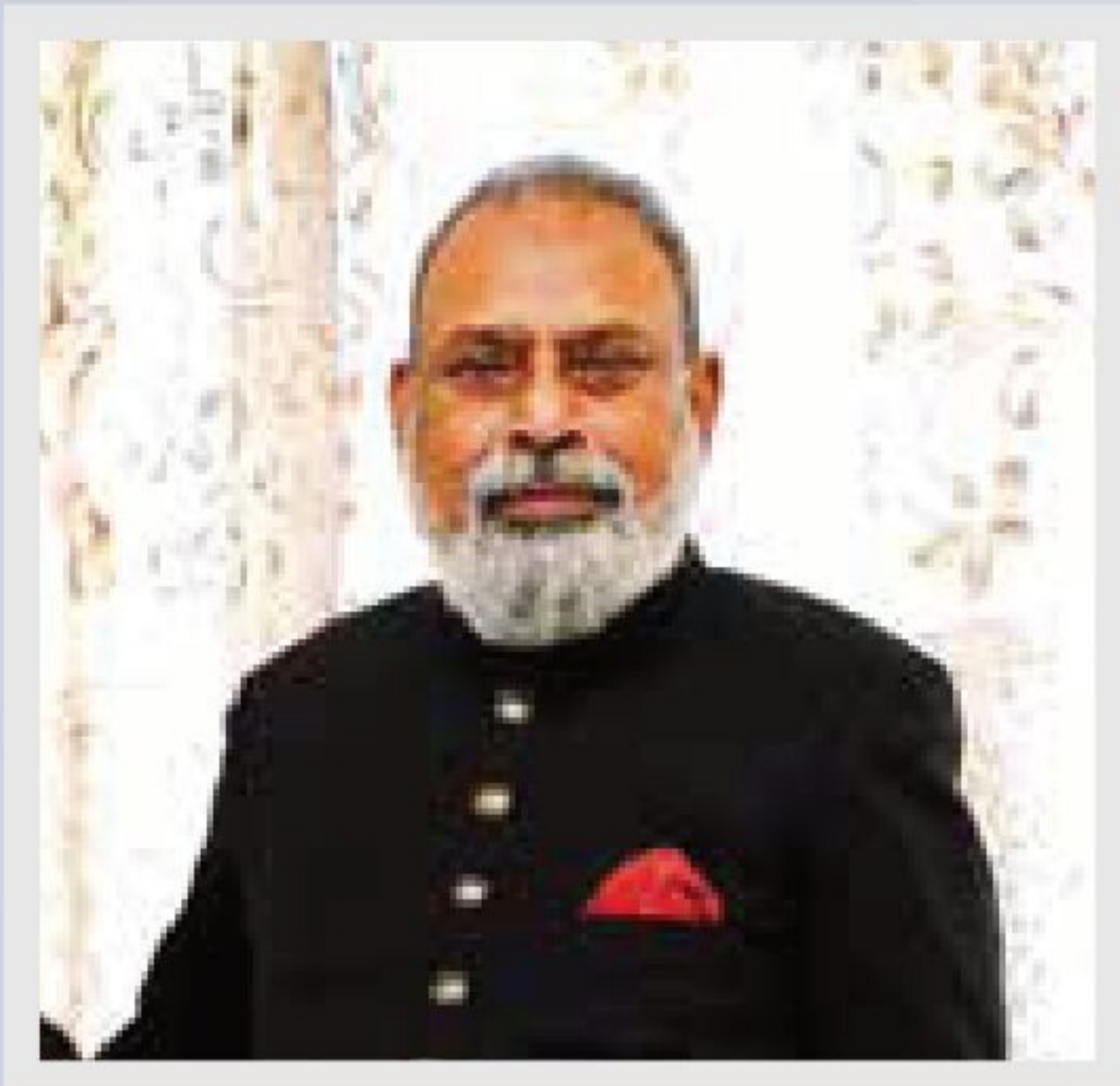


Business Sphere

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CORPORATE INDIA AUG 15 - SEP 15, 2021 ₹ 50



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Maintaining An Environ Of Excellence

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PRESIDENT GHANI FLEES AFGHANISTAN, TALIBAN TAKES KABUL

The Taliban entered Afghanistan's capital Kabul today and an official said President Ashraf Ghani had left the city for Tajikistan, capping the terrorists' lightning push for power. A senior Afghan Interior Ministry official said Ghani had left for Tajikistan.

Asked for comment, the President's office it "cannot say anything about Ashraf Ghani's movement for security reasons".

A representative of the Taliban said the group was checking on Mr Ghani's whereabouts. American diplomats were evacuated from their embassy by chopper after a swift advance by Taliban, who were poised to run Afghanistan again 20 years after they were toppled by US-led forces following the September 11 attacks on the United States. Taliban fighters were reaching the capital "from all sides", a senior Afghan interior ministry official told Reuters.

But there were no reports of fighting and the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they were waiting on the outskirts and were in talks with the Western-backed government for a peaceful surrender. "Taliban fighters are to be on standby on all entrances of Kabul until a peaceful and satisfactory transfer of power is agreed," he said. Representatives from the two sides were due to meet

in Qatar on Sunday, Fawzi Koofi, a member of the Kabul negotiating team, told Reuters.

A source familiar with the matter said they would discuss a transition of power and US officials would also be involved.

MODERN FACE

Known during their past rule for keeping girls out of school and hardline Islamic punishments such as amputation, stoning and hanging, the Taliban appeared to be trying to project a more modern face. Another spokesman Suhail Shaheen said the group would protect the rights of women, as well as freedoms for media workers and diplomats. "We assure the people, particularly in the city of Kabul, that their properties, their lives are safe," Mr Shaheen told the BBC, saying a transfer of power was expected in days. The ease of the Taliban's advance, despite billions of dollars spent by the United States and others to build up local Afghan government forces, has stunned the world.

Just last week, a US intelligence estimate said Kabul could hold out for at least three months. Before news that Ghani had left Kabul, a palace official said he was in emergency talks with US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and officials from the NATO transatlantic alliance.


Power would be handed

over to a transitional administration, the government's acting interior minister, Abdul Sattar Mirzakawal, tweeted on the Tolo news channel.

"There won't be an attack on the city, it is agreed that there will be a peaceful handover," he said without elaborating. A tweet from the Afghan presidential palace account said firing had been heard at a number of points around Kabul but that security forces, in coordination with international partners, had control of the city. Many of Kabul's streets were choked by cars and people either trying to rush home or reach the airport, residents said. "Some people have left their keys in the car and have started walking to the airport," one resident told Reuters by phone.

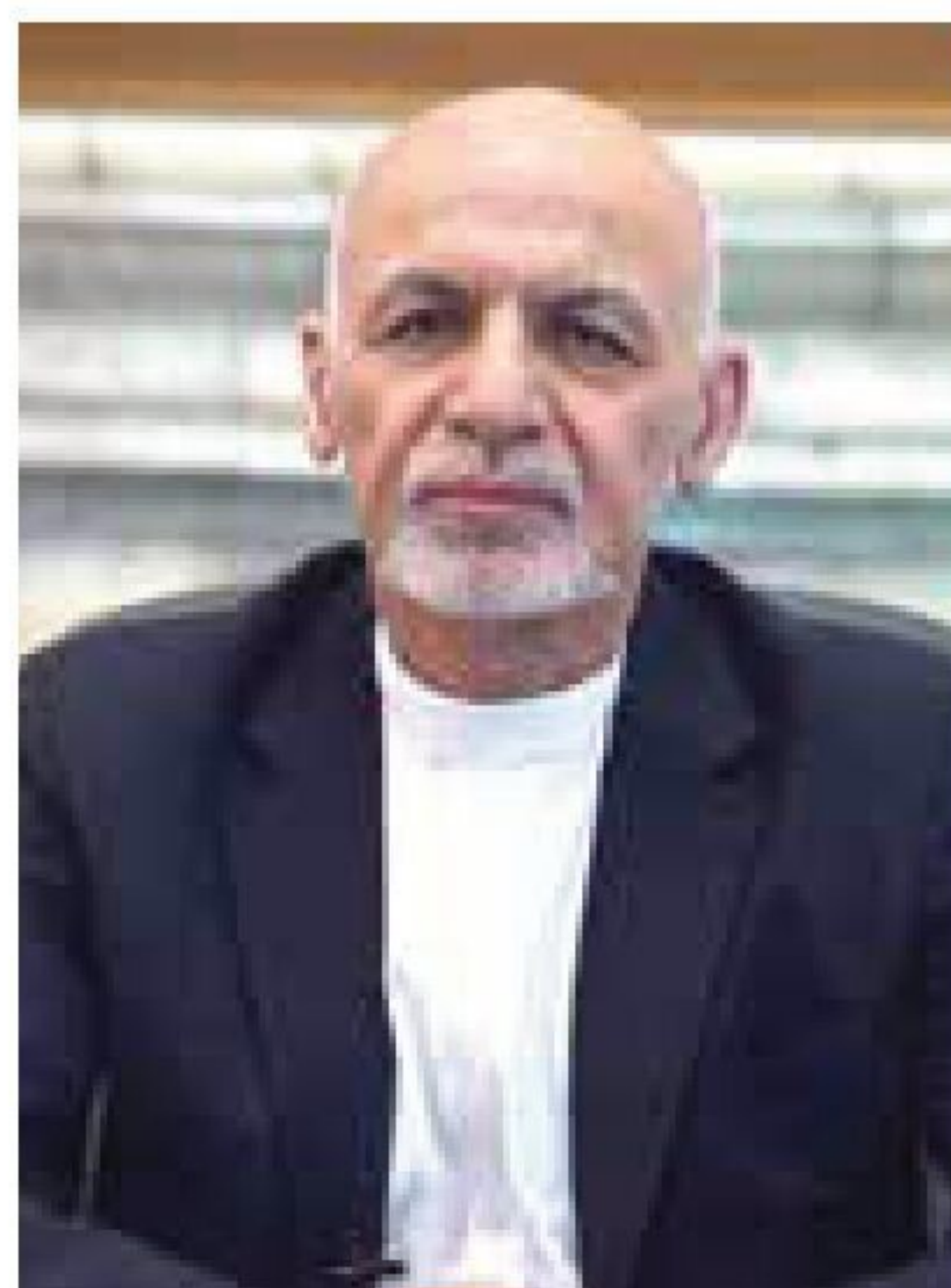
Another said: "People are all going home in fear of fighting." Afghans had fled the provinces to enter Kabul in recent days, fearing a return to hardline Islamist rule.

Early on Sunday, refugees from Taliban-controlled provinces were seen unloading belongings from taxis and families stood outside embassy gates, while the city's downtown was packed with people stocking up on supplies.



(Deepak Khattar)

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Volume 29 No. 08; For the month of
Aug 15-Sep 15 2021

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Printed & Published by G. R. Khattar on behalf of Academicians Bureau Publications Pvt. Ltd. Editor: G. R. Khattar. Printed at M.P. Printers, B-220, Industrial Area Phase-II, Noida-201301 and published from C-34 B, IInd Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019.

Distributed by IBH Books & Magazines Distributors Pvt. Ltd., E-mail: contact@ibhworld.com in Ahmedabad, Mumbai Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Trivandrum, Delhi, NCR and all North India

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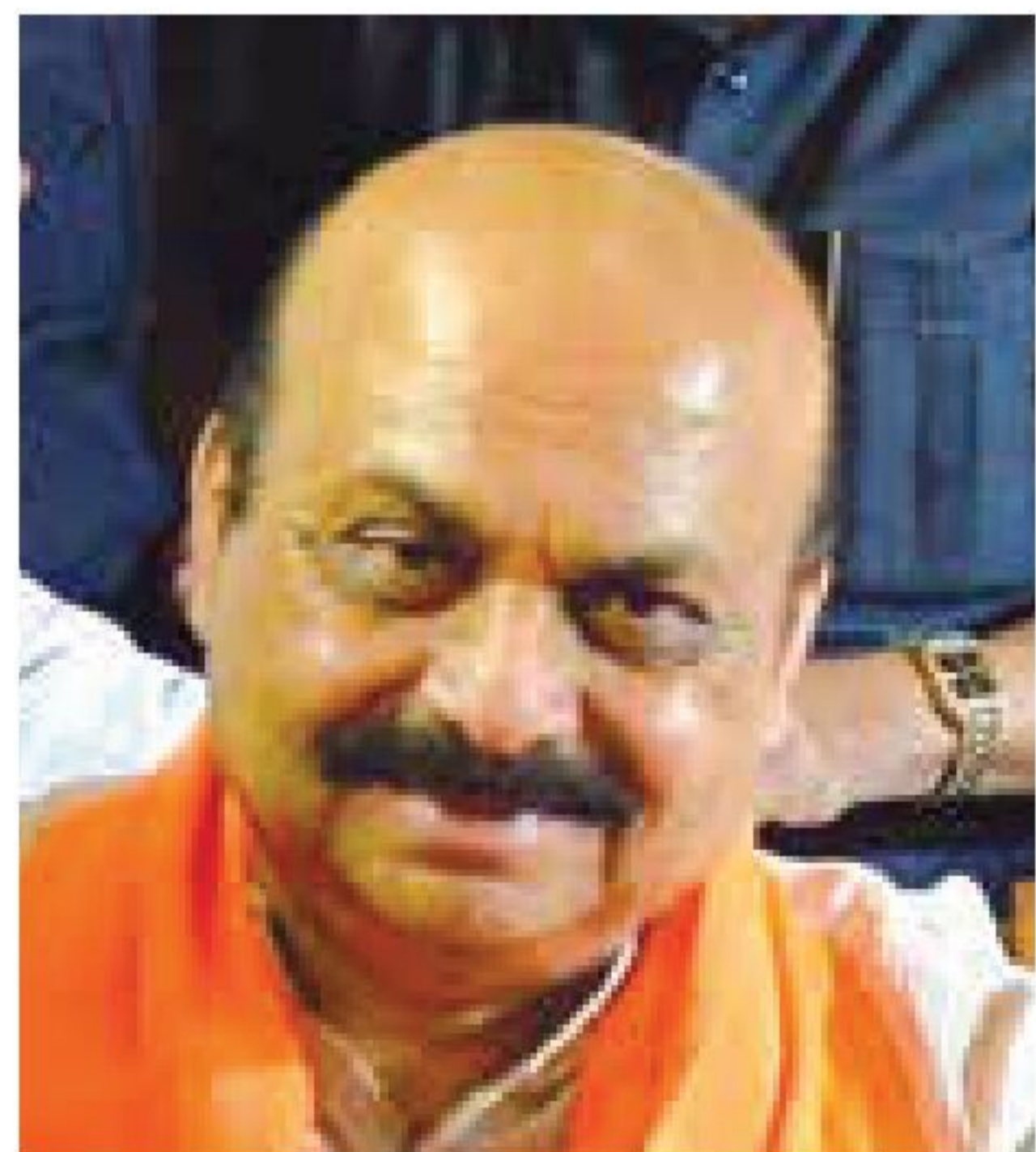
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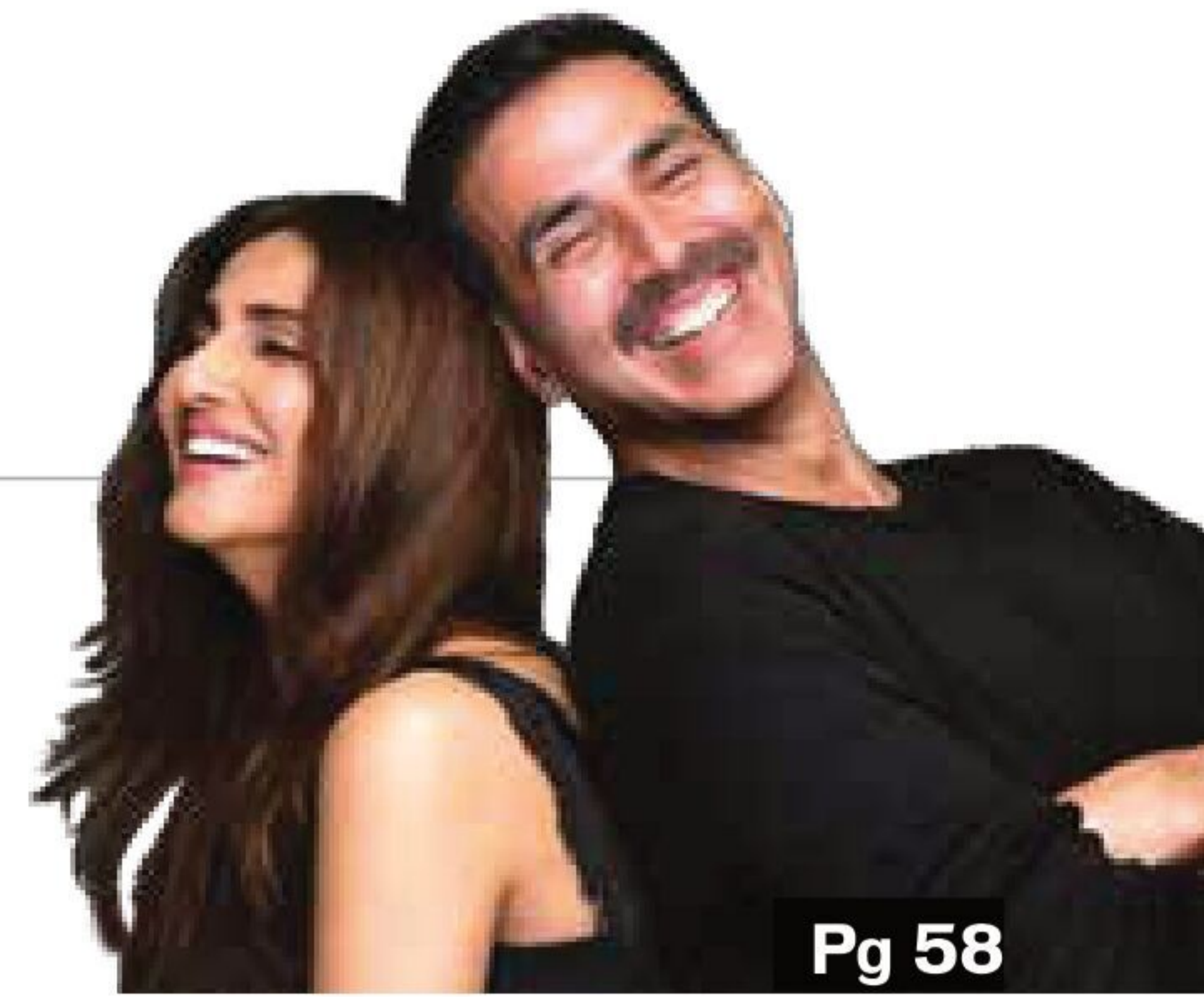
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WHO'S WHO OF MODI'S CABINET MINISTERS



Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation

By **Our Correspondent**

JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO Scindia (born 1 January 1971) is an Indian politician who serves as the Minister of Civil Aviation. He belongs to the House of Scindia that once ruled in Gwalior and a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha representing the State of Madhya Pradesh.

He is a former Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, representing the Guna constituency in

Madhya Pradesh until his defeat in the 2019 Indian general election. He is a former member of the Indian National Congress and presently a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

While a member of the INC, Scindia was a Minister of State with independent charge for Power in the cabinet of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from October 2012 until May 2014. In March 2020, he severed all ties with Congress and joined BJP.

Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya

Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Health

MANSUKH LAXMANBHAI MANDAVIYA (born 1 June 1972) is an Indian politician currently serving as the Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemical and Fertilizers of India.[1] He is also a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat

EARLY LIFE

Mansukh Mandavaiya was born in a small village named Hanol in Palitana Taluka of Bhavnagar district of Gujarat State. Born to a middle-class farmer family, he is the youngest amongst four brothers. He completed his primary education from the Government Primary School, Hanol and his high school studies from Songadh Gurukul.

