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BIDEN CALLS FOR REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE TO DEFEAT 'POISON OF WHITE SUPREMACY'

MONEY 6

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES RISES AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF FALL

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Dhankar elected VP with 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. Alva minced no words in making known her anguish. "Unfortunately, some Opp par-

ties chose to directly/indirectly support BJP, in an attempt to derail 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.

LG suspends 11 officials in Delhi Excise Policy case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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 then 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 Pankaj 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/tenders 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 authorities.

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 Bajjal 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 policy.

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 conference 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 policy.

I-T raids on TN film persons find ₹200 cr hidden income

₹20 cr cash, jewellery worth ₹3 cr recovered from 40 premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has unearthed undisclosed income of over ₹200 crore after it recently searched as many as 40 premises of some film producers, distributors and financiers in Tamil Nadu.

The searches were launched on August 2 and about 40 premises of the entities, which have not been identified, were covered in Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and Vellore, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Saturday.

The board is the administrative authority for the IT Department which functions under it.



The department also said it seized ₹26 crore undisclosed cash and gold jewellery worth over ₹3 crore during the searches. So far, the search operation has resulted in the detection of undisclosed income of more than ₹200

crore, the CBDT said in a statement.

The department seized a number of documents, digital devices relating to "unaccounted" cash transactions and investments even as "secret and hidden" premises have

been unearthed, it said.

In the case of film production houses, tax evasion has been found as the actual amounts realised from the release of the films are much more than the amounts shown in the regular books of account, it further said. "The unaccounted income so generated by them is deployed for undisclosed investments as well as for various undisclosed payments," the CBDT said.

In the case of film distributors, the statement said, seized documents indicate the collection of "unaccounted cash" from theatres.

"As per the evidence, the distributors have formed syndicates and have systematically suppressed the theatre collections, resulting in the suppression of actual income," it alleged.

RCP quits JD(U) after party seeks reply on graft charges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister RCP Singh on Saturday resigned from the Janata Dal (United) after the party sent him a notice seeking explanation from him over allegations of corruption against him. The notice, incidentally, came hours after he spoke about his intentions of floating his own party at a Press conference. "There is nothing left in this party. The JD(U) is a sinking ship," he said.

The JD(U) issued a show-cause notice to Singh over "discrepancies in immovable properties" and he was asked to file his reply at the earliest.

"A complaint has been received with evidence from two associates of Nalanda JD(U), mentioning that discrepancies registered from 2013-2022 in his name (Singh) and that of his family were noticed," the notice read.

Dhanbad judge's hit & run convicts get life behind bar

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

The court of CBI Special Judge Rajnikanth Pathak on Saturday awarded life imprisonment till last breath to convicts Lakhman Verma and Rahul Verma for killing Dhanbad Civil Court Judge Uttam Anand. The court also imposed ₹25,000 fine each on both the convicted persons.

The duo was held guilty under sections 302 (murder), 201 (hiding evidence), 34 (common intention) of IPC on July 28, 2022 by the special CBI court and today the quantum of punishment was announced. The judgment was pronounced through video conferencing.

Defence lawyer Kumar Vimalendu, however, was not satisfied with the verdict. Talking to media persons, he said, "It was a case of hit and run but the CBI concocted it to be a murder theory without having any evidence of motive behind murder."

Lakhman and Rahul will



Rahul Verma and Lakhman Verma being taken to jail after conviction in connection with the murder of a Dhanbad court judge last year, in Dhanbad, on Saturday

challenge the verdict in higher court, added the defence lawyer, who was appointed by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

One of the relatives of the late Judge Vishal Anand too expressed anguish over the sentence. He said that they were expecting a death sentence but cannot comment on the judgment.

CBI APP Amit Jindal had said the court found both guilty as they were not in an intoxicated situation when the auto, which one of the accused was driving, had hit the judge. It was not an accident but intentional murder, claimed Jindal. However, he could not explain what the intention behind the murder was.

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Sisodia ignored advice to take LG nod on excise policy: Docu

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's Finance Department officials had advised Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to take opinion of the Lieutenant Governor on the Excise Department's proposal but he did not.

The document showed that despite the Finance Department from the level of dealing and to the Secretary (Finance) underlining specifically that the proposed changes/amendments in the Excise Policy 2021-22 were prima facie wrong and required approval of the Lt Governor, Sisodia blocked

the note to this effect and returned the file to the Finance Secretary.

The document showed that after the amendments in the GNCTD Act 1991 which comes into force on April 27, 2021 and duly followed by the officials of Excise and Finance Departments in May 2021.

"Subsequently also, after obtaining the approval of the Council of Ministers on 23.06.2021, the officials of the Finance Department from the level of dealing and till Secretary (Finance) proposed vide notings dated 24.06.2021 to place the proposal before the then Lt Governor (which shows about their admittance of the fact that subsequent to



27.04.2021, opinion of Lt Governor is must before taking any executive action), however, the same was held by the Dy Chief Minister vide his note dated 24.06.2021 (CD No. 015645891), and the

file was returned to the Secretary (Finance)," the document said.

After June 28, 2021, pursuant to amendments in the GNCTD Act, 1991 vide GNCTD Amendment Act 2021, it became mandatory to obtain opinion of Lt Governor before taking any executive action on all such matters as specified in the order dated April 28, 2021.

Accordingly, the opinion of Lt Governor was obtained by the officers of the Excise and Finance Department as seen from the notings of the concerned files even on excise policy 2021-22 as well as terms and conditions of the licenses (the proposed excise

policy 2021-22) was discussed by the then Lt Governor with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister as per note dated May 19, 2021.

"It is observed that modifications were carried out in the proposed Excise Policy as well as Terms and Conditions of the Licences (like requirement of minimum turnover for wholesale licence was reduced to ₹150 cr per annum from ₹250 cr per annum, revision in minimum carpet area of Super Premium Vends L7 SP-1 delinking retailers from wholesalers and manufacturers, net worth criteria for applying for retail zones, etc.).

"Pursuant to changes suggested by the then Lt

Governor and approval of the Council of Ministers was obtained on 21.05.2021. Thereafter the same was apprised to the then Lt Governor as per Note dated 24.05.2021 of O/o Lt Governor," the document said.

According to the enquiry report, as far as grant of licenses to shell companies or benami transactions are concerned, it is observed that clause 2.3 of the tender document prohibited the manufacturers or wholesalers to participate in the bidding for Zonal (L72) licence and also that the retail license holder should not have any manufacturing facilities/ distil-

leries/ breweries/ wineries anywhere in the country or abroad either directly or through any sister concerns related entities.

For this purpose, sister concerns/ related entities were defined as the entities which have common proprietor or partners or directors, and majority ownership (51% or more) of the proprietorship or partnership or company should not lie with the same person in all the entities.

The entities should not have a holding-subsidiary relationship or should not be subsidiaries of the same holding company as defined in the Companies Act, 2013.

In this regard, it is

observed from the data of net-worth placed by the officials of Excise Department at page 441/c in file for Excise Policy 2022-23 that Net-worth of Magunta Agro Farms Pvt Ltd. is mentioned as ₹13.8 crore for Zone No. 4 and as ₹13.85 crore for Zone No. 23, despite the fact that licence for both the zones was given pursuant to the same tender notice issued on 28.06.2021, which is not possible as single entity cannot have different net-worth on same cut-off date.

