You are open to helping others which in turn means others are helping you. Some of you will be celebrating some special occasion with close family members.

Lucky number 15 Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Thursday



#### **TAURUS** April 20-May 20

This week you will not have such a great time when it comes to health. Anxiety, stress, and worry will affect your life now. Health challenges are likely to come your way. Make sure you are treating yourself well. A balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake will help you. More than this, meditation and breathing exercises are particularly useful to you. Workwise, you will have a pleasant time. Things are going well, and you are happy with your work. You may be bonding with co-workers. The work environment is also constructive. Money inflow is good. On the personal front, if you are in a committed relationship, then the bonds with your lover are stronger than before. You are tolerant of others, easily forgiving their imperfections. In doing so, you create a safe and trusting environment.

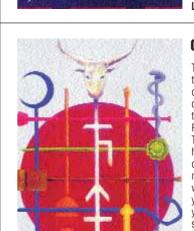
Lucky number 11 Lucky colour Mauve Lucky day Monday



#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You feel creative, enthusiastic, and full of energy this week. Health remains good and you take charge of your near and dear ones too. Your theory of 'Prevention is better than cure' will work well and you bear the fruits of your determination. On the work front, your creativity is reflected in your work. With unbounded energy and stamina, you could work day and night and finish the unfinished and pending tasks. You are a workaholic and attain the favour of your seniors. You may leave your colleagues and rivals surprised and overwhelmed. In the matter of heart, you are lucky as this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be true bonding between you and your partner. The support for each other will be strengthening and increase your work efficiency.

Lucky number 3 Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Sunday



#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week is a great time for rest. Take rest from difficult times such as health worries and stress. It is good that you develop your mental strength. Indulge in meditation in a calm atmosphere and do some spiritual thinking. This is a time to count your blessings and take things easy. Professionally, your life is full of hope and good things. Things are going extremely well. If you are currently not happy, then, new opportunities will come knocking at your door. A deeper understanding of yourself and others with mental stability will help you ease any difficulty at the workplace. You may not be in a very comfortable position in your relationship at this point. It may be that either you or your beloved is having a tough time. You need to give your

Lucky number 19 Lucky colour White Lucky day Tuesday



#### **GEMINI** May 21-June 20

This week there will be an abundance of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected in your health. The charm and attraction in your persona will be magnetic and others feel positive vibes in your company. Family plays a major role in your success whether it is personal or professional. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The dilemma you had been facing the last few days will get over now and you can look forward bright future. Your colleague or friend is quite supportive of you. If you are in the line for a promotion it may come to you soon. On the personal front, love and romance are in the air. Those seeking love will meet the partner of their

Lucky number 18 Lucky colour Silver Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

On the health front, you need to be alert this week. This is a time when you may encounter some health challenges. Don't try to avoid them rather deal with them well. Managing your stress level is important to stay in good health. Get enough rest and heal both physically and emotionally. On the career front, a good time is on the cards. You will experience happiness and satisfaction concerning work. Your near and dear ones will be happy to see your progress. Promotion and success in a project will be yours. Those awaiting interview results will get good news and will get their desired job. On the personal front, you may have to face some issues in love relationships. At such a time, don't get tense and give yourself and your partner some space to deal with the problem

Lucky number 14 Lucky colour Light Green Lucky day Thursday



#### **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

This week your health will be good. If you are having physical problems then pay attention to your diet, exercise and take some time to rest and eat healthily. You might feel disengaged or demotivated in general and tends to cut yourself out from the world. This may not be the right thing to do. On the career front, things are likely to go well. If you are facing some challenges, then follow a compassionate approach toward work. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connectedness with others. Trust your intuition to bring balance. This is a make-or-break period in your relationship. Evaluate everything and be true to yourself and your needs. Become very clear about what you want from life and your relationships and take steps to make it happen.

Lucky number 8 Lucky colour Magenta **Lucky day** Friday



#### **CANCER** June 21-July 22

This week you will enjoy the warmth of relations and a healthy lifestyle. You feel physically, emotionally and spiritually a sound and a happy person. Things are in their right place making you tension free. Those who are heart and BP patients could be recovering very fast with proper medical attention and willpower. Career-wise, the week promises monetary gains Those in business could earn good money. The income may come from more than one source. Business expansion plans are successfully started. You may meet an influential person who could prove highly beneficial in terms of your career. On the personal front, you are a positive and caring person. You work for the benefit of others, and this will work very well in terms of your relations too. Love demands your attention which probably you won't be able to pay much.