After completion of HSC, he did a certificate course in Veterinary Live Stock Inspector and has been educated at Songadh Gurukul and Gujarat Agriculture University, Gujarat.[3] He later completed his MA in Political Science from Bhavnagar University



Dharmendra Pradhan

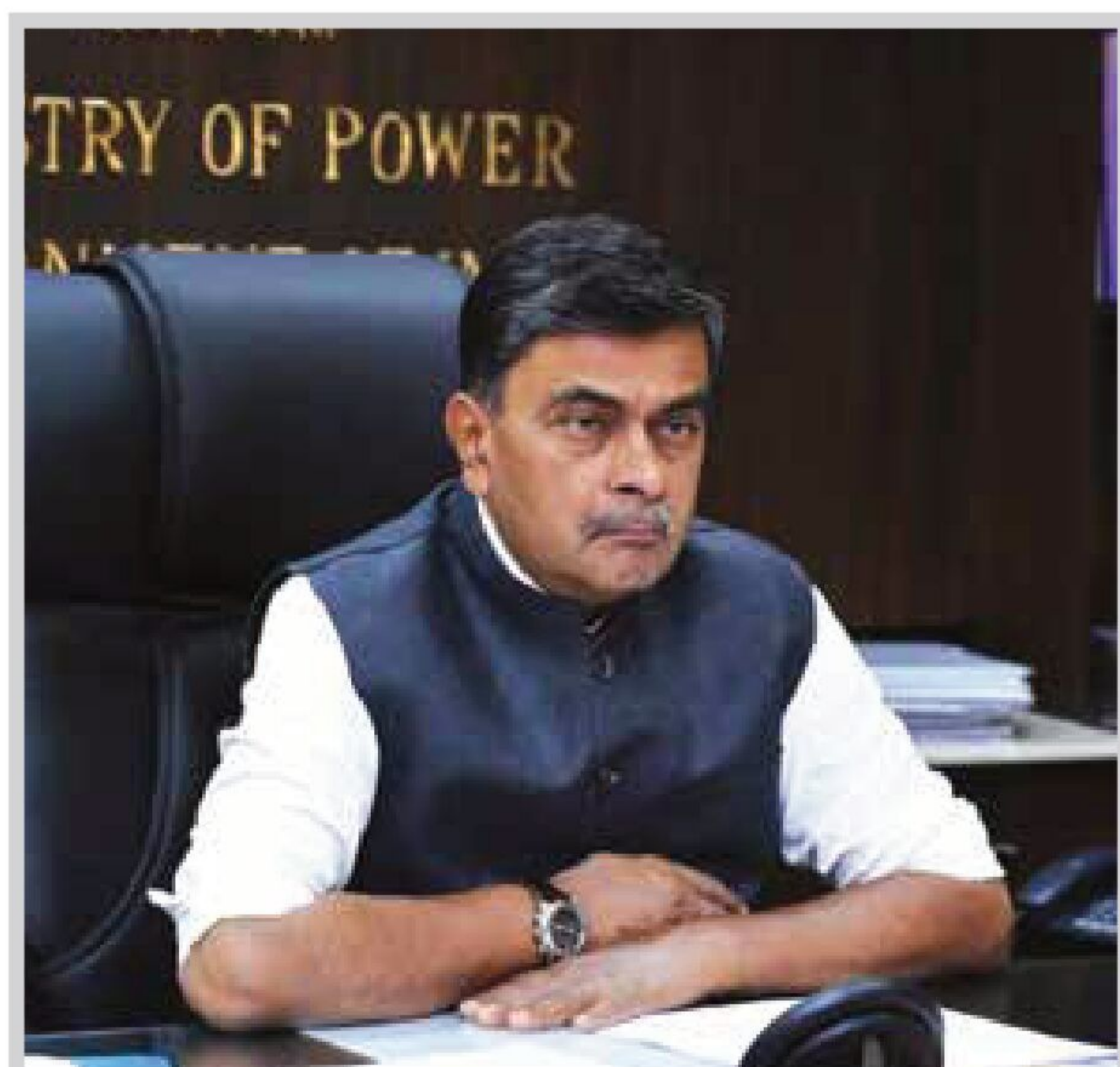
Minister of Education

Dharmendra Pradhan (born 26 June 1969) is an Indian politician serving as the Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in the Government of India. He has also been the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel. Pradhan was promoted to a Cabinet Minister on 3 September 2017. Shri Pradhan currently represents Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha as Member of Parliament. Earlier, he was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha.



Raj Kumar Singh

Minister of Power and Minister of New and Renewable Energy



Raj Kumar Singh is a former Indian bureaucrat and a current Union Cabinet Minister in the Government of India. He is a Member of the Indian Parliament for Arrah, Bihar, since May 2014. Singh is a 1975 batch Bihar cadre[2] Indian Administrative Service officer and former Home Secretary of India.

On 3 September 2017, he was appointed as the Minister of Power (Independent Charge) in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet. On 30 May 2019, he was appointed as Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.



ON 7TH JULY 2021, HE WAS ELEVATED TO THE RANK OF CABINET MINISTER IN VIEW OF HIS GOOD WORK.



Ashwini Vaishnaw

Minister of Railways, Communication & Electronics and Information Technology



ASHWINI VAISHNAW (born 18 July 1970) is an Indian politician and former Indian Administrative Service officer currently serving as the Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology of India, since 8 July 2021. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. In June 2019, he became a member of the Parliament of India representing Odisha State in the Rajya Sabha, the upper house. On 07 July 2021, he was appointed as a Cabinet Minister and was given the charge of Railways and Information Technology ministries. Earlier in 1994, Vaishnaw joined the Indian Administrative Service

in the Odisha cadre, and has worked extensively in Odisha. Vaishnaw was born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

Vaishnav did his M.Tech from IIT Kanpur, before joining IAS civil service in 1994. In 2008, Vaishnaw left for the US to do his MBA from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. After his MBA, Vaishnaw came back to India and joined GE Transportation as Managing Director. Subsequently, he joined Siemens as the Vice President - Locomotives & Head Urban Infrastructure Strategy. Previously, he has worked as deputy chairman of the Mormugao Port Trust, and thus has experience in both public and private sector enterprises.

Kiren Rijiju

Minister of Law and Justice

KIREN RIJIJU (born 19 November 1971) is an Indian lawyer and politician from Arunachal Pradesh who is the current Minister of Law and Justice of India, in the Second Modi ministry from 7 July 2021. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

EARLY LIFE

Rijiju was born on 19 November 1971 at Nakhu near Nafra in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in India. He is the son of Rinchin Kharu and Chirai Rijiju. His father was the first pro-tem speaker of Arunachal to give an oath to the Members of the First State Assembly.



Pashupati Kumar Paras

Minister of Food Processing Industries



PASHUPATI KUMAR PARAS (born 1953) is an Indian politician from the state of Bihar and the Minister of Food Processing Industries in the Union Cabinet. He is currently serving as a member of Lok Sabha from Hajipur (Lok Sabha constituency). He also held the post of the Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources in the Government of Bihar. He is the younger brother of late Ram Vilas Paswan and he was also the State President of the Bihar unit of Lok Janshakti Party. He was elected as the National President of Lok Janshakti Party replacing

Chirag Kumar Paswan in June 2021.

He has been a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly seven times from Alaulisince 1977. He has earlier served thrice as a minister in the state. Having lost the last election in 2015. At the time of his appointment as a Minister in 2017, he was neither a member of Assembly nor Council and was therefore later accommodated as an MLC from the Governor's quota.

He became Minister of Food Processing Industry in Second Modi ministry when cabinet overhaul happened.

Sarbananda Sonowal,

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Minister of Ayush

SARBANANDA SONOWAL is an India politician from Dibrugarh, Assam. He is the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH under PM Narendra Modi. He is also

a two-time Lok Sabha member from Assam and two-time MLA. He served as Assam's chief minister from 2016 to 2021. He has earlier served as Union minister of state (Independent

charge) for skill development and entrepreneurship; and sports and youth affairs under PM Narendra Modi. He has been in public life for 3 decades. He has an LLB from Guwahati University.

EARLY LIFE

Sarbananda Sonowal was born on 31 October 1962 to a Assamese Hindu family in Muluk Gaon located in the Dibrugarh district of Assam to Jibeswar Sonowal (father) and Dineswari Sonowal (mother).

Parents: Jibeswar Sonowal, Dineswari Sonowal. Sarbananda Sonowal was the President of Assam's oldest student body, the All Assam Students Union (AASU) from 1992 to 1999. After that, he became a member of the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). In 2001, he was elected as the MLA from Moran constituency of Assam. In 2004, he became a Lok Sabha member representing the Dibrugarh constituency.[10] He lost Lok Sabha election from Dibrugarh in 2009. He joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2011

Date of birth: 31 October 1962



Ram Chandra Prasad Singh

Union Steel Minister

RAM CHANDRA PRASAD SINGH is an Indian politician and former national president of Janata Dal (United). He is also a Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Bihar since 2010. He was a UP cadre IAS officer before joining politics. He was also principal secretary of Nitish Kumar. He became Minister of Steel in Second Modi ministry when cabinet overhaul happened.



PERSONAL LIFE

Singh was born in Mustaffapur in Nalanda district, Bihar to Sukhdeo Narayan Singh and Dukhalalo Devi. He did his schooling from High School, Hussainpur, Nalanda. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in History from Patna College and did Masters in International relations From School of International studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He married Girija Singh on 21 May 1982, with whom he has two daughters. His daughter, Lipi Singh, is a 2016-batch IPS officer and second daughter Lata is a Lawyer

Hardeep Singh Puri

Minister of Petroleum, Housing and Urban Development



HARDEEP SINGH PURI (born 15 February 1952) is an Indian politician and former diplomat who is currently serving as the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs in India. He is a 1974 batch Indian Foreign Service officer who served as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations from 2009 to 2013. Puri joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in January 2014, and became a Member of Parliament in the

Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in November, 2020 Earlier in May 2019, he had taken charge as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.

Previously, Puri has served as the chairman of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee from January 2011 to February 2013; and joined International Peace Institute as a senior advisor in June 2013.



MASTER OF MATERIALS

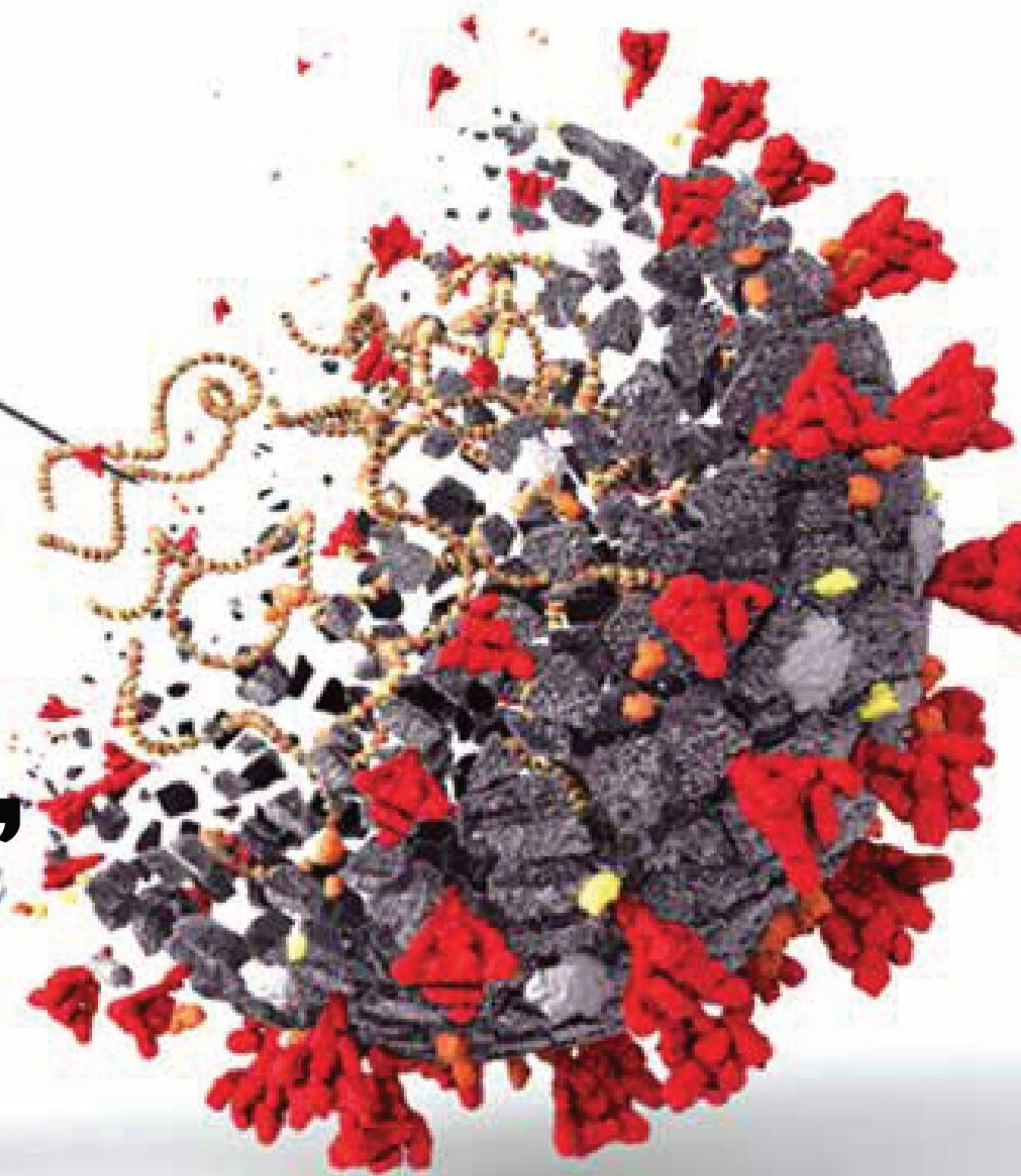
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COVAXIN VS COVISHIELD VS SPUTNIK V: WHICH IS BETTER, EFFICIENCY RATE, SIDE EFFECT



By **Our Correspondent**

Covaxin Vs Covishield Vs Sputnik V Difference and know Which is Better. Covishield Vaccine Efficiency Rate, Price, Side Effect, and which Covid vaccine is better in India details are given here for readers. The second wave of Corona Virus hit India in the month of March 2021. From January 2021, India had already begun their Covid-19 Vaccination drive. The first two vaccination in India rely on is Covaxin Vs Covishield which is the best efficacy rate. If we start briefing about Covaxin then this vaccine is developed by Hyderabad-based company Bharat Biotech.

Whereas, Covishield is developed by the SERUM Institute of India (SII). This Company is well known for its other vaccination in Hepatitis B, Toxoid, Measles, and others.

Now recently Russia based Covid-19 Vaccination also emerged as the third-best choice in India named Sputnik V. As the Vaccination drive is ongoing in India there are plenty of options with every individual for getting jab of Covishield, Covaxin, or Sputnik V. Lets us tell you that each vaccination differs from one another and has its own side effects with the rate of efficacy. It is you completely on you to choose a vaccine, in the below article, we are letting you know the basic difference among 3

vaccines.

COVISHIELD VS COVAXIN VS SPUTNIK V DIFFERENCE

According to Dr. Randeep Gulleria, director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences said that “the efficacy reports of Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V, and Moderna is more or less the same. Hence one should not judge vaccination by just its efficacy reports. Every vaccination works differently. Some by generation antibodies, memory cells, and cell-mediated immunity. Hence we cannot suggest individuals take that vaccine and should not take that vaccination. It is advised that must take you Jabs on your tune arrive. We urge everyone to take

vaccination to keep them and their families safe. Now according to his statement, there has been a minimal difference in these three vaccines in India. Nevertheless, we will describe Covishield vs Covaxin vs Sputnik V difference all in all here. Now the people can know which vaccine is best in India.

Covaxin Vaccine Efficacy Rate, The Covaxin Covid-19 Vaccination is Made in India by Bharat Biotech. The scientific name of this Corona Virus Vaccination is BBV152. We will explain Covaxin Uses, Risks, Efficacy through the simple questions below. From this readers will get the information straight about Covaxin and

how it is different than Covishield and Sputnik V

How did Covaxin Covid-19 Vaccination work?

This vaccination works as soon as you get its first jab. It triggers the body's immunity system and hence it starts making more anti-bodies. Thus, this body is shielded from any future infection.

What are the risks after taking Covaxin?

As this is vaccination, it may have some side effects to some individuals and to some no side effects at all. Individuals may experience Fever, Nausea, Headache, Muscle Pain, Swelling at the site of injection, irritability. It may last up to 24 hours or more. If it lasts long even after three days, please consult your nearest doctor.

What is the Covaxin Efficacy report?

According to Bharat Biotech official journal released on their site states that COVAXIN demonstrates 81 percent efficacy..

What ingredients are there in COVAXIN?



It is made up of in combination of several viruses dead bodies. Further, it has 6µg of whole-virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 antigen which is a strain of NIV-2020-77. Moreover, there is one more ingredient that is inactive is aluminum hydroxide gel.

COVISHIELD COVID VACCINE DETAILS

As you all know by know that Covishield is developed by the SERUM Institute of India. The second most used Covid-19 Vaccination in India after all it is Made in India. The CEO of SERUM Institute is Mr. Adar Poonawalla. SERUM also has given the scientific name of its Covid-19 vaccination which is Astra Zeneca. Check out the following questions about Which Covid vaccine is best among Covishield Vs Covaxin Vs Sputnik V.

How does Covishield Covid-19 Vaccination work?

It works as you take its first dose of vaccine it stimulates the body's natural defense system to make immunity stronger. By this body start making multiple antibodies against any infection and virus. It is suggested that every individual must take two jabs of Covishield. This vaccine process is done by injecting it into the upper arm of the body.

What are the risks after

taking Covishield?

If any individual has severe allergies then they should check the ingredients initially before taking the jab. Following are the side effects of Covishield are swelling, tenderness, fatigue, fever, stomach pain, burning eyes.

What is the Covishield Efficacy report?

If two doses are taken within 12 weeks apart from the efficacy of Covishield is 81.3 percent. This data is been collected from the official website of the SERUM Institute of India.



What ingredients are there in COVISHIELD?

Covishield Ingredients are as follows: L-Histidine, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate, Polysorbate 80, L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, Water for Injection, Ethanol, Sodium chloride, Sucrose, Disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA).

ALL ABOUT TO KNOW SPUTNIK V VACCINE

The Sputnik V Covid Vaccine is a Russian-based vaccine. This is the third-largest used Covid-19 Vaccine. It is developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology.

Why it is famous among Covid-19 vaccination in India? It is because the other two vaccination will be completed when you have their two doses.

While Sputnik V is the only vaccination of Covid-19 which can be used as a single dose. The other name of Sputnik V is GAM-COVID-VAC.

How Covid-19 Sputnik V Vaccination works?

It works pretty different than the above two vaccinations. Now, as soon as you get the jab of Sputnik V it starts spiking the protein in the body. To which when in real Covid-19 attacks the body, it works as multiplying anti-bodies against it and shield it from the virus.

What are the risks after taking Sputnik V?

There can be few side effects after taking the Sputnik V vaccination. Although no strong allergies are reported after taking Sputnik V. Few side effects are mild fever, nausea, headache, and pain in the upper arm near the injection.

What is Sputnik V Efficacy report?

After the three complete clinical trials of Sputnik V, the efficacy report is 91.6 percent. Which is the highest form of all the Covid-19 vaccines in India till now used. ■



PRASHANT KISHOR RESIGNS AS PUNJAB CM'S PRINCIPAL ADVISOR, BUZZ ON FORMAL ENTRY INTO CONGRESS

THE POLL STRATEGIST HAD SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED THE CONGRESS' CAMPAIGN IN THE 2017 ASSEMBLY ELECTION AND DEvised PROGRAMMES SUCH AS "PUNJAB DA CAPTAIN" AND "COFFEE WITH CAPTAIN" TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY.



By **Our Correspondent**

Amid talk of his joining the Congress and the party leadership seriously discussing a blueprint prepared by him for its revival, political strategist Prashant Kishor on Thursday resigned as Principal Advisor to Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

His move, many leaders in the Congress believe, is the precursor to his formal joining of the party. Interestingly, the party leadership (read the Gandhis) have reportedly not yet discussed his possible entry with many top leaders. His resignation comes days after Amarinder bowed to the high command and grudgingly accepted the

appointment of Navjot Singh Sidhu as PCC president.

Kishor was appointed Principal Advisor by Amarinder in March. He was expected to design Amarinder's campaign for the next Assembly election.

Sources said Kishor sent his resignation to the CM stating, "As you are aware, in view of my decision to take a temporary break from active role in public life, I have not been able to take over the responsibilities as your Principal Advisor. Since I am yet to decide on my future course of action, I write to request you to kindly relieve me from this responsibility."

The CMO has not confirmed receiving the resignation. The development was, however, awaited ever

since Kishor said he would hang his boots from strategising after the West Bengal elections. After that he had not visited Punjab, though he had met Amarinder in Delhi recently. Kishor had designed Amarinder's strategy ahead of 2017 Assembly polls. After he designed the Congress campaign centred around Amarinder, the party won a handsome majority with 77 seats in an Assembly of 117 members.

Appointing him as Principal Advisor, Amarinder had tweeted: "Happy to share that @Prashant Kishor has joined me as my Principal Advisor. Look forward to working together for the betterment of the people of Punjab!" He was appointed at Cabinet

minister rank and was working pro bono. He was paid Re 1 a month as token honorarium and was entitled to perks like a government residence and half a dozen staff members. He was allotted an office in the Punjab secretariat but he never attended that office.

Kishor's appointment was seen as Amarinder's message that he (CM) would be leading the party's campaign ahead of the Assembly polls. But with Sidhu's appointment, the scenario has changed. Kishor's quitting will be seen as a setback to Amarinder's camp, especially when Kishor has been meeting the Congress top leadership, stirring up speculation that he may be working with the Congress at the national level. ■

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BILL GATES-MELINDA DIVORCE: SHOCKING REASON BEHIND THE SPLIT OF BILLIONAIRE COUPLE

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE MARRIAGE OF BILL AND MILNDA GATES WAS 'IRRETRIEVABLY BROKEN' SINCE 2019 OVER THE FORMER'S TIES WITH JEFFREY EPSTEIN.

By **Our Correspondent**

Billionaire couple Bill Gates and Melinda Gates left everyone in shock after they announced few days ago about their decision to split after remaining married for 27 long years. According to reports, the marriage of Bill and Milnda Gates was 'irretrievably broken' since 2019 over the former's ties with Jeffrey Epstein.

