PRINTED AT . CHENNAI . COIMBATORE . BENGALURU . HYDERABAD . MADURAI . NOIDA . VISAKHAPATNAM . THIRUVANANTHAPURAM . KOCHI . VIJAYAWADA . MANGALURU . TIRUCHIRAPALLI . KOLKATA . HUBBALLI . MOHALI . MALAPPURAM . MUMBAI . TIRUPATI . LUCKNOW . CUTTACK . PATNA



We are still in the middle of a war. Not the kind that is fought with guns and bombs, but one that has claimed many lives nonetheless. In a time like this, it is important to stay brave and not lose strength. And few events represent human perseverance better than the Olympics.

# THE LAST TIME PEOPLE HAD TO WAIT FOR MORE THAN 4 YEARS FOR THE OLYMPICS, THE WORLD WAS AT WAR.



As the games kick off in Tokyo this month, 5 special issues of Sportstar will bring you stories from the greatest arena of them all. Through the eyes of a dedicated bunch of journalists, you will see extraordinary people performing extraordinary feats. You will see odds being met and defied. Above all, you will see the true potential of the human spirit.

# **SPORTSTAR**



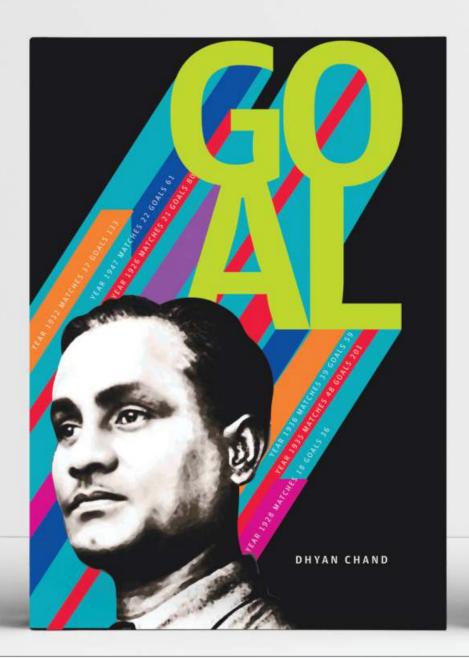
Grab your copy at the nearest store or visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com/subscription To catch all the live updates, visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com

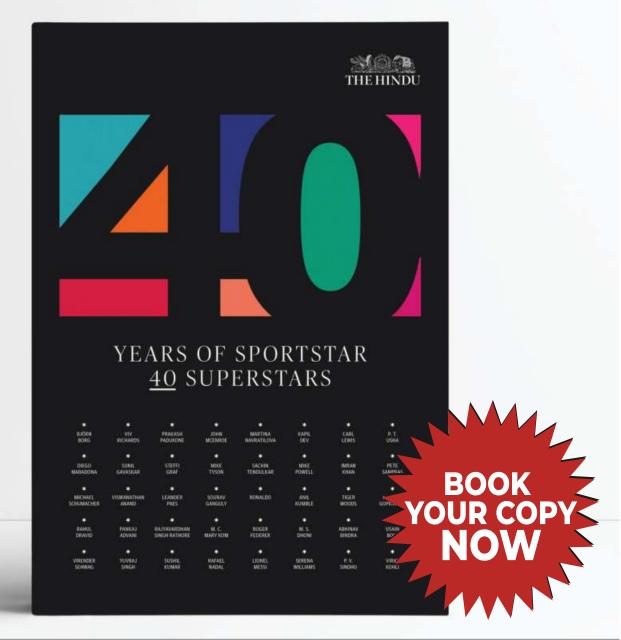
THE HINDU FRIDAY, JULY 16, 202

# **SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM**

# THE HINDU GROUP

# SPORTSTAR



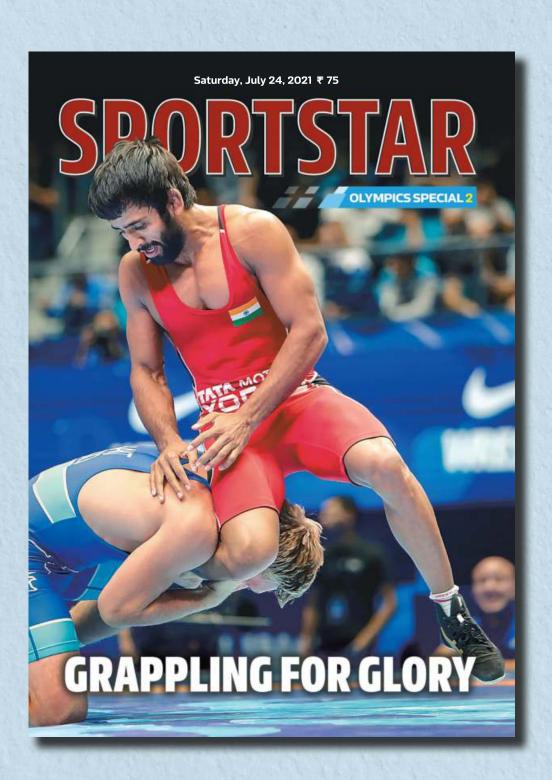




Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878





An Olympic like no other A magazine like no other

# GET A RINGSIDE VIEW TO TOKYO OLYMPICS WITH SPORTSTAR

## Cover price ₹ 75

Periodicity	No. of Issues	Rate @ Cover Price(Rs.)	OFFER PRICE	Discount %
6 months	13	975	599	39%
1 Year	26	1950	999	49%
2 Years	52	3900	1599	59%
Overseas	26	90 USD	NA	NA





To subscribe online, visit www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe/sportstar







Centre drafts simpler drone rules, seeks feedback from public



West Bengal CM to visit Delhi ahead of monsoon session



Pant and throwdown expert test positive for COVID-19



Akalis to move adjournment motion in LS on farm laws



PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

page 9

page 13

**NEARBY** 



Booked under UAPA. **Umar Khalid seeks bail** 

A Delhi court on Thursday posted the hearing on the bail application of former Jawaharlal Nehru University student leader Umar Khalid arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the north-east Delhi riots last year, for July 27.

Terror charges baseless, say kin of men held in U.P.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

The families of an e-rickshaw driver and a battery seller, among those arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police from Lucknow on charges of plotting terror attacks in the State, are in a state of disbelief. They contend that the allegations levelled against the men are baseless. NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Fault lines within the **Punjab Congress widen** 

The fault lines within the Punjab Congress were exposed on Thursday with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu holding separate meetings with their supporters. Reports emerged that Mr. Sidhu could be the next Punjab Congress chief. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

# Why do you need the 'colonial law' of sedition, CJI asks govt.

'It suppresses freedom and is prone to misuse'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, in what may be an unprecedented judicial criticism of the way the sedition law is used by the government to crush liberties, asked why a colonial law used against Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak continued to survive in the law book 75 years after Independence.

"Sedition is a colonial law. It suppresses freedoms. It was used against Mahatma

The use of sedition is like giving a saw to the carpenter to cut a piece of wood and he uses it to cut the entire forest itself If you look at the history of use

of this Section 124A of IPC, you will find that the conviction rate is very low. There is misuse of power by executive agencies law, or Section 124A of the

Gandhi, Tilak... Is this law necessary after 75 years of Independence?" Chief Justice Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench, orally addressed Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta,

The CJI's oral statement in appearing for the Centre. The CJI said the sedition open court takes a signifi-

cant note amid rising public denouncement of Central and State law enforcement agencies using the law to silence dissent, muzzle free expression and deny bail to jailed activists, journalists, students and civil society members. A number of petitions have been filed highlighting the "chilling effect" sedition has on the fundamental right of free speech. The CJI's remarks have also opened the floor for debate and introspection on the court's own verdict in 1962, in the Kedar Nath case, which upheld Section 124A.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8** 

# PM lauds Uttar Pradesh's efforts in tackling COVID

Modi lavishes praise on Yogi for maintaining law and order

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW "The way Uttar Pradesh handled the second wave of CO-VID-19 and checked the spread of infection was unprecedented," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi on Thursday as he praised the efforts of the Yogi Adityanath-ruled State dur-

ing the pandemic. Coming months before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls are scheduled, Mr. Modi's positive appraisal of the Chief Minister's work stood out in his address as he appeared to sound the bugle

for the 2022 election. "In tackling corona, Uttar

PM Narendra Modi greets U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath in

Pradesh's efforts are ullekhniva (remarkable)," the PM said, adding that the State, along with Varanasi, fought the changing forms of the virus with full force.

Mr. Modi said the people of U.P. had lived through a phase too where they "faced numerous problems in tackling diseases such as encephalitis and 'brain fever'".

Speaking at a public meeting at the grounds of Banaras Hindu University after inaugurating several projects in his constituency worth over ₹1.580 crore, the PM said that earlier, due to the lack of health facilities and will power, even a small crisis would

take huge proportions. Mr. Modi stressed that U.P. was today the State with the highest testing and vaccination in the country. He said that till four years ago, U.P. had only a dozen-odd medical colleges and that they had now increased four-fold.

# Maharashtra's active case number sees an uptick

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

Maharashtra again saw a marginal rise in COVID-19 cases on Thursday, reporting 8,010 new cases as opposed to 7,391 recoveries, as the active case tally, which had dipped in the past few days, rose incrementally to 1,07,205.

The State had the highest number of cases in India, and the decline in cases at the end of the second wave has slowed down now.

The death toll remained comparatively low, with a total of 170 deaths pushing the State's cumulative fatalities to 1,26,560, with the case fatality rate standing at 2.04%. The fatalities were chiefly concentrated in western Maharashtra, with Kolhapur, Pune and Satara reporting the most fatalities and cases.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

# NHRC panel seeks CBI probe into Bengal riots

#### Report cites cases of murder, rape and molestation

Indian Penal Code, was

prone to misuse by the go-

vernment. "The use of sedi-

tion is like giving a saw to the

carpenter to cut a piece of

wood and he uses it to cut

the entire forest itself."

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) committee formed to investigate complaints of post-poll violence in West Bengal has recommended that cases of heinous crimes be transferred to the Central Bureau

of Investigation (CBI). In its report to the Calcutta High Court on Monday, the panel said it received 1,979 complaints covering over 15,000 victims during its inquiry. The panel visited the State from June 24 to July 10. "A large number of cases related to murders, rapes, molestation and vandalism received from local sources in West Bengal while the teams were camping there," the report said.

The Calcutta High Courtordered panel, which was headed by NHRC member Rajiv Jain, concluded that

the State government had exhibited apathy towards the victims. It found that there was "retributive violence" by Trinamool Congress supporters against supporters of the "major Opposition party", referring to the BJP.

'Hold trial outside State' "There is need to provide justice to victims and restore their confidence in the criminal justice system, which can be best rendered by a neutral agency. Hence, it is recommended that all heinous cases, including murder, unnatural deaths, rape and grievous hurt, and complaints carrying these allegations, should be transferred to the CBI for investigation," the report said, adding that the trial of the CBI cases should be conducted outside West Bengal.

The report said there had been 29 complaints related to murder and 12 cases of attempt to rape/sexual assault/ molestation.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Jaishankar meets Ghani. U.S. officials

SUHASINI HAIDAR

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser and special envoys on Thursday. "Discussed the situation in and around Afghanistan. Reiterated our support for peace, stability," he said.

**FULL REPORT** ▶ PAGE 8

# I take you, until forever. FOREVERMARK.COM

## The Forevermark Icon<sup>™</sup> Collection

Our vow to you is that each uniquely inscribed Forevermark diamond is beautiful, rare and responsibly sourced.

## **CHOOSE YOUR SIZE**

Prices for the Forevermark Icon ring, with diamonds of VS clarity, G/H colour, set in 18 kt gold.



0.25 Carat



0.5 Carat Rs. 1,75,000/-



Rs. 5,75,000/-

# THE MARK OF INTEGRITY



Less than 1% of the world's diamonds can become Forevermark. Every Forevermark diamond is inscribed with a Unique Identification Number and presented with an Identification Card. Icon Rings are also presented with a Forevermark Grading Report.



A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

DE BEERS GROUP







NOIDA

♦ FOREVERMARK BOUTIQUE

GURGAON ₹7508331111 ¢9971206300

SAKET 







This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha on Thursday said the water supply situation in the city will improve soon with the water level increasing at the Wazirabad Barrage. He said Haryana released 16,000 cusec of water in the Yamuna at Hathnikund barrage on Tuesday and it is likely to reach Delhi on Friday morning. Thereafter, the water crisis in the city will be resolved, Chadha added.

Embassy on January 29, court sources said

# Aerial objects banned in city

Delhi Police Commissioner like dence Day celebrations.

ity reasons, officials said.

According to police, it has been reported that certerrorists inimical to India may pose a threat to the safety of the general public, dignitaries and vital installations by using "sub-conventional aerial platforms". Therefore, the police chief

# No plan to reopen schools till jab process complete, says CM

Students in Delhi can get admission in govt. schools without transfer certificates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said there are no plans to reopen schools till the vaccination process is complete.

"We are seeing trends internationally that there will be a third wave of COVID. So, until the vaccination process is complete, we would not like to take risks with children," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said no child will be denied admission in government schools in absence of a transfer certifi-

Parents' complaints

The move comes after he received several complaints from parents that private schools were not giving transfer certificates until the full fee is paid. The govern-



Sisodia says 28,000 applications received for Nursery, KG and Class I admissions in govt.'s Sarvodaya schools. ■ FILE РНОТО

ment announced the decision to ensure that students do not miss out on quality education due to financial losses arising out of the pandemic.

The Minister said students will be given admission in a government school and that the Education Department would ensure that the transfer certificate and other formalities be completed in a move to provide relief to pa-

"Some private schools are holding back transfer certificates and asking parents to deposit the full fee first. For this reason, many parents are unable to get their children enrolled in government schools. Taking cognizance in this regard, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has been asked to ensure that provisional admission is granted to students. Also, DoE officials should directly

secure the transfer certificate

Directorate of Education has been asked to ensure that provisional admission is granted to students. Also, DoE officials should directly secure the transfer certificate from the pvt. private

from the private school concerned and parents need not worry about it anymore," Mr. Sisodia said.

school concerned

The Minister added that so far, 28,000 applications have been received for Nursery, KG and Class I for admission in the Delhi government's Sarvodaya Schools. He also said 90,000 applications have been received for Classes VI to XII (except Class XI).

# Campaign seeks extension of window for sending suggestions to MPD 2041

'Main Bhi Dilli' campaign wants focus on gender-related issues

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The "Main Bhi Dilli" campaign on Thursday demanded an extension of the 45-day window for citizens to send in objections and suggestions to the draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041.

The need for local and zonal plans, recognition of diverse sectors of informal employment and a separate section on gender and women safety in the city, were some of the points raised by urban planners and volunteers with the campaign.

The campaign also said baseline studies and existing land-use information had not been shared by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) yet and that the deadline for objections was only a few days away. Volunteers said

Estimated Earnest Cost of Time

5.00PM Upto 22-07-2021 5.00PM

**Executive Engineer** 

Distt.Kinnaur,(HP)

Jal Shakti Division, ,Pooh

money

**HIMACHAL PRADESH** 

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer I&PH Division Pooh, on behalf of

Governor of Himachal Pradesh in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work

from the contractor/Bidders of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Departmen

Providing Sewerage Scheme to Pooh Village in Gp Pooh | 20214227/- | 2,34,642/- | 2500/-

Tender inviting notice and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the porta

As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders

are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable venders or from any authorized

13-7 -2021

14-07-2021

13-7 -2021

14-07-2021

14-07-2021

23-07-2021

23-07-2021

Cover-1 shall contain Scanned copies of following "eligibility information" (Scanned copies to be The Earnest money in the shape of small saving instruments, demand draft or fixed deposit duly

pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division ,Pooh. OR certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit. In the event of said exemption an affidavit regarding number of tenders in which he/ they participated and total value of their earnest money involved be uploaded with the tende

The cost of tender form in the shape of small saving instruments, demand draft or fixed deposit duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, I&PH Division, Pooh, of demand draft of Rs. As above-

The contractor/bidder should be submit the original documents in respect of Earnest Money, cost of

tender document in the office of the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Pooh, Before 21-07-2021 upt

Certificate of registration as per their class with any Government Department/Government

undertaking, Pan card, Adhar card, removal of income tax, Income Tax clearance certificates and

Conditional tenders shall not be accepted, vii) Undersigned reserves the right to reject (any or all the

The tenders of the contractors/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility information will be summarily

The negotiation /clarification, if any will be taken from the successful contractor/bidder only in respec

The representatives of the firm should inspect the site himself and make conversant with the site

Before submission of on line Bids, Bidders must ensure that scanned copies of all necessary

If onening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

The contractor should not be pending two or more than two works in this division.

Cover-2 shall contain SOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item

of no error, omission and technical aspects in financial bid.

The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

documents in case he/ they gives false information, he/ they will be liable to be blacklisted.

11.00AM

11.00AM

10.30AM

11.00AM

Will be intimated separately

5.00PM

5.00PM

http://hptenders.gov.in by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

Name of work

agency at the earliest.

KEY DATES for E-Tender are as under:

Downloading of e-tender documents

Date of submission of e-tendering

Date of Physical submission

Date of opening Financial bid

Date of opening bid

CONDITIONS:

rejected.

HP / 2441/21-22

Date of on line publication

Tehsil Pooh Distt Kinnaur (H.P) SH:- C/O RCC Manhole

Chambers 2.5 mtr Depth, 1.5 mtr Depth, C/O Brick

etwork for Zone 1 i/c operation and maintenance for 1 year

The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers: Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of "eligibility information/ Technical bid".

Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form

Inspection Chambers, C/O Flushing Tank, L/J/testing sewe

the draft plan, which has three volumes, failed to reference each other and that there were contradictions

Issues pertaining to housing, transport, livelihood and

There should be mandatory reservation of public land for affordable housing and land-based reservations for EWS housings, said Mukta Nair of the Center for Policy Research, adding: "In the projection, they have not mentioned who the 34 lakh houses are for. How many are for the poor? Our demand is that a breakup of the same be given. Additionally, no government land has been committed for

Kalpana Viswanath, founder of "My Safetipin", high-

Streets have to be safe for wo-

# rape, murder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A gang allegedly involved in two cases of kidnapping, murdering and raping women on the pretext of offering them lift has been busted, the police said on Thursday. They suspect that the accused could be involved in more such

Acting on a tip-off, a Nuh Police Crime Unit arrested four persons, later identified as Devender, Manjeet, Rinku and Naasir, at Rangala Ghati village on July 13 while they were allegedly planning to commit a robbery. While Manjeet belongs to Palwal, the rest three are from Nuh.

The accused have been

# Nuh police nab four involved in

taken on two days remand and being interrogated about their involvement in

# Court posts hearing for July 27

Booked under UAPA,

Umar Khalid seeks bail

A Delhi court on Thursday posted the hearing on the bail application of former Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student leader Umar Khalid, arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the north-east Delhi riots, for July 27.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat asked the prosecution to respond to Mr. Khalid's bail plea by the day following the hearing.

Arrested Sept. last

Mr. Khalid was arrested on September 13, 2020 in the north-east Delhi riots case being investigated by Special Cell, where charges under the anti-terror law UAPA have been

Besides Mr. Khalid, Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, JNU stu-



Umar Khalid

dents Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, former Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain, and several others, have also been booked under the UAPA

The Delhi High Court had recently granted bail to Mr. Tanha, Ms. Narwal and Ms. Kalita in the UAPA case, saying the state had blurred the line between the right to protest and terrorist activity in its anxiety to suppress dissent.

## Sharjeel denies encouraging violence, moves court for bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JNU student Sharjeel Imam, arrested under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sedition law, has moved a bail plea before a court here in a case related to making allegedly inflammatory speeches during the protests against CAA and NRC at two universities

In the bail plea, which came up before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat for hearing on Thursday, Mr. Imam claimed that he never participated in or encouraged any violence during the course of any protest or demonstration and is a peace-loving citizen.

During the hearing, advocate Tanveer Ahmed Mir, representing Mr. Imam, read parts of his speeches to the court and said that they do not fall within the meaning of sedition law.

# Neighbour and four others nabbed for kidnapping three-year-old boy

Accused planned to sell the toddler to make quick money

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Five persons have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a 3-year-old boy from north Delhi's Timarpur, the police said on Thursday.

DCP (North) Anto Alphonse said the accused have been identified as Raj Rani (70), Anuj Rani (35), Seema (35), Sunita (29) and Sarvesh (49)

On June 22, a man complained that his 3-year-old son has been missing and may have been kidnapped after which a case was registered. During probe, the police suspected the involvement of the complainant's neighbour, Sunita.

"Her mobile phone was put on technical surveil-



Accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lance and other suspects were then identified," an officer said.

On July 13, information was received that a woman and her mother in Jahangirpuri were trying to sell the child. "Immediately, a raid was conducted and Raj Rani and Anuj Rani were arrested. The child was then rescued," Mr. Alphonse said.

During interrogation, it was revealed that Seema, also from Jahangirpuri, hand-

who then gave him to her mother to take care of him. Seema was subsequently arrested. She allegedly told police that Sarvesh gave her the child after which he was arrested from Mukundpur.

ed over the child to Anuj

When questioned, Sarvesh said Sunita had given him the child. "Sarvesh had promised Sunita that he would give her ₹70,000 for the task. Due to the monetary crisis during the pandemic, she agreed to commit the crime," Mr. Alphose said. Raj, Anuj and Seema committed the crime for easy + money. Sarvesh is an autodriver, they said.

"They were looking for a possible buyer," the DCP

# Three held for robbing medical store owner of over ₹1 lakh using toy gun

Three men were arrested for allegedly robbing the owner of a medical store and his brother-in-law of ₹1.5 lakh and two gold chains in south Delhi's Neb Sarai, the police said on

Md. Sameer (21) and Ritik Arora (21) - threatened them with a toy pistol, they said, adding that two gold chains and ₹40,200 have been recovered from them.

**Inspired by crime series** The accused told the police that they were inspired by several episodes of crime serials.



The accused in custody ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

used to live with his partner in a rented flat. To meet their needs, he formed a group and was also took drugs and consumed liquor to gain confidence to commit the crime, a senior officer said.

The police said the incident took place on the intervening night of July 7-8 when Nandan Kumar, owner of the medical store at IGNOU Road, was going home with his brother-inlaw on their motorcycle.

When they reached Sainik Farm area, three men on a motorcycle overtook them and robbed them at gunpoint. They also took the duo's mobile phones.

DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur: "Our team identified the motorcycle used by the accused. During probe, traps were laid, and the accused were held from Dakshinpuri and Freedom Fighter."

During interrogation, the accused said they did recee - chased the victim or two nights before committing the crime.

# As farmers thronged borders, traders bore the brunt of stir

Unable to pay rent or bear other expenses, shopkeepers resorted to firing employees or taking kids out of school

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

It has been almost eight months since farmers started protests at Delhi's borders. It is around the same time that the businesses in the area began to take a hit.

Manjeet Dahiya (32) - who runs a mobile shop near the first stage at Singhu border – said he has been running into losses since January. The losses have been mounting, he said, adding: "I pay a rent of ₹5,000, which is difficult to pay now."

Mr. Dahiya, who lives in Haryana's Nahri, is also a farmer. He manages farming and shop simultaneously. "My mother, wife and daughter depend on my earnings.



Farming helps me earn a little. I understand their [protesters'] concerns but this stir will not yield any solution. We can't even try talking to them because they won't understand."

He said when the protest began, the earnings were good but after the area was restricted for the public and roads were barricaded, "the shopkeepers here started incurring losses".

grocery shop, said he had to take two of his three children out of private school because he couldn't afford the fees.

Suresh Pandey, who runs a

"My sons used to study in a private school and daughter in a government school. I couldn't pay the fees, so school authorities stopped teaching them. I had no other option but to get their names struck off the rolls," he said.

No choice left

Mr. Pandey pays ₹15,000 per month as rent for the shop. "But I have not been able to pay it for the last four months. I have told the owner that I will pay when I can.He has agreed now. If the owner asks for rent, I will have to shift my other option do I have?" he asked. He said he is only able to

shop to a wooden cart. Which

manage food with the earning from the shop and has seven members in his family, including parents, wife and three children.

Vijay, who runs a spare parts shop in Kundli, said he had to fire four employees because he couldn't afford them anymore. "No one comes here to buy because they get stuck in traffic. There are no earnings. I don't know how I will survive," he said.

Farmers have been protesting against the new farm laws since November 26 at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders.

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

documents has been uploaded with the bid.

EPF. GST issued by the appropriate authorities.

tenders without assigning any reason).



improve soon: Chadha

#### Bail given to 4 in Israeli embassy blast case

NEW DELHI A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to four persons, arrested from Ladakh for their alleged involvement in the low-intensity IED blast that took place near the Israel

# till August 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balaji Srivastava on Thursday issued orders prohibiting the flying of aerial obdrones. paragliders, and hot air balloons, ahead of Indepen-

The order shall remain in force in the Capital for a period of 32 days from Friday till August 16 for secur-

tain anti-social elements or has prohibited the flying of such aerial platforms over

#### across the same. Gautam Bhan of the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, said: "Giving 45 days for objections and sugges-

tions is not fair. It is pivotal to understand that when citizens are ready to participate, the deadline should be extended. At least three to six months should be given...We have even written to the

public spaces were also raised by members of the campaign, among other aspects.

housing..."

friendly...," she said.

#### lighted the need for an emphasis on gender and safety in the plan. "There should have been a separate chapter on gender.

men, children, disabled and transgenders. If we want to have a night time economy, then it has to be planned as to how it will also be gender

# Army man, vendor arrested for supplying classified papers to Pak.

STAFF REPORTER

An Army man and a vegetable vendor have been arrested under the Official Secrets Act for allegedly providing classified documents to the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, the police said on Thursday. The Army headquarters confirmed that the documents in gues-

tion were classified in nature. Accused Habir-ur-Rahman (41) used to supply vegetables at the Pokhran Army base camp. He was held for getting sensitive documents from the Army man for money and providing them to the ISI. The police held Rahman on Tuesday from

Pokhran in Rajasthan. The Delhi Police Crime Branch received information that some sensitive documents related to defence establishment were being sent to the neighbouring country via spy network. "We got inputs about the

involvement of Rahman in the racket. Our team then conducted a raid and nabbed him after due verification," said Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Praveer Ranjan.