"This prima-facie shows that the officials of the Excise Department failed to examine the net-worth of the bidders properly at the time of examination of the bids."

Liquor traders ask Govt to reinstate private vend licences under old policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The liquor traders in the city have requested the Delhi Government to reinstate private liquor vend licences issued under old excise policy. Delhi Liquor Traders' Association in a letter to the Excise Department, urged for reinstatement of retail vend private licences (L-7 and L-10) that were issued in the old regime of excise duty based policy prevailing before November 17, 2021.

Currently most of the former L-7 and L-10 licensees have the possession of their owned or leased shops and are capable of providing their services from September 1, if issued the required license, the association said.

The L-7 license for retail sale of liquor was issued for vendors on the main roads and commercial markets while L-10 was meant for stores in shopping malls. The Delhi Government had last month announced to withdraw its new excise policy 2021-22, under scanner with a CBI probe recommended by the LG into alleged irregularities in its implementation, and run liquor stores through its four undertakings only from September 1.



Under the excise policy 2021-22 implemented from November 17, 2021, zonal licences were issued to successful private bidders for 849 liquor vends grouped into 32 zones covering the whole city.

The association made the case for reinstating private liquor vend licenses claiming in its letter that the L-7 and L-10 vends accounted for 40 per cent of all retail stores in Delhi but contributed 60 per cent of overall revenue for the exchequer.

In the old excise regime, a total 864 retail vends were there in Delhi before November 17, 2021. These included 475 run by the Delhi Government undertakings and 389 by private entities.

Under the old regime, out of a total of 272 municipal wards, 77 wards were completely unserved, because neither a Government-owned nor a privately-owned wine shop was sanctioned there, said the association.

Furthermore in 28 wards no Government shop was located and such areas were served only by the privately-owned liquor shops, it said.

As licensee under old excise regime, the liquor traders had a great partnership with the Delhi Excise department going back 15 to 20 years.

However, presently they were out of job, said Naresh Goel, president of the association.

City Govt using Baijal as sacrificial lamb: BJP

Kejriwal Govt trying to divert attention from irregularities in excise policy, alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday accused the Delhi Government of trying to divert attention from the irregularities in its excise policy and using former Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal as a "sacrificial lamb".

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra asked why Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also heads the Excise Department, was silent so far.

"The Kejriwal Government is trying to divert attention from irregularities in its excise policy by blaming (the former) LG as they need a sacrificial lamb since the CBI probe is going to uncover those irregularities," Patra said at a Press conference.

The BJP spokesperson alleged numerous irregularities in the implementation of the Excise Policy 2021-22 by the Delhi government. Sisodia first exempted Rs 144 crore license fee of licensees during the coronavirus pandemic without Cabinet approval, which was taken only in July 2022, Patra claimed.



Why Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia, who also heads the Excise Department, was silent so far — Sambit Patra

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said his party has been opposing the excise policy since day one and now the Kejriwal government's wrongdoings have been exposed.

Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said he has been demanding from the beginning to not make wrong policy and even raised this issue in the Assembly, but the Kejriwal Government is violating the law and master plan

for its own benefit. He said today it has become clear that the new policy of the Government is wrong, but at that time not one of us was heard. I had challenged that the new excise policy would be proved wrong and now our challenge is proving true. Baijal was the Delhi LG when the Kejriwal Government prepared the new excise policy, which was implemented on November 17, 2021.

BJP playing dirty politics, sabotaging excise policy: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday lashed out at the BJP for playing dirty politics and sabotaging the excise policy of Delhi.

Addressing a press conference, AAP MLAs Atishi and Saurabh Bhardwaj hit out at the BJP and the Lt Governor for coming out in defence of the former Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal and asked, "What is your problem if CBI investigates the matter, looks into the questions raised by the Deputy Chief Minister? Why are you scared?"

Atishi said that the developments that have transpired today have made it pertinent to ask the BJP why it fears being investigated. "Deputy Chief



Minister, Manish Sisodia who also happens to be the minister of excise, raised several important questions about the functioning of the Delhi LG. He has accused the LG of causing losses to the exchequer amounting to thousands of crores by modifying the New Excise Policy 2021-22 overnight. What I fail to understand is why is the BJP National Spokesperson issuing clarifications on behalf of the LG? Why is the BJP scared of a CBI probe into the LG's doings?" she questioned.



A tree plantation drive was undertaken by Vasundhara Grand Society, Ghaziabad on Saturday by Deepak Gaur also known as Treeman. The motto of the drive was "Save Trees now, they will save you in future" Pioneer Photo

Fewer Delhiites taking booster dose

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Fewer people are opting for Covid precaution dose in Delhi in the last several days, even as the number of coronavirus cases reported in Delhi has registered a record rise in the past one week.

As per official data from the city health department, as on August 2, the total number of booster doses administered in the city stood at 22,19,059. The corresponding figures for August 4 and 5 were — 22,42,415 and 22,57,172.

Data analysis showed that the number of precaution doses administered till August 4, was merely 1.05 per cent higher than the figures on August 2. And, on Friday it showed only a rise of a meagre 0.65 per cent

vis-a-vis the figures on Thursday.

The drive for administering "precautionary doses", which were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was rolled out from January 10, initially for health-care workers, senior citizens and persons with co-morbid conditions.

On April 10 this year, India began administering precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines to all aged above 18 years.

Doctors have been urging people to get their precaution dose whenever due and not prolong it or avoid it due to any vaccine hesitancy. At LNJP Hospital, 51 patients of Covid-19 were currently admitted, and one patient was on ventilator, sources said.

City sees 2,311 Covid cases; positivity 13.84%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday recorded 2,311 Covid cases with a positivity rate of 13.84 per cent while one more person died due to the disease, according to data shared by the city health department.

It was the fourth consecutive day that the daily count of Covid cases crossed the 2,000 mark. Also, this was the sixth day in a row that the positivity rate breached the 10-per cent mark. Delhi on Friday had recorded 2,419 Covid cases, the highest in six months, with a positivity rate of 12.95 per cent, while two more people died due to the disease. On Thursday, the city logged 2,202 Covid cases, with a positivity rate of 11.84 per cent and four deaths.

The national capital on February 3 recorded 2,668 cases and 13 fatalities. Delhi on Wednesday reported 2,073 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 11.64 per cent. The number of deaths recorded on Wednesday was the highest since June 25 when six deaths were reported due to COVID-19 in the city.

Meanwhile, Amid a rise in coronavirus infections in some parts of the country, the central government has asked Delhi and six states to ensure adequate testing, promote Covid-appropriate behaviour and increase the pace of vaccination to contain the surge.

In a letter to Delhi, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said upcoming festivals and mass congregations in different parts of the country may potentially facilitate transmission of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

Bhushan said the national capital has been reporting high



average daily new cases (811 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 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.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Trade and Industry has requested the Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena not to impose any restrictions on traders in case of the implementation of COVID-19 guidelines in the future. The request was made in view of the upcoming festive season.