Sources claimed that Melinda started meeting with divorce lawyers at least a year before announcing her divorce with Bill Gates. Epstein was awaiting trial on federal charges related to sex trafficking when he died behind bars two months before the start of the high-profile trial.

A report in Wall Street Journal mentioned that Melinda was concerned over her husband's dealings with Epstein. The report added that Melinda's concern over Bill's ties to Epstein started way back in 2013.

In 2019, the New York Times had reported



that Gates had met with Epstein several times and even stayed at Epstein's New York townhouse. The report claimed that meetings between Gates and Epstein took place over philanthropy.

For his part, Bill Gates had told the WSJ that he never shared any business relationship with Epstein.

Before his death, Epstein named venture

capitalist Boris Nikolic the backup executor of his will. Nikolic had also worked as a science advisor to Bill Gates.

WHO WAS JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Epstein was a financier who had relations with several wealthy and powerful individuals. He set up his own firm J Epstein and Co in

1982 and marketed his services to people with assets more than USD 1 billion. According to Epstein's will, he was worth USD 577,672,654 On July 8, 2019, Epstein was charged with a count of sex trafficking of a minor and a count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. He pleaded not guilty. On August 10, Epstein died by apparent suicide. ■

INDIA'S SUPER SEVEN WHO GAVE THE COUNTRY ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL OLYMPIC CAMPAIGN



WITH SEVEN MEDALS - ONE GOLD, TWO SILVER, FOUR BRONZE - TOKYO 2020 HAS BEEN THE MOST DECORATED OLYMPIC GAMES IN INDIA'S HISTORY. HERE'S THE STORY OF THE SEVEN STARS WHO SCRIPTED THE SUCCESS.

By **Our Correspondent**

India finished 48th on the medal tally in Tokyo, its highest ranking in over four decades (if one were to go by the total number of medals, India would have actually finished 33rd. However, ranking is done primarily based on gold medals won). The previous best in this period was the 51st rank finish at Beijing in 2008, when India won three medals, including Abhinav Bindra's gold.

India has finished significantly higher in the era in which it used to win gold in hockey,

but that time is not really comparable both because of the dozens of countries that have come into being since then and the expansion in the number of sports and hence medals. In Moscow, for instance, India finished at 23rd rank but with just a solitary medal, the hockey gold. A repeat of that at Tokyo would have placed India at joint 63rd, a measure of how different the two eras are. In London 2012, India had finished 57th despite winning more medals than in Beijing because the medal table ranks countries by gold, silver

and bronze in that order and India didn't win a gold in London. Neeraj Chopra didn't compete on the international stage for 17 months, between January 2020 and June 2021.

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu went without competition from December 2019 to April 2021.

PV Sindhu featured in five tournaments from March 2020 till the start of the Olympic Games.

During the same period, Lovlina Borgohain used the money she received as part of her Arjuna Award – the second-highest state

honour for Indian sportspersons – for the treatment of her mother's kidney ailment.

While Ravi Kumar Dahiya grappled on the mats in Tokyo, the local administration in his village in Haryana had to make special arrangements to ensure his parents could tune into the action without any electricity cuts.

Bajrang Punia had to forfeit a match a month ago after injuring his right knee, which would remain strapped through most of his contests in Tokyo.

The Indian men's hockey team had spent

most of the last one and a half years locked down at a national training facility in Bengaluru. In the six months leading up to the Tokyo Games, they had spent a total of four days at their respective homes.

In the best of times, it takes the struggle of a lifetime to deliver the holy grail of an Olympic medal. As India reeled under the disastrous first and second waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the worst of times to exist – leave alone train for sporting glory.

And yet, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 conclude as the most successful in India's 120-year history of competition.

These seven champions have travelled far and wide to make that happen. This is their story, recapped. For the first time ever, India won a medal on day one of an Olympic Games. It came from Saikhom Mirabai Chanu – who scripted a remarkable redemption from Rio 2016.

Five years ago, on her Olympic debut, Mirabai stepped up for her last attempt (a 106 kg clean and jerk lift) with a bronze medal in sight – but couldn't complete what was a regulation lift for her.

The journey towards mending a broken dream – and heart – began right away. Before the end of 2017, she was a world champion; one year later, she was a Commonwealth Games gold medallist.

Having established herself as one of

the world's top-five weightlifters in her 49 kg category, Mirabai entered Tokyo 2020 ranked third in the world, and as a genuine medal contender. She didn't disappoint.

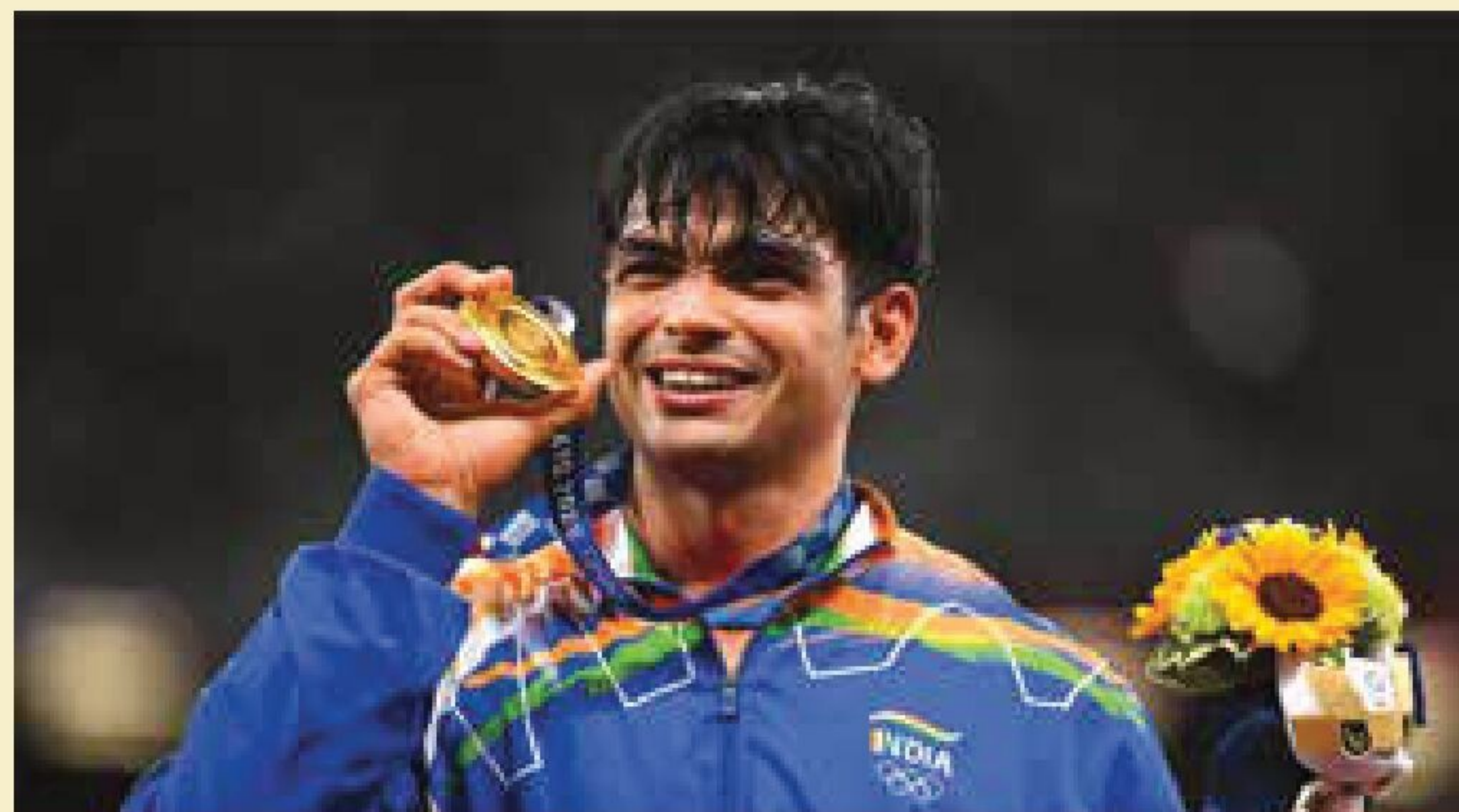
With an 87 kg lift in the snatch, and a 115 kg lift in the clean and jerk, she made the silver medal hers – bettered only by HOU Zhihui of the People's Republic China, who went on an Olympic record-smashing run in the final. PV Sindhu's bid to better, or match, her Rio 2016 silver was halted by eventual silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. But that did not stop India's serial winner from adding a historic second Olympic medal to her burgeoning trophy cabinet.

Shunning the disappointment of the defeat from 24 hours earlier, Sindhu secured the bronze medal with a 21-13, 21-15 win against HE Bing Jiao of the People's Republic of China.

It gave her the distinction of becoming the only Indian female athlete to win multiple Olympic medals, and only the second Indian – female or male – to medal twice in individual events at the Olympic Games.

Sindhu also became only the fifth female shuttler to win two Olympic singles medals.

The 26-year-old has now won a combined seven medals at the Olympics and the world championships since 2013. Lovlina Borgohain wasn't the most spoken about



NEERAJ CHOPRA, GOLD MEDAL IN JAVELIN THROW



PV SINDHU, BRONZE MEDAL IN BADMINTON



LOVLINA BORGHAIN, BRONZE MEDAL IN BOXING



MIRABAI CHANU, SILVER IN WEIGHTLIFTING

name in the nine-member Indian boxing contingent that made the trip to Tokyo. Given the presence of the legendary MC Mary Kom, that wasn't a huge surprise.

But the 23-year-old welterweight boxer wasn't short on credentials: she had medalled at the last two world championships, as well as at two Asian championships, including the most recent edition earlier this year.

At Tokyo 2020, she would emulate her and her country's icon – joining Mary Kom as India's second female boxer to win an Olympic medal. A long wait. A huge weight.

When India last won an Olympic medal in hockey, no member of their present team had been born, and their coach – Australian Graham Reid – was yet to begin his playing career.

The most successful nation in the history of the Olympic hockey competition had waited 41 years for a medal in the sport. The wait ended in sensational style.

After being defeated 5-2 by eventual champions Belgium in the semifinals, India's medal hopes rested upon their bronze playoff against Germany. At 3-1 down with half-time approaching, the medal appeared to be eluding India again.

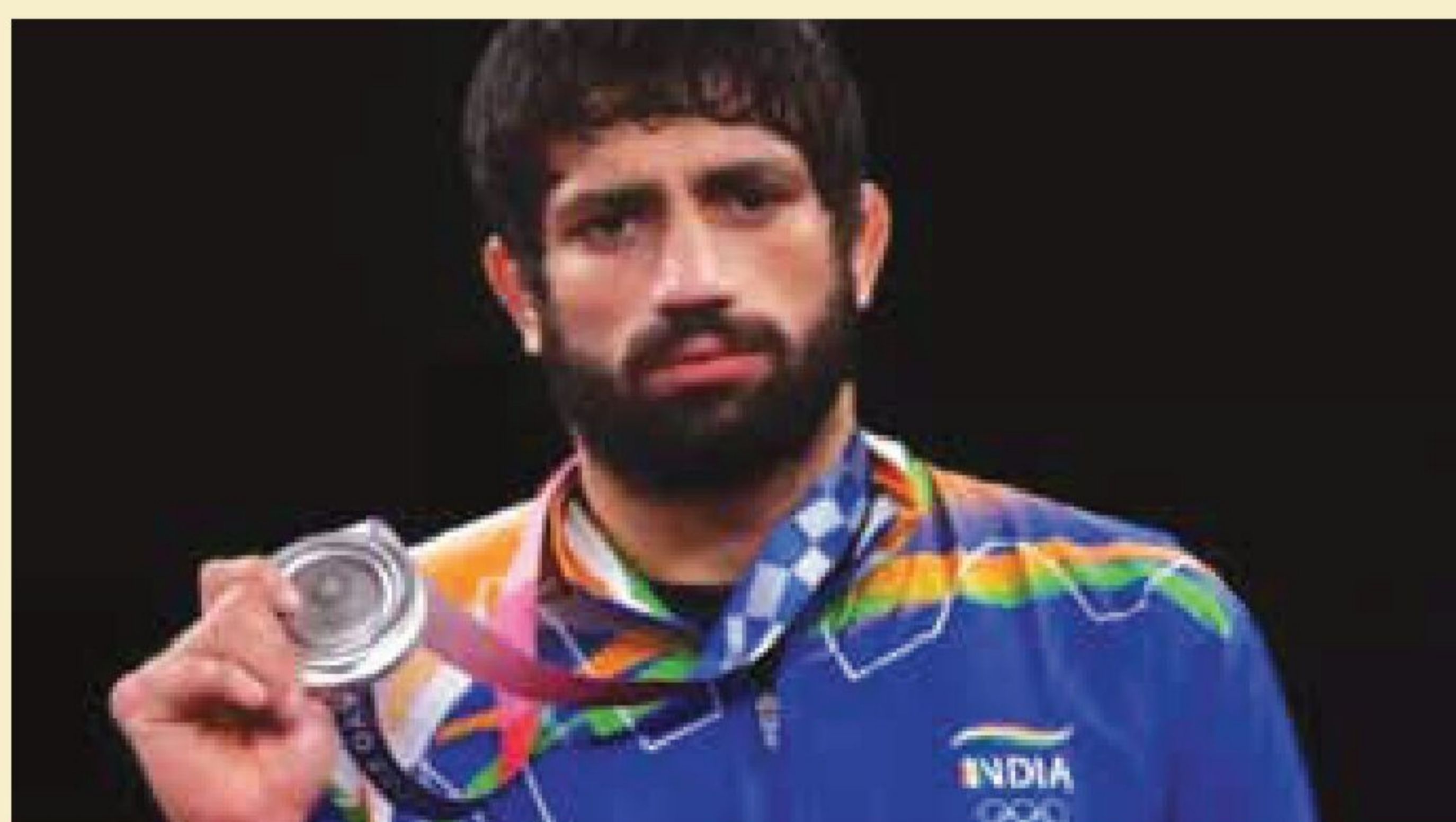
Four goals in the span of seven minutes, either side of the half-time hooter, and the dream was back on. The Germans – medallists at each of the last four editions of the Olympic Games – pulled one back at 5-4, and won a penalty corner with less than seven seconds left on the clock.

But goalkeeper PR Sreejesh stood his ground to deny an equaliser – and India had their 12th Olympic medal in men's hockey. Speaking of dramatic turnarounds in medal-clinching contests...

With 90 seconds left to play in his semifinal clash with Nurislam Sanayev, Ravi Kumar Dahiya trailed 2-9. The Kazakh grappler, a medallist at the last two world championships, had the Indian right where we



INDIAN MEN'S, HOCKEY TEAM BRONZE MEDAL



RAVI DAHIYA, SILVER MEDAL IN WRESTLING



BAJRANG PUNIA, BRONZE MEDAL IN WRESTLING



PM Enjoys Ice Cream with PV Sindhu, treats Neeraj Chopra with Churma

wanted him, on the mat. Or so he thought.

Dahiya – a bronze medallist himself at the 2019 world championships, in addition to holding the two latest Asian championship crowns – closed the gap to 5-9, and then turned things around – literally – to pin Sanayev and book himself a spot in the final

It didn't stop at one for

the wrestling contingent, as Bajrang Punia – named after the patron deity of 'kushti' in India – got himself a piece of the prize from the mat.

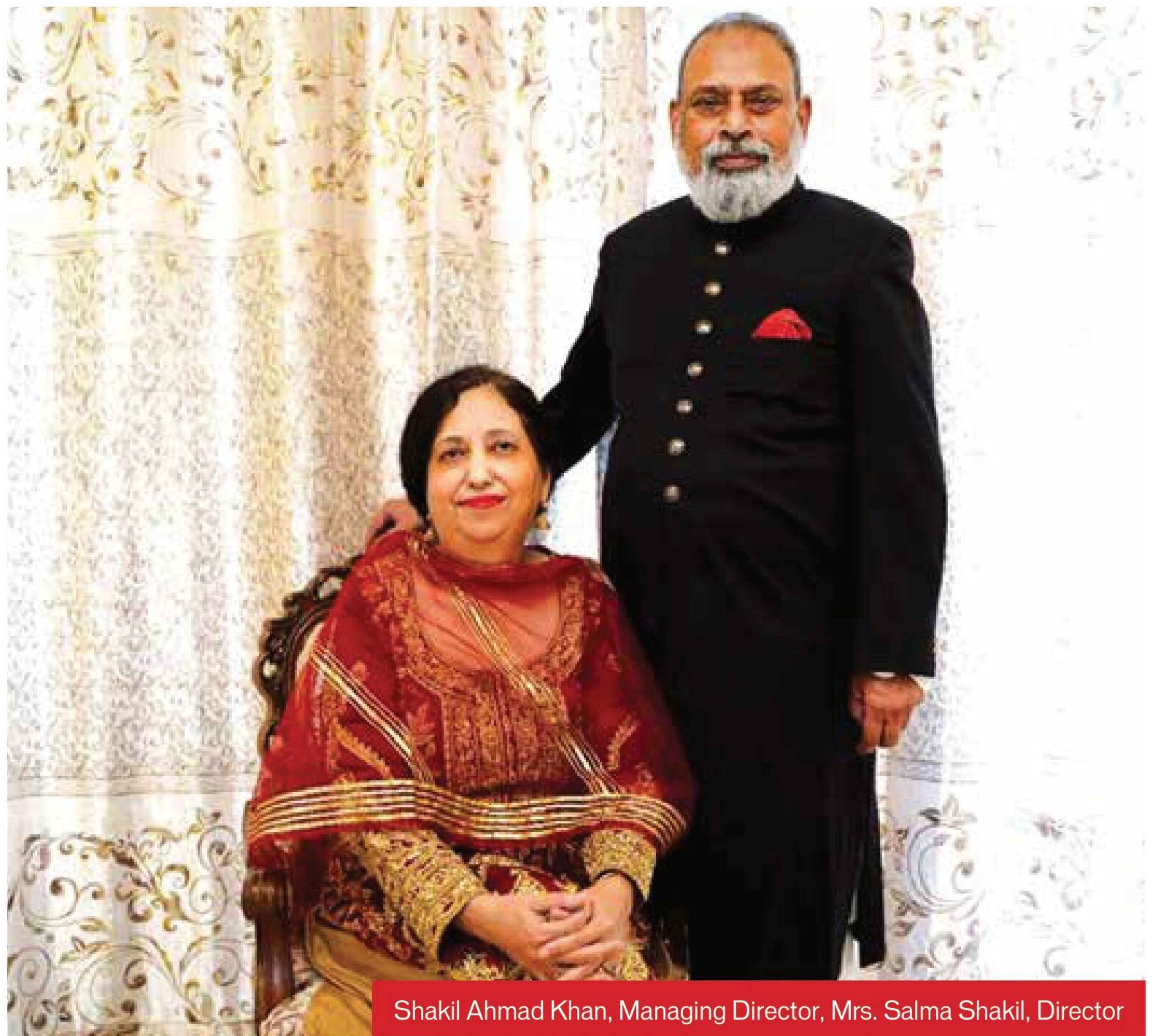
As the only Indian wrestler with three world championship medals to his name, Bajrang was a prime contender to be among the medals in Tokyo. But it was far from an easy ride. ■

ATLANTIC TRAVEL & CARGO PVT. LTD.

GOOD EDUCATIONAL BASIS AND SHEER HARD WORK RULE THE ROOST HERE

By **Our Correspondent**

Having educational credentials and worthwhile experience are the two powerful tools that help an entrepreneur bring out the best in his line of work. These two, put together, aid and abet in not just the setting up of a business but also in consolidating its innings in the concerned markets and in enhancing its niche position. Mr. Shakil Ahmad Khan, managing director, of Atlantic Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd. and his wife, Mrs Salma Shakil are one such couple that are well-educated and have enough know-how that has helped them make their venture a successful and profitable one. Mr. Ahmad is an L.L.B., C.S. (I), and also holds an M.B.A., among having other qualifications. His good lady, Mrs. Salma Shakil is a B.A. and B.Ed. degrees holder along with having other study merits and is a director in this outfit. This dynamic duo has hand-in-hand carved out a special place in the market segment for their company due to a number of credible feats



Shakil Ahmad Khan, Managing Director, Mrs. Salma Shakil, Director

including putting hard work and faith in the lord almighty above all else. The concerned company was teed off in 1985 by Mr. Shakil's older brother, Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan. The present managing director joined hands with him in 1989. Incidentally, Mr. Ali Ahmad Khan

(with a B.A. in business management from the University of East London) and Ibrahim Ahmad Khan (with a diploma in business administration from PSB Academy, Singapore), sons of Mr. Iqbal, and Mr. Fahad Ahmad Khan (late), son of Mr. Shakil, all hold the

position of directors in this esteemed organization. Though this Custom Broker and Console Agent is involved in both exports and imports, it is the former that takes up a major chunk of their business. They specialize in all products but more so in the export of frozen

meat and in the imports of fabric material. In tandem, is the specialization of third party exports, third party payment shipment, third country exports with switch B/L, and also of shipments against advance authorization.

