

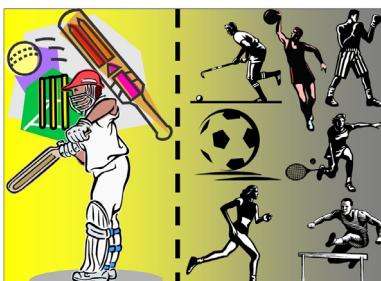


3/2021

CityMatters

CUTS®
International

Need for a Robust Sporting Culture in India



www.google.com

Rani Rampal, captain of our Olympic Women's Hockey Team, was quite vivid in condemning the slur on Vandana Kataria made by some idiots in Haridwar, UP, after the team lost to Argentina. "Our team comprises all sections of our society, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists. We are Indians and play for India".

She said the team had felt "so much love from people" despite not winning the first medal but added that lessons had to be learned to end such abuse "if we want to make our country a sporting nation."

A similar thing happened in cricket, when Pakistan hammered us in the T20 world cup. Trolls picked out Mohammed Shafi for being untrue to India. Virat Kohli, the skipper, lashed out at the trolls, but the incident left a bad taste. What was worse was that a software engineer, Ramnagesh Akbathini threatened to rape Virat's 10-month-old daughter. The police picked him up and the case is under investigation.

Returning to Olympics, how has China become such a big sporting nation. Fortunately, they do not have any caste system and people are mostly Buddhists or atheists. Every year China trains 4,00,000 children, out of which top 500 athletes take part in Olympics. The children are recruited between the ages of 8 and 13. Their approach to sports is as fanatic as their desire to become the *numero uno* country in the world. The total medals tally in the Tokyo Olympics was 88, while India was at seven. The US was the leader at 113. Though there is racism in the US, in sports, blacks often do better than whites. Hence, there is no overt slurring. In the US, their educational institutions lay considerable stress on sports.

What do we do in India? We often talk and talk. Most of our sports associations and facilities have been dominated by politicians. Hence, our progress is quite skewed. Some good sportspersons are naturally talented and hence can collect medals in the Olympics and other international tournaments. Most of them are extraordinary. For example, Mary Kom from Manipur won gold medals in the Olympics and various other tournaments, having trained locally and not in any fancy training institution.

That said, let me turn to the Paralympics, where we appear to have done better than the Olympics. In Paralympics with 54 participants, we won 19 medals. In Olympics with 126 players, we got only seven medals. It was our best Paralympic score.

Closer home, Avani Lekhara from Rajasthan won a gold medal in the Paralympics air rifle shooting. Following that, the Government of Rajasthan has appointed her as the Brand Ambassador for 'Beti bachao, beti padhao' (save daughters, educate them) campaign (see page 5 for more details).

Our young girls, particularly minors and infants, need much more than education to protect themselves from criminals, about which we write so often. Even well-educated people can be potential criminals, for example, Ramnagesh mentioned above.



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Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

The Billionaire Space Race Lifts Off

Someday, they will be remembered as “5 minutes that started the decade of space”. In 10 days, billionaires Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos will cross the space frontier some 100km up in the sky.

They will be the first amateurs to do so in privately designed and owned spacecraft. And while they might spend only about 5 minutes each in zero gravity, they have the world's attention because human space flight will now be at the centre of all space activity for both scientific and commercial projects.

Domain experts have already labelled it a “decade of space”, as all spacefaring nations, including India, are drawing ambitious plans to touch down on other celestial bodies.



(BS, 11.07.21)

Indigenous people claiming land

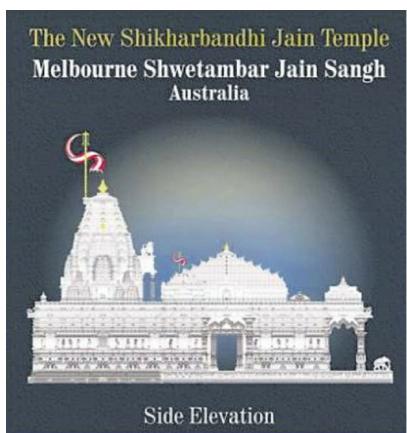
Hundreds of indigenous people danced and chanted outside Brazil's Supreme Court to urge the justices not to rule in favour of the cut-off date of 1988 for their land claims, a proposal backed by the farming sector.