The CTI has also written to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) regarding the same as it is concerned that with the spike in Coronavirus cases in the national capital, virus-related restrictions will be imposed on traders, leading to loss in business. CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal and president Subhash Khandelwal said that they have been receiving distress calls from different sectors and business organisations.

Provide info related to structural audit of buildings adjoining to-be-raised twin towers, Supertech told

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Real estate developer Supertech has been instructed to provide by Sunday all information as sought by CBRI related to structural audit of buildings adjoining the twin towers which are to be demolished, officials said.

The Central Building Research Institute, the technical consultant for the demolition work, had sought details on blast design, debris management, among others, from Supertech and demolition firm Edifice Engineering, the officials said on Saturday.

CBRI's approval is required for Edifice to go ahead with the charging -- rigging of the twin towers with explosives -- at the site, a process which would



need them around 15 days.

As of now the demolition is scheduled for 2.30 pm on August 21, even as the initial charging date of August 2 has passed. After a hearing in the Supreme Court on August 29, a review meeting was held on Saturday with all stakeholders

of the project including the Noida Authority, CBRI, Supertech, Edifice Engineering, local residents' groups, police, fire service department, regional pollution control board, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL).

In the meeting, mainly the information sought by CBRI, information provided by Supertech and Edifice, management of debris, action plan to protect the parks of Emerald Court and ATS Village societies from the dust arising as a result of demolition were discussed," the Noida Authority said in a statement. Discussion was also held over measures to secure the GAIL pipeline in the area, it said.

It was observed by CBRI that some information regarding structural audit has not been provided by Supertech. This information should be made available to CBRI by Supertech by August 7. On receipt of all the information, CBRI will submit its report to Noida Authority by August 9," according to the official state-

ment. "On receipt of the report from CBRI by the Noida Authority and in accordance with the orders of Supreme Court, the corresponding status report should be filed by August 11," it stated. The statement added that the Noida Authority will regularly monitor the works done by Supertech over structural defects.

"To secure the gas pipeline, action should be taken by Edifice Engineering as per the suggestion given by GAIL," it stated. Regarding the measures to be taken to protect the Emerald Court and ATS Village societies' parks from dust, it was decided that once again a meeting should be convened under the chairmanship of Noida Authority's

Additional Chief Executive Officer (Planning), in which experts of Botany should also be invited.

"The testing of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan submitted by Edifice Engineering should be completed by UP Pollution Control Board in a week," according to the statement.

Supertech's Apex and Ceyane towers in Noida Sector 93A are scheduled for demolition in pursuance of a Supreme Court order last August which noted that the structures had come up in violation of building norms. Over 3,500 kgs of explosive will be filled within 9,400 holes drilled in the columns and sheers of the nearly 100-metre tall twin towers, according to officials.

Chhattisgarh to receive heavy rain

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Meteorological Centre, Raipur, on Saturday warned of heavy rains accompanied by thunderstorm with lightning in different parts of Chhattisgarh on August 8 and 9, which may extend till August 10. Five persons and 23 sheeps have been killed in separate lightning strike incidents in Janjgir-Champa district.

Bijapur district will witness heavy rains with thunder which will cause water logging in many



low-lying areas.

Next, heavy rains with lightning and thunderstorm will HIT Bastar, Dantewada, Sukma, Kondagaon, Kanker and Narayanpur districts.

The quantum of rains can lead to submergence of

crop fields and disruptions of road and rail transport.

A similar situation will prevail in the next 72 hours in the districts of Bastar, Dantewada, Bijapur, Sukma, Kondagaon, Kanker and Narayanpur.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel paid a courtesy visit to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday in New Delhi. Baghel is on a three-day visit to the national capital. Pioneer Photo

Best Gauthans to get rewards



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The excellent Gauthans of Chhattisgarh will be rewarded for their performance both at the state and district levels on Independence Day celebrations on August 15. The last date for finalization of the list is August 8.

The Agriculture Department officially communicated that a selection process will be conducted by a committee constituted at the district and state levels. The marking will be done on 100 points. The selection will be done after inspection and evaluation.

Two Gauthans will be selected at the district level. If one of them is selected for a state level award, the second one will receive the award at the district level.

Similarly, three Gauthans will be selected at the state level. The Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat's Gauthan selected for the award and the Guathan Committee President will also be felicitated.

The Directorate of Agriculture has invited the proposals till August 7.

The three best Gauthans at the state level will get a prize of Rs 50,000 each and the district winner will take Rs 25,000.

Independence Week in schools from August 11



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The School Education Department, Chhattisgarh, on Saturday issued an order to observe the Independence Week in all schools and educational institutions from August 11 to 17. It is to mark the 75th anniversary of independence.

The national flag will be hoisted in all the schools. Maintaining the Covid-19

appropriate behavior, a 'morning procession' is to be taken out.

Awareness among the public will be created to hoist the Tricolour under the 'Har Ghar Jhanda' programme.

The order states that all students, teachers and school staff including departmental officers and employees should be encouraged to hoist the national flag in their respective homes.

Instant formula foods cause more harm than good, say doctors

■ IANS

For the first six months, every infant must be breastfed with mother's milk and nothing else, as this will ensure proper growth of the child and help build immunity against various ailments, say doctors.

While earlier generations were fed on mother's milk alone, many alternatives to that have captured the market these days. For various reasons, instead of giving mother's milk, parents tend to feed formula foods available in the market to their infants. This is a regressive sign, and our society must not encourage this in any form, say doctors while stressing the importance of mother's milk during the ongoing World Breastfeeding Week.

"A newborn baby can be equated to the most delicate thing on the earth, and this newborn baby needs utmost care and nourishment to survive and emerge into a greater individual in the years ahead. Only breastfed mother's milk has the purity combined with necessary nutrients in proper proportions to ensure infant gets required nutrition, and there cannot be an alternate to that in the first six months of an infant's life," Dr. Suvarna Rai, Consultant Gynecologist, SLG Hospitals said.

"The best aspect about mother's milk is that it changes in volume and composition according to the time of the day, infant's age, nursing frequency, etc., to ensure healthy growth of the baby," he added.

According to Dr Chandra Sekhar Manchala, Chief Paediatrician and Neonatologist, Amor Hospital, mother's milk is also important because it is the only one which can protect an infant against all

forms of allergies, sickness, and even does not cause obesity, which is a major risk caused by formula foods.

"Mother's milk is not just easy to digest, it even helps build immunity against future ailments like diabetes, cancers, ear infections, etc. Babies fed with mother's milk are seen to have healthier weights growing up, compared to those who depend on formula foods,"

increased risk of suffering from breast cancer than those who do breastfeed. "Formula feed is the leading cause of obesity in kids these days as most mothers are working and they are in a hurry to join back their offices. As a result, these mothers start the formula feed early so that it is for the caretaker."

Dr K. Rama Devi, Senior Obstetrician and

postpartum depression, and a better bond with the babies. It also reduces the risk of obesity, diabetes, uterine and breast cancers. Maternal deaths are also significantly reduced by breastfeeding children. Breastfeeding reduces family expenses.

As the babies can be saved from major infections with mother's milk, their hospital visits reduce and



he said.

Highlighting risks associated with formula foods, Dr. G. Santhoshini, Gynecologist, Aware Gleneagles Global Hospital said that formula foods are not natural.