During questioning, Rahman could not give any satisfactory reply as to why he was in possession of these documents or their source, said DCP (Crime) Monika Bhardwaj. We also found that the accused used WhatsApp to send the documents to his handlers, a senior officer said.

It was found that Army man Paramjit supplied the papers to Rahman. The duo met when Paramjit was posted in Pokhran. He is now posted as a clerk at Agra Cantt. The police said Rahman had come in contact with a few handles in the spy racket when he was in Pakistan in 2019. Rahman was asked to share the secret documents with them and the money for doing the job was sent through the hawala network.

# NEW DELHI

Thursday. The accused – Vasu (22),

Arora, the main accused,

## **DELHI**

# FRIDAY, JUL. 16

RISE 05:35 SET 19:21 RISE 11:23 SET 23:41 SATURDAY, JUL. 17

RISE 05:35 SET 19:21 RISE 12:24 SET 00:00 SUNDAY, JUL. 18 RISE 05:36 SET 19:20

► RISE 13:28 SET 00:16 Delhi Weather max min Delhi City

#### **Delhi Palam Today** 36°C Rise in day temperature thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky and

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 37°C A spell of light rain or thunderstorm likely at some places with partly cloudy to cloudy sky and humid day.

warm and humid day

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

## Sisodia meets athletes ahead of Olympics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Sports University Karnam Malleswari on Thursday interacted with the four athletes from Delhi who will be representing India at the Tokyo Olympics 2020.

Of the four, three athletes have been part of the Mission Excellence programme of the Delhi government that provides financial help and training to athletes.

Mr. Sisodia said that the vision of CM Arvind Kejriwal has been realised as athletes who were a part of the Mission Excellence programme were representing India. "The Delhi government not only rewards the players who win medals. but also makes them worthy of winning medals by helping players during the days of their struggle and training," Mr. Sisodia said

# 'L-G rejects Delhi govt.'s list of lawyers'

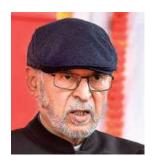
Baijal has sought Cabinet nod for police's list of advocates to appear for protesting farmers, says govt.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday said that Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal has refused to let a panel of lawyers constituted by it to appear in trials of cases registered against the protesting farmers.

#### **Cabinet meet**

"The L-G has asked the Delhi government to give Cabinet's approval on a panel of lawyers suggested by the Delhi police. The police, who are investigating the cases registered against the farmers, want to appoint a panel of their own lawyers, upon which the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has called an immediate meeting on Friday," read a statement from the Chief Minister's office.



Delhi Home Minister Satvendar Iain has rejected police's proposal of appointing lawyers of the latter's favour, as per the statement. "In view of this decision, the L-G has asked the Delhi government to call for a Cabinet meeting and has pressured it to take a decision in favour of the police's choice of lawyers," the statement said.

The government said that



the farmers have been protesting against the three farm laws for several months and the police have registered several cases against them.

#### Fair hearing

The Delhi government had formed a panel of lawyers for a fair hearing of the cases registered against the farmers. The city police, on the other hand, wants to push a panel

of its own lawyers. In this regard, a list of lawyers was sent by the police to Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain for approval. After inspecting the list, Mr. Jain rejected it," the statement read.

Later, Mr. Jain sent a list of lawyers to the L-G, but he refused to approve the list, the government said.

A Raj Niwas source said the matter pertains to the request made by the police for appointment of special public prosecutors for the cases related to violence on the Republic Day this year.

"It has nothing to do with 'farmers' protest' as is being deliberately made out with ulterior motives. Individuals with predetermined agenda and vested interests deliberately carried out acts on January 26, 2021, in full media presence that were not only an affront to the national morale but aimed at bringing shame to the country internationally," the source said in response to the allegations.

It stated that apart from the earlier disagreement on the file, the L-G in the said meeting on July 1 with Mr. Jain, has "clearly and categorically expressed his disagreement" at the Home Minister's turning down of the "valid request" of the police.

"The same was also reiterated and clearly conveyed in a subsequent letter from the L-G to the CM requesting him to convene a meeting of the Council of Ministers to consider and decide upon the said disagreement at the earliest. The Cabinet, if at all, is doing just that," sources stat-

# HC declines plea to reduce dosage gap

Petition pertained to Covishield vaccine

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined to entertain a petition seeking to reduce the 12-16 week interval for the second dose of Covishield vaccine to eight weeks for persons over 50 years of age and those having comorbidities.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked Siddharth De, who filed the public interest petition (PIL): "Are you aware of any procedure? How are doses fixed? Who is fixing the doses? We will have to alter the procedure if at all we have the power to do so".

Dr. De's counsel said that



Vials of Covishield at a vaccination centre in New Delhi. • FILE PHOTO

there was a COVID working group and other expert groups, which looked into the aspect. The counsel said based on studies conducted by scientists in the U.K., there was a need to reduce the dosage interval in view of the new variants of COVID-19.

# Free power promise will work, but AAP needs more to win: experts

'It has a good chance in Punjab but not in other States in Assembly polls'

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which came to power in Delhi for the first time in 2013, by fighting against the "high' electricity and water bills during the then Congress regime, is trying to play the same game in its attempt to win a State outside Delhi.

In the past fortnight, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal travelled to three poll-bound States and made the same announcement: If the AAP is elected to power, then each house will get up to 300 units of free electricity, old power bills will be waived off, there will be no power cuts, and free electricity will be provided to farmers.

In the run-up to the 2013 Delhi election, the AAP, which was then a greenhorn, launched 'Bijli Paani Satyagraha' and burned power bills across the city. It was one of the major planks on which they fought the election and won it.

Currently, the electricity bill will be zero for a household in Delhi if the monthly consumption is less than 200 units and also each house gets 20,000 litres of

Experts said that the current announcements will strike a chord with the voters, as the AAP government has been giving 200 units of free electricity per month to every household in Delhi.

#### Faith factor

Praveen Rai, political analyst, who works with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), said that people will believe more in the AAP, even if other pol-



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab AAP president Bhagwant Mann (right) and former State IGP Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh in Amritsar on June 21. ■ FILE PHOTO

itical parties also make similar promises.

"It will work for the AAP because even if other parties in these three States also promise the same, people will believe the AAP more as they have an example of Delhi to show, where people have been getting the benefits of it for years," Mr. Rai said.

Political analyst Neerja

Chowdhury agreed and said that 'bijli-paani' was one of the first issues the AAP took up after the party was

"[Mr.] Kejriwal was lampooned for it and many asked where the money will come from? But the AAP won the election and implementthe first week itself and elec-

#### **ANALYSIS**

tricity later on, and sustained it. This has built his credibility. Like we have a 'Metro man', Kejriwal is the *'Bijli-Paani'* man," she said.

Both of them said that the AAP has a good chance in Punjab in the 2022 Assembly elections.

"During the 2020 Assembly elections in Delhi, even after the BJP playing the communal card, the AAP won the election. The result was a vote for the Delhi model of governance. The AAP has a good change in Punjab this time. In Goa, they had a decent local leadership, but then there were problems and they lost. In Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the AAP does not have a strong local presence and network of party offices. Even if they get 10% vote share this time, the party should keep working on the grassroot level and

grow as a main political force," Mr. Rai said.

Ms. Chowdhury also said that the AAP will only be a third force in Uttarakhand

#### A good connection

Mr. Rai said that in India, about 45% of the people are either poor or middle class and free power makes a good connection with them. "Even if it's ₹800 or ₹1,000 a month, it is a big amount for them. Though welfare schemes have been there for a long time, the free power and water schemes were AAP's brainchild," he said.

"The power bills are high in many States and during the pandemic, free electricity will be seen as a big benefit by people belonging to lower middle class and middle class. This, in itself, is not enough to win elections, but it is a good entry point for [Mr.] Kejriwal," Ms. Chowdhury said.

## Vaccination dips by 50% due to shortage

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The number of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the city in a day fell by about 50%, as the city is facing a vaccine shortage yet again, according to Delhi government data.

The vaccine stock will last for only less than a day, as per a vaccination bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

The city has faced a similar situation on Monday and a day later. Health Minister Satyendar Jain had said that 500 vaccination centres were shut due to shortage in the city. Only 64,983 doses of vaccine were administered on Wednesday compared to 1,29,054 doses administered on Tuesday, as per the bulletin.

Meanwhile, the city reported 72 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,35,353, according to health bulletin. There was only one death reported and the total number of deaths stood at 25,022.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday flagged off the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccination Programme at the Aam Aadmi Polyclinic in Paschim Vihar. He said that the vaccine that usually costs between ₹1,500 and ₹6,000 will be administered for free at Delhi government's centres and each child will get 3 doses at specified time period.

# 'New excise policy will minimise corruption'

Delhi govt. defends it in High Court

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday defended its new Excise Policy 2021-22 before the Delhi High Court saying that it minimises corruption and gives fair competition in liquor trade.

The Delhi government has been faced with several petitions challenging the new excise policy before the High Court. A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to the government on some fresh pleas on the issue. The court, however, did not pass any order on staying the policy or extending the July 20 deadline for applying for tender under the

One of the counsel opposing the policy argued that the new policy divides Delhi into 32 zones, but permitted only 16 players in the market. This, the counsel said, would lead to monopoly.

"Control is for public welfare and not for you to run



your business. It is for the public at large. It is not meant for you to run your business or put you in difficulty," the Bench said.

The petitions challenging the new policy claimed that it is illegal, unfair, arbitrary and violative of the Delhi Excise Act of 2009.

The plea also seeks to quash the June 28 e-tender notice of the Delhi government, prescribing the procedure to be followed for inviting zone-wise electronic bids for grant of 32 zonal licences of retail vends of liquor for supply of Indian and foreign liquor brands in the Capital.

# Political blame game continues over demolition of church

DDA refutes CM's claim that it had razed the structure

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Demolition of a church in south Delhi, which was built on government land, by Delhi government officials has kicked off a political blame game with the BJP hitting out at the AAP.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had on Wednesday claimed that the church was demolished by DDA, which is under the Central government. DDA officials refuted the claim and said that the urban body has not taken

any such action. On Thursday, BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that it is "shameful" that the Chief Mi-

nister is a "big liar". The church was demolished on Monday and on the same day, the District Magistrate (South), who is under the AAP government, alleged that Delhi government officials only did it. A notice for eviction served on July 7, before the demolition, was signed by the Block Development Officer (BDO) under the DM's office. Officials from both BDO's office and Forest Department of the Delhi government were present during the demolition, as per officials.

Mr. Bidhuri said it is shameful that being a CM, Mr. Kejriwal was blatantly lying and trying to put the blame on the Central government. "CM did not hesitate even once before saying such a big lie. The DM, Ankita Chakravarti, has accepted that the demolition was carried out by the Delhi government indeed," he said.

When contacted, a Delhi government spokesperson did not comment on how DDA could have demolished the church when the notice was given by the BDO and done by Delhi government officials.

Meanwhile, E.K. Peter, a

resident of the area, said he

had filed several complaints

since 2014 against the church, which was constructed on government land. "Before 2012-13, we used to pray on Sundays at Lado Sarai Little Flower Church. Then members of church started praying at a cross installed at the plot in Chhatarpur, where the currently demolished church later came up," he said.

"In 2012-13, they first erected a cross inside the plot, but police removed it and it is still lying outside the plot. But after that they erected a small shed with tarpaulin as roof and eventually changed to metal sheet. Over the years, it became bigger in size," Mr. Peter, who lives about 2 km from the area,

He also shared a purported photo of the plot from 2012-13, which read "Warning: This land belongs to Gram Sabha. Any tresspassing on this land is a punishable offence", next to a cross inside the plot.



# Bharat Ratna to Bahuguna

'Honouring him will inspire the youth'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Thursday appealed to the Central government to award the Bharat Ratna to Chipko Movement leader Sunderlal Bahuguna.

The Chief Minister made the appeal while unveiling a commemorative stone, portrait, and took part in a tree plantation drive at the Delhi Legislative Assembly in memory of the environmentalist who passed away recent-

Mr. Kejriwal said that he would be writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to recommend Bahuguna for the award.

"To honour Bahuguna with the Bharat Ratna will be an honour for the Bharat Ratna. It will inspire the youth of our country to realise the struggle he undertook in his life," Mr. Kejriwal said while presenting a cheque of ₹1 lakh to the family of the environmentalist in honour of the legacy he has left behind.

# **TO ADVERTISE**

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

India's National Newspape

# Congress takes out cycle rally to protest price hike

Party leaders detained by police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The Delhi Congress on Thursday organised a cycle rally across the city to protest against price rise, frequent hikes in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas, milk and other essential

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar, along with AICC in-charge of Delhi Shakti Singh Gohil and co-incharge Imran Masood, who

commodities.

were cycling from Lodhi Road to the DPCC office on DDU Marg, were detained by the Delhi police midway.

Mr. Kumar said those who were under financial burden due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been further burdened by the unbearable hikes in the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and all the essential commodities, with no relief coming from the Central or State governments.



"WASH YOUR HAND"

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER(D) VARUNALAYA PHASE-II: KAROL BAGH **NEW DELHI - 110005** STOP CORONA

> "WEAR MASK" **DELHI JAL BOARD**

Applications are invited from candidates for engagement of Consultant(Law) in Delhi Jal Board, having experience of atleast 10 years of Legal matters and worked as Chief Law Officer/Law Officer in Pay Band - 4 in any reputed Gov ernment Institute or a member of State Judicial Service having 16 years experience. The age of applicant should be less than 65 years as on closing date of receipt of applicaiton, the application must reach the office of Assistant Com missioner(D), Delhi Jal Board, Room No-211, Second Floor, Varunalaya Phase-II, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 within 15 days of publication of this advertisement. The application format can be downloaded from Delhi Jal Board vebsite i.e. www.delhijalboard.nic.in

**ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT(LAW)** 

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 185 (2021-22)

(VIRENDER SINGH) ASSTT. COMMISSIONER(D)

"MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING"

# Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal felicitating family members of Sunderlal Bahuguna in the Delhi Assembly. • SANDEEP SAXENA CM appeals Centre to award

**PLEASE CONTACT** Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

THE HINDU



LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000



## **CLASSIFIEDS MART**

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

**EDUCATIONAL** 

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TEST SERIES** 

🗎 www.acubeias.com +91-93190 57600, 93190 57800 78, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pace City-2, Gurugram Whereas the plot no. 467P & 510P Sector-37, Pace City-2, Gurugram, measuring 262.5 sq. mtrs. & 262.55q. Mtrs in the Industrial Estate, Sector-37, Pace City-2 Gurugram, was reallotted by Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, C-13 & 14, Sec.6, Panchkula (hereinafter called the "Corporation") vide its letter. No. HSIIDC: 2015:1044, dated Mr. Hitlesh & Mr. Sandeep Singh Yadav kyrired on 15.06.2020 and following mentioned deponents are the only legal heirs of Late Mr. Sandeep Singh Yadav So Late Sh. Ram Narayan Yadav 1, Mrs. Sneh Lata Wio Late Sh. Sandeep Singh Yadav That after expired tate Sh. Sandeep Singh Yadav Sio Late Sh. Sa

ate Sh. Sandeep Singh Yadav Sio Late Sh. Ram Narayan Yadav the above named are nis only legal heirs. After expiry of Sandeep Singh Yadav the above named are nis only legal heirs. After expiry of Sandeep Singh Yadav the ownership of the plot no. 167P & 510P, Sector-37, Pace City-2 Surugram, measuring 262.5 sq mfrs. 262.5 sq mfrs. in the Industrial Estate, Sector 37, Pace City-2 Gurugram, along with the suididing constructed thereon shall rest in the name of the Mrs. Shert Lata Yadav Wo Late Sh. Sandeep Singh Yadav. This public notice is hereby served for filling objection, if any, against the transfer of ownership of the plot no 167P & 510P, Sector -37, Pace City-2 Surugram, measuring 262.5 sq. mfrs. 8 262.5 sq. mfrs. along with the building constructed hereon, in favour of Mrs. Senb. Lata Yadav within a period of 30 days from the date of this bublic notice. The objection against the said ransfer; if any, should be filed in the office of 4SIIDC, Sector -37, Pace City-2 Gurugram and/or HSIIDC. C-13.8 14. Sector-6, Panchkula within a period of 30 days from the date of this notice failing which ownership shall be transferred by HSIIDC in the name of Mrs. Sheh Lata Yadav.

Sr. Manager

Sr. Manager

Sr. Manager

Sandra St. Manager

ata Yadav. Sr. Manage For & behalf o Haryana State Industria

and Infrastructure development orp. Ltd. Vanijya Nikunj Complex, Udyog vihar, phase-5, Gurugram

READ

**SPORTSTAR** 

**EVERY** 

FORTNIGHT

#### **TENDERS**

KERALA STATE INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES LTD. emment of Kerala Undertaking Thiruvananthapuram – 14 Phone: 0471-2326947. www.ksie.net email: infra.ksieltd@gmail.com

#### E-TENDER

1. SITC of 2 Nos medium tunnel size X-ray buy back basis: Tender No. CP 97/2021-22 2. SITC of 1 No large tunnel size X-ray machine at Calicut Air Cargo Complex, Karipur on buy back basis: Tender No. CP 98/2021-22

For more details and tender form visit

ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING

Complex Vattivoorkavu, Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415 e-TENDER NOTICE No. Capt/2948/21-22/MTL

14.07.2021
E-Tenders are invited from the reputed manufactures / authorized dealers for the supply and installation of following equipments.

. 3 Tonne Diesel Forklift Truck 1 (No) (e-Tender ID- 2021\_CAPT\_430225\_1) Programmable Cutting Machine 3 (Nos (e-Tender ID- 2021\_CAPT\_430196\_1)

Oue date & Time of tender/bid submission online) 13.08.21 up to 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on to: Website: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in ww.captkerala.com

SITUATION VACANT

#### **GENERAL**

VACANCY For Answer checking in SOCIOLOGY In reputed IAS Academy Work from Home Call / Whatsapp: 9599109805 Mail CV at: iasjob20@gmail.com

#### NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY "EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES"

Applications are invited from INS ccredited advertising agencies for Railway for Public Relations works. Application form can be downloaded from https://ner.indianrailways.gov.in from 17.07.2021 to 16.08.2021 or can be obtained from the office of the Chief Public Relations Officer, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012 on any working day from 09 30 hrs to 17 30 hrs from 19.07.2021 up to 16.08.2021 or payment of ₹ 5900 (₹ 5,000/-18%GST ₹ 900/-) in cash (nonrefundable). Application must reach the above address by 11.00 hrs or 17 08 2021 after which applications will not be accepted. This information is also available on N.E. Railway website https://ner.indianrailways.gov.in. Chief Public Relations Officer,

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955

"Never travel on roof and foot boards" U.P. Power Transmission Corporation LTD. E-Tender Notice, Online e-bids are invited for "Supply

of 21 Nos. 40MVA, 132/33 kV Power Transformers" against Tender Specn. No. ESD-580. F-Tender has been uploaded on dated 24/06/2021 on https://etender.up.nic.in. EMD Cost for the tender is Rs. 26.00 Lacs which is valid for 6 months. Tender Fee of Rs. 11.800.00 will be deposited through RTGS/NEFT. Last date for submission of tender is 27.07.2021 at 12:30 Hrs and opening of part-1 is 28.07.2021 at 15:30 Hrs. Total Quantity for supply, tender specification and other terms and conditions is as per tender document available on the E-tender portal. Undersigned reserve the right to cancel the e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Superintending Engineer, ESDC-II, 13th floor,

Shakti Bhawan Extn, UPPT-

CL, Lucknow.

# Families of those held in U.P. say terror charges are baseless

ATS claims they were planning to carry out attacks ahead of Independence Day

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

The families of a rickshawdriver and a battery seller, among those arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police from Lucknow on charges of plotting terror attacks in the State, are in a state of disbelief. They contend that the allegations levelled against the men are baseless.

On July 11, the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested Minhaz Ahmad, 31, and Maseeruddin on charges that they were allegedly planning to carry out terror attacks in parts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Lucknow ahead of Independence

The ATS claimed to have recovered a large quantity of explosive items (IEDs) from the two men. The police also claimed they found a pistol on Minhaz during the search.

ployee of the Economics and Statistics department, pleads his son Minhaz is innocent. "I totally refute it. I can never believe it," Mr. Siraj

Siraj Ahmed, a retired em-

Ahmed told The Hindu. He described his son as "kindhearted, soft-spoken and merciful towards humanity."

Mr. Siraj Ahmed claimed that the ATS team which raided their house did not tell the family what they recovered during the operation. "They neither showed us what they recovered nor told us about it or presented us any list of



The wife of Maseeruddin, Sayeeda, with her daughter, and Siraj Ahmad, the father of Minhaz Ahmad. • OMAR RASHID

items," he said, adding that the police packed the things in large suitcases and bags.

Minhaz, who has a diploma in electricals, jointly operated a battery shop. One of the e-rickshaw drivers who engaged with him was Maseeruddin.

#### Pressure cooker

On Sunday, Maseeruddin's family had just completed a late breakfast when an ATS team came to his house and arrested him. His wife Sayeeda claims that the ATS took away with them a new pressure cooker she had purchased. The equipment was unused as Sayeeda hoped to store it for her eldest daughter's future.

"He [Maseeruddin] didn't even know about the cooker. He had nothing to do with domestic purchases and stayed out driving rickshaw till 9 p.m. Along with the cooker, I had also bought a cooking gas and an electric iron," she said.

Ms. Sayeeda, who has four children, says she never heard anything unusual from her husband or the name of any outfit as alleged by the

Mr. Siraj Ahmed said that since Maseeruddin was not in a sound financial condition, his son Minhaz would often help him with money and battery for his rickshaw. Before driving an e-rickshaw, Maseeruddin worked as a labourer in the Zardozi craft sector like many others in lanes of old Lucknow.

#### 3 others held

Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said that on the basis of information acquired from the two during the police custody remand, three others were arrested. They were identified as Shakeel (35), Mohammad Mustageem (44) and Mohammad Moeed (29).

Shakeel is named as an accused in the FIR and had a role in providing the weapons and helping Minhaz in purchasing the weapons, alleged Mr. Kumar. Shakeel also drives a rickshaw, said a local activist.

#### Local module

The ATS claimed that the men were working for a local module of the al-Qaeda terror outfit. The ATS said it worked on tips that the al-Qaeda had sent its member Umar Halmandi to India to operate its activities. Halmandi operated from Pakistan-Afghanistan border, police said.

Halmandi was recruiting people to AQIS (Al Qaeda Indian Subcontinent) group and radicalising them, said the ATS, adding that after identifying some people he established a Lucknow module of the al-Qaeda, Ansar Gazwatul Hind.

Mr. Siraj Ahmed says he never heard of any such name. "They are trying to snatch our crutches during old age," he said, whose only son is Minhaz.

The FIR lodged against the accused persons includes several clauses of the UAPA (13, 18, 18 b, 20 and 39), waging war against the government, collecting arms and concealing with intent to facilitate design to wage war. They were also booked under the Explosive Substances Act and the Arms Act.

## SAD-BSP poll pitch: two Dy. CMs if we win

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Thursday said that if voted to power, the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bahujan Samaj Party alliance will have two Deputy Chief Ministers one from Punjabi Hindus and the other from the Dalit community.

After SAD's core committee meeting, Mr. Badal said: "We understand that there are external forces which want to disturb the peace of Punjab by pitching communities against each other. We want to guarantee Punjabis that the SAD will continue to follow the policies of Mr. Parkash Singh Badal under which all religions were respected and honoured. We are committed to keeping all communities together and it is with this in mind that the SAD has decided to have a representative from the Hindu community as a Deputy CM once it secures power in Punjab".

Mr Badal had in April earlier this year announced on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar that the SAD would offer the chair of Deputy CM to a Dalit once voted to power.

The SAD chief said the decision to have two Deputy CMs is symbolic of the strong emotional bonds that bind the different communities together.

Haryana government

undercounted deaths

due to COVID-19: Cong

Senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surje-

wala has accused the Harvana government of

during the second wave, in an attempt to cov-

Citing the "excess deaths" registered by the

Civil Registration System (CRS), Mr. Surjewala

in a statement alleged that the official figures

had exposed the BJP-JJP government's at-

Will Chief Minister Manohar Lal take respon-

sibility for it? The BIP government should un-

derstand that hiding the data will not hide the

truth and will not fool the intelligent people

warnings from the Congress party, no con-

crete arrangements were made by the govern-

"Due to the failure and gross mismanage

ment of the government, Corona surpassed

the boundaries of big cities and reached the

villages during the second wave. It is also

clear from the official figures of the State go-

vernment that it did not test or track the virus

efficiently, neither in the villages nor in the ci-

ties. Of course, the excess deaths are due to-

COVID-19 and if the government had done its

job properly, thousands of those people

Assam approves home

The Assam Cabinet has decided to allow online

sale and purchase and home delivery of liquor

within the Guwahati Municipal Corporation

area as an experiment for a month to avoid

crowding outside liquor outlets in view of the

Assam's positivity rate has fluctuated bet-

ween 1.53% and 1.74% over the past few days with more than 200 people testing positive in

Kamrup (Metropolitan) district encompassing

the corporation area measuring about 217 sq.

"We have taken the decision on an experimen-

tal basis after witnessing crowding outside liqu-

or shops during the non-curfew hours. The experiment is on the basis of the directives of the

Supreme Court and the Madras High Court,"

State Health Minister Keshab Mahanta said af-

ter the Cabinet meeting late on Wednesday

The Supreme Court had in 2020 left it to the

delivery of liquor on

experimental basis

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

prevailing COVID-19 situation.