The protest has drawn an unprecedented 6,000 indigenous people from 176 tribes to camp out in the Brazilian capital to press the court to reject the timeframe.

The ruling will affect 230 pending land claims, many of which offer a bulwark against deforestation in the Amazon rainforest. (DB, 25.08.21)

Melbourne to get new Jain temple

The stone of Rajasthan, which has been used in Ram temple, Taj Mahal and Parliament, has now made an identity in foreign countries. Now Australia's largest Jain temple will take shape in Melbourne from the marble of Makrana in Nagaur. 55 feet high, 54 feet wide and 72 feet long, this summit temple is determined to be built in three years.



The age of this temple will be 1000 years. For this, more than 600 craftsmen from Gujarat will go to Melbourne. The target is to complete its construction work in three years.

The construction material, including Makrana marbles and stones, will be sent by waterway from Gujarat. Iron and cement will not be used in construction.

(AU, 14.08.21)

Xi Jinping's thought in schools

China will introduce President Xi Jinping's political ideology in its national curriculum for schools and colleges in the latest effort to consolidate the ruling Communist Party's grip on power for the future.



Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era will be incorporated into China's textbooks for students at all levels. The ideology will be integrated into the curriculum covering basic, vocational and various subjects of higher education.

As per the new curriculum, the primary schools will cultivate the love for the country, the CPC and socialism.

(BS, 25.04.21)

'Nation First, Always First' mantra

The Prime Minister of India stressed on 'Nation First, Always First' mantra. As the country enters its 75th year of Independence, he said that every citizen should lead a 'Bharat Jodo Andolan' in

the same manner as Mahatma Gandhi had led the 'Bharat Chhoro Andolan'.

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, he noted that as India enters its 75th year of Independence on August 15, Amrit Mahotsav is being celebrated throughout the country to mark the year. The need of the nation is to unite and work towards national progress.

(ET, 26.07.21)

Dutch film awards go gender-neutral

The most important film awards within the Netherlands will, from the year 2021, solely single out one of the best performing efficiency in a number one and supporting position, as a substitute of handing out separate prizes to female and male actors.



The transfer is supposed to make the Golden Calf awards – named after the small golden statues introduced to winners – extra inclusive, organisers stated.

For years, improving gender equality in the film has been a subject of dialogue, as awards and main festivals have scrutinised the low variety of ladies administrators operating for prime awards.

(Reuters, 19.08.21)

Lighting up the village with innovation

A film came in the year 2004 and the name was Swadesh. In it, actor Shahrukh Khan played the character of NRI Mohan Bhargava. When Mohan returned to his homeland after years, he had illuminated the village with electricity with his innovation.

That character of reel life was made a reality by a man in the African country of Malawi. Indeed, 15 years ago, in 2006, there was no electricity in the remote Yobe Kosi village in Malawi.

After lighting up the village, Colreard now wants to install a mini-grid. Villagers say that Colreard has not only illuminated the village, it has also brought a light of hope in our lives.

(DB, 06.09.21)

Miscellany

Philip's will to be secret for 90 years

The Duke of Edinburgh's will is to remain secret for at least 90 years to protect the "dignity and standing" of the Queen, the High Court has ruled.

It has been a convention for over a century that, after the death of a senior member of the Royal Family, the courts are asked to seal their wills.

It means that, unlike most wills granted probate, it will not be open to public inspection.

There will be a private process in 90 years to decide if it can be unsealed.

(BBC, 16.09.21)

Egg freezing limit to be extended

UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid has proposed new legislation that will allow prospective parents to store frozen eggs, sperm and embryos for up to 55 years. The announcement came after the Royal Society of Obstetricians suggested that modern freezing techniques allowed eggs and sperms to be stored indefinitely.

As per the current law, the parents are supposed to decide within ten years



if they want to undergo IVF reproduction or destroy their cells. However, under the modified rules, they will be permitted to determine the course of action every ten years. People who can prove premature infertility will be eligible for the new system.

(BBC, 06.09.21)

Sensory researchers win Nobel prize

Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch, revelations that could lead to new ways of treating pain or even heart disease.