The tagline that comes with the Atlantic Group is that they proffer complete solutions in logistics and are a one-stop solution service provider. They believe that their USP is that “come to us with a problem, and go out with a solution at hand”. The breakup of services given here include international freight forwarding, customs clearance, transportation, shipping and forwarding agent-related work. Competitive pricing and

efficiency in work are the two benchmarks that this organization excels in. A noteworthy point to mention is that the company has been winning the Concor Award consistently for the last ten years now. So also, it has affiliations with ACAAI and FIATA. ATCPL is the flag bearer company here and it is also a WCA accredited agent. Among their proffering, also figures giving digital feasibility for tracking products, et al. The primetime clients here include the Reliance Industries Ltd., Super Tannery Ltd., Everest Tannery Ltd., Calico Trends, Karan Letex Ltd., Ahsan Leather Private Ltd., Horn-line Exports, Khaliq Sons



Late Fahad Ahmad Khan (Son of Shakil Ahmad Khan) in Dubai to attend Food Fair in 2018



Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Managing Director (Sitting)
Ibrahim Ahmad Khan, Director (R)
Ali Ahmad Khan, Director (L)

International, Jodhpur Craft Inc., Rajshi Technologies India Pvt. Ltd., and Art n Trendz Inc. The 250 employee organization has managed retaining about 95% of those on its roster for the longest time period. In addition, it also proudly preens about having been able to retain about 90% of those on its client roll-call. Keeping their employees happy and content is one mantra that the Atlantic Group has always managed. For this, they take several measures including regular updating of employee skills base and training them for different jobs along with giving the full salary during the pandemic times. The management team here believes that the period between 2010 to 2014 was professionally the best for this company since they managed work to the

tune of 100 to 150 shipping bills on a daily basis. Interestingly, the names of some of the important meat clients here are Rustam Foods Pvt. Ltd., Allana, Rayban Foods Pvt. Ltd., and Bio Springs.

This company, providing round-the-clock and 24x7 operations, does the complete documentation about the different kinds of custom clearance. The vast network it has of agents assist in the safe, efficient, and timely delivery of the consignments. The team members here ensure the customers that they “assure you of delicate handling of the sensitive shipments”. The shipping agents in-charge of the work paraphernalia are well-experienced and expert in their work base. They fully comprehend the value of working on-time and that any kind of delay

BEST FREIGHT FORWARDER

in shipment can lead to a huge loss for their clients. Thus, one of the USPs here is to provide complete legal documentation of the consignments and also a provision of insurance of the goods to give full safety feeling to the relevant customers. The company is also into assisting the importer/exporter clients in respect of queries raised by their bankers regarding mismatch of data captured by the IDPMS/EDPMS from respective Bill of Entry and shipping bill/ having value added services along with legalization of documents from embassies/ consulates in Delhi and Mumbai. The company operates from a number of offices including those

in Mumbai, Kanpur (the first office conceived by the company), Delhi, Kolkata, Moradabad, and Gurgaon. The full range of services includes clearing and forwarding of export consignments, LCL, FCL and break bulk, house to house freight forwarding, warehousing export consignments, special cell for post export work, refund of central excise and proof of exports, fumigation of export consignments and certificates, certificates of origin from the Chamber of Commerce, documents legalization from the consulates in Mumbai, freight booking, drawback claims, and other related work. The primary benefits that clients accrue

from this company are that it promises safe and secure cargo handling, time bound and committed deliveries, economical and competitive freight rates, management of cargo by professional and experienced workers, and 24-hourly online cargo detail.

The vision and the goal for the next five years are to cross the Rs 80 crore turnover threshold and that too as soon as is plausible and possible. Interestingly, this figure stood at Rs 56 crore in 2018-19 but came down to Rs 41 crore in 2020-2021 due to the obvious reasons of Covid-19 menace that pervaded the entire world, literally speaking.

Here, the sincere opinion is that success stories in business and more so in this vista of work are created due to several factors including sound educational odysseys, keeping within the lawful practices, and being thoroughly professional in all work parameters. With the aforesaid well in place with this firm, one can expect them to shine even further in their profession in the times to come. This is the one premise one can truly bank upon after being privy to the strong and steady ethical background and the strict and disciplined regime that is followed at the Atlantic Group in its work routine. ■

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KUMAR EQUIPMENT PVT. LTD.

WORKING TOWARDS A HIGH-QUALITY REGIME

By **Our Correspondent**

Here, in discussion, we have a company, Kumar Equipment Pvt. Ltd., that in effect, believes in maintaining a high-quality regime. It takes up projects that involve the entire gamut of solutions including designing, consultancy, layout plans, and the technical nuances of the food and beverage equipment for canteens, bakeries, mess establishments, commercial kitchens on a turnkey basis as well as on individual contract terms. The one notable aspect here is that it connects with the new and emerging technologies in the world and incorporates them in its work to provide state-of-the-art solutions to clients. These include the automatic laser cutting machines and other automated machines that are industry standards. The credible point is that about 60% of the entire processing at KEI is automated. Only the inspection, packaging, and dispatch are done manually. Interestingly, even these processes will get automated with the introduction of the laser scanning machines.

One could also say that KEI also provides logistics support to this very hospitality industry specializing in commercial kitchens. Working in this realm for the past two decades, adherence to strict quality control is what seals the deal in the favor of this firm in front of its clientele.

The range of work done by Kumar Equipment Pvt. Ltd. also extends to exhaust and fresh air systems, LPG pipelines for safety and economy of the project, et al. The golden mantras of providing excellent quality, prompt service, and timely execution of projects and delivery of the products to the customers at all times is the underlying ethos of this company. No deviation or flip-flop approach to work is tolerated here. The company authorities believe that they are superior in technology and performance due to following such work principles and have principled research and development practices in their manufacturing units.

Two such units have been setup in Delhi and one is in Manesar and upcoming facility is in Bangalore and all are totally equipped with the state-of-the-art machinery for the production of large numbers of kitchen-related equipment even at short notice in keeping with the design and other specifications of the wide-ranging clientele. In short, this company proffers its services to a wide range of clientele including five-star hotels, residential schools, banquet halls, learning institutes, hospitals,

restaurants, and corporate industries. Some top-of-the-line clients here are the The Leela, Meridian Group of Hotels, Taj Group Of Hotels, Google India, Amazon, Facebook, Pepsico, Samsung Group, Maruti Suzuki, Hero Motocorp Ltd., Honda cars, J.K, Tyres, The Birla Group, and the Tata Group. The environment, health, and safety plan or EHS has been developed at KEI and this is being implemented for its projects and contracts at literally all the establishments.

Basically speaking, this is for ushering in safe and healthy work practices that ensure a conducive and healthy work environment for all the involved factions. These terms and conditions manage to eliminate any work-related risk to the participants and also brings by a culture of timeliness and emergency preparedness at all times.

Established in 2009, the workforce strength here is about 160 employees. The turnover had gone up to Rs 54 crore the year before. As per Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Director, KEI, “we have the ISO 14001: 2015 and ISO 9001: 2015 certifications to our credit, and have made an investment to the tune of Rs 1.5 crore in this firm”. KEI, incidentally, is fortified with a very huge and strong marketing and servicing network on a pan-India basis. This chain

is in charge of a very sincere and dedicated team of professionals that work hard towards fulfilling each and every requirement of every client that comes to them. Some of the departments that are functioning under the KEI aegis include the marketing and facility planning department, the production unit, the procurement and quality control department, and the logistics and after-sales unit. Each segment is headed by veteran professionals with expertise in their line of work and all the operations are spear-led by the dynamic head honcho. A breakup of the services rendered thus includes kitchen sizing and location, kitchen planning, L.P.G. system designing, engineering design for kitchen exhaust system, et al. The product line includes hot equipment, cold equipment, bakery equipment, bar and beverage equipment, prep equipment, dish washing paraphernalia, display equipment, tables, trolleys, and several imported items as well. Interestingly, about Twelve people work in a dedicated R&D wing and 2.5% of the sales investment goes for this purpose. The vision with which the “KEI banner is flying high is to attain a turnover of more than Rs 100 crore within the coming three years”. Working with a strict discipline like they do, it is almost certain that this goal will be achieved sooner and not later than the deadline is set for. ■



NIIR PROJECT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

RELIABILITY IN WORK IS ITS PRIMETIME USP

By **Our Correspondent**

Reliability in work. This is the one criterion, if met adequately enough, is good enough to see the company in question through with almost all clients it has. NIIR Project Consultancy Services, with Mr. Ajay Kumar Gupta, President, at its helm, is one such firm that has work reliability as its major USP. Armed with an ISO 9001: 2008 certification to boot, it is one of the cornerstone names in the industrial world for providing a very comprehensive suite of technical consulting services. It aids and abets the youth that get into entrepreneurial work with startups and motivates them by provision of the basic data, technology evaluation for their requisite requirements, and servicing and assimilation of project details from business, commercial, and industrial databases. Teed off in 1994, this firm has an employee roster of eight to ten personnel on its payroll. It has registered employee retention of 70% till date and its USPs also are reasonable pricing, and



Ajay Kumar Gupta, President, NIIR Project Consultancy Services

a ‘no compromise policy’ on quality. It has an R&D expenditure of 10% of its sales turnover. Mr. Gupta, who is ably assisted by his son, Mr. Udant Gupta, believes that “the ongoing period is the best for us”. He attributes his success story to the hand of providence and destiny, dedication, and sheer hard work. His message to the readers is that this is the correct timing to “jump into the business groove since the government is very supportive of such measures”.

The niche areas of consultancy that NIIR Project Consultancy Services is involved in include food processing, agro chemicals, pharmaceuticals,

engineering goods, automobiles, steel plants, textiles, cement, minerals, educational institutes, chemicals, and fertilizers. For startups, the consultancy proffered is on the lines of providing the actual cost involvements, market research, market growth, and identifying the problems that may arise. Usually, “we suggest five projects for startups and this is the prime segment of interest for most clients”. Interestingly, this company has even extended its services to the Bhutan Government, Sri Lankan Government, and to companies in the Middle East as well. The top-of-the-rack client list includes Dharampal Satyapal Ltd., Uttam Exports

pvt ltd, Tata Chemicals, Ashapura Minechem Ltd, National Peroxide Ltd. The Guptas’ vision for the next half decade is primarily to export equipment and machinery to the Middle East sector. The breakup of the work portfolio here is also inclusive of providing profitable industry project opportunities, preparation of project profiles, pre-investment and pre-feasibility studies, market surveys, preparation of techno-economic feasibility reports, identification and selection of plant process and equipment, general guidance, technical and commercial counseling for establishing new industrial projects. It is also into publishing technical and reference books for education and industry. The Asia Pacific Business Press Inc. work is in tandem with the tri-principle of knowledge, information, and quality and adheres to these concepts with its heart and soul of operation. With such a trailblazing effort from the side of the Gupta duo and their entire team, this corporate outfit sure seems to be well entrenched on a path of higher successes and bigger glories etched out in the sands of time ■

OM DRISHIAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.

A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL WORK STRATEGY

By **Our Correspondent**

A multi-dimensional work strategy is a very good device to ensuring the healthy growth and good profit margins. Om Drishian International Ltd. is one company that believes in just this approach to work. For instance, it is involved in importing, manufacturing, trading, and distributing stainless steel sheets and circles along with plastic agglomerates. Says Mr. Rakesh Bansal, managing director, "I began the foray into this trade and with zero investments". Having a turnover of Rs 50-60 crore, the workforce strength here is about 50-60 people. Prescribing to the philosophy of "having our chief U.S.P. as honesty and commitment", Mr. Bansal also speaks of "no research and development work, as such". Om Drishian International Ltd. has managed a client retention rate of over and above 80%, and an employee retention rate of 70% in the past few years. What began in 2001 as a proprietorship unit has metamorphosed into the present day status of a successful and thriving organization that is a source of pride for its founder and its work



Rakesh Bansal, Managing Director

teammates. Incidentally, the other group companies in this consortium are Ansa Polymers Ltd., Blossom Trading Corp., and Stash Barn Enterprises. The manufacturing hub for the unit is based in SEZ, Gandhigram, Gujarat. The primetime benefits there are that it is a duty-free zone and that the participants there can accrue income tax rebates. Ansa Polymers Ltd. is a license-based company (Interestingly, the government of India has issued only 28 licenses so far in this sector and Ansa Polymers Ltd. is one

of these). Mr. Banal, who opines, that "my success story is due to a resultant combination of the forces of destiny, sheer hard work struggles, and the good grace of the kind lord", desires that "we should all aim to be positive in life and focus all our energies in this direction". Om Drishian International Ltd. is a firm setting its eagle eye on enhancing the turnovers level. For example, the vision and the motto firing up its work engines in these present times is to scale up the group turnovers to more than Rs 100 crore as soon as is possible for them

to do so. For a consortium that figures within the topmost ten players in the segment it is working in, this should not be much of a problem. Mr. Bansal, who believes that "the GST regime is ethical, but has certain distinct loopholes in it" is setting new heights and harder work deadlines to achieve these figures. Here is to hoping that all the efforts that going in these channels prove productive and that Om Drishian International Ltd. is able to come up with record numbers, good statistics, and higher profit margins. ■

B S YEDIYURAPPA RESIGNS, SAYS BJP LEADERS WILL DECIDE ON HIS REPLACEMENT



By **Our Correspondent**

Ending days of speculations, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa handed over his resignation to Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot on Monday afternoon. Stepping out after his meeting with the Governor, he said that the party leaders will decide who the next CM will be.

Asking ministers to cooperate with whoever replaces him, he assured that sitting ministers who have come in from the Congress and JD(S) will not be affected by the change. Yediyurappa also clarified that the

resignation was his own decision and no one had forced him to quit. “No one from the high command forced me to resign,” Yediyurappa added.

On being asked if he is willing to serve as the governor of any state, he said, “There is no question about me leaving the state. I will continue to work for the welfare of the people in Karnataka. I will work to bring BJP back in power in the next elections.” Yediyurappa had announced the decision to resign during a programme commemorating two years of the BJP government in Karnataka. Getting

emotional while speaking about his journey in politics, the Chief Minister added, “At a time when there were no cars, I remember cycling to work for the BJP party in Shikaripura, Shimoga. We, along with a few BJP workers, built the party and took it to where it is today.” However, as there is no clarity regarding a successor, he may continue as the caretaker CM till his replacement is confirmed by the BJP high command.

“When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, he had asked me to be a minister at the Centre. However, I said I will be in Karnataka

and serve the people of the state” Yediyurappa said during an emotional speech. He added, “It has always been an ‘agnipariksha’ (trial by fire) for me in these last two years since there was a pandemic.”

In a series of tweets on Monday afternoon, Yediyurappa said he has dedicated his entire 50 years of public life towards nation-building and fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Karnataka. “Deeply influenced by Jagajyoti Basavanna’s philosophy of Kayaka, Dasoha Tattva & the life of Lingaikya Shri Shivakumara Swamiji of Siddaganga Mutt, I have dedicated my entire 50 years of public life towards nation building and fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Karnataka,” he wrote.

“Our tallest leaders, starting from Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyayaji, Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Atalji, Advaniji, Murali Manohar Joshi have inspired me to dedicate myself to serve the nation. I have also received immense love and support of Modiji, Amit Shahji and Naddaji,” he added.

“Sarvodaya through

Antyodaya has been the guiding philosophy of our party. In the last 50 years, upliftment of poor, oppressed, backward communities, senior citizens, women and children has been my priority and I dedicated myself to bring positive changes in the lives of people," he said in another tweet before going to submit his resignation.

Yediyurappa, a 78-year-old Lingayat strongman, has served as the Chief Minister for two years after he took oath on July 26, 2019.

He had previously served as the chief minister for a week in November 2007 and again for three years from 2008 to 2011. After allegations of corruption against him, he had resigned in July 2011.

In 2018, he took charge as the Chief Minister for two days before his government was toppled by the JD(S)-Congress coalition.

After a year, he managed to form a BJP

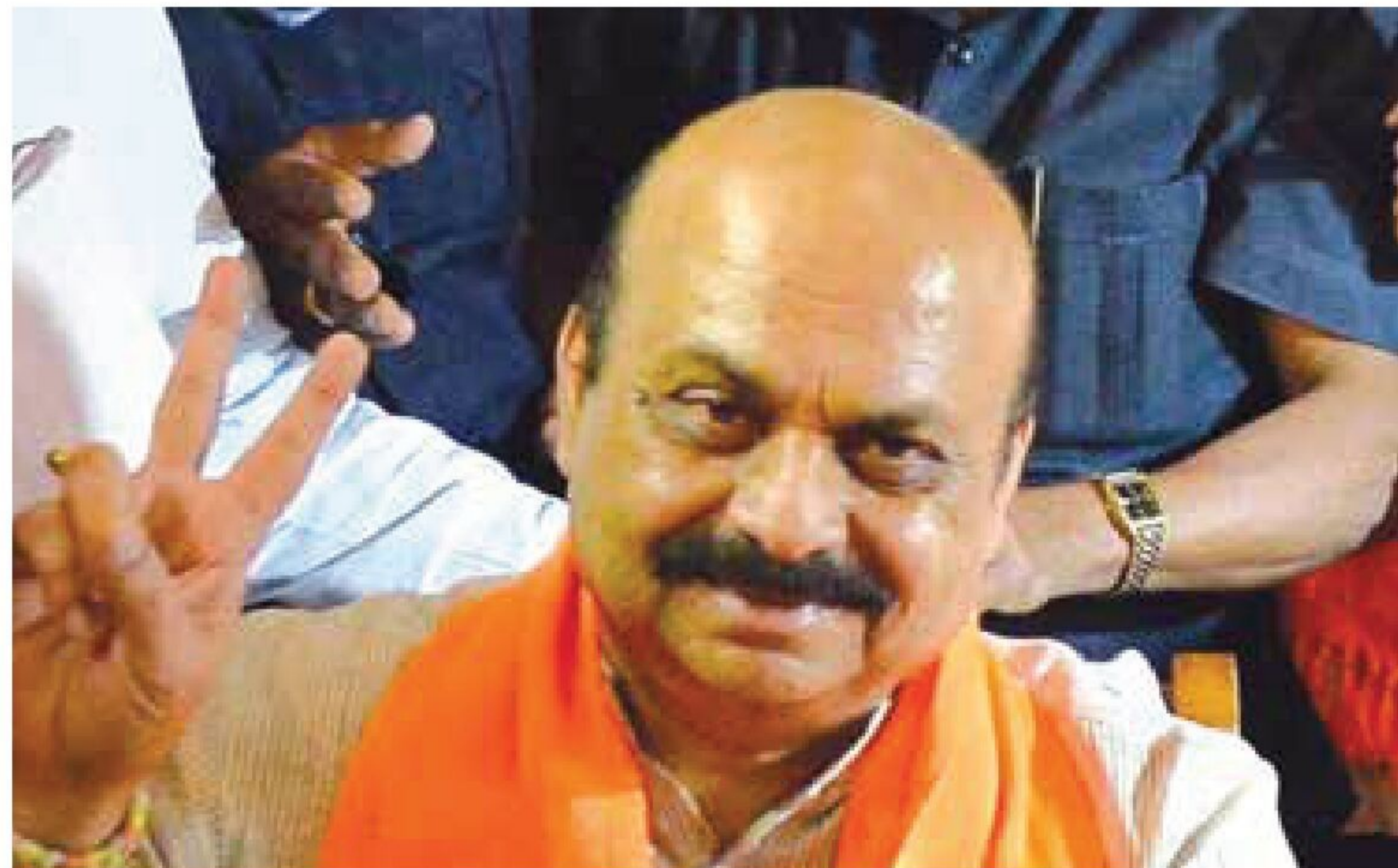
government in the state after seventeen MLAs from the Congress and JD(S) resigned and joined the BJP to support Yediyurappa.

For the past one week, since his meetings with senior BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda, talks of Yediyurappa stepping down as the CM became stronger, with he himself hinting at stepping down after July 26.

UPSET OVER BS YEDIYURAPPA'S RESIGNATION, SUPPORTERS IN HIS HOMETOWN SHUT SHOPS

After BS Yediyurappa resigned from the post of Karnataka Chief Minister on Monday, supporters from his hometown Shikaripura, in the Shivamogga district shut down shops and commercial establishments in disappointment.

The market area



BASAVARAJ BOMMAI TAKES OATH AS 23RD CHIEF MINISTER OF KARNATAKA

in Shikaripura wore a deserted look soon after.

Mr Yediyurappa now holds the position of caretaker Chief Minister till his successor is sworn in. Thawar Chand Gehlot, the governor of the state, on Monday accepted Mr Yediyurappa's resignation and dissolved the Council of Ministers with immediate effect. According to sources, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Karnataka Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in-charge Arun Singh are likely to be

two central observers for the state. Ending months of speculation, Mr Yediyurappa Announced his decision of stepping down at a special event organised at Vidhana Soudha to present the government's report card on the occasion of the completion of two years of the BJP-led state government in the current term. Mr Yediyurappa assured that he shall work to bring the party back to power in the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls. ■



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EXPLAINED: WHY RAJ KUNDRA WAS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH AN ADULT FILM RACKET



RAJ KUNDRA ARREST: THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS OF THE POLICE PROBE. ONE WAS NABBING THOSE WHO PRODUCED THE PORN SHOWS AND THE OTHER FOCUSED ON THOSE WHO BROADCAST THE CLIPS

By **Our Correspondent**

Businessman Raj Kundra, husband of actor and businesswoman Shilpa Shetty, was arrested by the Mumbai Police on Monday in connection with an adult film racket. What is the case, and does Kundra face any other similar case?