'Crowding outside shops'

evening.

could have been saved," he added.

Mr Surjewala said that despite repeated

"Hiding the data will not hide the truth.

undercounting COVID-19 deaths in the State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

er up mismanagement.

tempt to mislead the people.

ment to handle the pandemic.

of Haryana," he said.

# **OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES** 

Sarabjit Kaur Duggal

(Sweety)

12.08.1954 - 16.07.2020

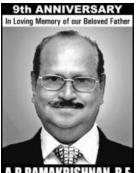
Missed by all but forgotten by

the happy memories, you left

behind and the many lives you

touched with your kindness.

# **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**



R.Arun Prasad R.Surendira Prasad R.Goutham Prasaath Daughters-in-Law Mital Surendira & Jayanthi Arun Grandson S.Aswin & S.Harshad

46°° Year Remembrance



Late Shri Batchu Purushottam Garu 12.09.1901 to 16.07.1975 From Family Members, Partners & Staff M/s.B.Purushottam & Co., Chartered Accountants

Rajpal Singh Duggal & Inderpreet Duggal (Roshu) Duggals & Kochhars Friends & Family Mob.: 9811022090

For Placing Advertisements Mobile: 9840059349

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following numbe between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011-43579797 Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-) (B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cn (Clr Display): Rs.70/Per Sq.cm Log on to www.thehinduads.com

Online

In memory of your loved ones To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact: 011-43579797 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &

For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

**DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT** 

## **SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

A GREETING TO REMEMBER

Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic

accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can

surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

**CLASSIFIEDS** 

For more details, email: classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404

For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to www.thehinduads.com

THEMAHINDU

satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Dir-ector/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

आई आर ई एल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड

IREL (India) Limited

Govt. of India Undertaking-Under Dept of Atomic Ene CIN No. U15100MH1950GOI008187

Chavara Unit, Kerala, E-mail: purchase-ch@irel.co.in

An ISO 9001,14001 & 45001 company

TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited for "Replacement of damaged steel structural and AC sheet of roof and side cladding at Godown No.1(ET-25)"

https://www.mstcecommerce.com/

http://bit.ly/cpppirelil or http://irel.co.i

Amendment/Corrigendum shall be notified through our website only.

Dt.15.07.2021

DGM(Comml)

Advt. No. 48

For more details visit



General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Sonu **S/o** Late Sh. Subhash **R/o** Patti Mundala, Pathshala Road, PO Khekada PS Khekada, Baghpat, UP has been missing/kidnapped since 06.07.2021 from MCD Horticulture Office, Dangal Park, Jama Masjid, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 39A dated 08.07.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Jama Masjid, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 30 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Identification: Old injury cut mark on forehead, Wearing: Pink colour shirt and blue colour jeans pant and black colour sandal in

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped person, may inform SHO, Jama Masjid, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/876/CD/2021

SHO P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-23269777, 23261625

#### and Provision of Necessary कार्य का नाम Infrastructure in all twenty four court rooms of Jharkhand High Court, Doranda, Ranchi रू० २,81,78,000.00 (रुपये दो करोड प्राक्कलित राशि (रू०) इक्यासी लाख अठहत्तर हजार) मात्र ।

ई - प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल

मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, रांची

रेफरेन्स न0—BCD/CE/46/Ranchi Div-01/2021-22 दिनाक—15-07-2021

Renovation of Remaining Sixteen

Court rooms for Physical Hearing

ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस (अल्पकालीन)

कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 06 महीने वेबसाइट पर निविदा 22-07-2021 प्रकाशन की तिथि वेबसाइट पर बिड प्राप्ति के 29-07-2021 के 11.00 AM तक लिए अन्तिम तिथि / समय निविदा प्रकाशित करने ई – प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, रांची। पता प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का 9973708817 सम्पर्क संख्या ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल का 9431371592

हेल्पलाईन संख्या • किसी भी प्रकार का बदलाव http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता

• अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखा जा Note: UCAN Registration is mandatory for the Bidders नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई — प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल

मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, कम्बाईन्ड ऑफिस बिल्डिंग, D भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, रांची PR 249686 Building(21-22)#D

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAAG **NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

SN	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time	Last date
1.	A/A & M/O Jal Shakti Water Testing Laboratory at Jubbal, in Distt. Shimla HP (SH: Providing of water testing laboratory chemical and glassware)		₹ 7,825	1 M	Last Sale of tender form is upto 04:00 PM of 24/07/2021 Date of receiving of
2.	A/A & M/O Jal Shakti Water Testing Laboratory at Jubbal, in Distt. Shimla HP (SH: Providing a new water testing laboratory instruments and providing laboratory consumable)		₹ 9,356	1 M	Tenders from contractors Upto 03:00 PM of 26/07/2021 Date of opening of tenders 26/07/2021 at 03:30 PM

J.S.V. Division Jubb

HP/2411/21-22 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Off line bids on item rate basis are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Fatehpui Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh two covers for the under mentioned work from the

SN	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time	Cost of form (in Rs.)
1.	Providing functional house hold Tap (FHTC) connection in village Bhatoli Jharoli Minta Khukhnara etc. in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP under Jal Jeevan Mission. SH: Water Proof treatment of existing MST of 70000 Ltr capacity at Jharoli		2,625.00	One Month	250/-
2.	PLWSS to SCSP village Chattar Jhikla Chattar Jogian in Tehsil Fatehpur District Kangra HP. SH: Water Proof treatment of existing MST of 1,50,000 ltr capacity at Chattar Khas.	3,14,496.00	6,290.00	One Month	250/-
3.	Reteofitting of left cut NC/PC habitation of census village Gurial Bari, Larth, Dhalwara, Mndot etc. in Fatehpur constitutency Under JJM (T/Well Baroh 2 <sup>™</sup> ) SH: Installation of Submersible Pumping set of 20 HP.	2,00,000.00	4,000.00	Three Month	250/-

Last date of filing the tender is 19.07.2021 up to 11.00 AM., application for issue of tender form will be entertained up to 16.07.2021 up to 5.00 PM and sale of tender from divisional office on 17.07.2021 upto 03.00PM. The tender forms and other detailed terms and conditions can be Executive Engineer obtained from the website www.hpiph.org Jal Shakti Division, Fatehou "Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark" District Kangra (HP) 176053 HP / 2410/21-22

# SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Subham S/o Sh Shivanandan R/o H.No.A/569, A Block, Near Gurudwara, Shastri Nagar, Delhi, Aged-17 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 13.06.2014 from the area of Deputy Ganj, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi vide FIR No.89/14, Dated 13.06.14 u/s 363 IPC registered at Police Station Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-



Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face:
Oval, Built: Thin, Clothing: Light Green coloured checked shirt, Sky blue coloured jeans pant and Black coloured

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Tele No.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Extn. 210, FAX No.: 011-23011334

SHO, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi DP/1298/N/2021 Tel.: 011-23529707, 23528060

Sd/-

States to consider online sales and home delivery of liquor during the COVID-19 lockdown period to facilitate physical distancing.

Mr. Mahanta said the Assam Cabinet also decided to provide employment to tea garden labourers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act during the winter season when tea production is less.

This pdf was originally uply ded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

#### IN BRIEF



Karnataka offers big sops for medical oxygen units

Karnataka, which faced a severe shortage of oxygen during the peak of COVID-19 second wave, has decided on including 25% capital subsidy, for private companies that set up medical oxygen plants in the

#### Four suffocate to death while digging well

Four persons suffocated to death while digging a new well at Kundara, near Kollam, on Thursday. According to the police, all the four died of asphyxiation due to lack of oxygen inside the well. Though the police and Fire and Rescue Services were pressed into action, their lives could not be saved.

Lakshadweep Aikyadardya

Samithi (Lakshadweep Soli-

darity Committee) to safe-

guard the interests of the

Lakshadweep islanders and

support them in all possible

ways in their fight against

the "undemocratic, uncon-

stitutional measures being

forced on them by the

Lakshadweep administra-

Benny Behanan, MP, will

be the chairman of the com-

mittee, and Elamaram Ka-

reem, MP, will be its general

convener.

# Assembly ruckus: SC refuses to accept Kerala govt.'s argument

'Not convinced that withdrawal of prosecution against MLAs is in public interest'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to accept the Kerala government's argument that the Speaker and not the police has the authority to take action against the Left Democratic Front MLAs who vandalised the Legislative Assembly during the Budget speech in 2015.

"So, let's say in an extreme case, if an MLA empties his revolver inside the Assembly, can you say the House is supreme on this?" Justice D.Y. Chandrachud retorted at the Kerala government side. The court was also not convinced by the State government's line that withdrawal of prosecution against the errant MLAs was in public interest.

Panel to safeguard interests of



A file photo of the LDF members taking away the chair of the Speaker from his podium. • c. RATHEESH KUMAR

"How is it in public interest or in service of public justice to seek withdrawal of prosecution when MLAs have damaged the sanctum sanctorum of democracy?"

Justice Chandrachud asked. Justice M.R. Shah asked why the State government was trying to defend the accused persons in the case.

The court has reserved for

judgment the appeals filed by the Kerala government and accused persons, which include Kerala Education Minister V. Sivankutty, against a High Court order which had confirmed a Magistrate's decision to refuse the Prosecutor permission to withdraw the criminal case.

Televised images from the day of the incident show legislators come to blows on the House floor and hurl chairs, computers and other public property soon after Finance Minister K.M. Mani began his Budget speech during the United Democratic Front government's te-

The apex court has consistently taken a strong prima facie view against the conduct of the MLAs.

# Alert as Kerala capital reports 28 Zika cases

Plan to test all fever cases with rashes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With 28 Zika cases being reported from Thiruvananthapuram district, the Kerala Health Department has sent a State-wide alert to test all cases of fever with rashes for Zika virus (ZIKV) infec-

The Ministers for Health and Local Self Government (LSG) held a joint review meeting here on Thursday to organise coordinated micro-level plans for containment across districts.

Even though ZIKV cases had not yet been reported from other districts so far, a high level of alert needed to be maintained in all districts

as the vector, aedes aegypti, was present in high density in all districts, it was pointed out at the meeting.

Health Minister Veena George said seasonal dengue cases too had begun to be reported from all districts and hence intensive vector control measures, including source reduction, fogging and mobilisation of the public to make individual homes aedes-free was the need of the hour.

The list of aedes hotspots would be prepared and handed over to local bodies for launching control measures. District medical officers and Health and LSG officials were present.

# A.P. to give 10% quota for Kapus in govt. posts, services

STAFF REPORTER

The Andhra Pradesh go vernment has announced 10% reservation for the Kapu community and other Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) for appointments in the initial posts and services in the State government in accordance with the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act,

As per the G.O. issued by the Chief Secretary, the 10% reservation in employment will benefit Kapus who are neither benefited under the BC quota nor under the EWS quota and OC sections who are deprived of the benefits of reservation thus far due to non-implementation of the EWS

This will, however, be subject to the outcome of several writ petitions and PILs filed in various courts and interim orders of the

The following are the operational guidelines for the implementation of the 10% reservation.

Persons who are not covered under the existing scheme of reservation for SCs, STs and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and whose gross annual family income is below ₹8 lakh are to be identified as EWS for the benefit of reservation.

The income includes income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc. for the financial year prior to the year of application.

The term family will include the person who seeks the benefit, his or her parents and siblings below 18 years as also his or her spouse and children below

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Bihar, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Karaikal

Agartala35.027.2	Kozhikode2527.423.5
Ahmedabad 36.0 27.5	Kurnool 3530.223.7
Aizawl	Lucknow
Allahabad	Madurai – 36.5 26.5
Bengaluru 18.824.6 19.9	Mangaluru 46.426.223.0
Bhopal 33.8 25.2	Mumbai 3831.624.6
Bhubaneswar 0.234.326.1	Mysuru 1024.620.0
Chandigarh 34.0 26.6	New Delhi 26.336.623.4
Chennai 1431.423.9	Patna36.427.8
Coimbatore 0.327.221.4	Port Blair 230.825.0
Dehradun 0.4 30.5 22.8	Puducherry 3.631.923.1
Gangtok 720.316.9	Pune
Goa12226.523.6	Raipur – 34.3 25.6
Guwahati	Ranchi 730.722.1
Hubballi 24.0 21.0	Shillong
Hyderabad 6929.221.8	Shimla
Imphal 129.820.6	Srinagar
Jaipur 37.9 27.4	Thiruvananthapuram 731.925.0
Kochi 16.630.824.0	Tiruchi 133.926.6
Kohima 724.217.6	Vijayawada 632.624.6
Kolkata 35.0 27.4	Visakhapatnam 931.625.8

#### (Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius) Pollutants in the air you are breathing

# ..8 .15 120 ..111 .111 .... ..9 .15 .72 ...212 .146 ..– .64 .17 .....9 ...17 ....78 .100 ...23

4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur death in people with heart or lung disease

## Lakshadweep people set up SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT Leaders of major political parties, cultural activists, littérateurs and filmmakers on Thursday met here to form a

Political party leaders with filmmaker Aisha Sultana at the

solidarity meet in Kochi on Thursday. • THULASI KAKKAT

Aisha Sultana, filmmaker against whom the Lakshadweep police have booked a case of sedition, also attended the meeting. Briefing the media on the discussions, Mr. Kareem said the meeting had resolved to support the

fight of the islanders against draconian rules such as the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation and the Lakshadweep Development Authority pushed by the Dweep administration.

# Yet another step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat

# SAHKAAR SE SAMRUDDHI

# **Our heartfelt gratitude to Honorable Prime Minister** Shri Narendrabhai Modi for instituting the new Ministry of Cooperative in Government of India.

Our Honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi has just one aim - A Self Reliant & Prosperous India.

To accomplish this mission, the upliftment of those in the lowest strata of society is imperative. The Ministry of Cooperation formed by our Honorable PM will empower people and organizations serving in the cooperative sector and uplift them.

This ministry will bring millions of people serving in the sectors including Banking, Farming, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Sugar manufacturing and Milk processing units under a single platform for mainstreaming development and improve their quality of life. It will enhance the income of people serving these sectors and additionally expand employment opportunities.

## We congratulate Shri Amitbhai Shah on taking charge as India's First Minister of Cooperative Sector.

Minister for Home and Cooperative Sector, Shri Amit Shah has over 20 years of rich experience filled with many accomplishments in the Cooperative Sector.

We hold absolute faith that our Honorable PM Shri Modi ji and Shri Amit Shah will set new benchmarks of progress and prosperity in the cooperative sector.











Manufacturing





Under India's new-found blueprint of collective growth with inclusive approach, the Cooperative Ministry will

encourage sectors across Manufacturing, Service, Housing, Labour and Banking, to name a few.



**Processing** 













Our heartfelt best wishes and greetings for undertaking this much required and long-awaited historic initiative.

Shri Ajaybhai Patel (Chairman)

Shri Shankarbhai Chaudhary (Vice Chairman)

Pradip Vora (CEO & MD) Board of Directors Shareholders: Depositors: Staff Members



The Gujarat State Co-op. Bank Ltd. ધી ગુજરાત સ્ટેટ કો-ઓપરેટીવ બેંક લિ. (શીડ્યુલ્ડ એપેક્ષ બેંક)



# Ending the impasse

India, China cannot put the distrust of the past behind without resolving the border issue

ndia's relations with China have been in deep freeze for over a year. The crisis on the LAC remains unre-Lsolved, and tens of thousands of soldiers from both sides still remain deployed in forward areas. Against this backdrop, Wednesday's meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Dushanbe assumes significance. Their last meeting in Moscow, in September 2020, took place in the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clash and at a time of a tinderbox-like situation south of Pangong Lake, with troops and artillery dangerously close to each other on the heights of the Kailash Range. A political agreement then paved the way for both sides to disengage in February, but the agreements in Galwan and Pangong Lake, where both sides have put in place no-patrolling zones, have not been followed at other disputed sites, in Depsang, Demchok, Gogra and Hot Springs.

Will the Dushanbe meeting similarly break the impasse? The initial readouts from both sides do not inspire confidence. Mr. Jaishankar said the unresolved situation was "visibly impacting the relationship in a negative manner" and "assessing the overall relationship", it was peace on the border that provided "the foundation for the development of ties since 1988" when the post-1962 freeze ended. Mr. Wang did not appear to view the boundary dispute with the same seriousness, instead calling for it to be kept "in an appropriate place" while "expanding the positive momentum of bilateral cooperation". Where both sides did agree is in their assessment, as Mr. Jaishankar put it, that "a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side". The difference from Moscow to Dushanbe is that China, which last year was equally concerned after India's counter-deployments to take the heights of the Kailash Range where even shots were fired in warning – the first firing since 1975 – now appears to be in no hurry to restore the status quo elsewhere. India, having declared that normalcy cannot be possible without disengagement and de-escalation and signalled its intent with measures including scrutiny on Chinese investments – bilateral trade, however, is still booming beyond pre-pandemic levels thanks to huge imports of medical supplies – will now have to stay the course to underline its resolve on restoring the status quo. Mr. Wang also said that Beijing's "strategic judgment on China-India relations remains unchanged". Whether China's PLA, which has been dragging its feet on negotiations to restore the LAC status quo since February, shares that judgement remains to be seen. The only way for Beijing to demonstrate that is indeed the case will be to resume negotiations on the LAC at the earliest. Unless a full restoration of peace and a de-escalation on the borders happen, the relations in all other spheres will remain cloaked in distrust.

# Growing precarity

Fuel levies must be cut to ease the burden on consumers reeling under rising inflation

The latest inflation data based on retail and wholesale prices are yet again flashing cautionary signals as spiralling costs continue to dog the pandemic-hit economy. CPI-based inflation stayed stuck above the RBI's 6% upper bound for the second straight month, with June's provisional annualised 6.26% only a touch slower than the six-month high pace of 6.3% registered in May. Inflation at the retail level was largely propelled by sharp increases in key food item prices including oils and fats, which surged almost 35% from a year earlier and gained 2.9% from May's levels, as also egg, which jumped 19.4% year-on-year and 6.2% from the preceding month, and pulses and products, which climbed 10% from June 2020. As RBI officials reviewing the State of the Economy in the central bank's monthly Bulletin released on Thursday observed, fuel inflation, which excludes petrol and diesel, surged to a record 12.7% in June driven by LPG, kerosene and the rural poor's mainstay, firewood and dung-cake. And, disconcertingly, LPG and kerosene prices have also registered increases so far in July. Transport costs remain persistently high as both petrol and diesel prices continue to rise, with the former now averaging ₹102.92 a litre in the four major metros as on July 12, and diesel at almost ₹94, according to the Bulletin article. With global crude oil trending higher, the unabated rise in domestic transportation costs is bound to reflect in retail prices of farm produce and products shipped from factories.

Wholesale price inflation also stayed stubbornly high at 12.07% in June, after May's record 12.94%, as price gains in the fuel and power category soared 32.8% annually, and those of manufactured products edged up to 10.88%. Medium and small-scale industrial units, already struggling to cope with the pandemic's impact on demand and overall finances, now face rising raw material and input costs. With manufacturing activity contracting in June for the first time in 11 months as per IHS Markit's PMI, the economy is visibly struggling to regain traction in the wake of the second wave, which has eroded demand and consumptive capacity in both urban and rural markets. Add to this the looming possibility that this year's monsoon rains may be less than adequate, either temporally or spatially, disrupting agricultural output and the outlook for both inflation and growth gets significantly clouded. With cumulative rainfall since June 1 being 5% below average and 12 weather subdivisions spanning 37% of the country's area experiencing deficient rainfall as on July 15, and the pandemic still nowhere near under control, the risk of precarity and hardship rising in the rural hinterland is very real. The Government must, at the very least, cut fuel taxes to ease the burden on consumers.

# A strong Indian state must be humane too

Having an audit system to review cases such as Fr. Stan Swamy's will also help reassure international liberal opinion



**¬**ather Stan Swamy passed away in a Mumbai hospital last week, on July 5, while his case for bail was going on in the Bombay High Court. On being informed of his death, the Bench hearing his case is reported to have observed, "with all humility at our command, this is a shocking news. We passed that order, to take him to the hospital of his choice. We have no words to express our condolences...." Fr. Swamy, 84, was suffering from Parkinson's disease, bilateral hearing loss, back pain and "generalised weakness". His health had begun to deteriorate since his incarceration in Mumbai, after his arrest on October 8, 2020, by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), in the Bhima Koregaon case. On May 28 he was moved to a private hospital, following a court order, but his condition had worsened. Meanwhile the court had continued hearing his bail application but not arrived at a decision.

#### **Global criticism**

Like the Bombay High Court Bench, Fr. Swamy's many admirers in India and abroad would have been "shocked" at his death while still in custody. This important fact – that he continued to be in custody in Mumbai – will not be missed by those who followed the case, including human rights or-

ganisations abroad, for Fr. Swamy had wished to be allowed to return to Jharkhand, but tragically that was not to be. Naturally, even then the law would have taken its course in respect of the trial.

The Indian system's treatment of Fr. Swamy has attracted substantial and pointed criticism from significant international quarters. Mary Lawlor, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, after his death, plainly made the accusation that he was arrested on "false charges of terrorism". The European Union's Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore, did not go so far, but said that the European Union had been "raising his case repeatedly with the [Indian] authorities". In a statement on July 6 on Fr. Swamy's death, Liz Throssell, the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, stated, "We are deeply saddened and disturbed" and went on to describe him as a "long standing activist, particularly on the rights of indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups". The United States State Department expressed sadness at his death and called him a "Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist". And, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom "condemned in the strongest terms the deliberate neglect and targeting by the government of India that led to the death of Father Stan Swamy... long-time human rights defender".

#### A defence that is wooden

While denying him bail, a special NIA court concluded that the "material placed on record thus prima facie denote[d]" that Stan Swamy

"was not only the member of the banned organisation Communist

Party of India (Maoist) but he was carrying out activities further in the objective of the organisation which is nothing but to overthrow the democracy of the nation". This opinion clearly has not been taken into consideration nor has it been found to be credible by international observers. Fr. Swamy has continued to be described as a human rights activist.

It is also doubtful that the defence of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), that "Authorities in India act against violations of law and not against legitimate exercise of rights. All such actions are strictly in accordance with the law", will find many takers in respect of the Fr. Swamy case, both with regard to his arrest as well as denial of bail.

In response to criticism in the case, the MEA, on July 6, also noted that "India's democratic and constitutional polity is complemented by an independent judiciary, a range of national and state level Human Rights Commissions that monitor violations, a free media and a vibrant and vocal civil society. India remains committed to promotion and protection of human rights of all its citizens (https://bit.ly/3kh4CCN)".

This, no doubt, is true as a general proposition. However, these words will inevitably be refracted through the prism of denial of bail to an ailing, very old man who was considered by influential sections of international opinion to have been an activist for the tribal people, assisting them in the preservation of their rights and their way of life. Also, inevitably, they will not be able to forget that it took almost a month for the jail authorities to provide a straw, sipper and winter clothes to Fr. Swamy, as Parkinson's disease made it difficult for him to hold cups or glasses. The 'straw and sipper' may become a visual metaphor, for words too paint pictures. These aspects, among others, will raise questions about the MEA's statement especially among Christian church groups abroad because Fr. Swamy was a Jesuit priest and it will not be unnatural for them to take some interest in the matter.

#### Perceived path of the state

All this will also be viewed in the context of the events of the past few years, when international liberal opinion has been deeply concerned by what it perceives as the direction taken by Indian society and polity. There is of course no question of pandering to such opinion on India's core security interests in issues relating to terrorism from abroad and indiscriminate violence driven by ideology-driven direct perpetrators of violence against the state causing, inter alia, the loss of innocent lives. However, diplomacy requires engagement with international liberal opinion, not wooden and inflexible assertions of general principles only. The Government

domestic or global liberal opinion. What has to be realised is that even as the national public culture and mores seek to shed the vestiges of both their anglicised and Persianate past, it needs to retain the old value of caring. Indeed, a strong and effective state can and must also be a humane state, which it hardly was in the case of Fr. Swamy. When India embarked on the great national enterprise after Independence, it did so on the principle that it would achieve development not through an authoritarian polity but a democratic and liberal one, despite the obstacles and challenges that lay in the way.

#### For the superior judiciary

Yes, special laws were, and continue to be required to meet the challenges that arise from violence that cannot be confronted under the ordinary criminal statute. Their application, however, requires constant review. As jail is the rule and bail the exception for those charged under special laws, there should be very strong evidence to substantiate these charges. But in some cases, this is obviously not so. Consequently, the accused while languishing in jail for many years are acquitted during trials indicating that there was insufficient evidence ab initio to lock them up. This is unacceptable and the superior judiciary needs to redress the situation through an audit of such cases. Fr. Stan Swamy's case should provide an impetus to put such an audit machinery in place as India approaches the 75th year of its Independence. It will also reassure international opinion that India is a responsive

has refused to engage with either Vivek Katju is a former diplomat

# Interference an investigating officer can do without

Growing instances of judicial interference in an investigation are not only undesirable but also not sanctioned by law



R.K. RAGHAVAN

It is an accepted axiom in a democracy such as India that the LExecutive shall abide by the Constitution. By the same logic, the bureaucracy is answerable to the lawfully elected government. It is this unassailable legal position which keeps a check on police

Writing just after a Minneapolis police officer was sentenced in the United States, on June 25, to 22and-a-half years in prison for the horrific murder of a hapless citizen, George Floyd, and the enormous media publicity it has received the world over - Floyd was videotaped in May 2020, that showed him dying as the officer was kneeling on his neck - my uneasy feeling is that government and public distrust of the police will further widen. Even a straightforward and law-abiding policeman will hardly be believed. The onus will be on him to prove that he is honest and humane.

The Minneapolis court verdict will no doubt receive support from everyone who believes in a system of checks and balances. My question, however, is whether happenings of this kind and our own horrific episode in Sattankulam, Tamil Nadu, when in June 2020, a

58-year-old father and his 31-yearold son were subject to police brutality and died, justify further curbs on the police authority to investigate an established crime. I know well that I will be in the minority when I plead for at least a slightly kindlier view of police conduct and more latitude to them in the standard operating procedures which they follow, especially when they investigate a complicated crime.