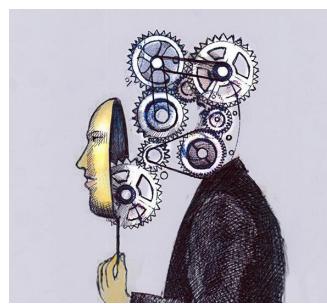
David Julius



Ardem Patapoutian

Americans David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian identified receptors in the skin that respond to heat and pressure. Their work is focused on the field of somatosensation, which explores the ability of specialised organs such as eyes, ears and skin to see, hear and feel.

(ET, 05.10.21)



Interfaith marriage ceremony held



Ten days after the parents of a 28-year-old woman in Maharashtra's Nashik district called off her marriage ceremony with a Muslim man due to pressure from their Hindu community members, the ceremony was held.

Rasika Adgaonkar and Asif Khan were married at a hotel in Nashik as per Hindu rites, followed by a 'nikah' ceremony in the Muslim tradition.

In May, they had a registered marriage and were scheduled to tie the nuptial knot, which the online protesters had described as a case of 'love jihad'.

(DB, 23.07.21)

Reunion through social media

A missing teenager from Florida was reunited with her mother at the US-Mexico border after she was abducted 14 years ago.

The mother and the daughter reunited after a reported social media communication between them. Jacqueline Hernandez, 19, contacted her mother, Angelica Vences-Salgado, over Facebook and told her that she lived in Mexico.

Vences-Salgado said that she was contacted by a woman who claimed to be her lost daughter. (NDTV, 16.09.21)

AI as a patent inventor

Ryan Abbott's eight-year quest to put man and machine on a near-equal footing under international patent law finally sees positive results.

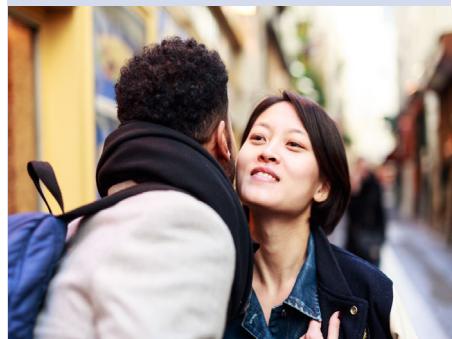
Recent decisions from South Africa and Australia that the artificial intelligence machine can be listed as an inventor on a patent is putting more significant pressure on the US and Europe to resolve debates over what it means to be an inventor.

AI is identified as one of the "must-win technologies of the future" by the Biden administration.

(ET, 23.08.21)

Parisians say "la bise" is back

France's traditional "la bise" greeting - a kiss on each cheek - is slowing make a comeback as the coronavirus recedes. Bestowed on family, friends, or anyone else in an informal setting, "la bise" was de



facto banned at the height of the pandemic

But with more than 70 percent of the population fully vaccinated, people can once more be seen planting what are usually just air kisses by a kissing sound on each other's cheeks.

It is best to be vaccinated and kiss each other than not be vaccinated and not kiss each other.

(Reuters, 28.09.21)

Women Inspiring the World

Mathai, the first women DG of AFMS

Surgeon Rear Admiral Sheila Samanta Mathai, NM, VSM, was promoted to Surgeon Vice Admiral and assumed the post of Director General (Organization and Personal) of the Armed Forces Medical Services under the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services.



A graduate of the Armed Forces Medical College at AFMC, Surgeon Vice Admiral Sheila Samanta Mathai has served over 36 years in the Indian Navy and is the first woman officer to rise to this rank directly in the Indian Navy. (DB, 27.08.21)

Akanksha: First woman mining engineer

Akanksha Kumari has become the first-ever woman mining engineer in Coal India's history to work in its underground mines. Kumari scripted history by joining Central Coalfields Limited at its Churi underground mines in the North Karanpura area of Jharkhand.

This is the first time the core mining activity of one of the biggest coal mining companies in the world will witness this progressive change. (DB, 01.09.21)

ZSI gets its first woman director

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), one of the premier organisations involved in taxonomic studies of fauna, got its first woman Director.



Dhriti Banerjee, an entomologist with expertise in Diptera, has taken over as the 18th Director of the 105-year institute. Headquartered in Kolkata, the ZSI has 16 regional centres and about 300 scientists.

Banerjee spearheaded the ZSI faunal information system, multi-dimensional platform housing information, collections, spatial and temporal data, and genetics and molecular information about the faunal species. (TH, 07.08.21)

If women protest with selfies & colour

Afghan women worldwide are posting photos on social media of colourful traditional clothing protesting the Taliban's new rules for what females can wear in educational settings.