"This must be the reason enough to discourage parents from opting these foods available at marketplaces. These formula foods can cause complications like gastrointestinal diseases or cause respiratory tract infections among infants. It has been noticed that formula foods even have adverse effects on the intellectual development of a child," the doctor said.

According to the doctor, mothers who do not breastfeed their infants are at an

Gynaecologist, Century Hospital, pointed out that some new mothers opt in for formula foods because they are not able to generate milk naturally. "Every woman who conceives must follow certain basic guidelines during pregnancy, which will ensure every mother produces sufficient milk to feed her child. On conceiving, women must ensure they take proper rest and avoid mental and physical exertion. Taking nutritious foods like a variety of vegetables, fruits, grains, etc., will ensure women do not have any complications in producing milk sufficient for the child," she said.

"Mothers who breastfeed their babies have less bleeding during labour, no financial burden gets reduced. Since the natural resources do not disappear, it is also very conducive to the environment," said Dr Aparna C., Director Neonatology & Senior Consultant Neonatology and Paediatrics, KIMS Hospitals.

Initiated in 1992, World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebration organised by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), in association with the World Health Organisation (WHO), and UNICEF. This week is conceived to promote breastfeeding of every infant in the first six months of life, which is considered as the steppingstone for a healthy individual and an accomplished society.

Citizens urged to link EPIC with Aadhaar

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh, has urged voters to link their Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) with Aadhaar number, using online mode. It is voluntary.

The Election Commission has issued the guidelines for it. The online linking can be done through the Commission's helpline portal or through App, an official communication said on Saturday. For linking the EPIC with Aadhaar



number, Form 6B has to be used.

The voter can also update details of his family members.

Man gets life term for killing wife

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A court on Saturday sentenced a 53-year-old man to life term jail for killing his wife in Raipur district in 2019, a government lawyer said.

Additional Public Prosecutor Arvind Singh Cheema told The Pioneer that Eighth Additional Sessions Judge Shrikant Shrivastava found the man guilty.

Ramcharan Dehariya on June 17, 2019 axed his wife Birjo Bai to death in a Kendri village after a row over family issues.

HNLU to launch Career Development Conclave today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU) is conducting a Career Development Conclave which will be virtually inaugurated on Sunday.

The inaugural session shall be graced by Sapan Gupta, Global Legal Head of a London-based company as the Chief Guest, it was announced on Saturday.

The panel discussion on "Getting to Law Firms Unraveling the Path" will have partners of leading law firms as resource persons.

Saurabh Bindal, Anant Kaushik, Rachit Jain and Manisha Chaudhary shall



address the participants, a statement said.

HNLU Career Development Conclave is a unique initiative which provides a platform for a

dialogue between students, lawyers, policy makers and entrepreneurs, it said.

The conclave has received more than 800 registrations across India.

Four held on murder attempt charges

STAFF REPORTER ■ SURAJPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday arrested four persons for attempting to murder a man over old enmity in Surajpur district.

Surajpur Superintendent of Police Ram Krishna Sahu identified them as Nilesh Bargah, Durgesh Sahu, Sapne Patel and Sureshchand Yadav.

They tried to kill Ajay Kumar Singh. After a complaint, they were nabbed on Saturday morning.

The men told the police they attacked Singh when he was returning back from



Aamgaon. The police seized the arms and a motorcycle used in the crime. A court sent them to prison.

Three killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

Three teenage boys were killed after their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified truck in Raigarh district in Chhattisgarh, a police official said on Saturday.

The accident took place on National Highway 49 near Bargah Ghat when the three were heading to their Bandhapali village in Korba on Friday late evening, Kharsia Station House

Officer Shanip Ratre said.

The dead were identified as Roopsingh Aghariya (18), his brother Roop Narayan Aghariya (15) and Bhuvaneshwar Rathia (16).

The truck driver fled from the spot.

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under part 1 Chapter XXI of the Act (pursuant to Section 374 (b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4 (1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the companies Act, 2013. An application is proposed to be made after fifteen days here of but before the expiry of thirty days here in after to the CRC, II CA, Sectot 5, Imt Manager, Gurugram, Haryana, 122052 that "M/s SHRI RAM INFRA" Partnership firm may be registered under part I of Chapter XXI of the companies Act 2013, as company limited by shares.

1. The Principal object of the company are as follows : To carry on the business of producers, refiners, processors, manufacturers, buyers, sellers, distributors, importers, exporters, traders, agents, stockiest and to market and supply all types of corn, maize, rice, broken rice, sugar, sugarcanes & high starch agro products, agro based products, ethanol, alcohol, electricity, carbon, hydrocarbons, liquid or gaseous petroleum and petroleum products, minerals and the products or the bye-products thereof or its feed stocks and to acquire or carry business on in India or elsewhere the business of providing heat and cold treatment of iron, steel (including alloy steel) and metal foundries, processors, turners, forgers, drawers, rollers and re-rollers of steel shafting's, bars, rods, etc., any other products from steel, brass, copper, lead, zinc, nickel and any other ferrous and non-ferrous metals of all sizes, specification and description including ingot casting in electric and furnace and to carry on business of coal beneficiation, coal handling, coal washing, mining, trading, transportation of coal.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspect at Registered office: 11/146, Sharma Complex, Near Chikni Mandir, Malviya Road, Raipur (C.G.) 492001

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communication their objection in writing to the 11/146, Sharma Complex, Near Chikni Mandir, Malviya Road, Raipur (C.G.) 492001 within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Name of applicants:
1. Sandeep Kumar Sharma,
2. Vinod Kumar Sharma,
3. Akshay Sharma,

Dated 05, August 2022.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a rise in coronavirus infections 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

congregations in different parts 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 August 5.

In his letter to Delhi, Bhushan said the national capital has been reporting high

average daily new cases (811 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 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

per day in the past month and 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 network for genome sequencing.

"Renewed attention needs to be paid for ensuring of

Covid-appropriate behaviour in crowded places like markets, inter-state bus stands, schools, colleges, railway stations, etc," he said.

"States should aim 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 Centres (CVCs) under the 'COVID Vaccination Amrit Mahotsav' till September 30," he stated.

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



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

As Jagdeep Dhankar was elected as new Vice-President of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accompanied by 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 Dhankar and congratulating him.

"Congratulations to Shri Jagdeep Dhankar 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 Dhankar 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 congratulatory message said he was confident that Dhankar 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 candidate.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the new Vice-President saying:

"Congratulations to Shri



Jagdeep Dhankar 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 him. "I am so happy. I congratulate him. It was a decisive and impressive victory. He is

Rahul slams Govt over glitches in CUET

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 'tech-

nical' 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 ■ NEW DELHI

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 elections in the Parliament.

Congress general secretary 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 Ram.

"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 message.

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Having ruled that denying an unmarried 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 separation.

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

On July 21, 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 consensual relationship.

The top court had said, "A woman's right

to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution and she has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity."

"Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom. Live-in relationships have been recognized by this Court," it had underlined.

The court had requested the Director of the 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 carry out the abortion.

The court said it was of the view that allowing the petitioner to suffer an unwanted pregnancy will be contrary to the intent of the law enacted by Parliament.