## **Top court's observation**

It is in this context that I cite a recent Supreme Court of India obervation (ntips://bit.ly/2vcebrs/ that courts have no authority to direct an investigating officer to in turn direct the arrest of any particular individual connected with a crime. This view should be examined in the background of growing instances of subordinate judicial officers, and even High Courts sometimes, directing the investigating officer to effect the arrest of a particular individual who has come to adverse notice as a suspect in the commission of a crime.

I am happy that the highest court of the land has intervened in the matter. I have come across many instances of courts bullying police officers, asking why 'x' has been arrested and not 'y'. Such directions cut at the roots of criminal justice ethics, because the bedrock of English jurisprudence that we have adopted with some modifications is the principle that anyone hauled up by law should be considered innocent unless he



is proved guilty The direction to the police with regard to arrests during a criminal investigation is harmful to police morale and cuts at the roots of field policing. Court of faith in police ability and integrity will make grass-root level policemen even more arbitrary than now and force them into carrying out questionable actions that will cast aspersions on an officer's ability to think for himself.

I strongly believe that the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) vests sufficient discretion in the investigating officer to take such decisions as arrests and searches, and even the dropping of further action after registering a first information report

Court interference – mind you, it is not intervention – in the dayto-day investigation is not only undesirable but is also not sanctioned by law. I am of the view that except for the Supreme Court, in whom the Constitution vests enormous authority and discretion which are not questionable, the lesser courts shall not give directions in the matter of arrests and

Courts should remember that the police are a well-established hierarchy that is obligated to ensure objectivity during a criminal investigation. Every investigation is supervised by at least two immediate senior officers. In the more important cases, there are a few more levels. It is their duty to ensure that every investigation is handled lawfully and impartially. Where supervisory officers fail in their duty because of sheer indolence or buckle under external pressure, they deserve to be pulled up by courts. But not before they are found guilty rence or malfeasance.

## FIR is mandatory

We need to educate the Executive and the common man that it is now well-established law that a first information report is not an act of charity to the aggrieved complainant. It is mandatory that every police station in the land should register a complaint under the relevant sections of a statute the moment a cognisable offence is made out in the complaint. The complaint may be false or frivolous in order to settle personal scores. But the basic requirement is registration.

There is another safeguard against police misconduct. The CrPC makes it obligatory for the investigating officer to write a diary that details the action taken every day following registration. To such a diary are attached witness statements. When in doubt, the com-

petent court, which already has a copy of the first information report, can demand to see the case diary. If the content of such a diary establishes the complicity of an individual, the court can question an investigating officer as to what he proposed to do on the basis of  $\perp$ such evidence. Directing an investigating officer to go ahead with an arrest even before he has scrutinised the evidence collected is unsustainable in law.

## Holding up a mirror

I am not pleading the cause of police officers, many of whom are velling the truth in a complicated occurrence. I also concede that there are many dishonest police officers at all levels who work overtime to sabotage an investigation with a view to saving an offender or are waiting to please a rank outsider for monetary consideration. To paint all police officers with the same brush is hugely unfair to a majority of investigators.

To sum up, I would place the blame for the ills that affect the police, particularly in the area of criminal investigation, squarely at the door of many senior officers who are waiting to be browbeaten by outsiders or are looking for unethical avenues to aggrandise themselves.

R.K. Raghavan, a former Central Bureau of Investigation Director, is currently Professor of Criminal Justice and Policing at the Jindal Global School, Sonipat,

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

## Afghan's future

Despite what the Kabul government and India's External Affairs Ministry say, it seems probable that all of Afghanistan will soon be under the control of the Taliban. The Taliban have defeated the Americans, just as their predecessors did the British and the Soviets. But it is unlikely that they will be the insular tyrants of 1996, as both they and Afghanistan have changed. They are more aware of the wider world now. They are likely to convene a *Loya Jirga*, and Afghanistan is likely to be ruled as a loose confederation of tribal leaders. Foreign powers will be well advised to stav out of Afghanistan's politics for now. Afghans in the last two centuries have never tolerated a ruler propped up by outsiders, and will

India should continue aid, but not make the mistake of telling Afghans what to do in their own country. MANO DANIEL,

Astrology and India In a nation that still blindly adheres to numerous irrational practices, the idea of a society founded on one of logic and reason is too far a dream (OpEd, "No pseudoscience, please", July 15). Despite many being educated and/or having access to various technologies, adherence to scientific temperament has taken a back seat in the minds of many. Any discussion challenging the validity of such blind beliefs is most often scorned or termed as hurting prevalent cultural sentiments. This reluctance to accept rationale over blind beliefs and related

practices is what has also stalled growth and development. ADHIRASREE K., Puthur, Palakkad, Kerala

■ Every progressive thinking person in India must oppose the introduction of this course by IGNOU which goes against the spirit of the Constitution in promoting scientific temper, the spirit of enquiry and reform. Every effort must be made by the Government, universities and the general public to promote astronomy and not astrology. Astronomy affords ample opportunities to advance the frontiers of knowledge and science. KARRA ANIL KUMAR.

■ The article reminded me of what is considered to be the first Malayalam novel, Kunthalatha/Kundalatha, published in 1887, where the

sarcastic about astrology: that humans believing in the planets directing their course of life is akin to the fish of the sea thinking that their life is shaped by the ships criss-crossing the waters. It is quite intriguing to see India looking to subjects

such as astrology, with no interest in the iconoclastic philosophies of those such as Charvaka that will show us India's intellectual vibrancy even in ancient times and help foster scientific temper. SUKUMARAN C.V.,

author, Appu Nedungadi, is

■ Being a contemporary of the writer and witnessing astounding human achievements in exploring space, I think all of us should ponder over the decision of a premier academic institute launching astrology as a degree course. It would be laudable if further opinions

and suggestions of great scholars on the subject are taken into account for the inclusion or withdrawal of astrology as a core subject. RANJANI NATARAJAN,

■ Astrology is a subject which may be of interest to some people. How can anyone object to pursuing a subject which is of interest to him? Notwithstanding the opinion of the writer, there are many who still believe in astrology. Perhaps the writer needs to take some time off to explore the subject. V.S. JAYARAMAN,

■ While I agree that astrology is not a panacea and has its own limitations, calling it a pseudoscience" instead of "ancient science" is undoing the works of writers such as Varahamihira. The writer is advised to go through the

works of B.V. Raman, K.N. Rao, P.V.R. Narasimha Rao and Barbara Pijan. I would say the article lacks depth in terms of research in astrology

JAY D.,

## **Wimbledon matches**

It is a bit shocking that there could be a hint of match-fixing at even Wimbledon. Of course, as the International Tennis Integrity Agency has said, an alert on its own is no evidence of match-fixing, but with two matches under scrutiny, it does make one's heart skip a beat wondering whether the most prestigious tennis tournament in the world is safe. There may be nothing to it in the end. Tennis has to be scandal free. AMAN ARORA, New Delhi

not tolerate one again. This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

# Is the Indian stock market in a bubble?

**PARLEY** 

Investors believe stocks are overvalued but disagree on how to play the market

Since the nationwide lockdown announced by the Prime Minister in March last year, the Indian economy has faced its worst contraction in history. Yet, the country's stock indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, have almost doubled in price from the low that they hit in April 2020. Many analysts and even the Reserve Bank of India now believe that stocks are in a bubble. In this conversation moderated by Prashanth Perumal J., Anand Srinivasan and Alok Jain discuss the current state of *Indian markets. Edited excerpts:* 

Can you shed light on the divergence between the stock market and the real economy?

Anand Srinivasan: The markets

are going up on liquidity. Basically, all central banks are printing money and this money has to go somewhere. So, what we are having is asset price inflation. The prices of gold, crypto assets, stocks, and even collectibles have increased dramatically. While we may look at the Indian market in isolation, we have to understand that this is not the only market that is going up. All equity markets are going up. When you see year-to-date comparisons, India is not in the top five countries whose exchanges have done well. There is a lot of money chasing very few stocks which are of high quality. Nearly 45% of the index is controlled by five stocks. The Nifty is trading at around 29 times its earnings and its price-to-book ratio is at 4:23. So, the markets are indeed highly overvalued.

Also, Nifty earnings per share is at ₹559, and ₹100 of this can be attributed to tax sops to corporations. These have driven prices of these companies up further. But the reality of the rest of India is different. India and the rest of the world are going through a K-shaped recovery where the rich are accumulating a larger share of resources from the

Do current valuations worry you or even matter to you?

Alok Jain: We don't look at valuations because our focus is on price trends. We follow the principle of

wood doing to combat the climate of

hate that prevails in the country?

Most of them have gone silent. Some

who spoke up in the past were vi-

ciously trolled into silence, their

films threatened with boycott. Com-

mercial gains have suppressed larger

interests. At the end of the day, it is a

commerce-driven industry, and the

personal wealth of the stars is also

determined by the prospects of their

films. However, this same lot that

can't stop talking about Kumar as an

inspiration to them needs to engage

in some self-reflection. Here, per-

haps we also need to ask: was Dilip

Kumar part of a different India where

an actor could protest and still get

work without the fear of larger

curbs? It must be said that Kumar was

also enthused by the progressive

ideals of a newly independent India

which the current lot of superstars

The ongoing pandemic has further

radicalised our viewing habits. With

a surge of OTT platforms, there is a

new access and heightened aware-

ness amongst the mainstream Hindi

cinema audience about other Indian

film cultures such as Tamil and Ma-

layalam. New as well as old

films are released and

available on these plat-

forms. Watching Malaya-

lam and Tamil cinemas

specifically alongside con-

lack completely.

Far from reality

"Bhav Bhagwan Che (Price is God)". We believe that price incorporates all the information that is required to be incorporated into a stock. However, as Anand said, it's a liquiditydriven rally. It is always a liquiditydriven rally. We tend to equate the real economy with the stock market at all times, but they hardly ever meet. That is the sole reason 90% of all economists and analysts in the market are not able to call what's going to happen next. Traditional valuation models are getting broken because the whole money supply equation is changing. If Japan can trade at 34 times earnings, the U.S. at 28 times earnings, and China at 19 times earnings, Nifty could trade at 40 or 30 or 20. You take your pick and you can justify it there. Coming back to liquidity, the Fed has pumped about \$5 trillion or so and so have other central bankers. We are sitting in a vulnerable situation across markets. So, there is no real model that you can rely upon for investing when there's endless money flowing around. One should ride the trend till the end and not sit out of the market.

AS: Alok says everything is about liquidity. I will pick up two cases from history. Let's talk about 1989 when the Nikkei peaked at 40,000. Now, 31 years later, the Nikkei is nowhere near 40,000. It is still about 30% below its peak. The Dow Jones in 1929 crashed from 800 to double digits. It took the index 25 vears to recover this loss. So, this party has to come to an end sometime. We don't know when exactly but the early warning signs are there. American inflation is running at 4% for the first time in many years and Indian inflation has been consistently higher than what the RBI projected 10 out of the last 12 months. Some say this inflation is transitory. But one year of inflation is not transitory. We have to wait and watch because as inflation begins to bite, that is when politicians will remove the punch bowl and the party will come to an end. I don't see this happening until early-2022 because U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will not want to spoil the party now – his nomina-



We tend to equate the real

they hardly ever meet. That

is the sole reason 90% of all

economists and analysts in

the market are not able to

call what's going to happen

turn. It is hard to predict when the

cycle will turn, but it should turn in

the next five years. When the inter-

est rate cycle turns, equities will wit-

ness a fall. That is the time to accum-

ulate equities. In America, it was

between 1969 and 1974 that Warren

Buffett made most of his stock pur-

chases. Then, there was the period

in 1987 when there was a major

crash. In 2002, there was a major

crash again. The only difference is

that the pullback in stock prices this

time has been much faster and

more violent, which has not allowed

people like Mr. Buffett to buy. But

markets still have pockets of values.

Alok, what is your take on the

fundamentalist viewpoint on

AJ: There's nothing wrong in the

fundamental view. The only ques-

tion is, while Mr. Buffett is quoted so

many times, how many people can

act like Mr. Buffett? You can't really

emulate the qualities of great inves-

tors. So, we need to find more com-

mon man strategies, so that you can

live your life peacefully and also

have healthy returns on your mo-

ney instead of just hoping for posi-

tive long-term returns. In Japan, the

generation that started earning and

investing money from 1990 has not

seen any gains so far. How many

would survive in that kind of an en-

markets?

economy with the stock

market at all times, but

Alok, what is your technical view on the market while looking at the charts?

**AJ:** From our perspective, nothing much has changed. The way we work is that we have long-term models which measure momentum and we then allocate across stocks. So far, we have not seen our models go to cash. As the market plateaus or starts to go down, our models tend to go into cash gradually and that has not yet started to happen so there is no concern right now about the uptrend. Over the last month or so, the markets have kind of stagnated. But there is enough opportunity and activity within the mid-cap and small cap space. So, nothing really has changed. There may be an episode of profit booking but that would be a very normal reaction. The fear actually is that any market could become the next Japan where the market spends years consolidating so that valuations can catch up with price. This could be just like what we've seen in the real estate market. In case liquidity keeps gushing through, we could be at 18,000 on the Nifty and the resulting pain could be deeper and longer. So, we need to be ready with a plan to exit the market.

**AS:** If I look at any of the big names who have made money over the last 150 years, they didn't make money by riding the market. They made money only by staying invested and finding quality companies at good prices. Liquidity in the markets will come and go. From the late 1990s to today, America has been under the influence of steroids injected by the U.S. Federal Reserve. So we're looking at a gush of liquidity over 20 years. But the history of markets shows that interest rate cycles do

country. So, just investing based on great names, quality and great fundamentals did not ensure positive returns to Japanese investors. There are very few lucky guys who can really say that they started investing 20 years ago and that they're sitting with multibaggers. That's not the average investor's journey. Our approach to the market is very, very clear. We will not predict where the market is going. Instead, we will allow the market to tell us what to do. AS: Since Alok said people have not

vironment? That can happen to any

made money in Japan, let me quote a story. About one and a half years ago, Mr. Buffett decided to buy in Japan. He went to the bank and took a loan of several billion dollars at near-zero interest rate, payable over 25 years, and bought five big companies which had a dividend yield of over 5%. He uses the dividends to pay off the loans and now basically owns a 5% stake in five Japanese business conglomerates free of cost. That is value investing. So, you basically get money free, you put it into a company whose dividend will pay off the loan with low interest, and then you can relax. This is the way it should be. I agree it is very difficult. It takes enormous patience. If people cannot do this, then the alternative is to buy the index for the long term. Just keep buying the index over the next 30-40 years and go to sleep. Put in 50-60% of your money into the index and the balance in bonds and go to sleep and the index will take care of it.

Does investing in the index sound like a sensible strategy to momentum investors?

AJ: Interestingly, if you look at the index, the index itself is a momentum portfolio. Every six months, the index committee will sit around and throw out the laggards from the index, and bring in stocks that are rising. So, the index is actually a beautiful momentum index. You can buy index ETFs (exchange-traded funds) or index funds at a low cost and actually run a momentum strategy. That can be your base momentum strategy. Then you can take premium products and run premium momentum strategies. My short point here is that if the index itself is like a momentum strategy that really validates momentum investing.

AS: The index in India is a very shallow index. When I say index, I am talking about a broad index like the S&P 500. Unfortunately, we don't have mutual funds which follow the BSE 500 in a big manner. The best you can do is buy the Nifty and the Nifty Next 50. If you get an index for the Nifty 500, buy the Nifty 500 and go to sleep.

The difference between momentum investing and the Nifty strategy is we keep the Nifty and buy more of it when the index goes down. What makes the difference between following the Nifty strategy and the momentum strategy is that I have to pay a 2% fee to the manager. In the case of the Nifty, I have to pay only 0.05% to the manager. This fee difference makes a big difference over a period of 10 or more years.

AJ: The S&P 500 is also similar to a momentum portfolio. It is rebalanced four times in a year instead of two times as is the case with the Nifty. And in the last decade, 200 companies have gone out of S&P 500 and 100 new companies have come into the index, so it is a beautiful momentum portfolio. Additionally, there is over 200 years of data showing that momentum as a factor has beaten other factors such as value and growth.

#### How do you see the markets going forward?

AS: I see this bubble continuing to play out depending on two things. One is inflationary expectations because inflation expectations will determine when the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates. If U.S. President Joe Biden allows inflation to run to 7% or 8%, then he may be forced to bring it down, and the Fed will be forced to apply the brakes very quickly. If this episode of inflation turns out to be transitory, the current momentum in stocks will continue for a year or so. It all depends on the inflation trajectory.

AJ: The inflation bogey is upon us, and I don't foresee inflation dying out. More than inflation, real interest rates need to be watched, because a nominal interest rate rise may also get absorbed in the market. It will take some external event probably for the U.S. Fed to change course. So, the current trend seems par for the course.



**Srinivasan** is a value investor and the author of 'Ordinary Stocks, Extraordinary



is a SEBI-registered investment adviser and a momentum investor at weekendinvesting



listen to the full interview online

# **DATA POINT**

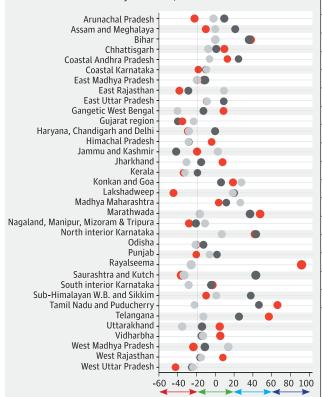
**Poor rains hamper sowing** Rainfall during the southwest monsoon reduced sharply in July compared

to June, impacting the sowing of major Kharif crops. The deficit in rainfall is high in West Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Gujarat, the Saurashtra and Kutch regions, and Kerala this year and has reduced the area sown by more than 10% until July 9, 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. The area sown under paddy, coarse cereals, pulses and oil seeds decreased significantly across many States compared to the last five years. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant

■ SLOW MOVING In June 2021, India received 10% more rainfall than the long period average (LPA) due to the southwest monsoon. However, this reduced in the final days of June and early July. As a result, the cumulative rainfall received between June 1 and July 9 was 5% less than the LPA. While the deficit in 2021 was more than 2020 in the considered period, it was still better than 2019

2020 III the considered period, it was still better than 2015							
Period	Rainfall deviation from LPA (%)						
June 2019	-33						
June 1-July 9, 2019	-9						
June 2020	18						
June 1-July 9, 2020	0.2						
June 2021	10						
June 1-July 9, 2021	-5						

■ REGION-WISE RAINFALL | A similar trend was observed in most regions across India. Between June 1 and July 9, 2021 ( ) 12 regions received "deficient (-20% to -59% of LPA)" or "large deficient (<-60% of LPA)" rainfall as against only seven regions for the same period in 2020 ( ). However, in 2019 ( ), 14 regions received deficient or large deficient rainfall. The chart shows the % deviation of rainfall from the LPA in sub-divisions between June 1 and July 9 in 2021, 2020 and 2019



■ STATE-WISE SOWN AREA | The table lists the % change in area sown till July 9, 2021 compared to the average area sown in the 2016-2020 period for select States. States where the area sown in 2021 has decreased compared to the average are coloured red. For instance, in 11 States, the sown area for paddy this year was lower than the average area between 2016 and 2020. The average area reduced in 10, 9 and 11 States for coarse cereals, pulses, and oil seeds, respectively % change in sown area from avg. of

	2016-2020								
State	Paddy	Coarse cereals	Pulses	Oilseeds					
Bihar	-43.18	-26.43	-51.32	-78.81					
A.P	-41.12	-51.20	-84.02	-72.55					
Odisha	-38.41	-20.24	-12.95	-12.86					
Rajasthan	-37.96	-51.22	-48.69	-21.28					
West Bengal	-33.96	8.59	-50.15	-11.11					
Jharkhand	-22.05	-37.23	-3.72	-14.23					
Gujarat	-19.71	-31.92	13.47	30.98					
Haryana	-18.04	-66.97	161.90	171.22					
Karnataka	-16.56	24.13	21.57	14.82					
Chhattisgarh	-12.57	2.97	22.77	-43.97					
Assam	-10.61	103.13	25.00	-30.60					
Punjab	4.66	-7.08	-	-64.29					
Telangana	12.66	-50.01	-19.30	-35.09					
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	23.93	19.16	-3.28	-9.13					
Tamil Nadu	29.06	-6.32	-54.85	14.04					
Maharashtra	46.11	-11.50	59.85	62.70					
M.P.	142.20	24.81	27.44	-2.58					
SOURCE: AGRICOOP, CMIE									

The Man Prindu.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 16, 1971

## Govt. decides to amend Constitution

The Government has taken the final decision to bring forward a far-reaching Constitution Amendment Bill during the current session of Parliament drastically amending the amending processes of the Constitution [New Delhi, July 15]. The Bill seeks to empower Parliament to make any law in furtherance of the Directive Principles even if such law contravened the fundamental right enshrined in the constitution. The Government proposes to introduce the Bill within the next fortnight and get it passed before the end of the budget session, unless it runs into some unexpected procedural difficulties giving the Opposition an opportunity to stall it. The constitutional experts of the Government are still struggling hard to remove the legal lacuna and smoothen the rough edges to ensure its easy passage by securing the widest possible support in both Houses of Parliament. While the ruling party has the requisite two-thirds majority of its own in the Lok Sabha, the Government will be obliged to do deft lobbying in the Rajya Sabha to make doubly certain that this Constitution Amendment Bill does not meet with the same fate as the Privy Purses Bill last year.

# A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 16, 1921

## The Housing Problem.

In the course of a book review in the current number of the Local Self-Government Gazette, Mr. J.C. Malony examines the results of the recent census figures of the City from the point of view of housing. He refers to the deplorably slow rate of growth in the population in the City, 0.8 per cent, and in his characteristic manner suggests so at least it seems to us, that even that small increase may not after all be a welcome increase! He examines the increase of population, division by division, and remarks: "The greatest increase (18.6 per cent) in division 14 is apt to provoke a smile: for the main residential building in that division is the lunatic asylum!" The upshot of his study is that "Madras is becoming either less healthy or less attractive as a place of residence, a conclusion which leads us abruptly back to the 'housing problem'." That the problem is becoming more and more acute he does not doubt. "I have recently been compiling statistics as to rent actually paid by Indian clerks," he writes, "and having enquired into 526 cases, I find that very few clerks pay away as rent 10 per cent or less of their salaries, a larger number pay between 10 per cent and 20 per cent."

# A star who stood his ground

Unlike today's Bollywood actors, Dilip Kumar never withheld from speaking his mind

The recent demise of thespian Dilip Kumar has led to an outpouring of grief on social media and quite rightly so. The nation has just lost one of its most consummate actors who will always be cherished for his versatility. While reminiscing his work, people will discuss Daag, Naya Daur, Madhumati, Sagina Mahato, Shakti and other films. Though he had retired from acting and was ailing for a long time, his presence served as a reminder of a sensibility that has now come to elude the contemporary Hindi film industry.

## **Standing up for causes**

Kumar was a successful actor, a superstar so to speak who never withheld from speaking his mind or endorsing the causes that he believed in, most of which were humanitarian. He was regularly involved in relief work during the various riots that rocked Mumbai. He stood resolute with Deepa Mehta when she was vilified and attacked during the release of her controversial film, Fire. Kumar frequently spoke against and denounced acts of fascism and majoritarian fanaticism. In the late 1990s,

he went to Lucknow to express solidarity with the cultural organisation, Sahmat, after it met with a vicious attack by communal goons. Kumar's detractors bayed for his blood and often threatened him with consequences by regularly prot-

esting outside his Mumbai residence, but the actor refused to yield to polit-

the truth is a rarity in contemporary Bollywood. Increasingly, over the last few years, its films have taken a hypernationalistic turn, often distorting history to please a certain majoritarian sentiment. This distortion of history via film is an effective strategy aimed at proselytisation. There are several examples of such films, including Kesari, Tanhaji and Panipat. The trend of such films has increased. Several are in the pipeline clearly with an eye on commercial

What are the top stars of Bolly-

temporary Hindi cinema has made audiences realise that the larger questions and concerns facing the coun-

try are perhaps posed in those film cultures beyond the glamour citadel This idealism or ability to confront of Mumbai whose cinema seems to be increasingly irrelevant to the reality of contemporary India. Contemporary Hindi cinema has nothing to compare with films like Karnan or Veyilmarangal. Purely fantasy-based escapist cinema can never outperform cinema confronting the real. What will Hindi cinema do when this realisation dawns upon its audiences? May be Kumar's death could be reckoned as a wakeup call to attempt necessary course correction.

> Kunal Ray teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune

This pdf was originally uphoded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

#### FROM PAGE ONE

# 'Why do you need the colonial law of sedition?'

The CJI drew the attention of the Attorney General to the conviction rates under sedition. "If you look at the history of use of this Section 124A of IPC, you will find that the conviction rate is very low. There is misuse of power by executive agencies," the Chief Justice said.

The CJI asked the government why it did not throw out the sedition law along with the hundreds of "stale laws" it had expunged from the statute books. "Your government is taking out a lot of stale laws from the law books, why have they not looked into this," Chief Justice Ramana asked Mr. Venugopal. People had suffered and were scared of the misuse of the sedition law, Chief Justice Ramana said.

"We are not blaming any particular government or State. But do look at how Section 66A of the Information Technology Act is continuing to be used... How many unfortunate people have suffered? And there is no accountability for all this..." he

#### 'People are scared'

The CJI said the sweeping powers of Section 124A gives even a village police officer carte blanche to trample on the right to liberty and free speech of ordinary citizens.

"If a police officer wants to fix anybody in a village for something, he can use Section 124A... People are scared. Our concern is misuse of the law and the lack of accountability. Why has it continued in the statute book even after 75 years of our Independence," Chief Justice Ramana asked the government's law officers repeatedly.