The Taliban recently announced the segregation of female university



students and the prescribed clothing of a black hijab, saying such measures are in keeping with their interpretation of Islamic Sharia law. (HT, 14.09.21)

Kerala girls to set world record

Standing at the St John's Cathedral in Australia's Brisbane on World Peace Day on September 21, 2021, Teresa and Augnes set a world record.



The sisters, hailing from Thycattusery village of Cherthala taluk in Kerala, entered the Australian Book of Records and won a certificate from the Universal Records Forum by performing an incredible feat — they recited the national anthems of 193 countries, one after another, all from memory.

(www.newindianexpress.com, 24.09.21)

Certified as world's oldest twins

The Guinness World Record has conferred the title of world's oldest identical twins on 107-year-old sisters from Japan.

Named Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama, they have achieved records for the oldest identical twins living (female) and oldest identical twins ever (female) at 107 years and 300 days old as of September 01, 2021. The sisters currently live in separate locations but spend time together regularly. (NDTV, 27.09.21)



Iceland elects first women

Iceland became the first country in Europe to have more women than men in parliament, a day after a general election that saw the left-right coalition win a clear majority.



Of the 63 seats in the Althing parliament, 33 were won by women, or 52 percent, projections based on the final results showed.

No other European country has had more than 50 percent women lawmakers, with Sweden coming closest at 47 percent. (NDTV, 27.09.21)

Sweeper is now a RAS officer

Asha Kandara, a sweeper with Jodhpur Municipal Corporation, is a vibrant inspiration for women in distress today. By clearing RAS, she has proved that nothing can stop you if you have the strength to dream and honesty to achieve it.



Her husband deserted Asha just five years after her marriage and she decided to bring up her two children single-handedly and took up the job of sweeper to support her parents, children, and dreams. (Tol, 16.07.21)

Sensitive towards pregnant women

DSP Chetna Bhati of Udaipur Police was conferred with the Chief Minister's Award on 75th Independence Day for her superior sensitivity towards pregnant women and women's rights.



Bhati is presently heading the special investigation unit for Crimes Against Women of Udaipur Police. Bhati launched a Whatsapp group, 'Hello Mommies' to help out new and expecting moms. Several pregnant women across Udaipur were added to the group and provided medical assistance during the lockdown. (Tol, 18.08.21)

Women priests to conduct Durga puja

A new example was set in Kolkata, this Navratri. For the first time in history, public Durga Puja was conducted by four women priests. South Kolkata Club, which has been recognised for innovation on Durga Puja, has taken this decision.

Pradyumna Mukherjee of the 66 Palli Puja Committee, which conducts puja in the club, says that it has never happened before from Khundi Puja to Vijaya Dashami, a woman priest has performed the puja. But in our club, a team of four women will start this new tradition. (<https://www.sinceindependence.com>, 04.10.21)



INITIATIVES BY GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'



The state government has appointed gold medalist Avani Lekhara as the brand ambassador for 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'

campaign in Rajasthan. State minister for women and child development Mamta Bhupesh wrote a letter to Lekhara in this connection.

In the letter, Bhupesh wrote, "By winning the gold medal, you have made the country and the state proud. Your determination and hardwork has got the country this historic win and I hope that you will continue to inspire all the girls in Rajasthan with your dedication. I feel proud to appoint you as the brand ambassador for Beti Bachao Beti Padhao."

The 19-year-old shooter won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle standing (SH1), defeating reigning champion Zhang Cuiping of China and Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik, who won silver and bronze, respectively

(Tol, 01.09.21)



number of women beneficiaries who received an ex gratia amount of ₹1500 in three instalments under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). In all, 11.97 lakh beneficiaries in Jaipur had received the amount in their accounts. (Tol, 12.10.21)

Catching eve-teasers in city buses

In first, the all-women Nirbhaya squad of the Jaipur police conducted decoy operations in public transports to check the safety of women passengers. The squad will also catch eve-teasers and detain them on the spot.

Jaipur police has begun 'operation safer wheels,' for women commuters who rely on public transportation to travel within the city and out of Jaipur.