What is the case in which Raj Kundra has been arrested?

On February 4 of this year, the Mumbai police said they had arrested five people for allegedly forcing women into porn movies. They would promise these aspiring actresses, who came to Mumbai from various

parts of the country, roles in web series. However, on the day of the shoot, they would change the script and threaten the women to expose themselves. If the women refused, they were asked to foot the bill for the shooting preparations. Once the movies were shot, the accused made them available on mobile apps, offering subscriptions on the lines of mainstream OTT platforms. They would then put up advertisements on social media platforms. Since pornography is illegal in India, this too was against the law.

How and where were these movies shot?

According to the police, it would normally be a

daylong shoot at a rented bungalow on the outskirts of Mumbai, like Madh Island. There would be minimal staff of five to six people who would double up as directors, dialogue writers, locations scouters and web app developers. These apps became especially popular during the lockdown, with some having a subscriber base in lakhs, said the police.

What does the police say was the role of Raj Kundra?

There were two aspects of the police probe. One was nabbing those who produced these porn shows and the other focused on those who broadcast these clips. Some of these production houses broadcast from

servers outside the country.

One such UK production house, found to be uploading such content, came under the police scanner and its executive Umesk Kamat was arrested. An officer said that it was Kundra's alleged connection to Kamat and the company that uploaded such pornographic content that landed him in trouble.

Are any other similar cases pending against Kundra?

Kundra had applied for anticipatory bail last month in connection with a case registered by the Maharashtra Cyber police last year. In that case too, the cyber police had registered an FIR against

various platforms which they said were involved in showcasing pornographic content. The court is likely to decide on the anticipatory bail application next week.

TIP-OFF ON ADULT FILM SHOOT, RAID ON MADH ISLAND HOUSE, FEW ARRESTS—WHAT LED COPS TO RAJ KUNDRA

It was February 4. The Mumbai Police received a tip-off: a porn movie being shot at a bungalow in Madh Island. In a prompt raid on the bungalow that followed, the police found two persons in a state of undress being filmed in intimate poses.

Five persons assisting in the filming process were arrested and a woman was rescued from the house that day, the police said. The latter was made a complainant in the case which eventually led to the arrest of businessman and actor Shilpa Shetty's husband, Raj Kundra, five months later on July 19. Kundra was produced in a court Tuesday that sent him to police custody till July 23 in connection with the alleged making of pornographic films and publishing them through some mobile applications. The five persons, arrested from the Madh Island bungalow, the police said would promise aspiring actresses coming to Mumbai, from areas like Beed in rural Maharashtra or states like Jharkhand, roles in web series. On the day



Shilpa Shetty & Gehana Vasisth

According to reports, Shilpa Shetty while issuing her statement to investigating officials had claimed that she is not involved in operations of the alleged Hotshots app. She also claimed that Raj Kundra's company's app did not have pornographic content and that all content was bold and eroric in nature. Now, actress Gehana Vasisth, who is also involved in the case, has spoken to ETimes exclusively and revealed that she agrees with Shilpa's statement. Reacting to a query about Shilpa Shetty's statement Gehana says, "Shilpa is correct. The Hotshots app never had any content that could be classified as pornography. How can someone be associated with something that just does not exist. I believe Shilpa is correct when she's saying that she didn't know anything about the Hotshots app, this is based on my personal knowledge.

of the shoot, the accused would tell the women the script had been changed. They would allegedly ask them to undress and shoot intimate scenes.

If the women refused, police claimed, they would be threatened with the bill for setting up the shooting. Coming from humble backgrounds, most of these women would succumb to the pressure, the police said.

Once the movies were shot, the accused allegedly put them on mobile applications like Hot Hit Movies and Hotshots. They allegedly also offered subscriptions on the

lines of mainstream OTT platforms and also put up advertisements on social media platforms.

In June 2020, the Hotshots app was removed from the Apple store and from Google Store in November 2020 following complaints that it was streaming pornographic material, the police said. The crime branch said that during the probe, they found that these adult movies were normally shot within a day at a rented bungalow on the outskirts of Mumbai, like Madh Island. There would be minimal staff of five to six people, who would double

up as directors, dialogue writers, location scouts and web app developers. These apps became especially popular during the lockdown, with some gaining a subscriber base of lakhs, the police claimed.

Initially, during the course of its investigation, the Mumbai Police had focused on producers and others who assisted in the process of shooting. Those arrested included Rowa Khan, producer of such films, small-time actor Gehna Vasisht among others. Later, the crime branch started focussing on platforms to which such films were sold. It was during this probe that the police arrested Umesh Kamat, who worked with UK-based Kenrin Pvt Ltd, a production company that owns the Hotshots app where some of these movies were uploaded.

Based on Kamat's questioning and going through his call records, the police found that while Kenrin owned the app, it was allegedly being run by Kundra through his Mumbai-based company Viaan Industries. A charge sheet filed in April, however, did not name Kundra. After further probe and a scan of the technical data on Kamat's laptop, the police sought the court's permission to search Kundra's office. Eventually, a police team raided the place on Monday and claimed to have found "incriminating evidence" based on which he was arrested late that night ■

B612 APP

AN APP THAT PRODUCES PICTURES AND VIDEOS DIFFERENTLY

NIDHI AGRAWAL , COUNTRY MANAGER DIVULGING DETAILS ABOUT B612 APP TO DEEPAK KHATTAR, BUREAU CHIEF,BS.

By **Deepak Khattar**

BS Tell me something about B612 and snow corp.

NA B612 is the only app which is totally free and is providing almost all the features that one requires to create any kind of content. We have all the genre of features like filters, effects, beauty, makeup, funny sticker contents, editing, music, template and many more. B612 has been designed keeping in mind the needs of audience for not only creating trendy content but also editing their existing images and content.

The aim is to provide the best to our users and hence keep on evolving and updating in term of ongoing trends. We have a team working all over the world and they try to bring the global trends together in one app.

For users who are new to the content creation or who don't know how to make their photos and videos different, we are providing ready to use templates for both Pictures and Videos. With this it is a lot easier for users to make engaging content without any efforts. We also have



Nidhi Agrawal, Country Manager, B612 App

options for advance effect/filter creation (create your own) where people don't need any technical skills. They can simply create their own effect in minutes by using our lens editor tool and later share it with their friends, family, or on social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and more. When it comes to videos, we have options to make different types of short videos, then it can be dialogues, lip-syncing or whatever they want.

For bringing the newest trends under one tab, we have a new section called Discover where creators can see other users'/ creators' content and also can follow their favorite creators or get followers themselves.

Moving forward, Snow

Corp is a company which always tries to satisfy user needs, and help them to be trendy or make their small experiences easy & special. We are having more than 10 different apps, and one of them is B612. We are creating different apps keeping in mind the demand from the masses like the App "Foodie" is for taking pictures of food and other normal things. Then we have a Video editing app called "Vita" and "Zepeto" a 3D avatar app which has more than 200 million downloads and getting a lot of attention globally.

BS What are your expansion plans for India?

NA Our biggest plan is to reach different corners of India and help people to create amazing content using B612. We are trying to expand by bringing out more features, and Indian localized content and making this as our biggest focus for the first half year of 2021. We are trying to make B612 app UGC (User generated content app). We are going to open UGC for the users in India and soon anyone can create content and upload it in

B612. The App will have feature where they can show their own created content, use other creator's content, and also gain followers. We are also trying to do localization as per the Indian user market needs and trying to connect with the locals by making Indian content, tools and features. The localized content involves content for various Indian festivals, events, various seasons, Indian skin tones, style, preferences and trends. We want to make the memories of our users special with B612, we want to make each moment beautiful. We are also planning to do Brand collaborations, celebrity plus influencer collaborations on different platforms. We are also bringing new content on our social media handles to give people smaller insights regarding how they can utilize the app in the best way. Moreover, we are also trying to bring other SNOW apps also to India.

BS How is your brand different from the other apps in competition?

NA B612 is the all-in-one content creation

app with almost every feature that user is looking for. It gives a plethora of option for taking pictures (both selfies and back camera) making videos, using editing features and templates. We have tried to create an app where people can create memories without worrying. Our users do not have to download loads of photography or content creation apps, they can find everything in B612. We are the only app which is completely free with easy to use user interface. There is no other app in India which is doing that right now or in any other country what we're providing.

BS What are the ideas that motivated devising the B612 App?

NA We believe that every picture/video has a story, and we want to give people a platform to tell their story. We want to provide the users with ALL-IN-ONE app which has all they need from creating to editing which can make their important moments more beautiful. We wanted to give this experience to our users and wanted to bring a satisfied smile on their faces when they take pictures or videos.

We believe everyone is creative in their way and one can create their own trends. In B612, anyone can

make their creative filters/effects within minutes, anyone can try new things, anyone can bring their ideas into the world, and anyone can become a creator. And, not just that, they can even see the ideas which are being shared by other creators all around the world.

BS What is the sales turnover of the company currently at global level?

NA The company is currently focused on making the app experience finest among its competitors and the sales figures will be shared at a later stage.

BS What are the new things that can

be expected from your brand in coming days?

NA One of the biggest features which we are excited about is "User Generated Content" feature where people will be able to log in and create their own profile. There they can see, follow & use the filters, effects, and stickers created by amazing creators all around the world, not just that, they themselves can create content and share it with people. In the profile they will be seeing two types of content, one is self-created and secondly the content created by other creators in the B612. Hopping this makes the app more engaging and trendier in the coming days. ■



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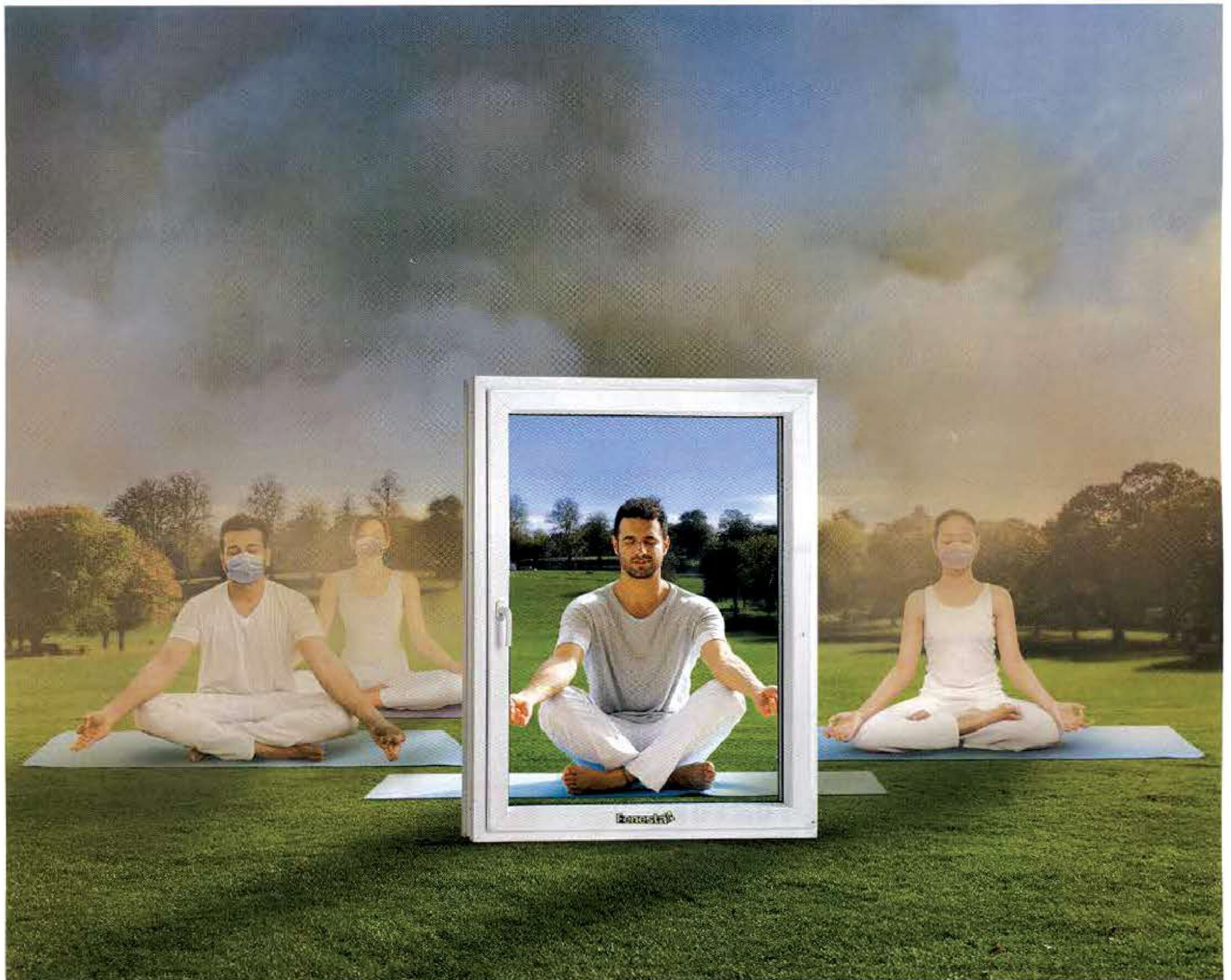
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An environment of excellence : This indeed, is a tall order to execute. It is a vibe that is not easy to maintain, do, discipline, or bring by. However, if ushered in, it helps a person, place, or organization come down in the annals of recognition in its field of work. Companies that go by this philosophy and try to herald in such narratives certainly own proficiency in their circa.

K. D Singh, Managing Director



WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

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All languages

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ITC Royal Bengal Kolkata

One such work unit is Aircon Engineers Pvt. Ltd. With Mr. K.D. Singh, managing director, helming all the operations here, it is no surprise that the company has come from one growth pillar to another since the time of its inception. Having circumvented the issues and stumbling blocks that would have come on its road to success, Mr. Singh strictly believes in following the allegiance to brilliance ethos in his times and tides. Taking on systems integration work in centralized air-conditioning, evaporation cooling systems, and in forced air-ventilation

systems, the motto at Aircon Engineers Pvt. Ltd. is one of “accentuating engineering position leadership”. Doing highly prestigious projects like those for the central vista (seven buildings for Ministry of defence) 1200-seater auditorium for Sharda University campus, the Indian School of business at Mohali, Chandigarh International Airport, are just a few of the feathers in the cap for this organization.

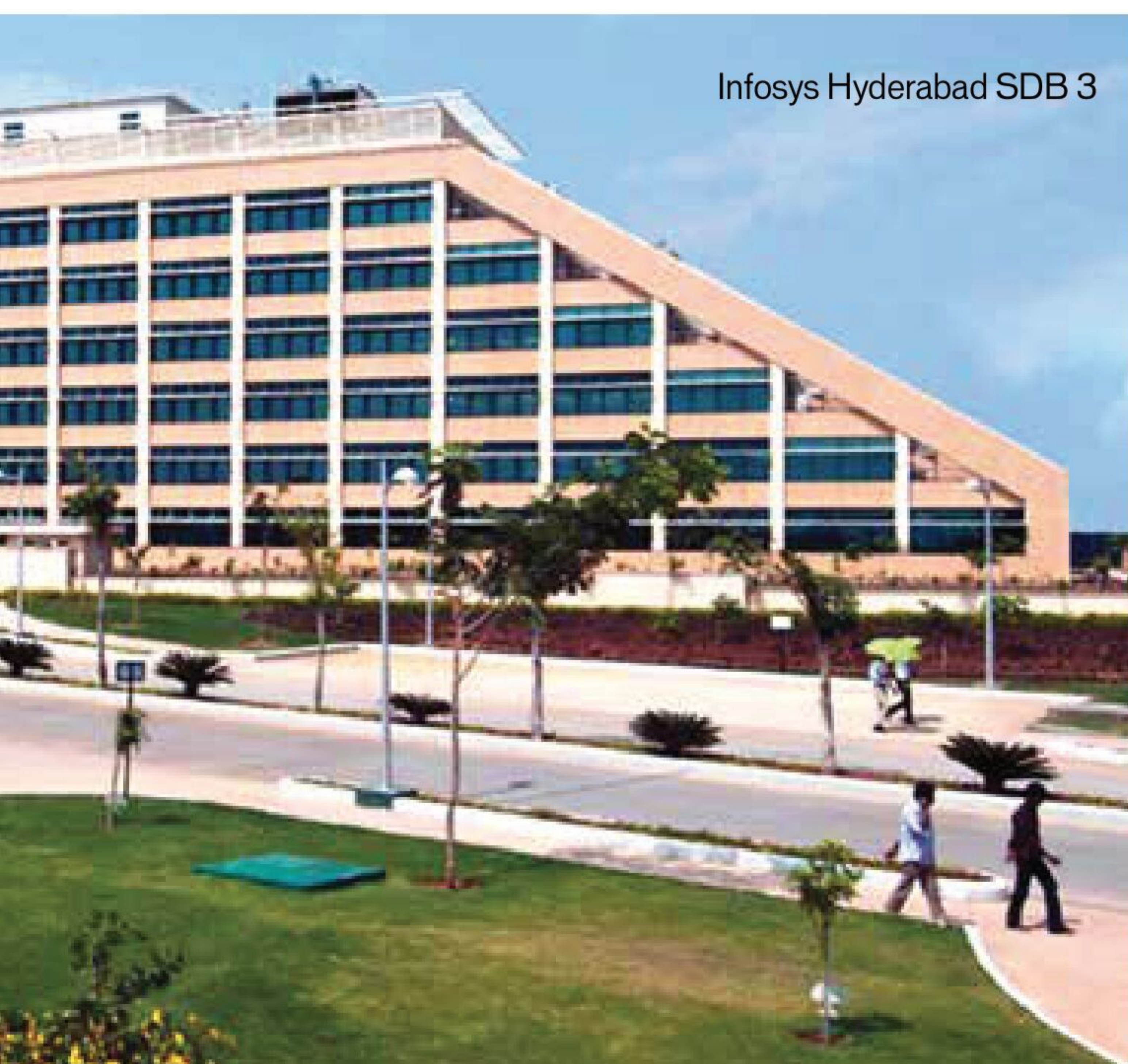
Founded on December 8, 1989, this company is process-driven, and presently is logging in an order book worth Rs 82.3 crore. Some other contracts



Infosys Hyderabad SDB 2



Max Hospital Shalimar Bagh, Phase 2



Infosys Hyderabad SDB 3

that have been executed successfully include the –ultralow deep freezer at minus 80 degrees for storing of Pfizer vaccine as well as the ground water cooling of the Indian School of Business in Mohali, Punjab. Proudly preens Mr. Singh, “we are the innovators in this line of work and are also involved in building a cold storage of our own that is the first of its kind”. All the work-related undertakings here are in keeping with the Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision and with world class quality standards in mind. A growth-oriented approach is that this company believes in having



Late Baljit Singh Sawhney



Mrs Arvind Singh



“EVERYTHING SHOULD BE QUALITY-ORIENTED” IS THE MAINSTAY OF ALL OPERATIONS HERE. ONE OF THE FACTORS STYMIEING THE GROWTH OF THIS COUNTRY IS THAT “OUR SYSTEM OF TRANSFORMATION IS SLOW”. MR. K.D. SINGH IS ALL PRAISE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. NARENDRA MODI AND CALLS HIM “THE BEST PM”

while working on its projects and assignments. An employee roster of 205, with a retention rate of over and above 80% is what gives Aircon Engineers Pvt. Ltd. its cutting edge in its field. A distinct dynamic of backward integration for air terminals, powers the ethos here. The present moment occupancy here includes working on a project for Central Vista, worth Rs 23 crore. The area of expertise at Aircon

Engineers is inclusive of all kinds of buildings including those belonging to MNCs, hospitals, and information technology projects. Work has been completed even for Assotech and for ITC, Hyderabad, in addition with projects for NIIT University, Neemrana, British Council Library, Holiday Inn, Kolkata, Bank of America and for the Oberoi's. Some other contracts taken on and successfully seen through include those for



K. D Singh, with Aircon Team



Fortis Hospital Ludhiana



Manmohan Singh

NDTV Studios, New Delhi, ITC Hotels, Kolkata, etc. Of the rather long listing of clients, “we have managed to retain a maximum percentage to the level of 90%” claims Mr. Singh.

The head honcho, Mr. K.D. Singh, has successfully completed his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from N.I.T. Warangal in 1982 and his M.B.A. from the University Business School, Chandigarh in 1984. Having garnered work experience in Voltas Ltd., to begin with, he branched off on his own with this company to have an experience of a lifetime in founding and making a successful working unit. The underlying philosophy here is to try to value engineer, reduce carbon foot print of buildings and save energy at all times.

Protecting nature and all natural resources is a topmost priority in this organization. Such a motto and mission statement is one that sees them through in the toughest of terrains and in the most complex of all assignments. Mr. Singh is careful and cautious about “being environment-friendly and ensures that all my work-related tactics are geared towards this message”. Incidentally, designing all work machinery and assignments with this vision and goal in mind and in spirit is the key priority and the USP here. Mr. Singh, however, does have some grievances to rue about. For example, one such aspect is that the metal prices have shot upwards and this is what is “hitting our industry at this



A.R. Rao, CEO

point in time”.