The Chief Justice said the Supreme Court would "definitely look into this Section

"The situation on the ground is grave... If one party does not like what the

other is saying, Section 124A is used... It is a serious threat to the functioning of individuals and parties," Chief Justice Ramana noted.

Mr. Venugopal submitted that the court need not strike down Section 124A. "It is enough to see if there were any excesses in its use and limit the Section to its real purpose... That would be enough," Mr. Venugopal

The Bench issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by retired Army General S.G. Vombatkere, represented by advocates P.B. Suresh and Prasanna S., to quash Section 124A.

In its order, the court has also issued notice to the government on a writ petition filed jointly by the Editors Guild of India and cartoonist Aseem Trivedi.

The Bench noted that two other petitions filed by Kishore Chandra Wangkemcha and M/s Aamoda Broadcasting Company Private Limited, the latter against the Andhra Pradesh government, was pending before the apex court. Both cases concerned sedition charges.

A Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit had issued notice in the Wangkemcha case. The Aamoda petition is before a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. The CJI Bench on Thursday said all these petitions posed "similar questions of law". The Bench ordered that the cases be listed before an appropriate Bench for hearing.

Meanwhile, senior jour-

nalist Arun Shourie and NGO Common Cause, both represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, has moved the Supreme Court to quash Section 124A. Their petition contended that a "presumption of constitutionality does not apply to pre-constitutional laws as those laws have been made by foreign legislature or bo-

# Simpler drone rules in the offing

Govt. releases Draft Drone Rules, 2021, for public consultation until August 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Simplified drone rules, which abolish the need for a large number of approvals and give impetus to research and development, are in the offing in the country.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Thursday released the Draft Drone Rules, 2021, for public consultation until August 5.

The rules will replace the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, 2021, notified on March 12, 2021.

"The intent is to make the rules user-friendly and to encourage drone research and development. This is another important step towards realising the vision of India as a drone hub," said Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and head of the drones division.

"Drones are bringing the next big tech revolution around the globe with reduced costs, resources and time taken for operations. It is upon us to ride on the new



Giving a lift: Fresh regulations abolish the need for large number of approvals. • REUTERS

wave and facilitate its uptake, especially among our start-ups," tweeted Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.

The number of forms to be filled to seek authorisation before operating a drone has been reduced from 25 to six, according to a statement issued by the Mi-

While most drones will need a unique identification number, a certificate of airworthiness, a remote pilot licence for the person controlling the drone and prior permission, no such approvals will be required for drones used for research and development by entities and educational institutions recognised by the Union government, State governments or Union Territory Administrations, start-ups recognised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and drone manufacturers having a Goods and Service Tax

Unlike the previous rules, which required drone operators to have a principal place of business within India, there are no such restric-

Identification Number.

tions for foreign-owned companies registered in India in the new proposed rules.

Drones will also not need security clearance before registration issuance.

The Quality Council of India and certification entities authorised by it will issue airworthiness certificates for drones, instead of the Directorate-General of Aviation.

In order to encourage in-

digenous manufacturing, import of drones and drone components will be regulated by the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade. Moreover, the Union government may specify certain standards for obtaining a certificate of airworthiness for drones, which will promote the "use of made-in-India technologies, designs, components and drones; and India's regional navigation satellite system named Navigation with Indian Constellation [NavIC]," according to the draft rules.

# '2 million Indian accounts banned during May-June'

Focus on harmful messages: WhatsApp

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WhatsApp banned two million Indian accounts to prevent harmful behaviour and spam on its platform between May 15 and June 15, according to the company's first monthly transparency released report Thursday.

"Our top focus is preventing accounts from sending harmful or unwanted messages at scale. We maintain advanced capabilities to identify these accounts sending a high or abnormal rate of messages and banned 2 millions accounts in India alone from May 15-June 15 attempting this kind of abuse," the platform said.

The company identifies an Indian account via +91 phone number.

Stating that more than 95% of such bans are due to the unauthorised use of automated or bulk messaging, the company added that these numbers have in-

creased significantly since 2019 because its systems have increased in sophistication, and hence are detecting more accounts even as it believes there are more attempts to send bulk or automated messages. "We ban the vast majority

of these accounts proactivelv, without relying on any user reports," the Facebookowned firm said. Globally, the monthly average of accounts banned or disabled on the platform is about 8 million. The company also received 345 grievances from users during the period relating to issues such as ban appeal, product support, account support and safety support. Of this, the company took remedial action in 63 instances. The majority of users who reach out to WhatsApp are either aiming to have their account restored following an action to ban them or reaching out for product or account

# Indigenous faiths are fading away, says Sarma

Assam CM defends creation of dept.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday defended the State government's move to create a department for preserving indigenous faiths that were "fading away" due to the "preaching and professional management systems" of mainstream reli-

Replying to a Zero Hour notice in the State Assembly regarding the creation of the department, the Chief Minister said time, modernity and global religious communities had taken a toll on tribal cultures, practices, languages, livelihoods and faiths in Assam.

"The mandate of the new department, to be put under the joint control of the Directorates of Archaeology, Museum and History and Antiquarian Studies, will be to interact with the tribal people, study the folklores, customs and practices for ensuring these are not forgotten," he said.

"Sadly, the vicissitudes of time, modernity and global religious communities have threatened the tribal belief systems," the Chief Minister

The indigenous faith and culture department would be allotted ₹100-crore in the

#### On the draw



# Maharashtra's active case number sees an uptick

Persisting spread | Till July 14, the seven-day rolling average of daily COVID-19 cases in three districts in Maharashtra was more than 1,000. Table lists the five districts with the highest and lowest average new cases

•	ligitest	Lowest					
District	Avg. new cases	District	Avg. new cases				
Kolhapur	1,506	Bhandara	1				
Pune	1,084	Gondia	2				
Sangli	1,045	Hingoli	2				
Satara	807	Yavatmal	4				
Raigad	514	Wardha	5				
SOURCE: COVID19INDIA.ORG							

The total cases have reached 61,89,257 while cumulative recoveries have

risen to 59,44,801. The recovery rate remained constant at 96.17%. "Of a total 4,48,24,211 samples tested so far, 61,89,257 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 13.81%) have returned positive with over 2.15 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State surveillance officer Dr. Pradeep

Pune reported more than

The panel concluded that

the police and government

officials had been found

lacking. "It is quite evident

that police is working under

influence and in a biased

manner and do not have the

courage to take action

against looming goons be-

longing to the ruling dispen-

The panel said out of the

The committee also ad-

ded that it found victims

hesitant to speak during its

311 spot visits in the State,

with some even reporting

being threatened after meet-

9,304 people accused in the

cases, only 14% had been ar-

sation," the report said.

1,100 new cases taking its total cases to 10,72,423. Twenty-six deaths were reported. The active case tally stood at Mumbai reported 528

new cases to take its total case tally to 7,29,791 while the active count declined to 10,925. Thirteen fatalities took the city's death count to 15,667.

Kolhapur continued to top the case surge in the State, reporting 1,249 new cases, taking its total case tally to 1,79,807.

ing with the NHRC teams.

"Several victims also com-

plained that they were being

discriminated against in get-

ting vaccination for CO-

VID-19 because they were

perceived to be supporters

of the main Opposition par-

Among the heinous

crimes alleged following the

completion of Assembly

election in May, the panel

said women in Kenbona vil-

lage reported that "police

along with Trinamool Con-

gress goons broke into their

houses at midnight" on May

23 and they were taken into

"in semi-nude

ty," the report said.

# Jaishankar meets Ghani, discusses Taliban

They focus on advances by the militia within days of the U.S. and NATO troop pull-out from Bagram

SUHASINI HAIDAR TASHKENT

Worries over growing violence and Taliban gains in Afghanistan overshadowed External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's meetings ahead of a connectivity conference here on Thursday, as he called on Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and met the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser and Special Envoy as well as other Foreign Ministers.

"Discussed the situation in and around Afghanistan. Reiterated our support for peace, stability and development of Afghanistan," Mr. Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting, which focused on the rapid developments and advances by the militia within days of the U.S. and NATO



with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Thursday. • PTI

troops' pull-out from the Bagram airbase this month.

The Afghan president's office said that Mr. Jaishankar had also promised to continue India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, with a gift of 150,000 tonnes of

wheat.

According to sources, the Ghani government is conducting a review of the Afghanistan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) military strategy, which could see it shift tactics in dealing with the Taliban that have claimed several key towns and border checkpost areas in the last week. This was the first high-le-

vel meeting between Delhi and Kabul since the government decided to pull out all Indian personnel from the Consulate in Kandahar. Internal assessments have suggested that while the Taliban has not been successful in moving in to many more populated cities, it will seek to control Kandahar, which was its traditional base. Officials said President Ghani was "determined" to take back some of the strategic areas taken over by the

Mr. Jaishankar also met U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall and U.S. Spe-Representative on Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad, who are attending the conference, and are understood to be discussing the possibility of an American military base in one of the Central Asian countries, including in Uzbekistan, where the U.S. had shut

base in 2009. Mr. Jaishankar said he had "exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghan-

down its Karshi-Khanabad

In his speech on Friday, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to speak about the importance of security in the region for connectivity to prosper, including an end to terrorist safe havens and support cross border terrorism.

#### 'Plea by Bhima Koregaon accused is fallacious'

PM meets Kovind, briefs

him on important issues

Prime Minister Narendra

"Prime Minister Shri

President Kovind at

Modi on Thursday called on

President Ram Nath Kovind

@narendramodi called on

Rashtrapati Bhavan and

the Rashtrapati Bhavan

of the monsoon session.

briefed him on important

issues," the official handle of

tweeted. This comes ahead

NEW DELHI

The Maharashtra government on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that the plea challenging the order of extending the period of filing a chargesheet in the Bhima Koregaon violence case by the sessions court is "fallacious". The court was hearing a petition filed by activist Sudha Bharadwaj, along with other accused. The arguments will continue

#### Malegaon blasts: NIA may reduce witnesses

on July 23.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that it will consider reducing the number of witnesses in the 2008 Malegaon blasts trial. The court was hearing a petition filed by Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, who is an accused in the case.

#### Five held for damaging **Deputy Speaker's car**

CHANDIGARH

After invoking sedition charges among other allegations against a group of protesters, who allegedly damaged the official car of Haryana Deputy Speaker Ranbir Gangwa in Sirsa recently, the police arrested five persons on Thursday. The incident happened during a protest against farm laws

## Punjab Cong. widen Amarinder, Sidhu meet supporters NHRC panel seeks CBI SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT probe into Bengal riots

Fault lines within the

The fault lines within the Punjab Congress were exposed on Thursday with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu holding separate meetings with their supporters after reports emerged that Mr. Sidhu could be the next Punjab Congress chief.

The party is yet to officially announce its formula to broker peace between the Chief Minister and Mr. Sidhu, but the All India Congress Committee in-charge for Punjab, Harish Rawat, told a news channel that a formula had been worked out around Mr. Sidhu as the new Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, while Capt. Singh would continue to be the Chief Minister and would lead the party into elections.

Appointing two working presidents – one from the Hindu community and another from the Dalit community – is also supposed to be part of the truce. But as the formula sur-

faced in the public domain, the Chief Minister met his supporters even as his camp made it clear that Capt. Singh continued to oppose the idea of two Jat Sikhs (Mr. Sidhu and himself) leading both the government and the party. The Chief Minister is said to have made this clear to the high command.

Separately, Mr. Sidhu is learnt to have met the MLAs who are backing him.

## She played a crucial role in setting up several institutions SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

mily's contributions in set-

Gira Sarabhai passes away

Gira Sarabhai, co-founder of the renowned National Institute of Design (NID) in Ahmedabad and a pioneer of design education in India, passed away here on Thursday. She played a crucial role in setting up several other institutions and contributed immensely in the field of art and architecture.

With her brother Gautam Sarabhai, she founded the NID and prepared its academic curricula, which laid the foundation for design education in the country. Another notable institu-

tion both Gira and Gautam were involved in setting up was the Calico Museum, one of India's most famous private museums. The Calico was one of the textiles mills run by their father, Ambalal



Sarabhai, along with a range of other businesses in Gujarat. The museum was inspired by Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy, who suggested to Gautam to set up a textile museum since Ahmedabad was known as the 'Manchester of the East'. It was set up in 1949 and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated it.

Gira's other brother, Vikram Sarabhai, and their fa-

ting up other institutions in Ahmedabad – the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; the B.M. Institute of Mental Health; and several institutes of the Gujarat University – are well known. The eighth child of Ambalal and Saraladevi Sarabhai, Gira had no formal education as she was homes-

chooled before she moved to the U.S., where she was trained at the famous Taliesin West Studio in Arizona with noted architect and designer Frank Lloyd Wright. "The last of the Sarabhais from papa's generation just

passed away. My aunt Gira. who built up the extraordinary textile museum, one of the best in the world," noted dancer and Gira's niece, Mallika Sarabhai, posted on Facebook.

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

custody

condition".

# SC sends strong message to government

Chief Justice indicates that Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code may have passed its time

KRISHNADAS RAIAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana's remarks in open court on Thursday sends a strong message to the government that the Supreme Court is prima facie convinced that sedition is being misused by the authorities to trample upon citizens' fundamental rights of free speech and liberty.

The Chief Justice has sent a clear signal that Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code may have passed its time.

The CJI has made it clear that the court is sensitive to the public demand to judicially review the manner in which law enforcement authorities are using the sedition law to control free speech and send journalists, activists and dissenters to jail, and keep them there.

In a way, the court has questioned the need for the continuance of Section 124A – a colonial provision which was used to jail the Mahatma in the law books of a modern democracy. This is a step away from the court's own Kedar Nath judgment of 1962 which had upheld Section 124A but read it down to mean any subversion of an elected government by violent means. The court will have to re-examine whether this 59-year-old judgment holds in the modern context when the State is itself using a punitive law to impose serious burdens on free

The CJI's reference to low conviction rates under the sedition law resonates with a petition filed by senior journalist Sashi Kumar, highlighting the "dramatic jump in charging a person with the offence of sedition since

"In 2019, 93 cases were on the ground of sedition as compared to the 35 cases that were filed in 2016. The crease. Of these 93 cases,



chargesheets were filed in a mere 17% of cases and even worse, the conviction rate was an abysmally low 3.3%," Mr. Kumar, represented by advocate Kaleeswaram Raj,

The National Crime Records Bureau reports show that in 2019, 21 cases of sedition were closed on account of no evidence, two were closed for being false cases and six cases held to be civil disputes. Mr. Kumar referred to the sedition cases registered against climate activist

Disha Ravi, filmmaker Aisha Sultana and journalists Vinod Dua and Siddique Kap-

**'Defining limits'** 

The CJI's observations culminates the resolve shown by the court in recent months to examine the sedition law.

In May, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said "it is time to define the limits of sedition". The judge had flagged the indiscriminate use of the sedition law against people who aired their grievances about the government's COVID management, or even for seeking help to gain medical access, equipment, drugs and oxygen cylinders, especially during the second wave of the pandemic.

"This is muzzling the media," Justice L. Nageswara Rao, another Supreme Court judge, had noted while considering a plea made by two TV channels, TV5 and ABN, against the Andhra Pradesh government for using the sedition law to "silence" them. The CJI Bench issued notice on Thursday to the government on a petition filed by the Editors Guild of India to quash the sedition law. Senior iournalist Arun Shourie has also challenged the constitutionality of Section

Justice U.U. Lalit, in his recent judgment quashing a sedition case against Mr. Dua for his alleged remarks about the Prime Minister and the Union Government in a You-Tube telecast, upheld the right of every journalist to criticise, even brutally, the measures of the government with a view to improve or alter them through legal

The time is long past when the mere criticism of governments was sufficient to constitute sedition. The right to utter honest and reasonable criticism is a source of strength to a community rather than a weakness, the judgment recorded.

# Jaishankar, Wang differ on way forward for India-China ties

Both sides though agree that current situation suited neither

ANANTH KRISHNAN SUHASINI HAIDAR

While External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar conveyed to his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on Wednesday that the continuing impasse along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was "visibly impacting the relationship in a negative manner", the Chinese Minister offered a stark ly different message, calling on both sides to "place the border issue in an appropriate position".

Mr. Jaishankar reiterated India's view in their talks on the sidelines of the SCO meeting - their first meeting since September last year in Moscow – that the LAC crisis would have a bearing on broader ties. "Assessing the overall relationship, the External Affairs Minister emphasised that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas has been the foundation for the development of ties since 1988," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) quoted him as saying, adding that the attempts to change status quo last year "disregarded commitments under the 1993 and 1996 agreements" and "have inevitably affected ties"

Mr. Wang, in contrast, said in China's view the boundary should be kept "in an appropriate position" and it should be addressed while both sides looked to "expand the positive momentum of bilateral cooperation and create favourable conditions for resolving differences through negotiation". He said 'cooperation' should be "the main theme"



Face to face: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Dushanbe. •PTI

of ties, while interaction "should still be seeking mutual benefits and complementarity, pursuing healthy competition and avoiding confrontation". India has said normalcy in other areas of ties will not be possible until there is disengagement and then de-escalation along the border.

#### **NEWS ANALYSIS**

Mr. Wang also repeated China's view that "the responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side" for the LAC crisis – another point of difference. Both also differed in their assessment of how to tackle the remaining issues along the LAC, with problems unresolved in several areas, including Depsang, Demchok, Gogra and Hot Springs, after the February disengagement at Pangong Lake. Mr. Jaishankar said "the successful disengagement in the Pangong Lake Area earlier this year had created conditions for resolving the remaining issues" and noted that "the situation in remaining areas is still unresolved". Mr. Wang did not refer to any remaining issues. He said since their September meeting, frontier troops "disengaged

in the Galwan Valley and the Pangong Lake areas, and the overall situation in the border area was de-escalated". He said China "is ready to find a solution acceptable to both sides on the issue that needs emergency response through negotiation and consultation", yet talks between the military to find a solution since February have made little headway.

The MEA statement noted the agreement between both sides at the last meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs on June 25 to "convene at the earliest" the next meeting of military commanders. This was not mentioned in the Chinese readout, and the view in New Delhi is that Beijing has since February dragged its feet on talks to resolve the pending issues. Both sides did agree that neither should take unilateral actions and that the current situation suited neither. Mr. Jaishankar said "both sides had agreed that a prolongation of the existing situation was not in the interest of either side". Mr. Wang, for his part, said "relations still stay at a low level, which is not in the interest of either side".

# Hold by elections to vacant seats, Trinamool urges EC

COVID-19 cases have fallen in West Bengal, delegation says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A six-member delegation of the Trinamool Congress met the Election Commission on Thursday, urging it to hold the byelections to the seven vacant Assembly seats in West Bengal.

The delegation, in a memorandum, argued that the number of COVID-19 cases at present was 17 times lower than that in April-May when the Assembly election was

It is crucial for the Trinamool Congress that the byelections are held before Nofor Mamata Banerjee to continue as the

Chief Minister. Article 164(4) of the Con-



Strong demand: Trinamool members after the meeting with the Flection Commissioner in New Delhi. •PTI

who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of the Legislature of the State shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister.'

Ms. Banerjee lost the Nandigram seat by a margin of

stitution states: "A Minister 1,956 votes. She took oath on May 5 and has time till November 5 as per law.

She was hoping to get elected from the Bhabanipur seat, her home constituency which was vacated by Trinamool leader Sob-

# Notice issued to 3 MPs under anti-defection law

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has issued notices to MPs Sisir Adhikari, Sunil Kumar Mondal and K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju under the antidefection law.

Mr. Adhikari and Mr. Mondal had switched over to the BJP from the Trinamool Congress, while YSR Congress Party's Mr. Raju has been speaking against the party's supremo. The Trinamool Congress and the YSRCP had approached Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, seeking their disqualification. The three leaders have been asked to respond within 15 days of the receipt of letters, a source told The Hindu on Thursday.

The timing of the notices are significant as it not only comes just days before the Parliament session but also

ahead of a proposed visit by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to Delhi later this month. The ruling YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh had questioned the delay as well as the neutrality of the Speaker.

In an interview with The Hindu, Mr. Birla had explained the procedure.

"They [TMC] have written to me with their complaints. I have said that the complaint be taken on board as per form required, I shall ask the two named for their version and later refer it to the Privileges Committee which will then hear the matter," Mr. Birla had said.

"Well, the anti-defection law doesn't specify a timeline in dealing with such complaints. All I can say is that the process will be carried out in the most transparent way," he added.

# Mamata to visit Delhi to meet 'old and new friends'

KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee on Thursday said she will visit Delhi during the monsoon session of Parliament and meet "many old and new friends".

"I have not visited Delhi since the [West Bengal Assembly] election. This was because of the prevailing CO-VID-19 situation in the State. Now the situation has vastly improved. Usually I visit when Parliament is in session and meet many old and new friends," she said.

She did not confirm the date of her visit, but said if time permitted, she would call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind.

The visit assumes significance as leaders of several Opposition parties are holding discussions on the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The development also comes at a time when the recent meeting between poll strategist Prashant Kishor with the Congress leadership has triggered a lot of speculation in the political circles. Mr. Kishor was engaged by the Trinamool Congress in the 2021 Assembly election. The Chief Minister also

wondered why the NHRC report on post-poll violence in the State was leaked to the media. She said the pre-poll violence was being projected as post-poll violence. "When the court gives us time, we will file affidavit and give our opinion. Instead of giving report to the court, they have leaked it outside. They should at least respect the court. The hearing has just started. We from the govern-

ment have to give our opinion." She said the report was misleading and leaking it amounted to political vendetta because the BIP had lost the election in the State.

The Chief Minister said the Election Commission had sought the State government's opinion on holding polls to two Rajya Sabha seats from the State.

"Our Chief Secretary has replied that the situation here is conducive to holding both the Rajya Sabha polls and also bypolls to seven Assembly seats," she said.

The Supreme Court on Thursday lifted a blanket ban imposed on disc jockevs by the Allahabad High Court in Uttar Pradesh two years ago.

A Bench, led by Justice Vineet Sareen, said disc jockeys could perform at functions provided they follow the rules and obtain

# imposed on disc jockeys

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

necessary licences.

Date: 14.07.2021

# Akalis to move adjournment motion in LS on farm laws

It is reaching out to all regional parties for support

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

Ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, set to begin on July 19, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has decided to move an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha against the government on the three farm laws. The party had walked out of the NDA government over the controversial laws.

Senior SAD MP Naresh Gujral told The Hindu that his party would be reaching out to the leaders of all regional parties to seek support for the motion which requires the signatures of 50 MPs to be admitted.

"As of now the Shiv Sena, our allies the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Nationalist Congress Party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Trinamool Congress have agreed to support it," Mr. Gujral said, adding that they were reaching out to more regional parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, the YSR Congress Party and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

While adjournment motions are not allowed in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Gujral said his party would hold discussion with supporting parties to come up with a device to register



Farmers shouting slogans against the farm laws at Singhu border on Thursday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

their strong feelings against the

farm laws. Interestingly, the Congress, the main rival of the SAD in the pollbound State of Punjab, has not been included in this effort and is not likely to be. According to sources, the tug of war between the two parties to be the sole spokesperson for the agitating farmers, especially in Punjab and Haryana, is the reason

for this distance. The protests and the mobilisation of farmers on the issue is expected to have a huge impact on voter behaviour in the upcoming poll.

#### BARGARH HANDLOOM AND AGRI PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED Registration No: U01100OR2021PTC035735 E-mail: bargarh.hapcl@gmail.com. Phone No.: 96920-60536

**ADVERTISEMENT** 

Application is invited from eligible candidates for the post of Chief Executive Officer & Accountant cum MIS, Bargarh for Bargarh Handloom and Agri Producer Company Limited at Ward No. 05, House No. 123, Tukurla, Chadeigaon, Bargarh, Odisha-768030. The detail advertisement along with terms and conditions may be downloaded from the following websites:www.bargarh.nic.in from 14.07.2021 to 28.07.2021 upto 5.00 P.M. through Regd. Post / Speed Post / Courier only.

The Chairman, BHAPCL, Bargarh reserves the rights to reject any or all Applications without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-632:

Additional Chief

Engineer,

Rushikulya

Berhampur,

Ref.No. 02

BHAPCL, Bargarh OIPR-19130/11/0001/2122

Submission of

**20.07.2021**, 10.00 AM

to 05.08.2021,

(Rs. in lakh)

371.69

423.20

299.72

280.36

#### e-mail id : se\_sicbam@yahoo.com e-mail id : se\_sicbani@yanoo.com Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004 e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 04 / 2021-22 I. Type of Work Flood Control Works 2. Total No. of Works : 05 (Five) Nos. : Rs 221.82 to 423.20 Lakhs 3. Amount put to Tender 4. Period of Completion : 14 (Fourteen) Calendar months Procurement Bid Amount Availability &

Identification

ACE,RBB (BEID)-08/2021-22

ACE,RBB (BEID)-09/2021-22

ACE,RBB (BEID)-10/2021-22

ACE,RBB (BEID)-11/2021-22

Ganjam ACE,RBB (CHID)-12/2021-22 Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 06.08.2021 at 11.30 A.M Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in" Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur

# SC lifts ban

# Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru

(A Unitary University, Government of Karnataka)

Jnanabharati Campus, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560072

**ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2021-22** 

Five-year Integrated M.Sc. Economics programme with an option to exit after 3 years.

• Two-year M.Sc. Economics

Dr. B R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru (BASE) invites applications for admissions to the above two programmes. All programmes offered at BASE University are full-time, residential.