The members of Nirbhaya squad in civil dress would travel in buses and metros to get a first-hand experience of how comfortable women passengers feel while traveling. If they find that someone is troubling women, they will detain him and alert the control room. (Tol, 21.07.21)

55% women have Jan Dhan Yojana

Rajasthan is one of the 11 states in the country where more than 55 percent of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account holders are women. In the state, 55.37 percent (1.48 crore) of the total 2.68 crore PMJDY account holders are women. Out of 43.47 crore PMJDY account holders in the country, 24.15 crores (55.55 percent) are women.

Earlier, it was reported that Jaipur was in the fifth position among all districts in the country regarding the

pandemic and its associated lockdowns and school closures have taken an enormous toll on teenagers.

Programmes, such as the Mukhya Mantri Rajshree Yojana aim to improve indicators like maternal and infant mortality and child sex ratio. Experts opine that the need of the hour is for the state to continue building on its existing achievements.

Rajasthan is the only state with a policy for girl children and the state has spearheaded several campaigns for resolving issues related to the adolescent population. (Tol, 13.08.21)

Janani Exp ambulances flagged off

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off 11 Chiranjeevi 104 Janani Express Ambulance from CMO.



A total of 600 Janani Express ambulances are being operated in the state to provide referral transport services to pregnant women and infants for up to a year. Out of these, 150 vehicles had become old and 150 new Chiranjeevi 104 Janani Express Ambulances have been purchased on a turnkey basis.

Chiranjeevi 104 Janani Express Ambulance Vehicle is an essential step in strengthening maternal and child welfare services. (Tol, 15.10.21)

City Briefs

RICO to launch Fintech park

The Industries Department is setting up two plug and play facilities for young entrepreneurs in Sitapura industrial area and Jagatpura apparel park.



The Fintech park being developed over 100-acre land near the Jaipur airport will give a fillip to the services sector in the state.

The Fintech park will be an integrated development of IT and finance that will offer large workspaces for both sectors. The park, aimed at attracting an investment of ₹3,000 crore, will be developed with a project cost of ₹106 crore that includes developing basic infrastructure.

(Tol, 19.09.21)

Campaign to resolve citizens' issues

The state government will launch a six-month special campaign, christened 'Shahar-2021' in the urban areas to resolve citizens' problems after organising camps in the urban local bodies.

A special website — 'shahar2021.rajasthan.gov.in' — has been developed containing the online application facility. Training has been imparted to officers of local bodies to run the online system. Also, to render technical assistance to the citizens, 600 'Nagar Mitras' have been registered for all towns of Rajasthan. (Tol, 02.10.21)

Urgent Need to Establish Road Safety Authority

Road safety experts of Rajasthan demanded the formation of a Road Safety Authority in Rajasthan for effective coordination between various departments and enforcement of road safety act, rules, plans and programmes. While delivering the inaugural address as a chief guest, Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, Transport Minister, Government of Rajasthan, endorsed the demand. He said that the State

Government would do whatever is required to ensure road safety in Rajasthan, including the formation of Road Safety Authority, Child Road Safety Policy and Trauma Care Policy.

The Minister inaugurated the State-level Consultation organised by CUTS at Jaipur in collaboration with the Transport Department, Government of Rajasthan, on September 07, 2021.



Improving position in swachh survey

Swachhta Survekshan 2.0 has been launched by the Government of India and Jaipur has to gear up to improve the degrading sanitation condition. This year, the total marks will be 3000 in sustainable sanitation and Safai Mitra's security, segregated waste and processing, and disposal of waste will be looked into as well for ranking.

A municipal body has to prove the percentage of the city connected to modern sewerage and that no manual scavenging is done to clean the sceptic tanks. The division is made to see whether the city has adequate facilities to process the wet waste collection.

(Tol, 09.10.21)

Adani acquires Jaipur Airport

Adani Group took over the responsibilities of the Jaipur International Airport from the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The airport has been leased out to the group by the Government of India for 50 years.



Airport Director J S Balhara handed over a symbolic key of the airport to Chief Airport Officer Adani Jaipur International Ltd Vishnu Jha in the presence of other officials.

Balhara said that the company would work on the operations, management and development of the Jaipur airport through public-private-partnership (PPP) mode. (BS, 10.10.21)

Sponsoring meritorious students

The state government has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence (RGS) scheme to help 200 deserving students pursue higher education at 50 select universities located across the globe. Candidates can start applying for the upcoming academic session through hte.rajasthan.gov.in/.