Anomalies in the rules, especially in the construction industry have also managed to indent their negativity into the system is the general feeling pervading this firm. Mr. Singh and other like him are fully aware of the fact that “no customer wants to pay for the escalation in the prices from his own pocket. Thus, the price line should be strictly monitored and under control of the relevant authorities. At present, there is no accountability in the increase in such price tags. Another instance that is dogging the growth in this segment is the hike in steel prices, to the tune of 50%, which should be controlled and brought to book. Then again, he feels that India, as a country, should preserve and conserve its power resources so that the growth rate may witness a

gainful hike in future times.

As mentioned before, one move in this direction is to bring in the concept of net zero buildings. Each new construction should be labeled on the basis of the star system – starting from one to five star. To add more tenacity to such drives, the equipment used should also be categorized as per efficiency standards. A quality check for a building performance based on distinct parameters is necessary once every three years. The machinery that is old and outdated and does not measure up to the given standard profile should essentially be phased out.

THIS NEW-DELHI BASED OUTFIT, WITH MRS ARVIND SINGH, DIRECTOR, ALSO CONTRIBUTING HER ENERGIES AND SENSE OF DISCIPLINE TO THE COMPANY NARRATIVES, HAS ITS BRANCH OFFICES IN ELEVEN CITIES ALL ACROSS THE LENGTH AND THE BREADTH OF THE COUNTRY INCLUDING HYDERABAD, BENGALURU, AGRA, GURUGRAM, JODHPUR, CHENNAI, MOHALI, DEHRADUN, GUWAHATI, AND KOLKATA.

Other than these pitfalls, Mr. Singh is by and large satisfied with the GST regime. Nonetheless, the “transparency of operations and commitment is necessary in our line of operations”.

The one gambit that the co-workers, staffers, and the contemporaries at Aircon Engineers Pvt. Ltd. always synchronize with is the quality concept. “Everything should be quality-oriented” is the mainstay of all operations here. One of the factors inhibiting the growth of this country is that “our

system of transformation is slow”. Mr. K.D. Singh is all praise for the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi and calls him “the best PM”. A reason for these good words for the chief administrator of the country is that he is available for the countrymen via various means and ways. Been blessed with his sons and a daughter, Mr. Angad Deep Singh, M.Sc. in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University, U.S.A., and Mr. Mohit Deep Singh, M.Sc. from Carnegie Mellon University in Artificial Intelligence,



NIT, Greater Noida

takes supreme power and effort to succeed in a business environment that is as tough as this one. One should be “passionate about work. One should be able to spring back to form after suffering any loss, be honest in the necessary work arenas, and be a reliable and able partner. The basic reason behind our success is also that we maintain sheer honesty with all our customers. One other criterion that we are clear about is that we take all projects right up till the end. We handhold them till the finishing line so that there is no room for any doubt or foul play”. The message that Mr. Singh desires to have all the readers take home with them is that one should “be innovative, be different”. Placing our energies in concepts like “when the going gets tough, the tough get going, pays dividends. Challenges and rough roads dog us all the time. Nonetheless, we plough on till we find a way out of the circuitous situation we are embroiled in. This is what gives us our superiority over the competition that comes our way. If one works with full dedication and sincerity, there is no conquest that one cannot make. This is my firm belief and I have full faith in the power of a concerted effort in a given direction”.

This New-Delhi based outfit, with Mrs Arvind Singh, Mr. Manmohan Singh and late Mr. Baljit Singh Sahwney, directors also contributing to the success of the company. The company has its

branch offices in eleven cities. All across the length and the breadth of the country including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Agra, Gurugram, Jodhpur, Chennai, Mohali, Dehradun, Guwahati, and Kolkata. The core values that steamroll it into the times up ahead are to care for its customers, have mutual respect and trust with them, maintain excellence via team work, have the requisite willingness to learn, excel, and grow, strictly adhere to ethics, have an out-of-the-box and unconventional thinking process, imbibe quality consciousness, and groom leaders from within the organization. One of the primary objectives here is to organize revenue escalation and improve the operating margins, invest in training and development and continuously upgrade skills and knowledge levels to optimize the performance, and to generate customer and employee satisfaction. The vision that empowers the dynamics of the workplaces of Aircon Engineers Pvt. Ltd. is to provide and execute engineered air-conditioning solutions to not just suit the requirement of every customer but also to contribute to the environment and the economy of the nation. Working with such realms and terrains has enabled the chieftains at this company to realize this success story that is surely looking at continuing its dream run in the coming times, too. ■



Expansion of Guwahati Airport

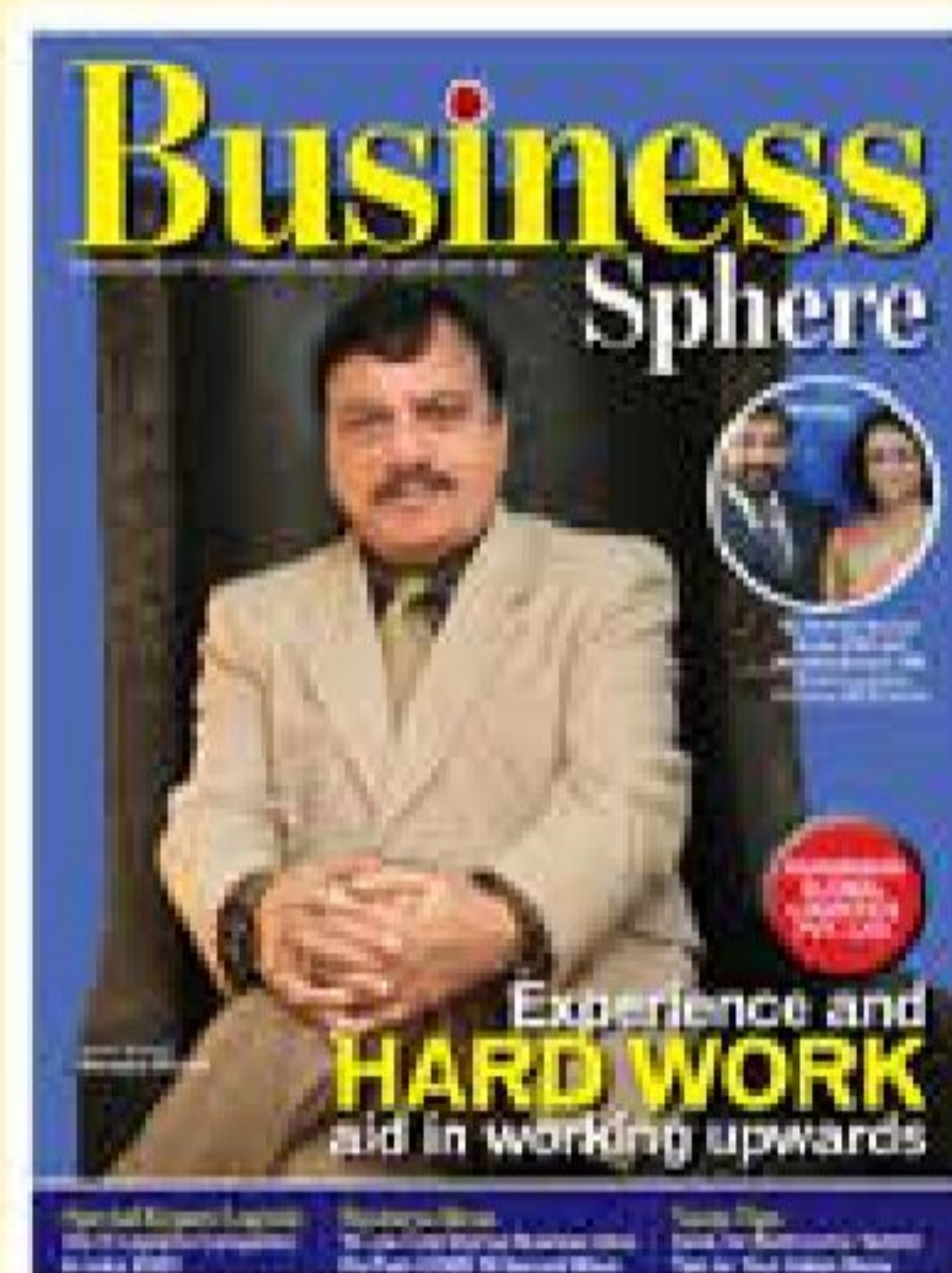
Amrin Kaur, a finance professional Mr. K.D. Singh is in a happy space in life. He also is content with his work profile and categorically claims that “it has been a good period all along the way. A good journey is how I would describe it. However, the phase between 2005 and 2010 was actually the best. Every year has brought newer challenges with it but we have been able to circumvent them properly. Each project has

brought with it immense satisfaction and though the last year was very challenging we are looking forward to bouncing back big-time. Each assignment we have done bespeaks of quality. So also, we are aiming towards achieving the Rs 100 crore revenue targets within the coming two to three years”. The super achiever also credits his success story largely to “destiny and the good lord’s kind grace. In addition, he strongly feels that it



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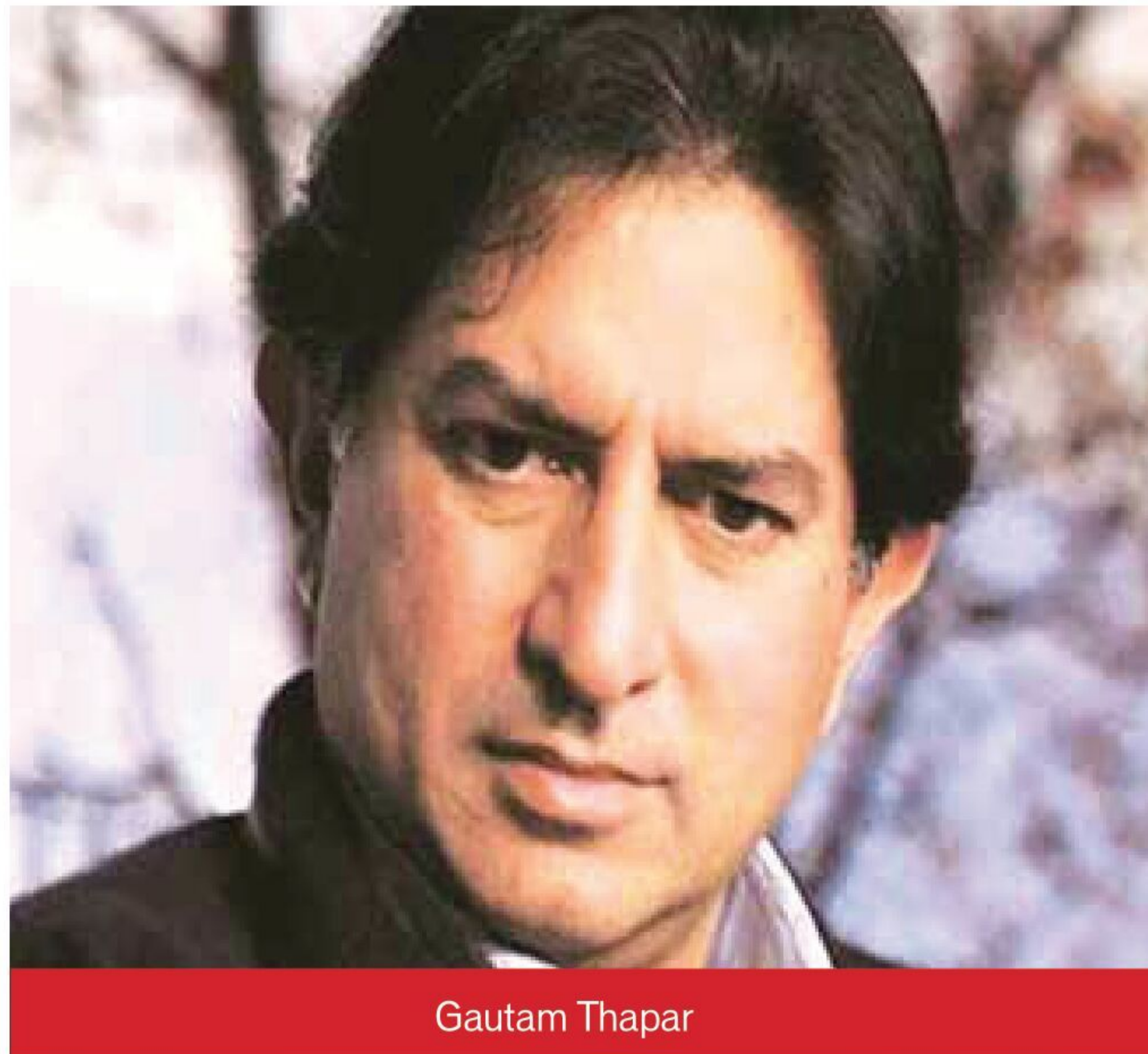
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YES BANK FRAUD CASE: ED ARRESTS GAUTAM THAPAR OF AVANTHA GROUP

By **Our Correspondent**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested the Avantha Group of companies promoter Gautam Thapar on charges of playing a key role in laundering more than Rs 500 crore in a Yes Bank loan fraud case.

Thapar, 60, was remanded in one-day custodial interrogation of the ED by a local court on Wednesday, after being arrested the previous night following raids by the agency against his businesses in Delhi and Mumbai. In its remand paper, the agency alleged that “illegal favours are found to have been extended by Yes Bank to Avantha Group”. “Any quid pro quo for extending such illegal benefit is yet to be ascertained,” said the document, a copy of which was seen by ET. The court sought the complete case file and the enforcement case information report, equivalent to a first information report (FIR), registered by the agency against Thapar and others in June. The agency had sought 14 days of remand. The ED had filed a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on the basis of an FIR filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which accused Thapar and others of defrauding Yes Bank. The remand paper said that the ED



Gautam Thapar

probe had revealed money laundering through Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd (OBPL), Jhabua Power Limited (JPL), Jhabua Power Investment Ltd (JPIL), Avantha Power & Infrastructure Ltd (APIL), Avantha Realty Ltd and other entities “controlled and beneficially owned directly or indirectly” by Thapar. It said that “sham agreements were made by these entities to fraudulently obtain huge amount running into more than Rs 500 crore from Yes Bank and further by different modes of layering the tainted amount was laundered and the loan account thus turned NPAs causing a loss of huge public money”.

Thapar’s counsel, Vijay Aggarwal, however said that his client was the “victim” in this case and that the said sham

agreements were executed by Yes Bank executives to secure “valuable shares” of Thapar’s companies. He claimed that Thapar had also complained against the Yes Bank executives but no investigative agency had taken cognisance of the matter. Aggarwal produced an email purportedly sent by a Yes Bank executive to show that the so-called sham agreements were “forced upon” Thapar’s group of companies. He further claimed that the entire transaction had taken place because Yes Bank wanted to ensure “evergreening of loans”.

The ED informed the court that Thapar’s statements were recorded twice in July and once on Tuesday, and that he allegedly “misled” the

investigators.

“JPL entered into a sham operations and management agreement for its thermal power project with its group company namely JPIL for a monthly consideration of Rs 7.5 crore and JPIL entered into a further sham sub-contract for the same work with OBPL for a monthly consideration of Rs 15 crore,” alleged the remand paper.

It said that “to give a plausible justification and explanation for seeking of loan, a special clause related to provision of an interest free security deposit to be kept by OBPL to JPIL to the tune of Rs 514.27 crore was added in the non-genuine agreement executed between JPIL and OBPL which was sought as loan from Yes Bank”.

The agency alleged that OBPL is a paper company with no business activity. “The company had no employees working in it and has just held landholdings in its name,” said the remand paper. The ED claimed that two directors of OBPL have “confirmed” to the agency that OBPL is a paper company. “And that OBPL had no prior experience of handling O&M work of thermal power plant. Neither was any service given by OBPL to JPIL with regard to the O&M agreement nor was any consideration paid by JPIL to OBPL,” said the remand paper. ■

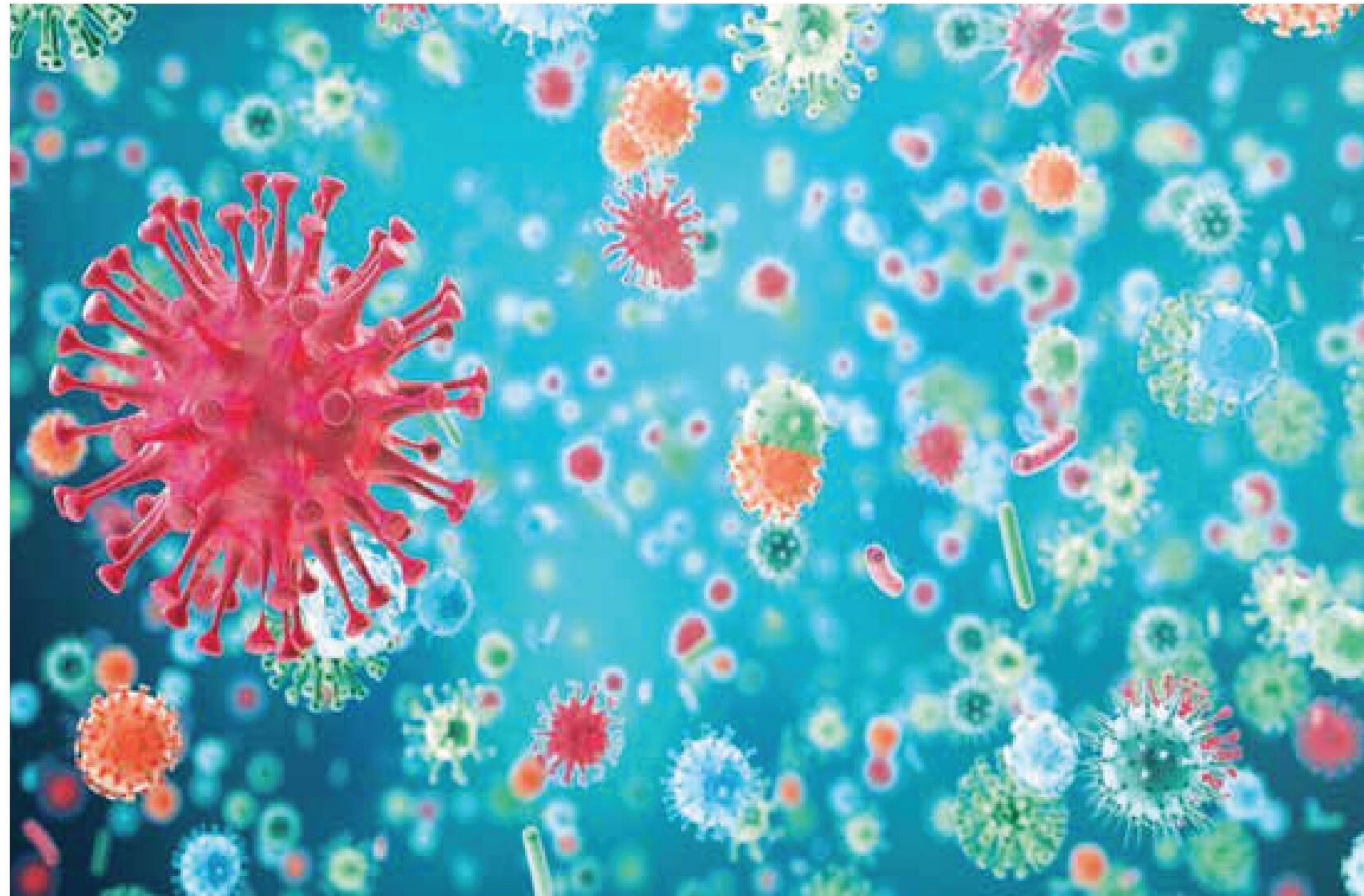
UPDATE: GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

COVID-19 WEEK 80 UPDATE

By **Our Correspondent**

As we write this last instalment of our weekly coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic (we will continue to cover it elsewhere, particularly its impact on the tech industry), we are reminded of the situation same time last year. The virus was rapidly spreading in different parts of the world. India had overtaken Russia to become the country with the world's third-highest number of COVID-19 cases, with the US and Brazil taking the first and second spots, respectively. US top infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci was warning his country that it was still “knee-deep” in its first wave of infections and the number of cases was yet to reach a satisfactory baseline. The weakness in the global economy due to the pandemic was being expected to reflect in the Q2 numbers even as the companies catering to the work-from-home (WFH) economy were looking at a windfall.

Coming back to today, the situation has hardly improved. The original virus may have moved out of focus, but it has



left behind more virulent variants. Now, the most dangerous Delta variant is present in about 100 countries, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). After ravaging India, this variant is now resulting in fresh waves in countries like Indonesia, UK, Russia, Iran, Colombia and South Africa. USA, India and Brazil continue to top the world in the total number of cases, though most daily new cases are now coming from Brazil, India and Indonesia. Fauci is now imploring Americans to

get vaccinated to avoid another wave, triggered by the Delta variant this time. While the global economy as a whole has recovered, the recovery has been patchy, with the developing nations staring at weak annual numbers. Meanwhile, the companies catering to the WFH economy continue to report robust numbers. What has changed is the availability of vaccines. But even here the developed world has benefited the most, thanks to the resources at its command. A big part of the world won't

get access to any vaccine till late 2022 or early 2023. The pandemic has exposed the weaknesses in supply chains, not just for vaccines but also for sectors as diverse as semiconductors and chemicals. Already, many countries have started taking measures to mitigate the risks on this front. The focus is on a reduction in dependence on other countries for critical supplies.