**ELIGIBILITY**:

i) Five-year Integrated M.Sc. Economics programme with an option to exit after 3 years: The Candidate should have completed 2nd PUC / 12th Std. / Equivalent Exam with English as one of the Languages and Mathematics as a core subject and obtained a minimum of 65% marks in aggregate (60% for SC/ST category students). [60 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/ Foreign Nationals] ii) Two-year M.Sc. Economics programme: Candidates should have completed

B.Sc (Honours) / B.A (Honours) in Economics or B.Sc/ B.A in Economics with Mathematics and Statistics/Econometrics as major courses in the degree with minimum of 55% (50% for SC/ST) in aggregate. (20 seats for Indian candidates + 5 seats for PIO/Foreign Nationals) Application Fee: Rs.1,000/- for GM, OBC and Rs.400/- for SC/ST/Persons with Disability Start date for online application: 16th July 2021\*, Last date for online application:

8th August 2021, Date of online entrance test: 25th August 2021 \* The All-India Entrance Examination for admissions to BASE University will be conducted by the IBPS. Documents & Application forms related to the Admissions may be filled online at

\* All dates are subject to change depending on government regulations regarding pandemic situation.

Dr. N.R. Bhanumurthy

G. Prabhu, IAS DIPR/DDU/Yakshi/845/2021-22

Vice Chancellor Registrar Contact us: Jnana Bharathi Main Road, Nagarbhavi P.O. Bengaluru, Karnataka 560072. Email: info@base.ac.in; Active Helpdesk: 080-29557767; Mob: 7349333323

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.



भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Government of India, Department of Space राष्ट्रीय सुदूर संवेदन केंद्र / National Remote Sensing Centre हैदराबाद — 500 037, तेलंगाना, भारत / Balanagar, Hyderabad-500 037, Telangana, India टेलीफोन / Telephone:+040-23884173/74 फैक्स / Fax:+040-23884179

निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP

ई निविदा नोटिस / e-Tender Notice ममूहप्रधान, सीएमजी, एनआरएससी, हैदराबाद द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ऑन—लाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।∕Online tender:

are invited by	are invited by the Gr. Head CMG, NRSC, Hyderabad for the following works:								
एनआईटी सं0 NIT NO.	कार्य का नाम Name of Work	अनुमानित प्राक्कलित लागत Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)	निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने की अवधि Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	बोली अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि Last date for Bid uploading					
NRSC/CMG/ NIT/ET/08/ 2445-AC/ 2021-22	इमेजीओस सुविधा, एनआरएससी, शादनगर परिसर में डेटा केंद्र के लिए वातानुकूलन सुविधा एवं ब्लॉक बी व सी का क्षैतिज विस्तार प्रदान करना। Providing Air Conditioning facility for DATA Centre - Horizontal Extension of Block B and C at IMGEOS facility, NRSC Campus Shadnagar	रू. 117.51 लाख / Lakhs	From 16.07.2021 से / to 25.07.2021 तक	Upto 29.07.2021 के 16:00 बजे / hrs तक					

जा सकता है। किसी प्रकार के संशोधन, समय विस्तार, स्पष्टीकरण आदि वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किया जाएगा और किसी समाचारपत्र प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा l बोलीकर्ता अद्यतन जानकारी हेतु नियमित रुप से वेबसाइट देखें l ∕ Detailed NIT and eligibility criteria, EMD bidding document, etc. can be viewed /download from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO portal. All amendments, time extension, समूह प्रधान, निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह / Group Head, Construction & Maint. Group

विस्तत एनआईटी एवं पात्रता मानदंड ईएमडी बोली संबंधित प्रलेख आदि www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पोर्टल से देखा / डाउनलोड किया

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

## Vaccination drive affected in Meerut

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After local media reports suggested that the vaccination drive has been affected in the last 2-3 days in the Meerut-Saharanpur zone because of the paucity of vaccine doses, local officials said it was not a matter of concern.

"The supply has been erratic in the last few days but we will make up in the coming days," said R.K. Tandon, Chief Medical Officer, Baghpat.

Fifteen out of 60 centres reportedly ran out of stock in the district but officials refrain from talking in specifics. "It depends on supply. On some days we achieve 70-80% of the target on others, we inject 10% over the target," said Dr. Tandon.

In Meerut, 22 of 61 centres reportedly ran out of stock in the last couple of days.

"I can't confirm or deny it. We inject whatever we get from the State. In the last few days, the demand has increased," said Praveen Gautam, vaccination officer, Meerut.

# Partial lockdown extended by another two weeks in Odisha

Restrictions relaxed to a great extent as test positivity rate comes down

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Thursday extended the partial lockdown in 10 districts by another two weeks till Au-

The lockdown restrictions have, however, been relaxed to a great extent. The test positivity rate which was around 5% around July 1, has come down to 3%.

Last time, the restrictions were imposed differently in 30 districts - 20 districts comprising western and southern districts in Category A and 10 coastal districts in Category B. "Even now, the TPR conti-

nues to be high in some districts such as Khordha, Cuttack and Puri in Category-B. Around July 1, about 3,000 cases used to be detected daily. Now, it has dropped to 2.000. Of them 70-80% are reported from category-B districts," said Chief Secre-Suresh Chandra Mohapatra.

"Cases detected from Khordha and Cuttack dis-



Women fish-sellers sitting beside a wall painting advocating wearing of masks in Bhubaneswar. • FILE РНОТО

tricts constitute 40% of the State's caseload. There has not been any improvement in the pandemic situation as was expected," said Mr.

Keeping the livelihood of people in mind, shops have been allowed to remain open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Category-A districts, where the TPR and reporting of daily cases were relatively low. There will be no weekend shutdown there. Besides, the night curfew will

be from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Similarly, the duration for keeping shops open has been extended by four hours in Category-B districts. Now, shops will remain open from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. instead of present 6 a.m-2 p.m. window. Both weekend shutdown and night curfew will be in force in the 10 coastal

In an important announcement, the government has allowed operation of bus services in all districts within

the State, except Puri where the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath is celebrated. There will be no bus service in Puri till July 25. The government has, however, not allowed any inter-State bus service. Taxi and auto-rickshaw services have been restored in the fifth lockdown.

Spas allowed to open Similarly, beauty parlours, spas, saloons and gyms have been allowed to open. They have been asked to follow COVID-19 guidelines. Outdoor sports activities can be organised without specta-

tors. Outdoor and indoor

film shootings have been al-

lowed. Restrictions for educational institutes, parks, malls, cinema halls, exhibition, theatres, weddings and death rituals remain.

Cautioning people to wear mask and maintain physical distance, Mr. Mohapatra said there were reports of people contracting virus even after being fully vaccinated as was seen in Bhubaneswar.

# Health Ministry tells States to scale up bed numbers

Facilities in paediatric hospitals to be improved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Health Ministry on Thursday stressed the need to ramp up COVID-19 testing, tracking, treating and isolation strategy, and directed the State governments to increase the number of beds including in paediatric care and makeshift hospitals at the sub-district level.

The Ministry reviewed the preparations under the recently approved ₹23,123crore "India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package: Phase II" with Health Secretaries and senior officials of the States and the Union Territories.

"In the meeting stakeholders were also asked to ensure availability of critical drugs, testing kits and PPEs besides enhancing oxygen availability and strengthening home and village/community isolation centres/ COVID care centres," said the Ministry. A quick gap analysis on infrastructure components was advised.



Key step: The States are setting up paediatric wards to fight a potential third wave of the pandemic. • B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

# No application received yet for Covishield authorisation: EMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has not received any application from the Serum Institute of India for authorisation of Covish-

The comment from the agency came a fortnight after the EU introduced the EU Digital Covid Certificate (EUDCC), also known as the

"green pass" that makes intra-EU travel possible.

"We confirm that we have not received a marketing authorisation application for Covishield," said Salvador Ruiz Carrillo de Albornoz, Press Officer of EMA.

India's Covishield vaccine, which is based on AstraZeneca's formula, is not among the authorised vaccines under the EMA.

## Vaccines to be moved quickly at terminals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

To expedite the release of COVID-19 vaccines imported into the country, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has put in place a COVID Response Plan at all major airports, with dedicated teams to fast-track vaccines' evacuation at each air cargo terminal.

The import and export COVID-19 vaccines through courier services has also been permitted without any value limit, through amendments to the Courier Imports and Exports (Electronic Declaration and Processing) Regulations, that prescribed limits on the value of goods that could be brought in through courier.

'As the vaccines would be transported through containers equipped with temperature monitoring and tracking devices, provision has also been made for their duty-free temporary admission," the Board said in a statement, adding that a Standard Operating Protocol (SoP) was being developed for the instant release of vaccines from airports.

According to the plan, teams would plan their schedules so that there was adequate personnel working around the clock.

# Delta Plus variants found in less than 1% of samples

INSACOG has sequenced 42,869 coronavirus genomes

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

The Delta Plus variants constituted less than 1% of coronavirus samples that were sequenced in India in June and continuing outbreaks in India were primarily being led by the Delta variant, said a report from the India Sarscov2 Genome Consortium (INSACOG). Delta variant The

(B.1.617.2) as of Thursday constituted 88% of the nearly 1,300 coronavirus samples genome-sequenced in June, a little more than in May when they made up 87% of the nearly 8,700 samples sequenced. The decline in samples processed in lune, a scientist familiar with the sequencing told The Hindu, was because it often took a few weeks before samples for a particular month were processed.

"Delta sub-lineages AY.1 and AY.2 are declining globally with near zero cases in the last week of June in either the U.K. or the U.S., where they were most frequently seen. They also continue to be below 1% in available sequences from June in India. It is likely that neither AY.1 nor AY.2 is more transmissible than Delta," the INSA-COG noted in a July 9 release that has just been made pu-



Keeping track: Variants are globally monitored for increased infectivity and resistance to vaccines. • FILE PHOTO

blic. "Meanwhile AY.3 has treatments. It also scans for been identified as a new Delta sub-lineage. It is primarily seen in the U.S. with single reclassified cases in the U.K. and India. There are no known significant properties of this mutation, but since it is a Delta VOC sub-lineage, INSACOG will continue to monitor it."

The INSACOG has, as of Thursday, sequenced 42,869 coronavirus genomes from India. The 10-lab consortium primarily tracks international variants of concern (VOC) namely the Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta (and their sub-lineages) variants. These are the variants globally monitored for the increased infectivity and resistance to vaccination or

variants of interest (VOI), which have not vet become serious enough to warrant more stringent surveillance. As of Thursday, 13 States

had provided over 1,000 samples to the various INSA-COG labs for analysis with Maharashtra having provided the most (7,868) followed by Delhi (5,353) and Kerala (4,721).

The Alpha variant prevalence, the INSACOG said, has declined further in India and globally and Beta too was also "at very low levels" in India. The Gamma and Lambda variants had also not been seen in over 10,000 community samples sequenced by INSACOG since

SCAN TO PLAY

#### INTERVIEW | PRATIMA MURTHY

# 'Children have shown resilience'

But lack of physical activities can affect them, says the Director of NIMHANS

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, says mental health needs to be addressed at the individual, societal level, and policy level. She discusses the implications of the pandemic on mental health. Excerpts:

COVID-19, an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, has affected people in various ways - financially, physically, emotionally. What kind of myriad mental health issues has it led to?

■ Initially, people's fears were about contracting the infection. They feared going out. There were worries about what kind of mask and protection was adequate. There were fears of contami nation and people started sanitising all grocery items. Subsequently, once it was clear that chances of surface transmission of the virus were uncommon this fear subsided. But then during the second wave, the virus affected a lot more people; entire families got infected.

It created panic. Then, generally, when a person is sick, family members rally around that person and provide a lot of care and support. Similarly, in case of death, family and friends come together to provide support to the aggrieved family. There are several rituals that take place, which in a way help deal with the loss. Lack of social support particularly during grief is very psychologically distressing.

So, a lot of people are finding it difficult to come out of the trauma, some are facing repeated panic attacks.

How has the pandemic affected the psycho-social health of children?

■ Children have perhaps shown the maximum amount of resilience as they are ones who had to make the maximum amount of change – they have not been able to go to school; they had to adjust to the new online medium of education; then there are a large number of children who have no or limited access to even online education.

We held a painting competition for children to explore how they managed the lockdown. Though the paintings of some children reflected the loneliness and isolation they experienced during the first lockdown, paintings of most children were positive and hopeful. They admired the frontline workers; created pictures on how they were playing indoor games and doing a lot many activities with family members. But when confine-



support particularly during grief is very psychologically distressing

ment became protracted, it became difficult for children to adjust to what we call the new normal. Older children faced un-

certainty regarding their academic future. Lack of access to a lot of developmental activities, especially for children who were out of school, or those in vulnerable populations can certainaffect their mental well-being.

Another worry is too much exposure to consumer technology. During this prolonged confinement at home, children have started using technology for nonacademic purposes, which can expose them to other influences such as gaming, gambling, pornography. Lack of physical activities,

Mental health seems to be emerging as a big concern. How can it be tackled knowing very well that not many people seek help for mental illness in the

peer interaction, social gath-

erings can affect their physi-

cal development and cultu-

ral competency.

country? ■ There has always been a

gap between the need and treatment for mental illness. Somehow, people never felt comfortable talking about their emotionality. And I think now that there is a greater awareness of more aspects of mental health among wider population, we too need to address it at an individual level, at the societal level, and at the policy le vel.

First, people need to realise that just like the way they seek medical help for their physical illness, they need to seek help when they feel mentally distressed. Then, they also have to learn the ways to de-stress their mind, to deal with stressful situa-

Then, mental healthcare must be integrated with physical healthcare. In fact, government's District Mental Health Programme is a step in this direction.

(For the full interview, log on to bit.ly/pratimamurthy)

# Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online!

14 Original construction, nothing new – a drilling platform (3,3)

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

**15** Battered ego? Clue to make a poem (7) **18** Gun jams, high class specialist has a remedy (7)

20 Second class cricket match, lousy lacking substance in person (6)

22 Boy, ladies can mix up; peak (5) 24 Make up for temperature, get ice; not cold? Add a bit more simultaneously (2,3,4)

1 Son to make sense of slight (6)

3 Unclear on a collision, perhaps (7,8)

**6** Last word about, about awareness; time for response (15) 7 No, that is about fourth wife's relative (5)

**9** Meet and hug, not cold but hot (6)

16 To roam with malice? Native just short of exploding (9)

17 Worthless hubris, boy's heartless, deranged (8) 19 Extra derivatives held by one dealing with stocks (6)

20 Flower, blue picked first – miss nothing with maiden (7)

26 Upgrade old one, loveseat worn out inside (5) 27 Longs for time with heartless son; returns (6)

28 Ape, a monkey primarily, it's seen on a hill (8)

25 Samples in glasses worn by Indian soldiers (9)

2 Agent all over the place expressing displeasure (9)

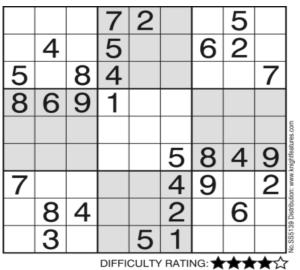
4 Cleaning is man's work, reach out (7)

8 Sore throat? We use this to gargle perhaps (3,5)

21 Maybe I am ready to engage rooks primarily (6)

23 A four at last, eighteen from edges, one to bowl (5)

# **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to puzzle 13300 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

R	Е	L	Α	Ρ	S	Ε	D		С	Н	0	I	С	Ε	6	Я	5	3	7	1	1	2	a
Е		0		0		Х				П		Z		L	0	•	9	0			7	_	
S	Α	U	O	ш	Ρ	Α	z		Ξ	Α	s	S	L	Ε	17	1	2	8	4	9	5	6	3
11		٧		Т		G				D		Ρ		Р	0	^	4	0	_	0	7	4	0
S	Т	Ε	Ε	R	Α	G	Е		S	L	Е	I	G	Н	3	9	4	2	5	р	/		Ø
Т		R		~		Е		0		0		R		Α	4	7	9	5	6	Я	1	3	2
					Ρ	R	0	Т	Ε	С	Т	1	0	Ν				_	0	0		•	_
Ε		Α		$\supset$		Α		Ξ		Κ		Т		Т	8	5	1	9	3	2	6	4	71
Ν	0	W	Α	Ν	D	Т	Н	Е	Ν						0	^	0	4	4	_	0	0	_
Т		Α		O		Е		R		G		Ρ		S	2	6	3	4		/	9	Ø	5
Α	z	Υ	Η	0	W		Ζ	8	-	Е	В	Α	С	K	a	1	6	7	Я	3	2	5	1
Ν		G		U				0		L		R		1	9		U	-	0	J	_	9	
G	R	Α	Ρ	Ρ	Α		Т	R	Ī	Α	L	R	U	N	1	3	7	6	2	5	8	9	4
L		М		L				L		Т		0		Ν	_	0	0	4	$\overline{}$	4	0	_	^
Е	L	Ε	٧	Е	Ν		Α	D	R	0	ı	Т	L	Υ	Э	2	g		9	4	3	/	р

## **FAITH**

# Rajas and tamas

Lord Krishna tells Uddhava that a person with the guna of rajas has certain characteristics, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. He has kaama (desire), eehaa (puts in a lot of effort), mada (arrogance), trishna (has great desires), sthamba (pride), aaheehi (asks the Lord for wealth), bhida (looks down on others), sukha (likes the joys obtained through the indriyas), madotsaaha (delights in fighting), yasaspreethih (loves fame), haasya (mocks others), veerya (boasts of his strengths), and balodyamaha (tries to establish adamantly that whatever he says is right).

A person with the guna of tamas has certain traits. He has krodah (anger), lobha (is a miser), anruta ( tries to establish as Sastra, that which is not Sastra), himsa (tortures others and is unfaithful), yaachnya (asks others for something), dambah (shows off and pretends to be what he is not), klama (gives difficulties to others), kalihi (causes people to fight amongst themselves), soka (causes sorrow to others), moha (leads others down the wrong path), vishaada (worries and makes others worry), aarthi (thinks poorly of himself), nidraa (sleeps a lot), aasha (desires something or the other all the time), bheeti (is always afraid), and anudhyamah (does not do any work).

Krishna says that one with sattva guna glows. He has no blemish and is calm. One with rajas has many desires and differentiates between people. One with tamas has ajnana and is lazy. Because one with rajas does wrong things, his indriyas are not under control. His thinking is not clear. His body becomes unhealthy. If one has tamas, his mind cannot focus on anything. The one with sattva guna always has his indriyas under control. He is without desire. He is not worried about his body and is therefore always happy.

# ACROSS 1 Seen in Thrissur, in America and another country (8)

- 5 Father has one child in belly? (6)
- 10 Gasp; icecream held is now jelly (5)
- 11 Most daring facing pressure? Most successful too (9) 12 Perhaps a wader on galloping horse, try to trap horse in the
- middle (9) 13 Musical work, enchanter pouring soul out on centre stage (5)

This pdf was originally uphoded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

# Taliban offer truce for prisoner release

A 3-month ceasefire proposed; Pakistan confirms militants have seized Spin Boldak border crossing

The Taliban have offered a three-month ceasefire in exchange for the release of 7,000 insurgent prisoners, an Afghan government negotiator said on Thursday, as Pakistan confirmed the militant group had control of a key border crossing.

"It is a big demand," said Nader Nadery, a key member of the government team involved in peace talks with the Taliban, adding the insurgents also demanded the removal of their leaders' names from a United Nations blacklist. It was not clear how the government would react to the ceasefire offer, or how new it was, and it comes as the U.S. accelerates the pace of a troop withdrawal due to be finished by August

A spokesman for the Taliban said he was only aware



Growing tensions: Stranded people gather at the Pakistani border town of Chaman on Wednesday.

of the suggestion of a ceasefire over the forthcoming Eid al-Adha holiday. Mr. Nadery's revelation came as Pakistan security forces used tear gas on Thursday to disperse hundreds of people who tried to force their way across the border from Chaman to Spin Boldak in Afghanistan.

On Thursday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry confirmed the border crossing was in the hands of the Taliban. "They have taken control of Spin Boldak border crossing," said Ministry spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, a day after the Taliban seized

The border was closed on Wednesday by Pakistan officials after the Taliban seized Spin Boldak. "An unruly mob of about 400 people tried to cross the gate forcefully. They threw stones,

provided it adheres to certain international norms, the U.K. government will engage with it," he was quoted as saying. However, Mr. Wallace warned that Britain will review any relationship "if they behave in a way that is seriously against human rights".

'U.K. will work with Taliban'

which forced us to use tear gas," said a security official on the Pakistan side.

Britain will work with the

Taliban should they enter

Minister Ben Wallace told

the Daily Telegraph in an

interview. "Whatever the

government of the day is,

Afghanistan, British Defence

the government in

He said around 1,500 people had gathered at the border on Wednesday waiting to cross. Jumadad Khan, a senior government official in Chaman, said the situation was now "under control".

An Afghan Taliban source told AFP that hundreds of people had also gathered on the Afghan side, hoping to

travel in the other direction. "A formal meeting to open the border is scheduled for today, and hopefully, it will open in a day or two," he said. Later on Thursday, a

The crossing provides direct access to the Balochistan province in Pakistan, where the Taliban's leadership has been based for decades.

Pakistan official said the bor-

der would open on Friday.

# China to send team to Pak. for bus blast investigation

But the country refrains from calling it a 'bomb attack'

REUTERS

China said on Thursday it will send a team to Pakistan to help investigate a blast on a bus that killed 13 people, including nine Chinese workers, after it backed away from an earlier assertion that the explosion was a bomb attack.

Zhao Lijian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, told a regular briefing that China would cooperate closely with Pakistan in the investigation. Wednesday's blast sent

the bus crashing into a ravine in Khyber-Paktunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan, where Chinese engineers have for several years been working on hydroelectric projects as part of Beijing's massive Belt and Road



The blast, which killed 13 people, sent the bus crashing into a ravine.

Initiative. China is a close ally and major investor in neighbouring Pakistan, and various anti-Pakistani government militants have in the past attacked Chinese projects.

On Wednesday, Mr. Zhao had called the blast a "bomb attack" but Pakistan said a mechanical failure caused a

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

then-president

The Pentagon's top General

feared late last year that

Trump would abrogate the

Constitution to retain power

in a move resembling Adolf

Hitler's 1933 Reichstag take-

over, according to a new

Joint Chiefs Chairman

Mark Milley saw Mr.

Trump's refusal to accept

defeat to Joe Biden in the

November election as a pos-

sible sign that he intended

to retain power by any

means, according to ex-

cerpts from the book by

Washington Post reporters

Carol Leonnig and Philip

Rucker that were reported

by the Post and CNN on

ment ... The gospel of the

Fuhrer," Mr. Milley told Pen-

tagon aides, the authors re-

named Smt. Gomathi.

'This is a Reichstag mo-

Thursday.

'General feared Trump's

Reichstag-style takeover'

Book cites Mark Milley's comments

gas leak that led to the explosion. Senior Chinese diplomat

Wang Yi met Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Oureshi and urged Pakistan to investigate the blast but he stopped short of calling it an attack, according to a post on Thursday on the Chinese Foreign Ministry's website. But Mr. Wang told Mr. Qureshi that if it was indeed a "terrorist attack", Pakistan should immediately arrest the culprits and punish them.

Mr. Wang, who is China's State Councillor and Foreign Minister, said "lessons should be learned" and both sides should strengthen security measures for China-Pakistan cooperation projects to ensure their safe and smooth operation.

port. In 1933, Hitler took advantage of a suspicious fire

at the Reichstag, the Ger-

man Parliament, to suspend

civil liberties and concen-

trate authority in his govern-

ment, setting the stage for

the Nazi consolidation of

When Mr. Trump called

for a march on Washington

by supporters in November,

Mr. Milley expressed wor-

ries that he was deploying

"brownshirts in the streets",

the book says, referring to

Hitler's violent followers.

And as Mr. Trump persisted

in claiming, with no evi-

dence, that there was poll

fraud and planned another

rally on January 6, when his

followers attacked the Con-

gress, Mr. Milley schemed with other top officials to re-

sign, one by one, to signal

that they would not go along

with any coup by the outgo-

ing president.

# China to ban unvaccinated adults from schools, hospitals

Notices have been issued in several cities and counties

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Millions of Chinese people face bans from public spaces, including schools, hospitals and shopping malls, unless they get a COVID-19 vaccine, under new rules covering nearly two dozen cities and counties. COVID-19 first emerged in

the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019, but since then, the country has largely brought it under control, and Beijing is determined to keep it that way.

The new rules, which follow the emergence of the highly contagious Delta variant across Asia, will be im-



China aims to inoculate 64% of its population by the end of next year.

posed on numerous secondtier cities in a possible marker of what is to come for the whole country. China has a national target of inoculating 64% of its 1.4 billion population by end of the year.

In Chuxiong city in the southern province of Yunnan, all residents above the

age of 18 need to get at least one dose of the vaccine by July 23, according to a government notice. Those who fail to meet the deadline will not be allowed to enter public facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, kindergartens and schools, libraries, museums, and prisons or take public transport". A month later, two shots will be required.

Similar notices were issued in at least a dozen cities and counties across the country, including six in eastern Jiangxi province, one in Sichuan, one in Guangxi and three in Fujian

## Nature's fury



Germany, on Thursday. Heavy rains and floods have killed at least 45 people in the country and left many more missing. ■ REUTERS

Battered down: A destroyed road next to the Ahr river in a flood-affected area in Schuld,

## IN BRIEF



Saad Hariri steps down

BEIRUT

Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri stepped down on Thursday, citing "key differences" with the President after months of political wrangling. After a 20-minute meeting with President Michel Aoun, Mr. Hariri said, "I have excused myself from forming the government. May God help the country." AP

#### Bolsonaro in hospital, may need surgery: govt

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro is suffering from an "intestinal obstruction", the government said on Wednesday, after the far-right leader was admitted to hospital due to persistent hiccups. He had been complaining publicly since last week about suffering from the hiccups following a July 3 surgery on a dental

Cuba allows travellers to

PM announces decision in TV address

bring in food duty-free

The European Union's (EU) top court ruled on Thursday that Poland's system for disciplining judges undercuts the bloc's laws, part of an escalating battle over democratic rules that risks Warsaw losing some of its key deve-

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Travellers arriving in Cuba

can now bring in food, med-

icine and other essentials

without paying customs, the

government said Wednes-

day in a concession to angry

and unprecedented street

protests. Prime Minister Ma-

nuel Marrero said in a tele-

vised address there would

be no limit placed on these

U.S. Senate votes to ban items

lopment funding.

ists set up a disciplinary chamber at the Supreme Court in a sweeping overhaul of the judiciary already condemned by the Court of Justice of the EU in Luxembourg and the bloc's Brusselsbased executive, which acts

goods coming in and the

change will be in effect until

Cubans took to the streets

on Sunday over economic

hardship marked by shor-

tages of food, electricity and

other essentials. One of the

demands was for people ar-

riving in Cuba to be able to

bring in food, medicine and

personal hygiene items

without customs duties.

the end of the year.