Under the programme, financial assistance will be provided for studies at undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and postdoctoral levels at 50 reputed institutes worldwide, including Oxford, Harvard and Stanford University. The state will bear the entire cost, including travel fare and tuition fees.

(Tol, 12.10.21)

IPD tower installed at SMS hospital

The state government mulls to construct inpatient department (IPD) tower at SMS Hospital in two phases.

The building will be one of its kind as it will have an air ambulance landing facility for helicopters, basements including parking and hospital services and 20 operation theatres. The Medical Education Department had sanctioned ₹96 crore for its implementation.

Subsequently, Jaipur Smart City Limited accorded sanction of an additional ₹125 crore for the project.

(Tol, 14.10.21)

E-waste collection drive on the anvil

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board (RSPCB) launched a mobile van at divisional headquarters for door-to-door collection of e-waste.

RSPCB chairman Vinu Gupta flagged off the van. She said that under the e-collection drive, e-waste would be collected from the users by authorised dismantlers and recyclers. They would also be given appropriate incentives and certificates for the same.



Gupta also launched the e-waste "Take Back Web Portal". She said that the need of authorised data is being felt for proper disposal of e-waste in the state.

(Tol, 16.10.21)

City Briefs

Nod to burst green crackers

The state government has allowed residents to burst green crackers for



two hours (from 8 to 10 pm) during Diwali in Rajasthan, barring places under the National Capital Region (NCR).

According to the advisory, green crackers will also be allowed from 6 to 8 am during Chhath Puja, 8 to 10 pm on Gurpurb, and 11.55 to 12.30 pm on Christmas and New Year's.

The use of green crackers results in less air pollution compared to other firecrackers. The green firecracker boxes will possess a green colour, NEERI logo and QR code scanner. (Tol, 16.10.21)

First fire hydrant system

A fire hydrant is a point through which firefighters can tap into the water supply. It is a good component for active fire protection. These fire hydrants help the fire officials get water supply on the spot instead of going back to the fire station for a refill.

Jaipur Smart City Ltd has taken up the ₹5-crore project. This will be a 7km long system in which 30 fire hydrants will be installed at various points, including Ghat Gate crossing, Sanjay Market, Indira Badi Chaupar, Choti Chaupar and end at Kishanpole Market. The hydrants will be painted red.

(Tol, 09.07.21)

No-honking campaign

Traffic police in Jaipur started a no-honking campaign here to reduce noise pollution. As per the Act, ₹1,000 challan can be issued under honking violation. But we intended to ensure that more people become aware of honking's effects on commuters.



Besides the pink slip, a no-honking poster will be pasted on the offender's vehicle. Pink slip will include a mandatory counselling. If an offender fails to attend the counselling session, then a challan will be issued.

As the awareness programme progresses in following months, same campaign will be extended to other intersections too. (Tol, 29.09.21)

Installing electric car charging stations

The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has invited expression of interest (EOI) from private companies to install, operate and maintain charging stations for electric vehicles (EVs) in the city.

After identifying nearly 75 locations, including the Central Park, Jawahar Circle, Nursery Circle (Vaishali Nagar) and SMS Hospital parking, the civic body has decided private companies to set up the charging stations.

For slow charging stations, 800 square feet land will be required and at least 10 vehicles can be charged at a given time. Similarly, fast-charging stations will be set up in 460 square feet and its capacity will be six vehicles.

(Tol, 07.09.21)

Ambitious 'Bullet Train' to run

Along with other states of the country, Rajasthan is also going to get the benefit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious bullet train project. Yes, the bullet train running between Delhi-



Ahmedabad route will pass through seven districts of Rajasthan.

The 653 km part of the High Speed Rail Corridor Project will pass through seven districts of the state including Udaipur. Due to this, nodal officer has been deployed for this project in Udaipur. (DB, 26.08.21)

Sodala flyover to be ready soon

As 90 percent of the Sodala elevated road construction is completed, the JDA plans to open the long-pending project by November-end. While majority of work is completed, the civic body is working to cast three concrete cement slabs over the railway line and launching the segments near Civil Lines circle.

Under the project, four ramps would be constructed for traffic to ascend and descend from elevated road. Once completed, a commuter will reach Ajmer Road via Hawa Sadak within 10 minutes.