Allowing the petitioner to terminate her 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 unmarried woman, it had said.

It had added the distinction between a married 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 Explanation 1 to Section 3 of the Act.

"The petitioner had moved the High Court before she had completed 24 weeks of pregnancy. The delay in the judicial process cannot work to her prejudice," it had said.

The top court had said Parliament, by 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 'husband' with 'partner'. It, however, pointed out there is a gap in the law as while Section 3 travels 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 women such as divorcees, widows, minors, disabled and mentally ill women and survivors of sexual assault or rape.

PM's global initiative LIFE to be India's theme at its COP27 pavilion in Egypt

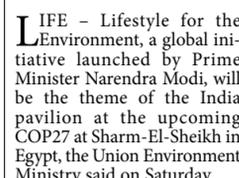
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

LIFE - Lifestyle for the Environment, a global initiative launched by Prime 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 the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at Glasgow last November.

Subsequently, he launched 'Lifestyle for the Environment - LIFE 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 said.

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 non-fossil 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 emission by 2070.

Navy ships to visit all continents to mark 75 years of India's Independence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy ships are visiting ports in all the continents as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India's independence. The ships will hoist the national flag onboard on August 15 in these ports spread across six continents and six different time zones.

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



London(Europe). The 75th year of India's Independence, marked by Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is an occasion to reinvigorate and re-emphasise India's maritime moorings, officials said. Towards this, a large number 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 1947).



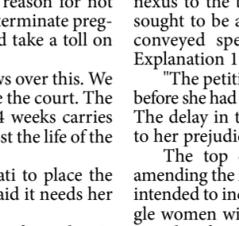
gates. Similarly, a ceremonial wreath laying by the Indian ship is scheduled at the Kranji War Memorial and the Indian National Marker(INA)Marker at Singapore. At Mombasa (Kenya), the naval crew will participate in the inauguration of a commemorative pillar in the Battlefield area of Taita Taveta region 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 and Singapore(Asia), Mombasa, Kenya(Africa), Perth(Australia), San Diego(USA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil(South America) and

IAF chief flies 3 desi 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 demonstrated 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



Chief Marshal LM Katre 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.

Naidu India's most travelled VP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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 his tenure. His tenure ends next week.

Besides his tenure as ex-officio chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Naidu's period was marked by low productivity of the Upper House to start with in 2017 and a recovery later.

According to officials of the Vice President Secretariat, out



of the 13 full sessions Naidu presided over till the Budget 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 time.

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

Fifty seven per cent of the sittings of Rajya Sabha have

Naidu India's most travelled VP

witnessed disruptions and 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 an 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.

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China military drills appear to simulate attack: Taiwan



AP ■ BEIJING

Taiwan 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 assault systems.

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 breakthrough 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 response.

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 democratic 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 distributed-denial-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.

Ukrainian unit digs in for Russian assault on eastern city

AP ■ SLOVIANSK

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 fiercely 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 shelling 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 ambi-

tion to seize all of Donetsk province, a largely Russian-speaking area in eastern Ukraine where Russian forces and pro-Moscow separatists control about 60% of the territory.

Donetsk and neighbouring Luhansk province, which Russia has almost entirely captured since Ukrainian forces 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 Ukraine.

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 control.

Indiana becomes 1st state to approve abortion ban post Roe

AP ★ INDIANAPOLIS (US)

Indiana on Friday became the 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 their licence.



"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 Eric 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 self-governed 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 Pyo. According to Kim, the two agreed to support their governments' push for denuclearisation and peace on the Korean Peninsula based on strong, extended deterrence against the North and diplomacy.

Explainer: What is driving current Israel-Gaza violence

AP ■ TEL AVIV

Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip were exchanging fire Saturday in the worst bout of cross-border 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 to have hit the area.

Although its base is Gaza, Islamic Jihad also has leadership in Beirut and 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 Jihad militant activities in Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip during the 2021 war. Israel said he was preparing to launch an anti-tank missile 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,

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

10th anniv of Wisconsin gurdwara attack

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has called 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 condemned 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



of worship, and defeat domestic terrorism and hate in all its 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.

5.3-magnitude 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 Gadhri 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 vows nuke ban at 77th memorial amid Russia threat

AP ■ TOKYO

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.



Fears of a third atomic bombing have grown amid Russia's threats of nuclear attack since its war on Ukraine began in February.

"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

of innocent civilians in another country."

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 government 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

Mumbai: India's forex reserves 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 June 29, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) weekly supplementary statistical data.



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 added.

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 largest globally.

Paytm's revenue 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 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 contribution margin to 43 per cent of revenues in comparison to 35 per cent in Q4FY22.

Paytm's payments services revenue grew by 69 per cent Y-o-Y (3 per cent Q-o-Q), supported by rapid growth in user engagement, merchant base, use cases on the Paytm super app and subscription revenue from payment devices.

The company's user engagement, measured by

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 Y-o-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 loans, representing a growth of 492 per cent Y-o-Y and 30 per cent Q-o-Q.

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

New Delhi: All India Power 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 (NCCOEEE) 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 be forced to cease the work and hold demonstrations throughout the day to register their



protest. 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.

The bill also states that "the 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 Electricity Act".

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.

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

margins. A standalone net loss of Rs 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 stock exchanges.

During the quarter, HPCL and other state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) did not revise petrol and diesel prices in line with rising costs to help the gov-

ernment contain runaway inflation.

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 cost.

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 million in the year-ago period.

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.

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

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 agri-exports value chains, "we are aiming 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

New Delhi: The country's 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 2021-22.

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) losses on its investment book.

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

cent and 10.09 per cent respectively," it said.

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 cent.

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 year ago.

As a result, the provisions for bad loans declined to Rs 4,268 crore from Rs 5,030 in the same period a year ago. Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) improved by 719 basis points to 75.05 per cent on annual basis.

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पत्रांक-2214/23 एम-04/2022 दिनांक 05/08/2022

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोकनिर्माण रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा टू-बिड बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाइट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 16.08.2022 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	घरोहर घनराशि (लाख म ³)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु० म ³)	निविदा की वैधता (दिवस)	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय (माह म ³)	टेकेदार की श्रेणी
1	राज्य योजना के अन्तर्गत विधानसभा क्षेत्र बाजपुर में मुकुन्दपुर पेमा ढकिया गुलाबो मार्ग (राज्य मार्ग सं० 105) के बनेज 13.700 से बनेज 16.000 तक (वीरपर से कटेया) पुनः निर्माण/सुदृढीकरण का कार्य।	7.75	5000.00 + 18% GST	120 दिन	15 माह	केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार के विभाग / उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी A/A+ पंजीकृत

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

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 sales.

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 to automobiles and piped natural gas for sale to households for cooking, jumped to Rs 1,004.53 crore from Rs 191.04 crore last year.

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.

Google launches 'India Ki Udaan' to mark 75 years of Independence

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 featuring 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



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.