Polish judicial reforms illegal, rules EU court

Reinforcing that, the ECI fluence of the Polish legisla-

S. Africa calls

up troops to

crush looting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

South Africa mustered its

army reserves on Thursday

in a bid to quell looting that

has stoked fears of shortag-

es and dealt a crippling

blow to its already battered

"All reserve members

are to report for duty at

first light tomorrow morn-

ing 15 July 2021 at their res-

pective units," Army Chief

Lieutenant-General Law-

rence Mbatha said in or-

ders issued overnight as

the unrest entered its sixth day. Soldiers should "re-

port ready with their ne-

cessary equipment", the

Defence Ministry said in a

On Wednesday, the go-

vernment said it would call

out around 25,000 troops

to tackle the emergency -

10 times the number that it

Police Minister Bheki

Cele hailed the boost from

the military, saying he was

confident it would "turn

around the volatile situa-

tion in parts of KwaZulu-

Natal" province, the epi-

after former president Ja-

cob Zuma - who com-

mands support from some

of the country's poor – began a 15-month jail term on

The unrest began a day

centre of the unrest.

initially deployed.

economy.

statement.

Warsaw to immediately stop all proceedings at the disciplinary chamber but Ponesday the demand ran counter to its constitution and the country should not comply. "It is an obvious

conclusion for any Polish ci-The ECJ had already told tizen that the constitution is the highest legal act," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told reporters on Thursday. Both he and Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro said they considered the EU stance to be politically motivated.

# Kallukuruchi Taluk,

Tamilnadu is found missing since 02/03/2021. For the above, a case in Crime No. 73/2021 U/s 57 of KP Act 2011 & 75 of JJ Act 2015 was registered at Pattambi Police Station. If any information received about

The personal shown in the photograph

W/o Ramajayam, 102 Colony East

Éduthavainadham

the missing person, please intimate the same to the nearest Police Station or with the following telephone numbers. Pattambi Police Station: 04662212224

Inspector SHO, Pattambi PS: 9497987157 Sub Inspector of Police, Pattambi PS - 9497980625 (1124/F2/2021/I&PRD)

**LOOK OUT NOTICE** 

Villupuram.

## ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD 1st Floor, Port Admin. Building, Kakinada-533007. **ADVERTISEMENT**

Tender Notice No.3/SE/DB/2021-22, Dt.14.07.2021 for the work of "Engaging the Professional Services of one Chief Surveyor and Two Surveyors on contract basis for the purpose of Surveying Inland Vessels in the Andhra Pradesh State.'

The Qualification criteria can be downloaded from the website https://www.ports.ap.gov.in from 16.07.2021 and further details can

be had from the undersigned. Contact Ph: 8985922645. DIPR 253PP/CL, Dt.15.07.2021 Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APMB, Kakinada

**⊗KMF** Karnataka Cooperative Milk

#### **Producers' Federation Limited** KMF Complex: Dr.M.H.Marigowda Road, DRC Post,

Bengaluru - 560029

Date: 12.07.2021 KMF/ENGG/DAIRY-purchase/2021-22

# TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Milk Federation Limited, Bangalore (KMF) intends to acquire a Milk Processing & Packing Dairy Plant at the following region on purchase basis. In this regard, KMF invites tender from eligible company/individuals who is owing the Dairy Plant through e-procurement portal under 2 cover system (Technical 8 Financial). The interested Dairy firms can participate in the tender by logging on to website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail: helpdesk.blr@intarvo.com & helpline no. 080-22371090, 22340060, 22340948.

"1 LLPD expandable to 1.5 LLPD capacity Milk Processing 8

- Packing dairy plant in and around Panaji/Ponda city, Goa State". Tender schedules may be downloaded from 16.07.2021 to
- 18.08.2021 up to 4.00 pm
- E.M.D. amount Rs. 10 Lakhs
- Pre-bid meeting date: 28.07.2021
- Last date for tender submission on date: 18.08.2021 up to
- Tender (part-1) to be opened on date: 20.08.2021 at 11.30 am
- As the tender documents are voluminous in nature, the bidders are requested to submit all the documents in sealed cover to M.D. KMF in person or through postal along with submission through e-procurement portal on or before 20.08.2021. For further details please contact 080-26096888/26096869 in

For Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd.

Director (Engineering-2)

# from China's Xinjiang region Bill gets unanimous consent in the Upper Chamber

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE which is allegedly being

The U.S. Senate passed legislation that would ban products imported from China's Xinjiang region, the latest move to pressure Beijing over what Washington says are major human rights abuses against the Muslim Uyghur

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which cleared the Upper chamber by unanimous consent on Wednesday, is intended to bar the import of products made through forced labour, used in the northwestern Chinese region.

"The message to Beijing and any international company that profits from forced labour in Xinjiang is clear: no more," Republican Senator Marco Rubio said in a statement. "We will not turn a blind eye to the CCP's [Chinese Communist Party's] ongoing crimes against humanity, and we will not allow corporations a free pass

to profit from those horrific

heads to the House of Representatives, which must pass it if it is to reach President Joe Biden for his signature.

action against China over Xinjiang, in addition to Secretary of State Antony Blinken meeting survivors of Xinjiang internment camps last week in Washington. The U.S. also banned imports of solar panel material from a Chinese company and placed restrictions on four others for alleged use of

abuses." The measure now The U.S. has already taken

#### Warsaw has set up a disciplinary chamber at the Supreme Court in a sweeping overhaul of judiciary as the guardian of laws ture and executive".

ruled that the chamber "does not provide all the guarantees of impartiality and independence, and, in particular, is not protected from the direct or indirect in-

land's top court said on Wed-

# BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY COIMBATORE - 641046 Accredited with "A" Grade by NAAC **PG ADMISSION - 2021 - 22**

The last date for admission to various Post Graduate / Under Graduate Degree / Diploma / PG Diploma and Certificate Courses has been extended upto 31.07.2021. The admission will be based on the marks scored by the candidates in all the semesters as decided by Competent Authority. Those who had already applied earlier need not have to apply again. However they have to submit their final semester mark sheet through web portal.

PLEASE REFER OUR Website www.b-u.ac.in for complete details REGISTRAR i/c DIPR/584/Display/2021

Karnataka Cooperative Milk **Producers' Federation Limited** KMF Complex: Dr.M.H.Marigowda Road, DRC Post,

#### **SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION** (Request for Qualification) RFQ for setting up of 1 LLPD Dairy and UHT Milk packing plant

on Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) basis on PPP mode for Dharwad Milk Union at Jangamakoppa village, Haveri district., Karnataka. [THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY]

IFT No. KMF/ENGG/Haveri – Dairy .Mech/2021-22 Date: 13.07.2021

Dharwad Milk Union has requested Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd., Bengaluru to setting up of 1 LLPD Dairy and UHT Milk packing plant on Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) basis on PPP mode for Dharwad Milk Union at Jangamakoppa village, Haveri district, Karnataka. Accordingly, KMF invites proposal (RFQ) through E-procurement portal to prequalify & shortlist the suitable applicants (The Bidders). The interested & reputed applicants may participate in the tender by logging on to website: http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in&also contact help desk E-mail: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com& helpline no: 080-22371090, 22340060, 22340948.

- The RFQ document can be downloaded from date:16.07.2021 to 18.08.2021 up to 4:00 pm
- 2. Pre-qualification conference date: 28.07.2021 at 03.30 pm Last date for RFQ submission on date: 18.08.2021 up to
- 4. RFQ to be opened on date: 20.08.2021at 11.30 am

For Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd. **Director (Engineering-1)** 

forced labour in the region. July 8. This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

## MARKET WATCH

	15-07-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,159	0.48
US Dollar	74.54	0.07
Gold	47,443	0.89
Brent oil	74.09	-1.36

NIFTY 50		
		CHANGE
Adani Ports		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto	3940.00	13.85
Bajaj Finserv	12958.95	32.25
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind	1557.25	10.55
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank	1520.70	21.55
HDFC Life	693.65.	5.15
Hero MotoCorp	2884.65	16.05
Hindalco	401.45	9.80
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp	106.30.	-0.80
ITC	206.25.	2.15
JSW Steel	699.10	-1.30
Kotak Bank	1750.05	1.90
L&T	1609.35	64.65
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd	17621.85	82.15
NTPC		
ONGC	116.90	3.90
PowerGrid Corp	230.40.	0.45
Reliance Ind	2082.35	-3.65
SBI Life	1052.95	0.55
State Bank	431.70	0.65
Shree Cement	28427.45.	12.75
Sun Pharma	683.00	-2.95
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	772.35.	4.15
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		

<b>EXCHANGE RA</b>	TES	
Indicative direct rate except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.34	74.66
Euro	87.92	88.30
British Pound	.103.25	103.72
Japanese Yen (100)	67.61	67.93
Chinese Yuan	11.51	11.57
Swiss Franc	81.30	81.66

.1112.45...

... 33.95

-8.80 ....71.60

## IN BRIEF



#### Lamborghini unveils sports car at ₹4.99 crore

NEW DELHI Italian super sports luxury carmaker Lamborghini on Thursday unveiled the Huracan STO model in India at a price tag of ₹4.99 crore (ex-showroom). The Huracan STO - Super Trofeo Omologata is a roadhomologated super sports car. It is powered by a V10 naturally-aspirated 640 hp engine, capable of accelerating from 0-100 km/hr in three seconds.

#### **Google Cloud expands** footprint in India

Google Cloud announced expanding its footprint in India with its second 'Cloud Region' in the country. It is located in Delhi-NCR. "It is a large commitment from us in capital and infrastructure investment and is designed to allow us capture the opportunity that we see around growth coming from existing and new customers," said Thomas Kurian, CEO, Google Cloud.

#### **WNS June quarter net** surges 80% to \$27 mn

WNS (Holdings) Ltd. said its profit for the quarter ended June 30 surged by 80.6% to \$26.8 million from the year-earlier period on easing pandemic-related pressures, revenue growth and client expansion. Revenue grew by 21.9% y-o-y to \$253.2 million. Revising the guidance for 2022, it said net revenue is expected to be between \$961 million-\$1,009 million, up from \$868.7 million in FY21.

#### **Ex-EPL MD Vats to join** Pidilite as deputy MD

Sudhanshu Vats, former MD & CEO, EPL Ltd., will join Pidilite Industries Ltd. as deputy MD from September 1, the company said on Thursday. An alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad and NIT Kurukshetra, Mr. Vats has a 30-year career spanning diverse firms. M.B. Parekh, executive chairman, Pidilite said the talent and experience of Mr. Vats will be

# Inflation to persist at elevated levels for a while: RBI officials

Price pressures to ease in third quarter of 2021-22, they write in a Bulletin article

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The tapering of the second wave, coupled with an aggressive vaccination push, has brightened near-term prospects for the economy but inflation will remain elevated for some more months, senior RBI officials wrote in an article on the 'State of the Economy' in the RBI's monthly Bulletin.

While several high frequency indicators of activity were recovering, a 'solid increase in aggregate demand' was yet to take shape.

On the supply side, agricultural conditions were turning buoyant with the revival in the monsoon, but the recovery of manufactur-

'Q1 low base to

lift growth to

double digits'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Economic recovery has

gained momentum after

the lifting of localised lock-

downs imposed in the af-

termath of the second

wave, but is 'incomplete,'

according to a ICRA report.

will grow in double digits

for the April-June period

on the low base of 2020-21

but will still be short of the

levels observed in the first

will trail the Q1FY20 level,

while recording a double-

digit y-o-y expansion," it

said. The nationwide lock-

down had resulted in a

23.7% GDP contraction in

the June quarter of FY20.

'The real GDP in Q1FY22

quarter of FY20, it said.

The Indian economy

MUMBAI



Searching for shape: A 'solid increase in aggregate demand' is yet to take shape, say RBI officials. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

June exports rise 32%,

'Trade deficit at 3-quarter low in Q1'

imports surge 74%

ing and services sectors had been interrupted by the second wave, they added.

The pick-up in inflation was driven largely by adverse supply shocks caused by the pandemic, including

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Exports from India rose al-

most 32% to \$49.85 billion in

June from the year earlier

month and were 17.17%

higher than the pre-COVID

billion, rising 73.65% in June

year-on-year and 1.08%

higher than June 2019, ac-

cording to the quick esti-

mates released by the Com-

grew 48.3% to \$32.5 billion

in June and were almost

30% higher than June 2019,

based on an estimation

stood at \$17.35 billion or

services exports

Industry

exports

and

Ministry on Thursday.

Merchandise

Imports stood at \$52.18

level of June 2019.

NEW DELHI

merce

increases in margins and taxes, and sector-specific demand-supply mismatches, the article's authors wrote.

"These factors should ease over the year as supply side measures take effect,"

9.1% higher than June 2020

and about 1% lower than

and relatively subdued gold

imports in May-June 2021

dampening the aggregate

trade deficit to a three-quar-

ter low \$31 billion in Q1

FY2022, we expect the cur-

rent account to revert to a

small surplus in that quar-

ter," ICRA chief economist

Aditi Nayar said.

"With surging exports

June 2019.

they contended.

Inflation, which had ruled above the tolerance band during June-November 2020, had again moved above the upper tolerance threshold in May and June.

'Kharif harvest key'

"The sense is that inflation will persist at these elevated levels for some months before easing in the third quarter of 2021-22, when the khaharvest arrives markets," they posited.

The economy was struggling to regain the momentum of recovery that had started in the second half of 2020-21 before it was interrupted by the second wave, the RBI officials added.

# Government IPO process

MUMBAI

Kick-starting the process for LIC disinvestment, the government has invited bids from merchant bankers and legal advisors for advising it on the proposed

The Department of Investment and Public Asset (DIPAM) Management would appoint up to ten merchant bankers and one legal firm for assisting and

The last date for putting

Listing of LIC is crucial for the Centre as it aims to raise ₹1.75 lakh crore in FY22 from minority stake sales and privatisation.

# kick-starts LIC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

mega initial public offer.

advising on the stake sale.

in bids is August 6, as per a notice issued by DIPAM.

## States get ₹75,000 crore of GST dues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Finance Ministry on Thursday released ₹75,000 crore of GST compensation dues to States and Union Territories and said this would help them plan their public expenditure for improving health infrastructure and other capital spending projects. Raised via market borrowings by the Centre, the funds were passed on as back-to-back loans to States and account for 47.16% of the ₹1.59 lakh crore proposed to be raised for their GST compensation dues in FY22.

"This... ₹1.59 lakh crore would be over and above the compensation in excess of ₹1 lakh crore (based on GST cess collections) that is estimated to be released to States/UTs with Legislature during this financial year. The sum... of ₹2.59 lakh crore is expected to exceed the amount of GST compensation accruing in FY22," the Ministry said in a statement.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has assured that a special meeting of the Council would be held to discuss issues related to States' GST recompense, including their demand to extend the compensation period beyond five years.

#### 'Bodes well'

"The release of these funds from the [Centre's] own borrowings... corroborates the inference that healthy tax and non-tax revenues have boosted its cash flows," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. States ramping up expenditure would complement the pickup in momentum seen after the phased unlocking and boded well for sustaining the nascent revival in the economy, she said.

# Financial inclusion is a policy priority: Das

'Inclusivity bolsters financial stability'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

To make the post-pandemic recovery more inclusive and sustainable, financial inclusion would continue to be a policy priority for the RBI, Governor Shaktikanta Das said at The Economic Times Financial Inclusion Summit on Thursday.

Considering the role played by microfinance in bridging gaps in the last mile, a consultative document for harmonising regulatory frameworks for various regulated lenders in microfinance had been issued recently, he said.

"The primary objective is to address the concerns relating to over-indebtedness of microfinance borrowers; enable market mechanism to rationalise the interest rates; and empower the borrowers to make an informed decision by enhancing transparency of loan pricing," Mr. Das said.

Stating that financial inclusion promoted inclusive growth by making financial services, including credit and other safety nets, available to the bottom of the pyramid, he said lessons from the past and experiences gained during the COVID-19 pandemic clearly indicated that financial inclusion and inclusive growth reinforce financial stability.

Greater financial literacy would enable banks, NBFCs, and MFIs to enhance their customer base and products and diversify their balance sheets, he added.

Mr. Das said payment systems were seen as the lifeline of an economy. They were increasingly being recognised as a means of achieving financial inclusion and ensuring that economic benefits reach the

The UPI platform, enabling transactions via smartphones, has revolutionised the payments landscape in India



bottom of the pyramid, the RBI Governor added.

**Digital adoption** 

Highlighting the rapid adoption of digital payments in the country, he said the number of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) had increased at a compounded annual growth rate of 53% from 41 crore in May 2017, to 226 crore in May 2021.

"The trends indicate that such instruments have become immensely popular for making small-value payments," he said.

The extent of digital penetration, he said, could be gauged from the fact that, each day on an average during June 2021, payment systems in India had processed more than 15 crore transactions amounting to almost ₹4.5 lakh crore per day.

The UPI platform facilitating payment transactions through smartphones had revolutionised the payments landscape in India, he said. "UPI has witnessed over 280 crore transactions in June 2021. Globally, there has been a lot of interest in UPI," Mr. Das added.

# Wipro Q1 net profit jumps 35%

Demand is robust, see double-digit growth this year: CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Wipro Ltd. posted a 35.2% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹3,230 crore for the quarter ended June 30, and said it was well-placed for double-digit growth in the year. Revenue rose 22.4% to ₹18,250 crore.

It forecast revenue growth of 5-7% for the quarter ending September 30, with expected revenue in the \$2.535 billion-\$2.583 billion range.

"Even at the lower end of our guidance, we will cross the \$10-billion annual run rate of revenues," said CEO & MD Thierry Delaporte. "The Q1 performance and Q2 guidance set us up for a well ahead of double-digit growth for the full year, even

excluding Capco." he added. Demand was robust and the quality of the company's overall pipeline was better than before, he said.

"Our top 3 markets grew

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New home sales in eight top

markets across India in-

creased 67% to 99,416 units

during January-June, even

as the pandemic's second

wave impacted the momen-

tum that had begun in the

second half of 2020, proper-

ty consultancy Knight Frank

India said in its latest report.

in the first half (H1) of 2021

were 71% higher year-on-

year, with a majority of the

sales happening in January-

March. The second wave's

impact was evident on a se-

quential basis with sales and

new launches declining 62%

and 43% in the April-June

quarter. Affordable housing

Launches at 103,238 units

HYDERABAD



Thierry Delaporte

in double digits. All markets were witnessing solid demand and deal wins were exceptionally strong in the Americas," he said in his commentary. Wipro, however, witnessed a drop in operating margin to 18.8% in Q1, compared with 21% in the quarter ended March.

"While 1.3% was due to Capco acquisition, the remaining 90-basis point impact was due to our significant investment in talent," explained Jatin Dalal, chief financial officer.

with their share in total

sales declining by about 500

basis points. The report, 'In-

dia Real Estate - Residen-

tial, January-June 2021', said

this trend was directly relat-

ed to the challenges thrown

up by the pandemic which

reduced the economic con-

fidence of homebuyers in

that category due to the

threat of job loss, lower in-

In the IT services segment, which accounts for more than 95% of Wipro's gross revenues, the company reported 21.3% growth in revenue in constant currency to \$2.41 billion from a year earlier. Sequentially, IT services revenue growth was at 12% in constant currency

of 12,178 employees to take

total headcount to 209,890. Saurabh Govil, chief human resources officer, Wipro said, "We are seeing an unprecedented intake of freshers. We will send out offer letters to 30,000 freshers this year who would join

> The company intends to onboard more than 6,000 freshers in the second quarter. Wipro's attrition jumped to 15.5% in Q1 from 12.1% in the immediately preceding three-month period.

# Headcount rises 12,178 In Q1, the IT firm added a net

the company next year."

#### 'Home sales rose 67% in Power usage returns to H1, COVID-19 slows pace' pre-Covid level Affordable housing slips: Knight Frank

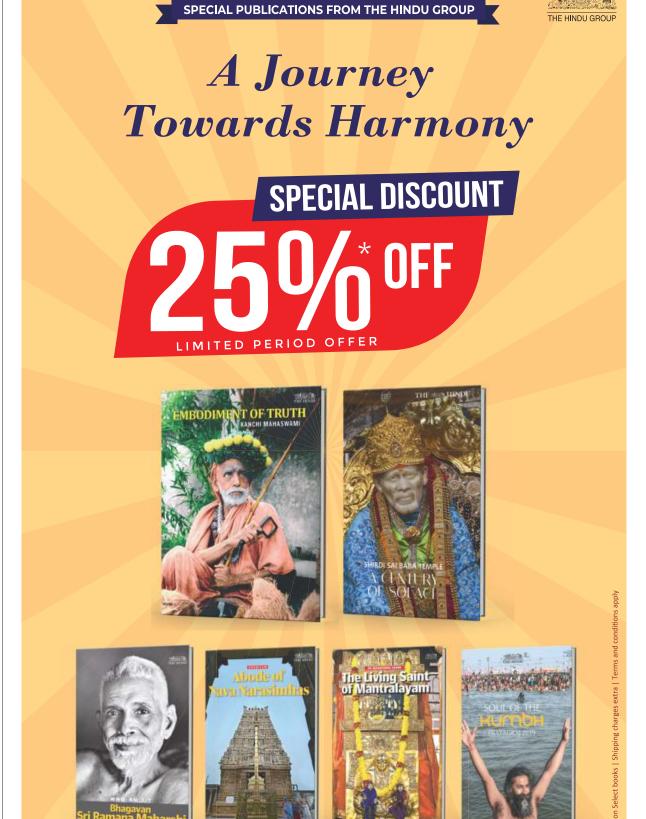
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

tion grew almost 17% in the first fortnight of July to 59.36 billion units (BU) and returned to pre-pandemic level mainly due to easing of lockdown curbs and delayed monsoon, according to Power Ministry data.

India's power consump-

Power consumption during July 1-14 last year was 50.79 BU. It was recorded at 52.89 BU in the first fortnight of July in 2019. Thus, consumption has not only grown yearon-year but also returned to the pre-pandemic level.

Experts say the recovery is mainly due to delayed monsoon and a surge in economic activities amid easing of lockdown restrictions by States.



Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/

For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

#### or residential properties become, CPI inching up and low ₹50 lakh felt the heat of great value to Pidilite. other challenges. This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

# Pant isolating after July 8 positive test for COVID-19

Throwdown specialist Garani also contracts virus — 'close contacts' Saha, Easwaran and bowling coach Arun quarantining

#### INDIA IN ENGLAND

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

At least two members of India's touring contingent in the United Kingdom have been diagnosed with CO-VID-19.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant and training assistant Dayanand Garani have contracted the virus during the Indian squad's break after last month's World Test Championship final loss to New Zealand.

Besides Pant and Garani, a BCCI statement confirmed that reserve opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha and bowling coach Bharat Arun have been isolated for having been identified as close contacts of Garani, a throwdown specialist.

As a result, India's squad, which reassembled in London over the last couple of days, has travelled to Durham without these five individuals.

The BCCI statement added that Pant, who has been isolating on his own, was diagnosed on July 8 while Garani was confirmed to have been contracted COVID-19 on Wednesday.

While Pant will have to clear two successive negative RT-PCR tests, the other four who have stayed back at the team hotel in London will have to quarantine for 10

It means that India may struggle to find a wicketkeeper for the warm-up match in Durham. K.L. Rahul may be forced to keep wickets against the Select County XI from July 20 ahead of the first Test in Nottingham on

No response

The Hindu on Monday had reached out to BCCI secretary Jay Shah and chief executive Hemang Amin to confirm whether four cricketers had been in isolation but the duo did not respond.

Interestingly, a day later, Shah sent an email to all the members of India's contingent to take extreme precautions in the wake of the Delta variant outbreak in the UK.

However, the email was sent hours before the threeweek break ended.

During the break, multiple

players and support staff members attended marquee sporting events including Euro 2020 and the Wimbledon, which had large crowds. Some cricketers also travelled to Scotland for a break.

It is understood that once Pant, who attended a Euro game at Wembley, was confirmed to have contracted the virus last week, three other players – a spinner, a pacer and a reserve pacer served the isolation period before being cleared to enter the biosecure bubble and board the bus to Durham.

The BCCI statement confirmed that all members of the touring contingent were administered a second dose of the vaccine during the last



Laid low: Pant was confirmed to have contracted the virus last week. • FILE PHOTO

## Rhodes to lead 'County Select XI'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Willfred Rhodes will lead a 14-member Select County XI in a three-day warm-up game against India here from July 20-22, the ECB said on Thursday.

County Select XI squad: Will (Warwickshire, Capt.), Rehan Ahmed (Leicestershire), Tom Aspinwell (Lancashire), Ethan Bamber (Middlesex), James Bracey (Gloucestershire), Jack Carson (Sussex), Zak Chappell (Nottinghamshire), Haseeb Hameed (Nottinghamshire), Lyndon James (Nottinghamshire), Jake Libby (Worcestershire), Craig Miles (Warwickshire), Liam Patterson-White (Nottinghamshire), James Rew (Somerset), Rob Yates

# In pursuit of history and a piece of precious metal

Manpreet's men aim to end four decades of heartbreak; Rani's women keen to take a big step

#### TOKYO OLYMPICS **HOCKEY**

Y.B. SARANGI

History will be repeated when men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh carries the Tricolour, along with boxing legend M.C. Mary Kom, at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympic Games. Manpreet will be India's first hockey player to do so after Pargat Singh in 1996.