The pandemic has changed many things permanently and for the better. The issue of climate change is now

taken more seriously. The lockdowns showed that nature can quickly heal itself under the right conditions. International cooperation is another beneficiary. The pandemic has taught the world that international problems require international cooperation. Israel is the most vaccinated major country currently, with over 55% of its 9.3 million population having received both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. In May, the eligibility to get vaccinated was extended to the 12-15 age group. But the response from this age group has been lukewarm, a big cause for worry as the most virulent Delta variant of COVID-19 marks its entry into the country. On Thursday, the country's health ministry reported 307 daily new cases on Wednesday, the highest since April. The ministry reportedly expects this number to jump in the coming days. However, the death rate is firmly in check, perhaps due to the high vaccination rate. According to the ministry, only one person died during the past two weeks.

Confident that the worst was over, Israel had relaxed most of the COVID-related curbs over the last few months. But the Delta variant has now

forced the authorities to make an about-turn. The rule requiring wearing of masks indoors has been brought back even as the government rushes to vaccinate children. A "coronavirus commissioner" has been appointed for the first time to monitor arrivals at Israel's main international airport. The interior minister says the airport will be shut if the situation worsens. The government has already postponed the planned reopening of the country to vaccinated tourists.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) says COVID-19 cases are rising again in Europe after two months of decline. A WHO official said the number of cases rose by 10% last week, warning a fresh wave would come "unless we remain disciplined". The European Union's (EU) disease control agency, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, estimates that the Delta variant will account for 90% of new cases in the EU region by August end. The Delta variant of COVID-19 has spawned a deadlier variant, called Delta Plus. India, which has so far

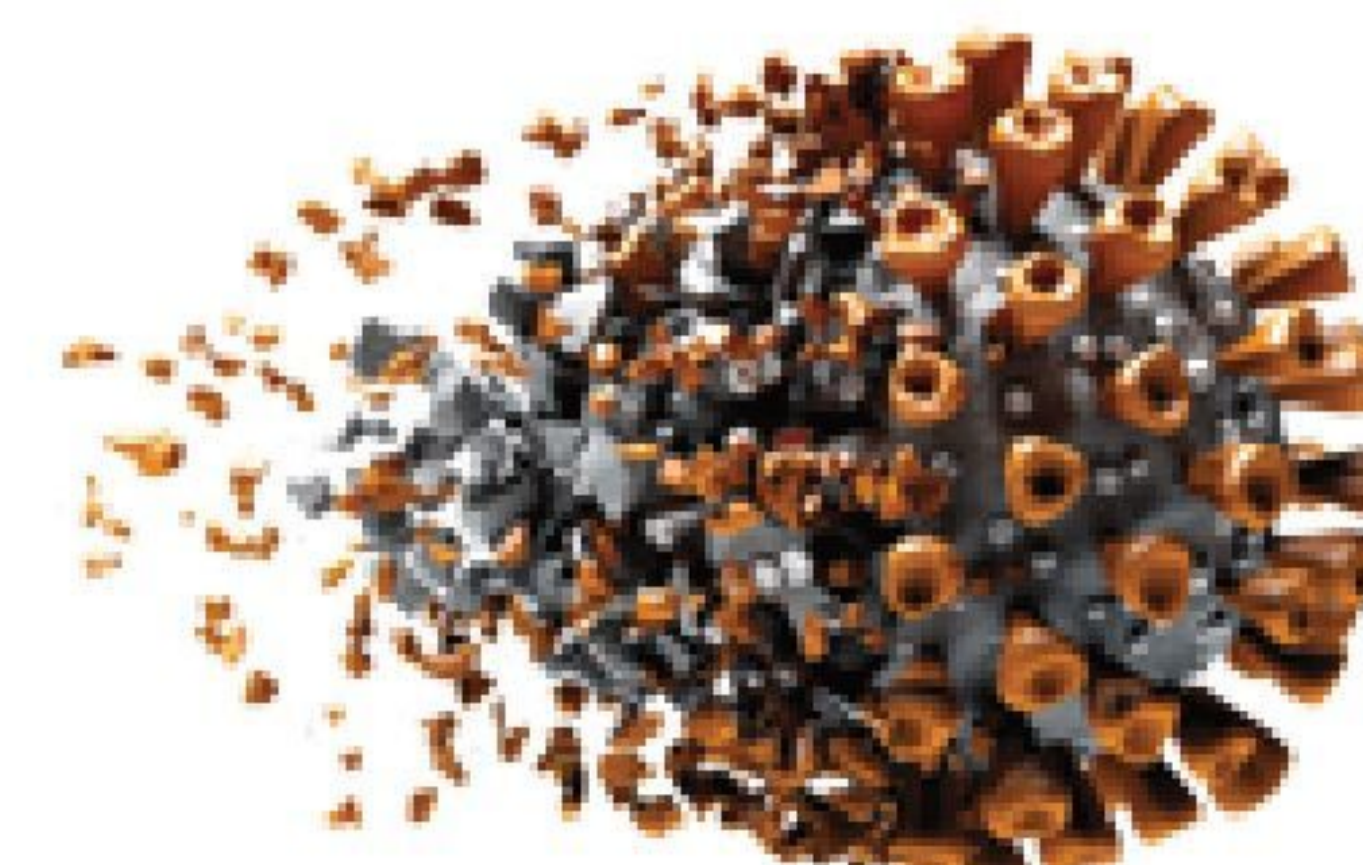
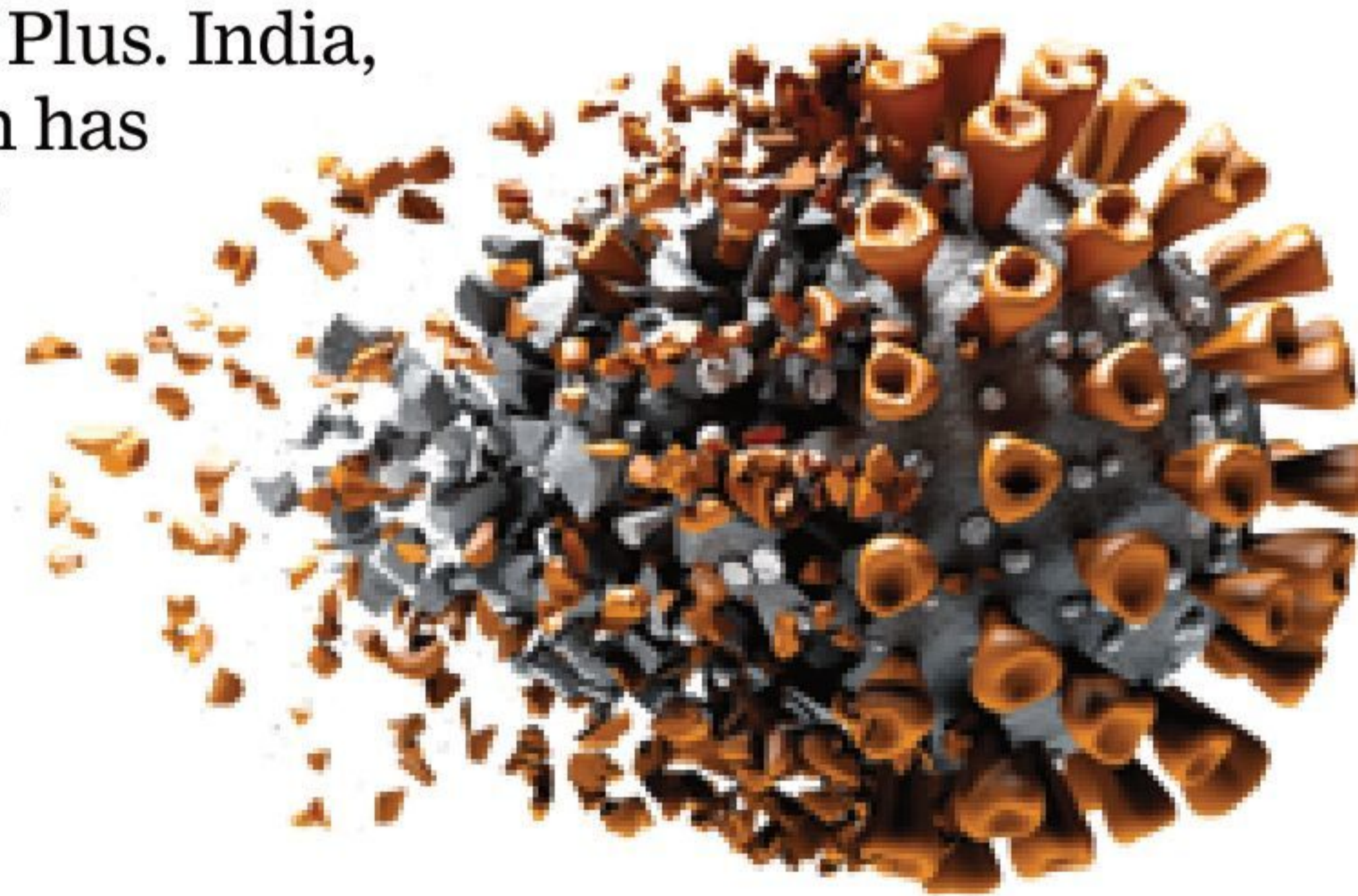
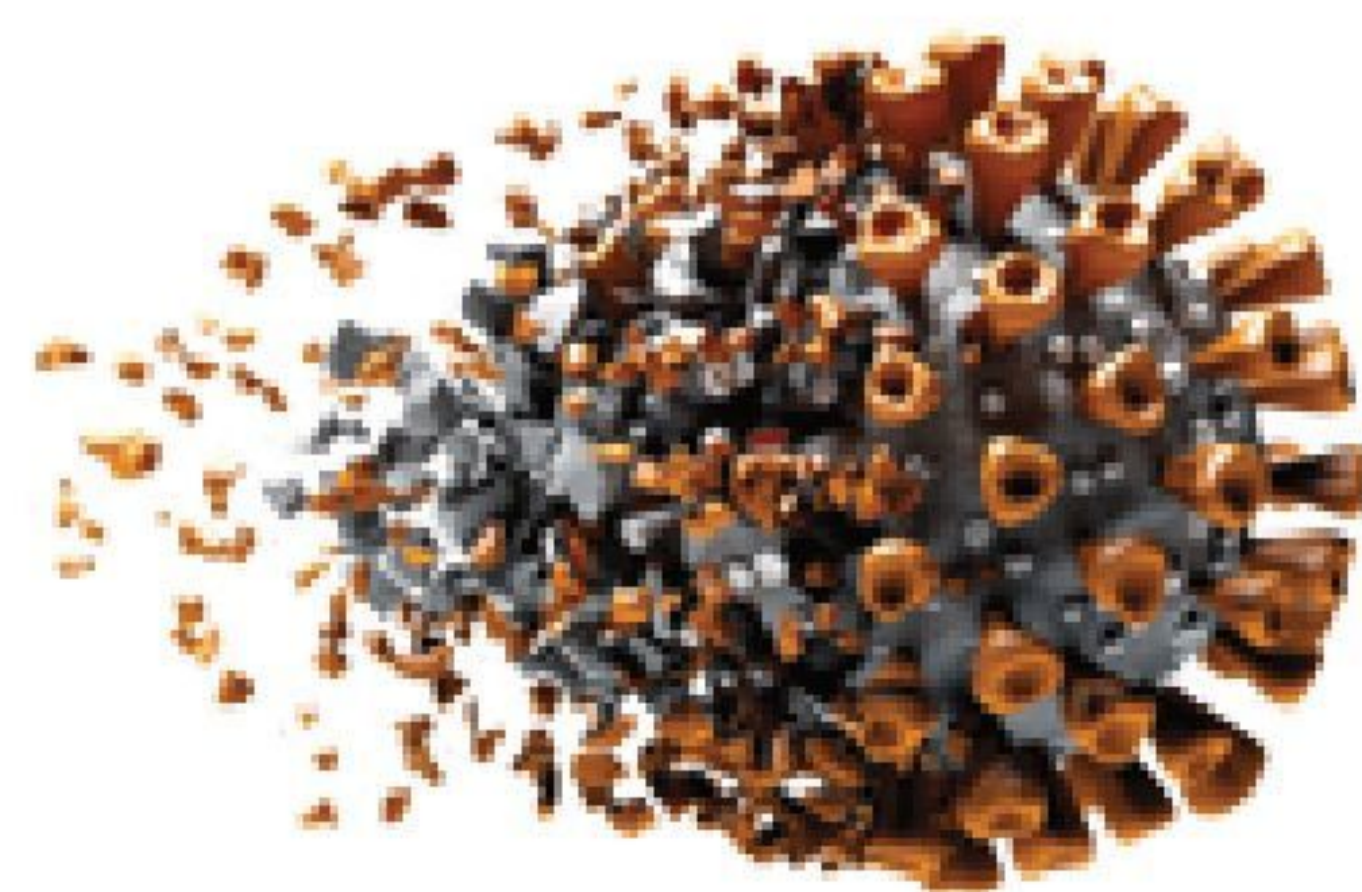


detected over 40 cases of Delta Plus, has already declared it as a "variant of concern". The country reported its first death due to this variant on Wednesday. Ten other countries, including the US, UK and Russia, have also reported Delta Plus cases.

The Delta Plus variant has the spike protein mutation K417N, also found in the Beta variant first detected in South Africa. While studies are on to test the

effectiveness of available vaccines against the latest variant, experts say it is resistant to monoclonal antibodies cocktail. On the chances of another COVID-19 wave, they say it could happen if people fail to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour.

Meanwhile, chief medical advisor to US president Anthony Fauci has described the Delta variant as the "greatest threat" in the country's fight against the pandemic as it is more transmissible. According to Fauci, the Delta variant now makes up over 20% of new cases in the US, compared to 10% two weeks ago. ■



KANGANA RANAUT'S ALLURING FASHION STYLE AT DHAAKAD WRAP-UP PARTY SETS INTERNET ABLAZE



KANGANA RANAUT'S ALLURING FASHION STYLE AT DHAAKAD WRAP-UP PARTY SETS INTERNET ABLAZE

By **Our Correspondent**

Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut who had been tirelessly shooting in Budapest for her upcoming film Dhaakad has finally completed her schedule. After bidding an emotional goodbye to his team on the sets, Kangana recently attended the wrap-up party. Kangana took to Instagram and gave a sneak peek into the celebrations. She also shared her look for the party. And to no surprise, she was looking breathtakingly beautiful.

Sharing the pictures, Kangana wrote, "Mohabbat mein nahi hai farak jeene aur marne ka, usi ko dekh kar jeete hain jis kafir pe dum nikle by - Ghalib"

Kangana chose to wear a white corset bralette teamed with matching pants. She accessorised her look with golden



Kangana Ranaut's with Dhaakad Squad

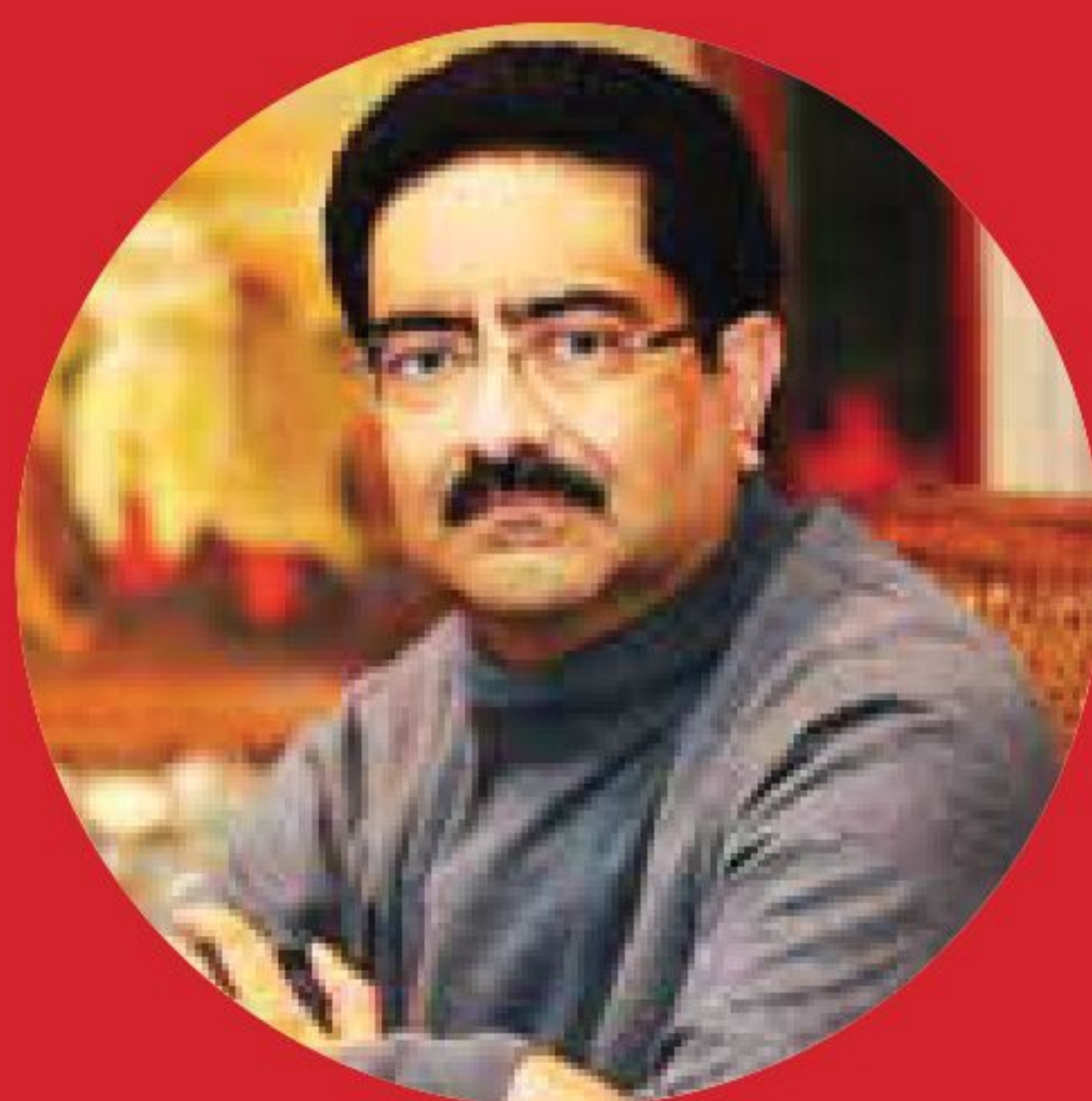
neckpieces and earrings. The actress tied her hair into a high bun. Kangana's super stylish look has set the internet ablaze. Her fans and followers are going gaga on the internet and #KanganaRanaut has become one of the top Twitter trends. Actors Arjun Rampal and Divya Dutta are also a part of 'Dhaakad', which is based on issues of child trafficking and crimes against women. Touted to be a spy thriller, the film is being helmed

by Razneesh Ghai and produced by Sohail Maklai and Deepak Mukut. 'Dhaakad' is slated to release on October 1, 2021.

Apart from "Dhaakad", Kangana also has films such as "Thalaivi", period drama "Manikarnika Returns: The Legend Of Didda" and "Tejas" in the pipeline.

Kangana will also don the Director's hat for the second time in film "Emergency", based on the life of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. ■

Meet India's top 10 Businessmen



Wealth does not remain static especially during the fluctuating industry scenario today. India has produced several billionaires who occupy a significant number of slots on the list of wealthiest persons in the world today. Here is the list of the top 10 richest persons in India as per their latest real time Forbes data on 17 April 2021. ▶





◀ MUKESH AMBANI

The wealthiest person in India, Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries occupies the fifth slot in the world's richest persons' list. Mukesh Ambani has a net worth of \$73.6 billion. Much of Mukesh's wealth ensues from the petrochemicals and oil and gas businesses built by his father Dhirubhai Ambani — a business icon in his own right— but Mukesh is pivoting to more consumer-facing businesses like telecom and retail. Reliance Jio is one of the largest telecom networks in India today and has already raised over \$20 billion in recent months and the next leg of fundraising will be for retail.



GAUTAM ADANI

Gautam Adani's net worth as per the latest forbes records is \$56.2 billion. He is the Second richest person in India and ranks 22 on the list of the world's richest. Apart from Mundra Port, the largest in India, his wealth-generating portfolios include a range of commodities, power generation including renewable energy (like solar farms), and transmission to name a few.



SHIV NADAR

With his \$24.7 billion estimated net worth, Shiv Nadar ranks as the third richest person in India. HCL Technologies founded by him is a (₹) 274826 crore (market value) company and one of the largest software services exporters in the world today. With its presence in over 45 countries on the globe, HCL Technologies makes Shiv Nadar claim the 68th slot in the list of world's richest persons..