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्य प्रदेश

(लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्य प्रदेश शासन)
 लिंक रोड नंबर 3, माधवराव सप्रे मार्ग, भोपाल (462003)

:- विज्ञापन :-
 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 सविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक (डीईआईसी) के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2023 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामे वर्षों को वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा :-

क्र.	पदनाम	रिक्त पद	मासिक मानदेय	अनिवार्य शैक्षणिक योग्यता	आयु सीमा
1	सविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक (डीईआईसी)	22	30,000/- रुपये प्रतिमाह	किसी भी मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थान/विश्वविद्यालय से बैचलर ऑफ डेंटल सर्जरी (बी.डी.एस.) उत्तीर्ण। म.प्र. राज्य डेंटल काउंसिलिंग में स्थायी जोड़ित वैध पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र होना अनिवार्य।	21-40 वर्ष अधिकतम आयु सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति, अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग, निशक्त जन्म/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित) अधिकतम आयु सीमा में 5 वर्ष की कटौत (01.01.2022 को 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 नहीं किये जायेंगे।

2. पद हेतु आरक्षण निम्नानुसार होगा :-

पद का नाम	कुल सीटें	अनारक्षित	आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर	अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग	अनुसूचित जाति	अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	रिक्तियों में मध्यप्रदेश की मूल निवासी दिव्यांगजन अभ्यार्थियों हेतु आरक्षित पदों की संख्या
सविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक (डीईआईसी)	22	5	2	1	3	1	2
				1	2	1	4
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- दिव्यांगजन का आरक्षण क्षैतिज (Horizontal) के आधार पर 06 प्रतिशत का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है। नि:शक्तजनों 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 को बिना वर्ग/ओपन नियुक्तियों में सम्मिलित है।
- कोविड-19 के अंतर्गत अस्थायी एवं आकस्मिक रूप से कार्य करने वाले दंतशल्य चिकित्सक जिनसे न्यूनतम अवधि 89 दिवस कार्य किया हो उसे सविदा 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 आवेदन स्वयंसेवक निरस्त माने जायेंगे।
- अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।
- 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।

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 by Axis Bank.

"Axis Bank has sent a confirmation letter ascertaining the company as the successful bidder for both the land parcels," MaxVIL said.

The two land parcels are located in Sector 129, Noida and next to Max Estates' under-



construction grade A+ commercial office project 'Max Square'.

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 campus, MaxVIL said. The construction work in

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

"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 each year.

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

Chennai: It was a moment of pride for the students of Allied Health Sciences of SRM 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 Paavirvendhar showered praises on the students who have won the placement with great pay package.

The 11 students have been placed at Pleasant in California of USA with a salary package of 72,000 USD per annum which amounts to about ₹55 lakhs in the Indian estimates. The students have won applaude from every one at a function held in Chennai recently.

Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical and Health Sciences) at SRMIST Dr. A. Ravikumar said it is a matter of pride for the institution that trained these students.

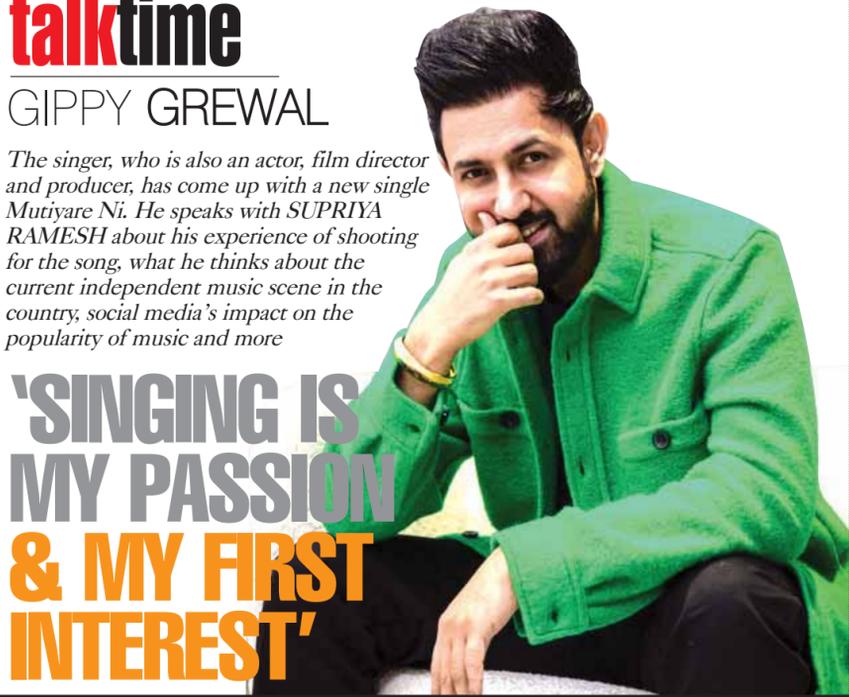


talktime

GIPPY GREWAL

The singer, who is also an actor, film director and producer, has come up with a new single *Mutiyaare Ni*. He speaks with SUPRIYA RAMESH about his experience of shooting for the song, what he thinks about the current independent music scene in the country, social media's impact on the popularity of music and more

'SINGING IS MY PASSION & MY FIRST INTEREST'



■ What was the thought behind creating the song *Mutiyaare 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 *Mutiyaare 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 evolved?

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 Punjab* 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 the roles?

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

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 experience been with Believe India?

Currently, my upcoming movie *Yaar Mera Tiliyan Warga*, which will release on September 2, is something I'm 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. *Mutiyaare 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



Dr Umesh Sharma, was one of the key guests at the event. Dignitaries from the Japanese Embassy in Delhi and the Director General of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Takashii Suzuki, were also in attendance.

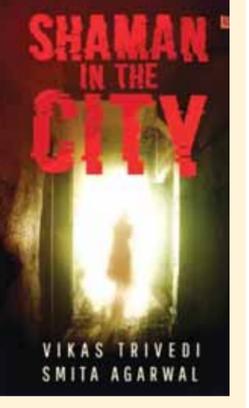
A caricature artist and a mind games expert (behaviourist) were also present at the venue, keeping several socialites and pet parents entertained, especially the furry friends.

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

DCC (Dogs Cats & Companions) Animal Hospital, a multi-specialty state-of-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),

Book Shaman in the City is the thriller you were looking for

Co-written by Vikas Trivedi and Smita Agarwal, *Shaman in the City* is a psychological thriller about hauntingly obsessive visions and unsolved past of some innocent lives lost that strangely connects to the future. The duo has previously published three books together—*The Hidden Spark*, *42 Days of Love & 14/2 the Attack of Pulwama*. Their books have been on the bestseller charts on Amazon. The new book *Shaman in the City* was released earlier this year and continues to receive praises from all across the world.



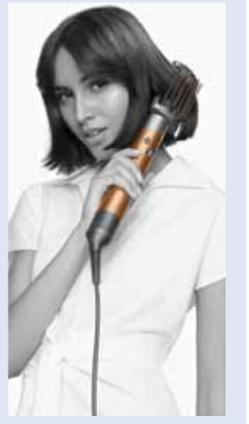
"I really enjoyed writing this book as it was somewhere connected to our own belief system as healers and believers in the powers of the universe. I can say we both loved the experience, especially when we were brain-storming the plot," says Trivedi.

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 readers hooked till the end."

The book is available on Amazon, Flipkart and bookstores in India.