(Tol, 24.08.21)

Dhyan Chand deserves Bharat Ratna

Vishal Singh, the grandson of Major Dhyan Chand, is thrilled to see Indian hockey team getting a bronze medal. He believes every sport is performance oriented and only the enhancement in performance is key to get attention, infrastructure and other facilities.

Singh thanked the Centre for replacing the name of Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award with the name of his grandfather, but said that the hockey wizard deserves Bharat Ratna.

Singh is a sports officer based at Baran and a hockey coach. He said that the performance of Indian men and women in hockey is phenomenal and this is certainly going to boost the game in India. (Tol, 08.08.21)

'Hall of Nuclear Power Gallery' soon

In an attempt to boost extensive progress for the state, the Rajasthan Government has always prioritised developments in the field of science and technology. In the latest string of events, the state administration has decided to establish the 'Hall of Nuclear Power Gallery' at the Regional Science Centre and Science Park, Jaipur.

As per reports, this project is being implemented in association with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai. The gallery will be built at an approximate cost of ₹5.53 crores and the project is expected to



be complete within 36 months after the MoU is materialised.

Being launched with an objective to motivate scientific thinking, this gallery will inspire people to explore and understand the field of nuclear power. (DB, 25.08.21)

Rajasthan Launches Nutrition-Focused Programmes for Women, Children

Mohammed Iqbal

Micronutrient crisis during pandemic has emerged as a major challenge for State government



A series of nutrition-focused welfare programmes launched in Rajasthan have sought to benefit women and children affected by disruption in the routine schemes, such as the Integrated Child Development Services and midday meal scheme, during the pandemic. The micronutrient crisis has emerged as a major challenge before the State government.

Experts have called for adopting strategies to accelerate micronutrient supplementation and strengthen food fortification. Since the impending third wave is likely to worsen the situation, the policies should lay emphasis on an effective nutrition surveillance.

State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson Sangeeta Beniwal said that the nutrition-focused programmes, such as the Indira Rasoi Yojana providing food to the poor and needy twice a day, had extended relief to people during the pandemic. A healthy lifestyle for pregnant women was also being promoted with the government's support to enable them to give birth to healthy children.

Sudhir Bhandari, Principal, Sawai Man Singh Government Medical College, Jaipur, said the children experiencing malnutrition were more likely to suffer from the pandemic complications. "We must strengthen food security and widen the supply chain for vulnerable population," he said.

Streamlining of interventions

The experts recommended steps for streamlining of nutrition interventions while addressing a virtual event on "fighting nutrition crisis" here.

DK Mangal, Advisor to the School of Public Health at the Indian Institute of Health Management Research (IIHMR) University, said the nutritious, diverse and safe foods in early childhood and access to basic health, water and sanitation would help improve nutritional status of women and children.

Udaipur-based Narayan Seva Sansthan president Prashant Agarwal said the village panchayats would play a significant role in strengthening nutrition schemes and providing nutrition education in schools. Agarwal advocated the formulation of policies based on gender equity for nutrition.

The article appeared in The Hindu on August 06, 2021

CUTS Successful Interventions

- Under the project for excluded children and their rights in Chittorgarh block of Rajasthan with the support of Save the Children (India), CUTS has been successful in forming and orienting Child Protection Committees (CPCs) at the Gram Panchayat, Block and District levels under Integrated Child Protection Scheme of the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Rajasthan. The Centre has been nominated as resource agency to facilitate and provide technical support in the formation, capacity building and monitoring of CPCs.
- With the support of The World Bank, New Delhi, the project on Midday Meal Scheme was implemented in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. In the study, modern hybrid tools like 'Participatory Expenditure Tracking Survey' and 'Citizen Report Card' were used for doing the quantitative and qualitative assessment. The study findings were disseminated among service providers of the scheme which contributed into number of policy and practice changes.
- The Disabled People Organisation (DPO) promoted by CUTS under Disability Social Inclusion Programme has launched the Indira Kitchen, Scheme of Government of Rajasthan in three different locations, viz Government Hospital, Bus Stand and Chanderiya Industrial area in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan.

Sources: AU: Amar Ujala; BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation; BS: Business Standard; DB: Dainik Bhaskar; ET: Economic Times; HT: Hindustan Times; IT: India Today; NDTV: New Delhi Television; TE: The Economist; TG: The Guardian; TH: The Hindu; Tol: Times of India

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