Lucky number 17 Lucky colour Green Lucky day Saturday



#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you may overwork yourself into exhaustion. Stress may take a serious toll on your body. There are things you need to do to rebuild yourself. First, calm down and take adequate sleep and rest. You need to prioritise your activities so that you can balance your work and health. On the career front, you may have a difficult time. Your feelings or ego might get quite bruised with something that happens to your work. You need to follow a different approach now and should take some assistance in this regard. Those looking for employment should probably look in a different way or a different field On the relationship front, you need to be open to the other person for a relationship to work. Don't avoid any issues in your relations because it will only make things worse.

Lucky number 6 Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Friday



#### PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you may be down with health problems or some illness but don't lose heart. You need to take a spiritual leap and heal yourself with meditation and positive thinking. Undoubtedly, this will do wonders for you. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. Stay positive in terms of work. You will have to make this line your ally in difficult times. You may worry and be full of anxiety about something concerning your work. Understand that this is not going to help, rather leave your anxiety and focus on what you can control. On the relationship front, be resilient in your relationship with others. There will be challenges but if you give space to yourself and your partner, any differences can

Lucky number 13 Lucky colour Brown Lucky day Saturday

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arrying forward discussion on Lord Shiva's entourage, the ✓ divine beings are personification of the cosmic forces, vital to creation, sustenance, and recycling of existential order. Human beings armed with intelligence and awareness level, higher than other creatures, the onus lies on them to service the existential order to ensure qualitative existence, individually and collectively. Devilish existences imply ignorant people with relatively lower intelligence level and primarily driven by animalistic instincts. They, therefore, are not expected to be conscious about their collective obligations. It also implies all negative orientation of mind that may prove detrimental to harmonious and peaceful coexistence

The presence of invisible existences such as ghosts, make out a purposeful reference. They supposedly symbolise the invisible existences in the intervening period between two successive form-existences. They, therefore, symbolise continuum between successive lives. In a way it can be said that Lord Siva's entourage presents a picture of all seen and unseen existences forming

this living world.

Lord Siva, despite evolutionary barrier of incommunicability amongst the varied creatures forming His entourage, through His selfless force of love, remains in accord with all of them at one go. Overlooking their individualistic vagaries, He does not differentiate. It is not that He would not be aware of their individualistic limitations, as His eyes, half open and half closed would signify. It implies that knowingly ignoring their limitations, He remains in accord with them.

Why? Is Lord Siva under any compulsion to do that? Absolutely not. He purposely does that. For, He knows that all creatures, by themselves, are imperfect, and incapable of meeting existential needs all by oneself. But all put together, complement and supplement each other to together make out a self-sufficient world. If each one of them is bound by individual limitations, they are simultaneously also armed with such virtues, as would be necessary to nourish and sustain the collective existence.

Take the case of a trivial looking termite, which otherwise is known to

## Shiva symbolises unity in diversity its end before the crop comes up, but



spoil wood, paper, and if left unattended can spoil the crops also. But then, they dig hole deep inside the soil structure to facilitate entry of oxygen and activate creative potential of the earth mass. In the process, the termite eats

earth mass. To digest it, its body releases necessary enzymes. Consuming a small part needed for its survival, it excretes the rest, and that being rich in enzyme, further add to the fertility of the soil. The termite, however, meets

not before serving the cause of larger existence. Similarly, bacteria in a drain or a sewer pit treat the night soil, but for which, life will become inhabitable in course of time. There is nothing in existence, without a specific assignment in support of the collective existence. We, thus, have a shared destiny.

Lord Siva, therefore, in order to get the best out of one and all and facilitate smooth run of the worldly order, purposely ignores their individual limitations. But it doesn't come about easy. He absolves all and sundry of the three types of sins- Daihika (Body bound), Bhautika (Material), and Daivika (Cosmic), they attract, as fallout of cause-effect chain they are bound to. He absorbs them all as would His poison fed blue neck imply. He does that in the larger interest of the existential order, but for which the very existence may become questionable.

Serving as provider, He nourishes the whole living order with all His resources in hand - the cosmic energy drawn through lunar crescent, water stream of river Ganges. Remember, we plunder the earth in a bid to secure our

survival. But the earth on its part bears with it kindly, and still supports us with all provisions - the food it produces or water bodies it holds in its womb, vital to our existence. We, knowingly or inadvertently, vitiate even the atmosphere, which could disturb ecological balance, evidently detrimental to our healthy existence. Nature, however, on its part has been kind enough to make provisions for absorbing them all, but for which our very existence would be at stake.

Lord Siva enjoys the confidence of all. For, He selflessly serves them all without any sense of differentiation, with the sole noble objective to ensure a smooth run of the existential order. His selflessness is exemplified by being bare bodied, despite being the source and effective cause of creation, symbolically though.

To sum up, Lord Shiva's model offers us lesson in inter-personal-relationship, vital to smooth run of life individually and collectively.

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