Masterstroke

Dyson unveiled its best-performing and most efficient Airwrap yet – the Dyson Airwrap™ 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 multi-styler 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.

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 cavity.

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

For a good dental health, fiber-rich crunchy food should be chosen as compared to boiled vegetables like carrots, cabbage and spinach. These crunchy foods will help in secretion of saliva which will prevent food particles 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 regular intervals.

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

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 interdental tooth decay.

Always change your toothbrush

after 3 months

It is of immense importance to gargle with warm saline water twice a day this not only prevents COVID infection but promotes a good gum health.

Rinse your mouth with plain water, 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.

■ How can we enjoy sweets without harming our teeth?

Sweets and refined sugars are very tempting and are sometimes unavoidable.

It is advised to eat sweets before meal.

Always rinse mouth with plain water after eating.

Try consuming sweets and refined sugars only once a day because a single exposure of mouth to a large amount of sugary food is less cariogenic than multiple exposure of sugars throughout the day.

Avoid brushing teeth immediately after eating sweets this can lead to tooth erosion (wait for at least 15 to 30 minutes till then chew on fibrous fruits like apples)

Avoid sweets containing artificial color as it can stain your teeth

■ Oral Hygiene care for breast feeding mothers?

1st August to 7th August is also observed as "Breastfeeding Week". It becomes important to say that breastfeeding has direct link with development of jaws in infants.

Mother's breast milk is highly nutritious containing antibody and anticariogenic property which reduces the risk of dental decay in children.

Researches have even proven infants who are breastfed exclusively for 6 months have less chances for misalignment as compared to those 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

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 good oral hygiene but a routine will 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 dentist and your dentist might suggest you a night guard.

Every smile makes a person a day younger.

Dr Riya Gupta, Dental Surgeon

QUIRKY TALE

How the role of leadership is changing

The 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 public-facing 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 change.

—John Kallellil, Founder & CEO, XED

Creating a safe space

C2 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 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 fulfill 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.

Social media has gone beyond being only a social platform for 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.

Agarwal posts incredible content around her travel stories and 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: @priyagarwal) 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 goodness in others: Ishu Kalra

A closer look around will let people know how a few industries across the world have grown and developed massively over the years. These developments could be possible because of the incessant efforts and relentless passion of a few astute minds, especially from the younger brigade. However, an evident change has also been noticed overall across different 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.

Vinesh pounces CWG gold, Dahiya wins yellow metal

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Putting aside the mental and physical struggles that pegged her back, an intimidating Vinesh Phogat pounced on her rivals to complete a hat-trick of CWG gold medals while Ravi Dahiya too went unchallenged in his gold-winning show, here on Saturday.

Vinesh became the first Indian woman wrestler to win three consecutive Commonwealth Games gold medal.

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 rival.

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

Next up for the 27-year-old



VINESH BECAME THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN WRESTLER TO WIN THREE CONSECUTIVE COMMONWEALTH GAMES GOLD MEDAL.

Vinesh was Nigeria's Mercy Bolafunoluwa Adekuroye, 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, winning 6-0.

With only four wrestlers in the women's 53kg draw, Vinesh now needed to beat Sri Lanka's Chamodya Keshani Maduravilage Don and she did it in style, winning 'by fall' to clinch her third

successive gold.

Vinesh has been struggling for form and fitness ever since her defeat at the Tokyo Games, where she made a shock first-round exit after entering the field as the hot favourite for the gold medal.

Tokyo Games silver medallist Ravi was also too good for the 57kg field. He won both his bouts -- against Suraj Singh of New Zealand and Pakistan's Asad Ali -- by technical superiority en route the final.

In the final, Nigeria's Ebikewenimo Welson showed the intent to fight but the level at which Ravi wrestles, it was a tough task.

Ravi foiled a right leg attack and on next try of the Nigerian, he scored on counter-attack, effecting a take-down move with ease.

Soon he had trapped Welson in leg-lace and rolled him thrice for a 8-0 lead. Ravi completed the formality with another take-down.



Wrestler Naveen wins gold in men's free style 74kg

IANS ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian wrestler Naveen won the gold medal in the men's 74kg freestyle wrestling at the 2022 Commonwealth Games with a thumping victory over Pakistan's Muhammad Sharif Tahir in the final at the Coventry Stadium and Arena, here on Saturday.

Making his CWG debut at Birmingham 2022, the 19-year-old Naveen, an under-23 world champion,

won three of his bouts by technical superiority and fell just a point short of making it four in the final.

Naveen, who missed the Tokyo Olympics qualifiers after testing positive for COVID-19, started the gold medal match, with purpose. The Indian seemed to have the edge over Tahir in terms of speed and used it to his advantage to open the scoring with a two-point takedown.

Steeplechaser Sable, race walker Priyanka clinch silver medals in CWG

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Avinash Sable broke his own national 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 Indian athletics team's medal 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 field.

High jumper Tejswin 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 showpiece.

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

President Murmu congratulates CWG medal winners Priyanka Goswami, Avinash Sable

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday congratulated Priyanka Goswami and Avinash Sable for winning Commonwealth Games medals in race walking and steeplechase respectively and hoped their feats will inspire millions.

"Congratulations to Priyanka Goswami for winning silver in race walking at #CommonwealthGames. Becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal in race walking you have opened a new chapter of achievements. Your feat will inspire millions, especially our girls," the president tweeted

INDIA BEAT ENGLAND BY FOUR RUNS TO ENTER CWG FINAL

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

All-rounder Sneha 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 Saturday.

Needing 165 to win, England were cruising along at 132 for 3. The hosts required only 33 runs off 24 balls but off-spinner 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 32-ball-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

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 balls.

Indian team wins silver in men's fours lawn bowls

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India won its second medal in lawn bowls competition at the Commonwealth Games after the men's fours team settled for a silver after losing to Northern Ireland in the final here on Saturday.

The final score read 18-5 in favour of Northern Ireland.

The Indian team comprised Sunil Bahadur (lead), Navneet Singh (second), Chandan Kumar Singh (third) and Dinesh Kumar (skip).

Northern Ireland's last gold medal in lawn bowls came way back in the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

The Indian team defeated hosts England by a close 13-12 margin in the semifinal to assure India of at least a silver medal.

This comes after the women's quartet of Lovely Choubey (lead), Pinki (second), Nayanmoni Saikia (third) and Rupa Rani Tirkey (skip) beat South Africa 17-10 in the women's fours final to hand India a historic gold on Tuesday.

TT: Sharath, Sathiyam advance to semifinals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Top Indian paddlers Achanta Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyam progressed to the semifinals of the men's singles event at the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

While Sharath made short work of Singapore player Yong Izaac Quek 4-0 (11-6 11-7 11-4 11-7), Sathiyam was stretched in his 4-2 (11-5 11-7 11-5 8-11 10-12 11-9) win by England's Sam Walker.

"It was a great match, all credit to Sam, he fought really hard. I really should have closed in that fifth set but I was a bit nervous," Sathiyam said.

"I have never beaten Sam, so this came into my mind and it was not so easy to play in a big



match like this. I kept my cool in the end and I took the match to get my first (Commonwealth Games) semifinal so I'm really happy," he added.