LAKSHMI MITTAL



The Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, Sunil Mittal has a net worth of \$17.8 billion and ranks as the fourth richest person in India. His wealth status positions him in the 104th place on the world's richest persons list. He is known for turning sick steel producing companies into profitable ventures across the world. He most recently bagged the bankrupt Essar Steel in India, which was owned by the Ruia family.







◀ UDAY KOTAK

The founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Uday Kotak, occupies the fifth position on the list of India's richest. With a net worth of \$14.6 billion, Kotak takes 136th place on the world's richest persons' list.



▲ RADHAKISHAN DAMANI & FAMILY

Radhakishan Damani's net worth of \$14.5 billion, which makes him the sixth richest person in India today. He occupies the 141st position in the global rich list. Radhakishan Damani is a veteran Mumbai stock market investor who founded the supermarket chain DMart which went public in 2017, and eventually went on to be the world's most-valued retail chain for its unique model that makes the holding company Avenue Supermarts more profitable than many of its peers.



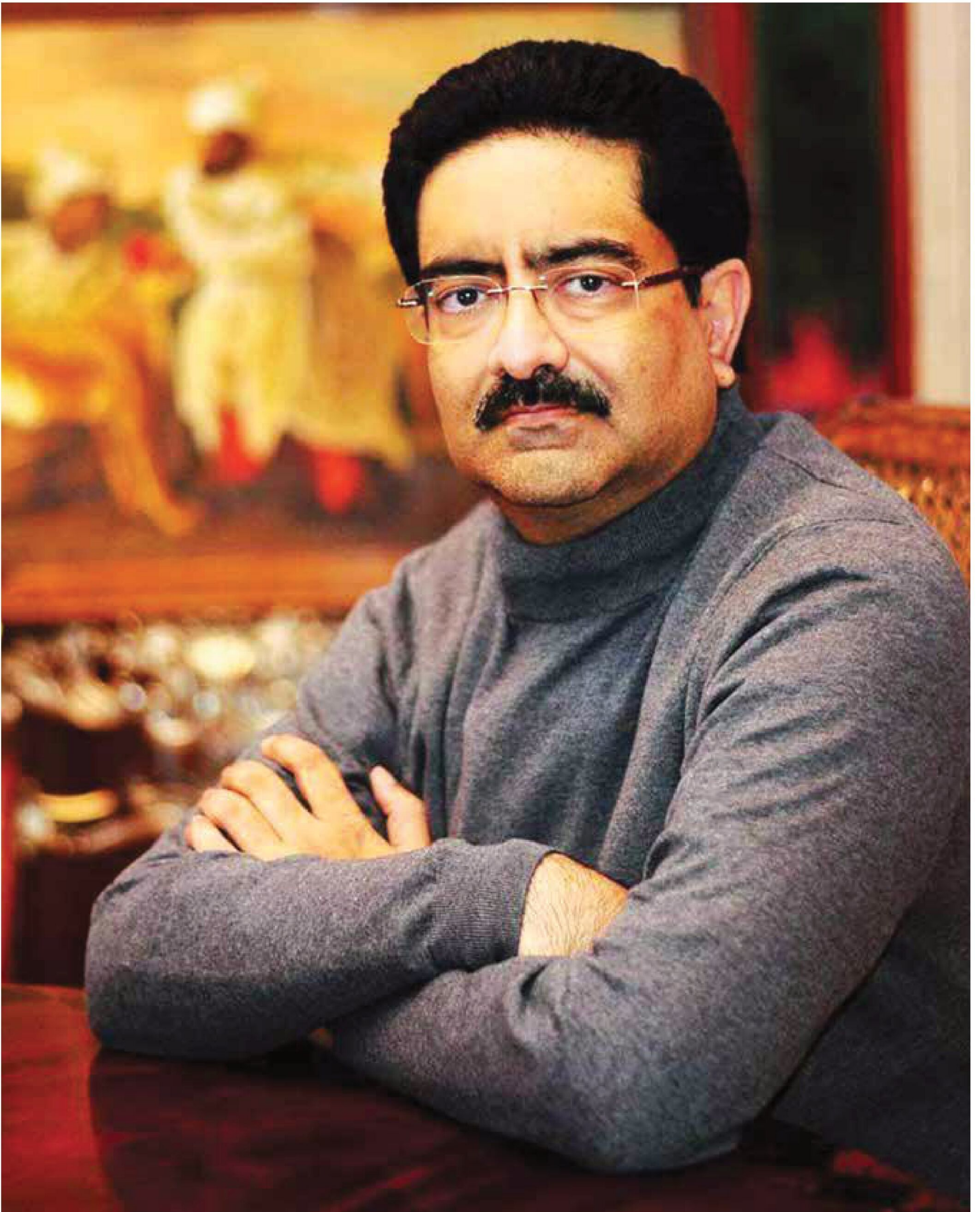
SAVITRI JINDAL & FAMILY

Standing at the 169th position in the world and the richest woman in India is Savitri Jindal, the 70-year-old chair of a multibillion dollar conglomerate, who's worth \$12.8 billion. India's women billionaires also include the heads of pharmaceutical, software, and consumer goods companies.

KUMAR BIRLA



Standing at the 173rd position in the world's richest persons' list, Kumar Birla has a net worth of \$12.7 billion, which makes him the ninth wealthiest person in India. The head of Aditya Birla Group which he inherits for the fourth generation in row, his group is concerned with producing cement and aluminum alongside retail, telecom and financial services







◀ CYRUS POONAWALLA

Ranked as the 9th wealthiest person in India, Cyrus Poonawalla has a net worth of \$12.5 billion. He founded the Serum Institute of India in 1966 and it is today the largest producer of vaccines for measles, influenza and polio. At present, the company is also co-developing two vaccines for COVID-19 and has a significant lead over other similar researches that are underway. In the world's wealthiest persons list he ranks in the 179th position.



▲ DILIP SHANGHVI

The tenth richest person in India is Dilip Shanghvi whose latest net worth is \$11.2 billion. The founder of Sun Pharma, Dilip Shanghvi has turned his firm into the largest player in the manufacturing of specialty generic drugs. He has also invested in energy and oil ventures. On the world's richest persons' list, he ranks in the 200rd position.

BELL BOTTOM TRAILER RELEASED: ALL THE DETAILS ABOUT THE CAST, TRAILER, AND RELEASE DATE



By **Our Correspondent**

Bell Bottom is an espionage thriller-based movie. It is directed by Ranjit M Tewari and written by Aseem Arora and Parveez Shaikh. The film is produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Jackky Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani, and Nikkhil Advani, and its production companies are Pooja Entertainment and Emmay Entertainment. Bell Bottom is an upcoming film based on true events, and it is a story of the 1980's era about some unforgettable heroes. It was the first Bollywood movie that started shooting in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, during which shooting was stopped in India. Its official announcement was made in November 2019 with a release date of Republic Day 2021. But due to the pandemic, its release date has also been postponed.

TRAILER

The trailer of the movie Bell Bottom was released on Tuesday i.e. 3rd August 2021. The trailer looks like an intense hijacking thriller where Akshay Kumar plays the lead role as a Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). In a trailer of three and a half minutes, we have seen a short glimpse of the character of Akshay Kumar who is leading the rescue operation and operating under the code name



Bellbottom. The plane got hijacked and landed in Amritsar, it was the seventh hijacking incident in five years that time, he was brought in to save the day. The plane is full of 210 hostages with four hijackers along with them. The film is set in the 1980s, where Akshay Kumar has to free the passengers of a plane held hostage by terrorists.

CAST

Bell Bottom stars Akshay Kumar, Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi, Lara Dutta, Denzil Smith, Aniruddh Dave, Adil Hussain, and Thalaivasal Vijay. Akshay had opened up on the intense shoot for the film while keeping all safety protocols in mind. "It is teamwork and I am grateful to each and every member of the cast and crew from the spot dadas to the light dadas to the technicians to the make-up dadas to my lovely heroines Vaani, Lara, Huma, my director Ranjit and to Vashuji (producer Vasu Bhagnani) and the production team who believed

in our audacious plan. The new normal has made us realize a different way of working that none of us could have imagined. I hope this encourages film industries globally to do what they do best and start entertaining audiences again. I hope our shoot during the pandemic reassures others that keeping all safety in mind, it's time to get things moving again," he had earlier said in a statement.

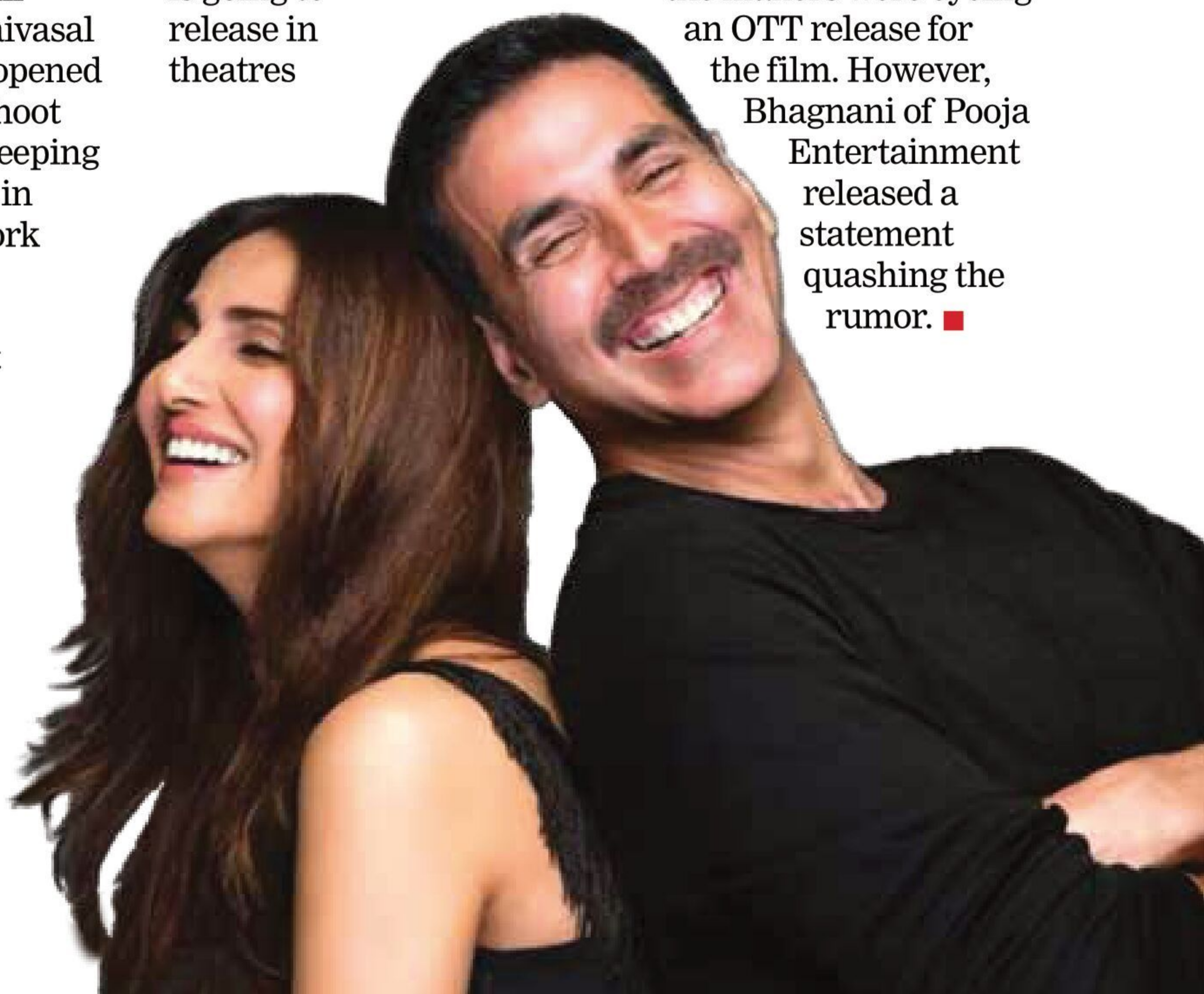
RELEASE DATE

The Bell Bottom is going to release in theatres

worldwide on 19th August 2021. Bellbottom will be among the first few films to release theatrically after the second wave of coronavirus shut down theatres. Akshay Kumar has wrapped up his shooting for Bell Bottom in October 2020, He has said that Bellbottom is a journey that has "put the Hindi film industry right on the global map."

While sharing the poster on Instagram in the last year, the actor wrote, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much – this maxim perhaps best describes the 'Bellbottom' journey from start to finish. A schedule that began as an impossibility has culminated into a storybook ending that has put the Hindi film industry right on the global map."

Earlier this year, a few reports suggested that the makers were eyeing an OTT release for the film. However, Bhagnani of Pooja Entertainment released a statement quashing the rumor. ■



VASTU FOR OFFICE INTERIORS: TIPS FOR SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY AT WORK

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PAVE THE WAY FOR GETTING THAT PROMOTION WITH THESE TIPS FOR OFFICE VASTU!



By **Our Correspondent**

Finance is the heart and soul of every business, making it imperative to set up an office according to the guidelines prescribed by the ancient science of Vastu Shastra. While the financial circulation of small businesses depends primarily on payment receipts and cash flow, big businesses have their own sources to maintain financial stability. To

help you navigate pitfalls, the office should have decor items placed in the right direction to pave the way for prosperity and positivity at work. According to Ashna Ddhannak, Vastu expert and founder of mind wellness boutique Enlightening Lifestyle, you will only be successful at work if the environment is peaceful and spirited. Therefore, the correct placement of decor items

will not only ensure financial prosperity but will also improve a person's holistic well-being. Ddhannak has listed a few office Vastu Shastra guidelines that will attract success and financial prosperity at work.

OFFICE VASTU SHAstra GUIDELINES

Prosperity at Work
According to Vastu Shastra for office,

entrepreneurs should sit facing the north, east or north-east direction as it is considered auspicious. The sun rises in the east, making it conducive for financial growth.

Marketing and sales professionals should sit in the north-west direction, in a way that the seat must face the north-east direction to ensure professionals are more proactive at work. Accounting professionals should sit in the south-

east corner at work and face the north-east direction for increased wealth. Business heads should occupy a cabin in the western part of the office. They should face the north-east direction as it helps improve leadership skills. Vastu directions conducive to financial prosperity are north and northeast. The northern direction is ruled by Lord Kubera, the god of wealth. The north-east direction is governed by water, which is indicative of a person's financial status, according to Vastu Shastra. Ddhannak suggests placing a mirror or a Kuber Yantra on the northern wall of the northern section of the office to ensure better financial opportunities.

SHAPE OF YOUR DESK



Vastu Shastra for office prohibits the piling up of finished goods (for product manufacturers) in front of the office desk, in the

north-east direction, as it creates hurdles. Finished goods should be placed in the north-west direction to ensure they are sold. Important financial documents should be locked away in a safe constructed in the south-west zone of the office. The safe should face the north-east direction to improve finances and



overall prosperity. The reception area of the office creates a lasting impression for first-time visitors. Therefore,



CREATING ENERGY ABUNDANCE AT WORK

Ashna Ddhannak warns office goers, entrepreneurs and businessmen not to sleep at the desk as it creates negative energy. Keep your desks clutter-free. Keep papers and books locked away. Sort out documents according to their importance. Also, broken stationery should be discarded to remove obstacles to financial prosperity. Employees must ensure that their backs never face a door in their cabins as it will prohibit them from seeing people enter. This could foster distrust at work, according to Vastu Shastra. In order to win the trust of colleagues, place a picture with a mountain scenery behind the chair seat as it fosters support. You can also place a turquoise pyramid on the desk to foster better communication with peers ■

placing a bunch of French lavender flowers or green jade flowers on the reception desk will surround the space with positivity, thereby attracting prosperity. A four leaf clover plant can be placed at the entrance of the office as it invites good luck and fortune. Entrepreneurs must ensure that their table or desk is rectangular shaped, and made from superior quality wood. A glass or metal table in an irregular shape in the cabin promotes confusion, stress and detachment from work.



ICICI Lombard's Comprehensive Drone Insurance Takes Flight

Press Release

- One of a kind policy offering comprehensive, well-rounded coverage against 6 risk types along with 9 add-on covers
- The insurance cover provides mandatory third party liability for all Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approved drone operations

ICICI Lombard General Insurance, India's leading private sector non-life insurance company has launched a comprehensive remotely piloted aircraft Insurance specially for drone operators. This comprehensive product covers any theft or loss or damage caused to the drone, including the payload (camera/ equipment) attached to it as well as Third Party Liabilities.

With over a decade of experience in underwriting aviation risks for both domestic airlines and aviation fleets in India and its claim handling expertise, ICICI Lombard has now forayed into the Drone insurance space. The drone insurance product offers a comprehensive cover wherein an operator can opt for both Hull & Liability cover, for any commercial usage permitted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) & the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

The comprehensive policy covers six types of risks. The Hull Cover covers any accidental loss/damage to the drone including theft



Bhargav Dasgupta
MD, CEO

and disappearance within the scope of the policy. Any loss due to wear and tear or gradual deterioration over time, as well as non-compliance with the DGCA guidelines, is not covered under this. The Payload Cover and Equipment Cover insures the accidental physical loss or damage of the payload, while the same is attached to the drone, and to the property being spares, engines and associated equipment, respectively. The insurance also provides a Personal Accident Cover applicable to the insured/ authorised operator for bodily injury sustained in India while operating drones and arising out of an accident. In addition to this, the policy also

provides the facility of Medical Insurance Cover for insured/ authorised operator who has been hospitalized because of a bodily injury arising out of the flight of the covered drone.

Furthermore, the Third Party Liability included in the product provides coverage for damages from accidental bodily injury and accidental damage to property caused by the drone. ICICI Lombard is offering Third Party Liability, which can cover consequential losses arising out of the operation of drones. Moreover, the benefits of the well-rounded policy extend to include nine add-on covers and a pay per use model of payment to provide the consumers with a holistic experience tailor-made to suit their express needs. While these add-on covers include alternate hire charges, drone war liabilities, cyber liability cover, invasion of privacy cover, and BVLOS endorsement, among others; the Pay Per Use model allows the customers to choose the policy depending on their requirement. They can choose a one-day policy, a one-week policy, a one-month policy or even

an annual policy. On the introduction of this unique policy, Sanjay Datta, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, said, "The drone industry has demonstrated a tremendous growth potential in the recent past. With an increase in commercial as well as civilian uses of drones, there is also a growing need to provide owners with insurance coverage that offers the best protection against damages and helps them reduce their third-party liability exposure. We at ICICI Lombard are committed to introducing innovative products that cater to the new-age risks. With our new comprehensive drone insurance coverage, we want to offer owners the best solution to ensure peace of mind. We underwrite more than 100+ general aviation aircrafts in our aviation books, and have a vast experience in handling aviation claims. This, in addition to a robust market presence and tie-ups with international aviation surveyors give us a head start in handling the product in this new evolving environment."

WHEN IS KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI 2021?

DATE, SIGNIFICANCE AND ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI ALSO CALLED GOKULASHTAMI IS A GRAND FESTIVAL CELEBRATED ALL OVER INDIA TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF LORD KRISHNA. CHECK HERE THE DATE OF KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI IN 2021, AND HOW IT IS CELEBRATED.

By **Our Correspondent**

Krishna Janmashtami also called Gokulashtami is a grand festival celebrated all over India to commemorate the birth of Lord Krishna. According to the Hindu calendar, the festival is celebrated on the Ashtami of Krishna Paksha (waning phase of the Moon) or the 8th day of the dark fortnight in the month of Bhadrapad.

According to the Gregorian calendar, Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated in the month of August or September. Shri Krishna Janmashtami date varies every year. Most of the time, Krishna Janmashtami is listed on two consecutive days. The first one is for Smarta Sampradaya and the other one is for Vaishnava Sampradaya. This year, it will be



celebrated on August 30 and 31. How is Krishna Janmashtami celebrated:

On the fasting day, devotees take Sankalpa after finishing morning rituals and perform Krishna Puja during Nishita Kaal which is midnight as per Vedic time-keeping.

The devotees wash

baby Krishan's idol with Pancha Amrit, decorate it with new clothes and ornaments, offer flowers, fruits, and sweets to the god and worship him in the cradle. People also hold special Dahi Handi events as Lord Krishna loved Makhan (white butter), curd, and milk.

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI WISHES:

Let your life be filled with love and laughter with Lord Krishna's blessings. Happy Janmashtami!

May Lord Krishna always be with you and protect you and your loved ones." Happy Krishna Janmashtami!

May lord Krishna

bless you with values and show you the right path on this auspicious occasion of Janmashtami!

Lord Krishna will give you the courage to fight with hardships in life. Happy Janmashtami!

May Lord Krishna give you lots of happiness on the holy occasion of Krishna Janmashtami.

JANMASHTAMI HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

According to the Hindu texts, Lord Krishna came into this world as the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu and destroyer of the evil on this day.

Ancient Hindu literature, including Bhagawad Gita and Bhagwata Purana, clearly state the story of Lord Krishna's birth and how his maternal-uncle, King Kansa, wanted to kill him. And ever since his birth, every 8th day called Krishnapaksha of the month of Bhadrapada is celebrated as Krishna Janmashtami.

Also, many people treat this day as an occasion to honour the victory of good over evil. ■



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