The inspiring midfielder and his well-knit team will be keen to see history revisit India on the turf as well. In four decades, India has not made it to the semifinals.

The most successful hockey nation in the Games' history has not earned a podium finish after its gold in

The men and women have given themselves an extra ounce of motivation by making a nationalistic announcement - any medal, if it comes, will be dedicated to the COVID-19 warriors of the country.

Manpreet and his squad have prepared well for the arduous task of achieving a long-desired medal. Steeling the body and the mind to overcome doughty opponents and tricky situations has been one of the key aspects of their preparations. The well-balanced team has pedigree and promise.

The defence is experienced, the midfield is energetic and the forward line is sharp. Drag-flicker Harman-





Carrying a billion dreams: The Indian hockey teams have the wherewithal and talent to gladden the hearts of the faithful with an Olympic medal after a long wait. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

preet Singh and Co. will enthe goal-scoring

Medals in top level events including the Champions Trophy, World League, Asia Cup, Asian Games and Asian Champions Trophy – apart from recent wins over reigning Olympic champion Argentina in the FIH Pro League have instilled self-belief in the side.

The experience of playing against Germany and Great Britain will also help.

Clubbed in Pool A with Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Spain and Japan, the Graham Reid-coached team has the potential to break the

women's hockey The team, which made it to the Rio Games after 36 years, is eager to take the next big step by ensuring a respectable finish in Tokyo.

The team has shaped well

under the guidance of coach Sjoerd Marijne.

Led by the iconic Rani Rampal over the last four years, it has claimed medals in elite events, including the Asia Cup, Asian Games and Asian Champions Trophy, apart from securing a topeight finish in the 2018 World

Solid leadership group Rani forms a solid leadership

group with vice-captains Deep Grace Ekka and Savita. Like a beacon light, they will play a key role in steering the side, consisting of youngsters as well as seasoned campaigners, on the Olympics' high-pressure platform.

The side has developed qualities such as fighting till the end, playing without fear and understanding each other's role well.

The players will need to stay calm and rely on their

fitness to execute the plans

Some proven customers in the back line, apt performers in the middle and an interesting combination of seasoned hands and greenhorns up the field sum up the team's strengths. Gurjit Kaur will be the leading hand in penalty corner conversion.

Members with loads of experience but relatively less exposure may spring surprises on opponents. Exposure tours to Germany and Argentina early this year should prove beneficial.

India, placed with World, European and Pro League Netherlands, champion Olympic champion Great Britain, Germany, Ireland and South Africa in Pool A, will have to give its best in order to achieve a dream finish.

The hot and humid weather of Tokyo should make both the Indian teams feel at home. Hockey fans will eagerly wait to see how seamlessly the Indians switch to Games mode in pursuit of a piece of the historic metal.

## THE SQUADS

Dilpreet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Surender Kumar, Manpreet Singh (capt.), Hardik Singh, Gurjant Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, P.R. Sreejesh (GK), Sumit, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Varun Kumar, Birendra Lakra, Amit Rohidas,

WOMEN Navjot Kaur, Gurjit Kaur, Deep Grace Ekka, Monika, Reena Khokhar, Sharmila Devi, Nikki Pradhan, Savita (GK), Nisha, Vandana Katariya, Udita, Namita Toppo, Lalremisiami, Navneet Kaur, P. Sushila Chanu, Rani Rampal (capt.), Salima Tete

# From epic dominance to harrowing drought

India has won eight gold, the last medal coming in 1980

#### **REWIND**

Y.B. SARANGI

India's dominance in hockey for nearly three decades, spanning six Olympics in the previous century, is one of the Games' epic tales. Olympic glory first gave the country, which was firmly under British rule, its own identity, and in subsequent years earned it a lot of pride on the global stage. India's first gold medal,

even if it was against a depleted field in the 1928 Amsterdam Games, was an unheard-of moment for a nation experiencing its freedom struggle.

The 1932 Los Angeles Games established the country as one of the sport's powerhouses. The following edition in Berlin enabled India complete a unique hattrick of gold medals in hockey wizard Dhyan Chand's farewell Olympics.

In the post-World War II London Games in 1948, independent India won its first gold medal, beating the host 4-0 in the final. The Tricolour. going up on English soil and the national anthem playing in London was special.

India reasserted its supremacy in 1952 in Helsinki, and made it three-in-a-row after Independence, and six-in-arow overall, in Melbourne. The 1956 edition triggered the mouthwatering India-Pakistan rivalry, with India ma-



First and last: The 1928 team, which included Dhyan Chand, sitting second from left, started the gold rush while the outfit led by V. Baskaran, fourth from right, won in 1980.

naging a 1-0 win in the summit clash.

India took silver for the first time in the 1960 Rome Olympics, after losing to Pakistan 1-0, but regained gold with an identical victory over its arch-rival in Tokyo four years later.

Internal issues were res ponsible for bronze medals in 1968 and 1972 in Mexico and Munich respectively. But India saw a new low, returning without a medal on astroturf from the 1976 Montreal

The boycott-marred 1980 Moscow Olympics was the

## **Roll of honour**

■ Gold: 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles), 1936 (Berlin), 1948 (London), 1952 (Helsinki), 1956 (Melbourne), 1964 (Tokyo), 1980 (Moscow)

■ Bronze: 1968 (Mexico City), 1972 (Munich)

last Games where India won a hockey medal, a gold. The lowest point came when the team failed to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

## TOKYO TITBITS



Olympic Laurel for **Muhammad Yunus** 

Nobel Peace Prize awardee Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh will become the second recipient of the Olympic Laurel when he receives the trophy during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Games on July 23. Professor Yunus receives the award for his extensive work in sport for development.

Azarenka, Kerber pull out Victoria Azarenka, who won the mixed doubles gold and singles bronze at the 2012 London Games, has withdrawn from the Tokyo Olympics, citing "challenges from the pandemic". Angelique Kerber, who bagged a singles silver in 2016, also pulled out on Thursday.

#### **IOC** guidelines for medal ceremony

The athletes on the podium will wear masks, put their medals around their own necks, and will not pose for group photographs with presenters and volunteers during the ceremonies, the International Olympic Committee said on Thursday. Additional podium modules will be placed between the medallists to allow for social distancing

# Sania looking for an elusive Olympic medal



Primed: Sania, who will be playing in her fourth Olympics, says she will give it her best shot in Tokyo. • FILE РНОТО

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD

For someone who redefined the levels of excellence in the world of women's tennis, the 34-year-old Sania Mirza is all geared up to chase one more goal – an Olympic medal.

The six-time Grand Slamwinner, making her fourth Olympics appearance, will take part in the women's doubles competition, along with Ankita Raina, at Tokyo.

"I consider it a great honour and privilege to be representing my country for the fourth time in the Olympics, in Tokyo," she said in a chat with The Hindu.

"Yes, it is quite amazing that when I started out in tennis almost three decades ago, it was all about dreaming of winning a Grand Slam. I had never imagined I would one day jointly hold the record of most appearances (four) in Olympics by an Indian woman. This is another record that I will be perso-

"It has been reasonably good under the prevailing pandemic conditions but, ideally, I would have liked to have got a few more matches under my belt before heading to the Games," she said.

nally very proud of," Sania

said.

"The Tokyo Olympics are obviously going to feel very different without spectators. The stringent rules and restrictions are definitely going to make things more difficult," she said.

"Ankita has been ranked in the top-100 in doubles and that is something none of my earlier women partners had managed," Sania said.

"Of course, it is never easy for any player to immediately adjust to playing against the best in the world and we will definitely need to punch way above our weight to make an impression at Tokyo," she said.

# Let the shuttle fly high!



Catching up: The Badminton Association of India generalsecretary Ajay Kumar Singhania, fourth from left, interacted with coach P. Gopi Chand, third from left, and Tokyo-bound shuttlers R. Satwiksairaj, P.V. Sindhu, B. Sai Praneeth and Chirag Shetty in Hyderabad on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Oosthuizen, Spieth light up opening day

Former in the lead, latter joint second

REUTERS SANDWICH (UK)

Former champions Louis Oosthuizen and Jordan Spieth sparkled in the morning sunshine as the 149th British Open started at Royal St. George's on Thursday.

South African Oosthuizen, the winner in 2010, made six birdies in a flawless 64 to finish on six-under, one shot ahead of American Spieth, champion in 2017.

Brian Harman matched compatriot Spieth with a 65 to share second place.

Oosthuizen, 38, struck his irons beautifully to pick up three birdies around the turn and added three on the closing holes to make a strong start to his bid for a second major title. "Probably in my mind it

was the perfect round I could have played," he said. The 2020 tournament was

cancelled because of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, but up to 32,000 fans are being allowed each day this year as part of a government test



Sizzling start: Oosthuizen had a 'perfect' first round. • REUTERS This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

# **CHESS WC**

RAKESH RAO

R. Praggnanandhaa stunned Armenia's Gabriel Sargissian in 41 moves to inch closer to a place in the third round of the World Cup chess on Friday. On a day when D. Gukesh

pulled off a creditable draw against 17th seed Daniil Dubov, B. Adhiban and D. Harika were the other winners among the 12 Indians on view during the first game of the second round. P. Iniyan and R. Vaishali lost. Indian results (second round,

## Men: D. Gukesh drew with Da-

Pragg stuns Sargissian

niil Dubov (Rus); P. Iniyan lost to Evgney Tomeshevsky (Rus); Alexandr Fier (Bra) drew with Vidit Gujrathi; B. Adhiban bt Neuris Delgado Ramirez (Par); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) drew with Aravindh Chithambaram; Nihal Sarin drew with Sanan Sjugirov (Rus); Yasser Quesada Perez (Cub) drew with P. Harikrishna; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Gabriel Sargissian (Arm).

Women: Bhakti Kulkarni drew with Natalia Pogonina (Rus); D. Harika bt Medina Warda Aulia (Ina): Sarasadat Khademalsharieh (Iri) drew with Padmini Rout; Bela Khotenashvili (Geo) bt R. Vaishnavi.

# P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Second game

ends in a draw

Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik played out a 39-move draw in the second game of the No-Castling Chess match for the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund on Thursday. It was in sharp contrast to the exciting action in the opening game, which Anand won by playing some precise moves at crucial junctures.

With two games remaining, Anand is leading 1.5-0.5. Friday is a rest day.

#### TV PICKS

ship: Eurosport (SD & HD), 11 a.m. & 9 p.m. **Tour de France**: Eurosport (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. **England vs Pakistan**: 1st T20I, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD),



Donnarumma joins PSG on a free transfer

deal, the French Ligue 1 side

## at team event

the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational here, PTI

#### **McLaren chief Zak Brown** to miss British GP

for the F1 race here on Sunday will not be affected. AP

#### Marsh's all-round show takes Australia home

An all-round performance by Mitchell Marsh (75 and three for 24) earned Australia its first victory of the five-match T20I series as it hung on for a four-run win over the West Indies in the fourth match on Wednesday. West Indies leads series 3-1.

The scores: Australia 189/6 in 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 75, Aaron Finch 53. Havden Walsh 3/27) bt West Indies 185/6 in 20 overs (Lendl Simmons 72, Evin Lewis 31, Mitchell Marsh 3/24).



Smashing knock: Danni Wyatt came out of the crease to counter Poonam Yadav's loopy slow deliveries. • REUTERS

# '89-Wyatt' power short-circuits India

Eight-wicket victory helps England wrap up the T20I series 2-1

#### INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Danni smashed an unbeaten 89 off only 56 balls to overshadow an elegant 70 by Smriti as England Mandhana claimed an easy eight-wicket victory over India in the third T20 International to wrap up the series 2-1 here on Wednesday.

Having already lost the three-match ODI series by the same margin, the Indian women, under Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur, have now lost four successive white-ball series including the two against South Africa at home.

The evening belonged to Wyatt, who took on an out of form Radha Yadav (0/37 in four overs) and Poonam Yaday (0/32 in four overs).

Wyatt came out of the

crease to counter Poonam's loopy slow deliveries and hit her all over the park.

#### **Good support**

She was ably supported by all-rounder Nat Sciver, who chipped in with 42 off 36 balls with four boundaries after having bowled economically to take one for 16 in four

Earlier, Smriti's strokefilled 70 (51b, 8x4, 2x6) powered India to 153 for six in 20 overs. After losing opening partner Shafali Verma in the first over and Harleen Deol in the fourth, Smriti added 68 for the third wicket with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (36, 26b, 5x4, 1x6).

#### Setback

The loss is a big setback for the Indian team which is set to play the 50-over World Cup in New Zealand early next year.

India will next travel to

Australia and the tour also features a day-night Test match.

#### The scores:

India 153/6 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 70 Harmanpreet Kaur 36, Sophie Ecclestone 3/35) lost to England 154/2 in 18.4 overs (Danni Wyatt 89 n.o., Nat Sciver 42). England won by eight wickets and eight balls to spare, clinches the three-match series 2-1.

Player-of-the-match: Danni Wyatt; Player-of-the-series:

# SRCC wins FIDE B-School Super Cup

Proves superior to MIPT Business School in two-match final

#### **CHESS**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Delhi-based Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) dispatched three Russian teams in the knockout phase to win the inaugural FIDE Binance Business Schools Super Cup online chess title.

#### **Slow start**

After a slow start, SRCC topped the eight-team Group-A with a tally of 22 points, despite suffering a 1.5-2.5 shock defeat to Zambia's Mulungushi University.

After two teams from each of the four groups qualified for the quarterfinals, SRCC defeated Moscowbased MGIMO 3.5-0.5.

In the semifinals, SRCC overpowered Grandmaster Joel Lautier-led Moscow School of Management 3-1.

In the two-match final, SRCC proved superior to MIPT Business School 2.5-1.5 in the first match and then claimed the second 3-1 to emerge the champion.

Woman International Master Vantika Agarwal won all her seven games after



All smiles: The SRCC team which emerged victorious.

joining the action from the fifth round of the league

Ankit also won all four games in the knockout after contributing four points from six games in the

Besides SRCC, there were six other Indian teams from four institutions - Galgotia University, Indian Institute of Management (Jammu), T.A. Pai Management Institute (two teams each) and Bharathidasan Institute of

Management – but none could get past the league stage. The results:

Final: Match 1: SRCC bt MIPT Business School 2..5-1.5; Match 2: SRCC bt MIPT Business School 3-1.

Third place: Moscow School of Management bt University of SRCCs individual performance:

Ankit Gajwa (8 points from 10 games); Vantika Agrawal (7/7), Tarini Goyal (captain) (6/7) Rishi Sardana (7/9), Arijith M. (3/4) and Jeet Jain (3/7). vidual time trial.

## Pogacar wins 18th stage, extends lead

#### TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS

Tadej Pogacar edged closer to retaining his Tour de France title as he claimed another landmark victory in the 18th stage, a 129.7-km mountain ride from Pau to Luz Ardiden on Thursday.

The Slovenian's brutal acceleration 500 metres from the line, at top of Luz Ardiden, could not be matched by his rivals as Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard and Ecuador's Richard Carapaz finished two seconds behind in second and third, respectively.

Overall, Pogacar now has a advantage of five minutes 45 seconds over Vingegaard with Carapaz in third place overall, a further six seconds behind. Colombian Rigoberto

Uran, fourth overall at the start, cracked in the penultimate ascent to the Col du Tourmalet to drop out of Have great respect the top 10. Australian Ben O'Connor is now fourth, 8:18 off the pace two days before Saturday's final indi-MAX VERSTAPPEN

# All set for the Sprint Qualifying race

To operate in select venues, expected to bring in variability

#### **FORMULA ONE**

S. DIPAK RAGAV

This weekend's British I Grand Prix will see the debut of a new format called Sprint Qualifying race.

Here is a low-down on what the format is and how it will operate.

What: The new format will be a sprint race held on the Saturday, instead of the traditional qualifying, to set the grid for Sunday's race.

How: It will be a 100-km race that will happen over 25-30 minutes with no mandatory pit-stops. The topthree drivers will get three, two and one championship points respectively.

They also get a victory parade and be presented with specially-designed wreaths to wear around their necks.

On Friday, instead of two practice sessions, there will be just an one-hour session followed by a traditional qualifying session later in the day, to set the grid for Sa-

for Lewis and we are taking nothing for



Trial time: The new format will be launched at Silverstone where Perez and Verstappen are having a chat. • GETTY IMAGES



Mercedes and Lewis CHRISTIAN HORNER

turday's Sprint Race. There will be another

one-hour practice session on Saturday before the Sprint race.

Why: The new system is being trialled is to have more excitement and track action of consequence on all three

days of the weekend for the fans. It also helps both the circuit promoters broadcasters.

Where: The new format will be held in Silverstone, Monza (Italian GP) and at one more venue in the calendar which is not yet finalised. The idea is to have this format at select venues to bring some variability during the season and not to replace the existing qualifying format altogether.

Divij-Gille duo exits

SPORTS BUREAU

# BCCI working group set to swing into action

COVID compensation package, execution of domestic season on its to-do list

## **CRICKET**

AMOL KARHADKAR

Despite the delay in its ap pointment, the BCCI's newly formed working group for domestic cricket is hoping to address the priorities of va-

cricketers and officials after the 2020-21 season was curtailed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The working group, appointed earlier this week, includes Rohan Jaitley (North Dalmiya

"It has been verbally dis-

cussed and I am sure we will be involved in devising the details. From what we gather, the package that is being

anonymity.

September 21.

"Yes, the BCCI has announced the schedule, but besides finalising the venues, we will also have to see if the format requires any tweaks to minimise risks," said another member of the group.

tions, BCCI secretary Jay Shah noted that the working group comprised representatives of "member associations, including former cricketers".

## Cricketer's perspective

The cricket community is hoping that the ex players in the working group - Azha-

ruddin, the former India captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association president, and Jaydev Shah, the Saurashtra Cricket Association chief and First Class veteran - will con-

In the letter to the associa-

an administrator's.

## sider matters more from a cricketer's perspective than

Khris Middleton cashes in for the host

## **NBA FINALS**

REUTERS MILWAUKEE

Khris Middleton earned his nickname in Game 4 of the NBA Finals as "Cash Money" came up clutch in the biggest game of his life.

Following back-to-back 40-point efforts by Giannis Antetokounmpo, Middleton emerged as the Bucks' saviour with a playoff-career high 40 to overshadow 42 points from Suns guard Devin Booker.

"Late in the fourth quarter, we just ran sets that enabled me to get to my spots," Middleton said. "After that I've just got to make reads. Thankfully, I hit some shots."

#### **Boucing back** Middleton scored 10 consec-

utive points and the Milwaukee Bucks rallied from a nine-point deficit to claim Game 4, 109-103, and tie the Phoenix Suns at 2-2 in the best-of-seven NBA Finals. "I don't count shots. I let

the shots come to me and I take it," Middleton said. "I don't count stats or shots until the end of the game."



Milwaukee Bucks' comeback on Wednesday. • AP

Middleton made the money plays in the final two minutes with a freakish nod to Antetokounmpo. block of Deandre Ayton kept the Bucks' lead at four points

Antetokounmpo deferred more than usual and had 26 points, 14 rebounds, eight assists, three steals and two blocks.

For most of the night, only fouls stopped Booker. The Suns' top scorer scored 42 despite being dogged most trouble. Booker's effort was his ninth game in these playoffs over 30 points.

shot 51.3% from the field and held the Bucks to 40.2%. The series now shifts back to Phoenix for Game 5 on Sa-

turday and Middleton said

the Bucks had to take the

momentum with them. The results: Milwaukee Bucks 109 (Middleton 40. Antetokounmpo 26) bt Phoenix Suns 103 (Booker 42). Series tied

# Important to always believe in yourself, says Sindhu

'Nothing comes easy; everyone has to chase their goal'

## BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

World champion P.V. Sindhu's advice to the budding talent in any discipline is to believe in themselves, enjoy the sport and show the desired passion.

The Rio Olympics silver medallist, speaking at the virtual interaction of Bridgestone's campaign 'Chase your Dreams' on Thursday, said that some might be successful very early in their career and some very late.

## Years of hard work

"But, the most important thing is to always think that 'I can do it'. It requires years of hard work to reach the levels of some of the greats of the sports," Sindhu said.

"I am sure if all the pa-



P.V. Sindhu. • GETTY IMAGES

rents advise and guide their children interested in sports in the right way, they are bound to succeed," she said.

On what have been the biggest lessons in her jour ney so far, Sindhu said focus, endurance and performance were the key to her success "One has to remain focussed, make the right kind of efforts, and must have a vision. Nothing comes our

gests," she said. Indian Olympic Association joint secretary Namdev Shirgaonkar thanked Bridgestone for the support to the Olympics contingent.

way easily. Everyone has to

have a goal and keep chasing

it, as this campaign sug-

"We are sending the biggest squad for the Tokyo Games with many firsts. And we are hopeful of a memorable performance," he said.

Bridgestone India MD Pa-

rag Satpute, and Deepak Gu-

lati, Chief Marketing Officer,

Bridgestone, also spoke.

Divii Sharan and Sander Gille of Belgium were bea-

ten by Ivan Sabanov and Matej Sabanov of Croatia 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles prequarterfinals of the €1,168,220 ATP tennis tournament here. In the Challenger at Amersfoort (Nethdrlands), the duo of Arjun Kadhe

gium was beaten 6-3, 7-5 in the quarterfinals, by top seeds Sergio Galdos and Goncalo Oliveira. The results: €1,168,220 ATP, Hamburg: Doubles (prequarterfinals): Ivan Sabanov & Matej Sabanov (Cro) bt San-

and Michael Geerts of Bel-

der Gille (Bel) & Divij Sharan 6-3, 6-4. €44,820 Challenger, Amersfoort, Netherlands: Doubles (quarterfinals): Sergio Galdos (Per) & Goncalo Oliveira (Por) bt Michael Geerts (Bel) & Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 7-5; Pre-quarterfinals: Geerts & Kadhe bt Johan Nikles (Sui) & Carlos Sanchez Jover (Esp) 6-2, 6-4

# Usha calls for a separate category for DSD athletes

Feels there are a few cases in the Indian circuit too

# **ATHLETICS**

STAN RAYAN

She is the fastest quartermiler this year and when Namibia's Christine Mboma came up with that amazing 48.54s in a meet in Poland recently, many felt that the 18-year-old would be the favourite at the Tokyo Olympics.

But the other day, World Athletics removed Mboma and another Namibia quartermiler Beatrice Masilingi, the world's third fastest this year, from its Tokyo list. The Namibian National

Olympic Committee also explained through a media release that the World Athletics' rules pertaining to 'Athletes with Differences of Sexual Development' required the two to undergo



medical tests and since they were found to have high testosterone levels they would not be eligible to compete in events ranging from the 400m to the mile. The two

200m in Tokyo. Another athlete, Niger's Aminatou Seyni, was also

forced to drop the 400m last year after she refused to take hormone suppressants for her elevated testosterone P.T. Usha feels that there

could be nearly 10 such athletes in the Indian circuit.

"I feel that there are some eight to 10 DSD athletes who are competing in our national meets. When our teams go for international competitions, if somebody is found to be a DSD athlete in tests, that will be very shameful for the country," said Usha in a

ful about it. We should confirm that we don't have any DSD athlete in our team.

"In fact, there there should be a separate category for DSD athletes, apart from men and women divisions. Because their num-

They should not be allowed to compete with real women in all events," she said. "Earlier, they were very

strict about it. During our time, we had gender testing and we were given a card too. Every team was tested. And only 'real' girls were allowed to compete."

Golf: The Open Champion-

#### IN BRIEF



Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma has joined Paris St Germain on a free transfer after leaving Serie A club AC Milan, signing a five-year

#### said on Wednesday. REUTERS Aditi, Pajaree share lead

MICHIGAN Aditi Ashok and her Thai partner Pajaree Anannarukarn shot a 5-under 65 to share the lead with three other teams on the opening day of

SILVERSTONE McLaren chief executive Zak Brown will miss the British GP this week after testing positive for the coronavirus The team said its preparations

Australia won by four runs.

rious stakeholders. The BCCI annual general meeting on December 1 last year had authorised the office-bearers to form a working group to formulate a compensation package for

# Deepak Hooda

quits Baroda PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pandya last season.

**NOC** granted

Experienced batsman Deepak Hooda has expectedly left the Baroda cricket team after a fallout with skipper Krunal

by the Baroda Cricket Association. The development was confirmed on Thursday by BCA secretary Ajit Lele.

He has been granted NOC

In January, the BCA had suspended Hooda, who had stormed out of the camp before the start of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, for the last domestic season for "indiscipline" and "bringing disrespect to the game.'

Hooda had claimed

The 26-year-old Hooda,

that Krunal had misbe-

haved with him.

to his name.

who made his first-class debut in 2014, has played 46 matches and scored 2,908 runs, with nine hundreds, 15 fifties. A right-arm off-spinner

Hooda has also 20 wickets

This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel Thehindu000

hammad

Zone), Yudhvir Singh (Central), Jaydev Shah (West), Devajit Saikia (North-East), Av-(East), Santhosh Menon and Mo-Azharuddin

Interestingly, the BCCI letter to its affiliates on July 10, informing them of the formation of the group, has no mention of a compensation

worked out will be to make up for the loss of tournaments that could not happen last season," said a member of the group, on condition of

In addition to the compensation package, the group will also be tasked with executing the forthcoming domestic season, set to start on

# Bucks rally to draw level with Suns

whose with 1:15 to play.

of the second half by foul

He had 10 points on 3 of 14 shooting in Game 3. Phoenix



will now be running the

them."

chat with The Hindu. "So, we have be very care-

bers seem to be increasing

not stop them from competing in jumps, throws and long distance events in international meets and Usha feels that is not fair. "This issue used to be a big problem in the 400, 800 and 1500m but I can see many of them in other events.

and it is a problem for 'real'

women to compete against

The World Athletics' DSD

regulations only apply to

athletes who are 'biological-

ly male' (46 XY) but it does