However, it was curtains for Sanil Shetty, who squandered a one-game lead to go down to home favourite Liam Pitchford 1-4 (11-9 6-11 8-11 8-11 4-11).

In the women's doubles, both Indian

Sindhu enters women's singles semifinals

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

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 mid-game 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.

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 Kieran Macdonald (men's fly) and Demie-Jade Resztan (women's minimum) in their respective finals on Sunday in pursuit of their maiden gold medals.

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

PTI ■ CALI (COLOMBIA)

Indian triple jumper Selva P Thirumaran improved 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.

Thirumaran's silver-winning jump came in his second attempt.



The Indian women's team qualified for the 4x400m relay finals.

The quartet of Summy, Priya Habbathahalli Mohan, Rajitha Kunja and R upal

clocked 3:34.18 to finish second in heat 3 and fourth fastest overall.

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, 1 bronze.

FIFA threatens AIFF ban, stripping of right to host women's U-17 World Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World football governing body FIFA has threatened to suspend the AIFF and strip of its right to host the women's U-17 World Cup in October due to a third party "influence", a development which comes just days after the Supreme Court's directive to hold elections of the national federation. The Court on Wed directed the executive committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to expeditiously hold elections as per the schedule proposed by the CoA which is currently running federation's affairs.

India beat SA 3-2 to reach CWG men's hockey final

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

India on Saturday defeated South Africa 3-2 to reach the Commonwealth Games men's hockey final. After a goalless first quarter, India scored twice in the second quarter.

Abhishek opened the scoring before Mandeep Singh made it 2-0 after a fine solo goal. Ryan Julius got South Africa back in the match after scoring off a rebound from the penalty.

India restored their two-goal lead in the fourth quarter before South Africa pulled one back again to give ruffle a few feathers inside the Indian dugout. India have remained



unbeaten in the tournament so far, registering three wins and a draw. South Africa, on the other hand, have recorded two victories and a draw and a loss.

As per the current scenario, Manpreet Singh led-side will be overwhelming favourites against world no.13 South Africa. India finished at the top of Pool B while South Africa ended their group stage campaign on the second spot. The winner of the semi-final match will be facing the winner of the other semi-final match, which will be played between Australia and England. The losers of the both the matches will be squaring off in the bronze medal match.

the pioneer agenda

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



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 INDIAN TELECOM SAGA

The 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 scam-hit 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



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 allotted 2G Spectrum and 122 licenses to many companies, most of them from real estate sectors, at a throwaway price of just ₹9,200 crores.

Raja gave telecom licenses and spectrum without 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 million, and the Minister, ignoring Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's direction, gave away licenses 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 a telecom business.

By that time BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and lawyer Prashant Bhusan approached the Supreme Court demanding the cancellation of all 122 tainted licenses granted by Raja and conducting fresh auction. The CBI in its FIR in 2009 on the 2G Scam pegged the loss to the public exchequer 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 than ₹4,500 crore.

HOW CAG ARRIVED AT THE LOSS FIGURE OF ₹1.76 LAKH 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

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 ₹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.

WHEN WILL 5G SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN BSNL AND MTNL?

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)

CLARIFICATION

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.



Modi to inaugurate 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 Dattatreya 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 Math.

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 seven-floor building that totals three lakh sq. ft. with exclusive Grade A to D GMP labs. There will be a focus on identifying newer diagnostic markers, AI, ML, 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. Sanjeev K Singh said.

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 issues.

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 high-quality 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 healthcare projects with a very low carbon 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.

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 bureaucrat, 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.

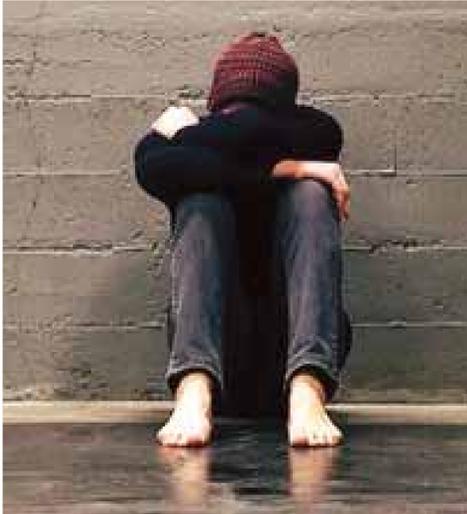
These two cases are just the tip of the iceberg. As per the findings of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) released in 2017, over 12 per-cent of Indian youth reported feeling depressed often, and 8 per cent reported feeling lonely quite frequently.

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 & Science, Patna, Patliputra 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 part.



"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 loneliness.



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

alone, without children. While loneliness can have an impact across ages and be relevant irrespective of whether you stay alone or in a full house, it is most common among those above 60 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," he asserts.



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 being alone are commonly confused, 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 Vasani, 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. Vasani 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 loneliness.



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. - Self-care: 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

best friend and gives value to 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 your life.

Nations Gear up to Tackle Loneliness



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

Various Governments across 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 year took similar step after it felt that loneliness is afflicting across different age 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

established the Ministry of Happiness to measure the happiness of its citizens. In the population census form, there is a column to fill in the information about citizens' level of life satisfaction. This information is acquired using a holistic approach to measuring citizens' happiness and well-being that also provides guidelines to design evidence-based policies.

Happiness classes have brought a pathbreaking change 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."

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.

Yesterday, 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.



DR NITA RADHAKRISHNAN 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 anything.

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" dis-

ease 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 warrior in each situation, richer in experience, calmer as a person and more restrained in your response.

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

"India has been invited to 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)

Post-Independence India was known for its idealistic 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 weakness, feigned helplessness towards its two hostile neighbours, and consoled itself as a "soft power".

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

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 Indo-Pacific 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 pressure tactics.

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 rights. Samantha Power, administrator USAID, on her recent visit to India, spoke of the divisive forces in "US and India".

Partnerships and alliances

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 reached just before the pandemic took hold. All the confounding numbers only make the long-term outlook for the economy more muddled

Whether the US economy 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 50-year 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 muddled.

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 AP

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 half-point 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 years.

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 positive.

"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 burdened. With wage gains trailing inflation for most people, higher prices for such essentials as gas, food, and rent have eroded Americans' spending power.

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 home sales and construction.

Higher rates will also likely weigh 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 would further reduce spending.

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.

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 for?

Many economists also monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted yield 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, longer-term 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 two-year Treasury has exceeded the 10-year yield, suggesting that markets expect a recession soon. Many analysts say, though, that comparing the 3-month 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 US.

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)

YOU WILL FACE MANY DEFEATS
IN LIFE, BUT NEVER LET
YOURSELF BE DEFEATED
—MAYA ANGELOU

**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

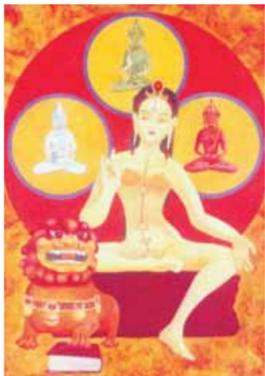
MADHU KOTIYA



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 week.

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 support.

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 liking this week.

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 be resolved.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday

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Shiva symbolises unity in diversity



Carrying 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, individuality 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 Shiva'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

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

its end before the crop comes up, but 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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