



'C' in Congress stands for cunning, says BSP supremo Mayawati



India's strategic ties with U.S. have global significance, says Modi Harry Kane stars as **England trounces Ukraine** to enter semifinals





At least 45 dead, dozens injured as military plane crashes in Philippines

page 13

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



## **NEARBY**

## Stadiums to open today,

spectators not allowed NEW DELH The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Sunday permitted stadiums and sports complexes in the city to reopen from July 5 but without spectators, subject to strict compliance of standard operating procedures and adherence to COVID-19

Level Up IAS FEE ₹34,000/-+GST

appropriate behaviour.

**CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

**EDUCATIONPLUS** ▶ PAGE 5

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban's

through northern Afghanis-

tan gained momentum over-

night with the capture of

several districts in Badakh-

shan province from fleeing

Afghan forces, several

hundred of whom escaped

across the border into Taji-

kistan, officials said on

tured a key district in their

former bastion of Kandahar

after fierce fighting.

The insurgents also cap-

The fall of Panjwai dis-

trict in the southern pro-

vince of Kandahar, the

birthplace of the Taliban,

comes just two days after

the U.S. and NATO forces va-

Sunday.

Taliban capture several

districts in Afghanistan

They make strides throughout country

march

## Pushkar Dhami sworn in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister

He retains earlier Ministers in 11-member Cabinet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Two-time MLA from Khatima in Uttarakhand Pushkar Singh Dhami was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of the State, along with an 11-member Cabinet, on Sunday in Dehradun.

Mr. Dhami, at 45 the voungest Chief Minister vet of Uttarakhand, retained the entire team of his predecessor, Tirath Singh Rawat.

Mr. Rawat quit on Friday evening ostensibly on being unable to get elected to the Uttarakhand Assembly within the constitutionally stipulated deadline of six months from the date he took over. Mr. Dhami, already an MLA, will have no such problems going ahead.

Base near Kabul. The leader

of the Taliban, Hibatullah



New role: Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami taking the oath of office in Dehradun on Sunday. •PT

The only change that Mr. Dhami made to his Cabinet was to give all Ministers a promotion to Cabinet rank. The Ministers sworn were Satpal Maharaj, Harak Singh Rawat, Bansidhar Bhagat,

Yashpal Arya, Bishan Singh Chufal, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, Ganesh Joshi, Dhan Singh Rawat, Rekha Arya and Yatishwaranand.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Domestic air traffic sees steady improvement

People booking tickets well in advance

JAGRITI CHANDRA

Akhundzada, hails from Panjwai. Since mid-April, when U.S. President Joe Biden announced the end to Afghanistan's "forever war", the Taliban have made strides throughout the country. But their most significant gains have been in the northern half of the country, a traditional stronghold of the U.S.-allied warlords who vel agents.

helped defeat them in 2001. The Taliban now control roughly a third of all 421 districts and district centres in Afghanistan.

(With AFP inputs)

**FAMILIES FLEE AS INSURGENTS** cated their main Bagram Air ADVANCE ▶ PAGE 11

NEW DELHI

After a drastic fall in demand for air travel from March onwards due to the second wave of COVID-19, there is now a steady rise in the number of daily passengers. People are once again making bookings well in advance of their travel dates as well as returning from tier-2 and tier-3 cities to big metros, according to online tra-

"The domestic air traffic is picking up with a 45% rise in June compared to May due to the opening up of cities as the second wave of COVID-19 subsided," said Ameya Joshi, founder of aviation analysis website Network Thoughts.



Flyers waiting to get tested at the airport in New Delhi.

"The average daily count stood just shy of 1 lakh passengers per day in June, which is one fourth of pre-COVID numbers," he added.

In February 2021, before the second wave, passenger figures hovered between 2.5 lakh and 3 lakh per day, nearing pre-COVID levels.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

## Cong. calls for probe into Rafale deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Stepping up its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale fighter jet deal, the

Congress on Sunday questioned the Narendra Modi government's silence and asked why India could not order an investigation now since the deal was already under scrutiny in France.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi posted an online poll on Twitter, asking why the government was avoiding a JPC probe. "Why is the Modi government not ready for a JPC probe - guilty conscience, saving the friends, JPC does not want a Rajya Sabha seat, and all of these are correct," he said. Of the 74,733 people who responded, 63% opted for the "all of these are correct" option.

Alleging corruption in the fighter jet deal, Mr. Gandhi had made it his party's poll plank in the 2019 Lok Sabha election but failed to find traction.

A report in the French investigative website Mediapart that a judge had been appointed to lead a judicial probe into suspected "corruption and favouritism" in the ₹59,000 crore deal has politically revived the issue.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 **RELATED REPORT ON ▶** PAGE 9

UPCOMING

## J&K administration bans drones in Srinagar

People having UAVs should deposit them at police stations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday banned the sale, use and possession of unmanned aerial vehicles in Srinagar, a week after two Indian Air Force personnel were injured in a drone attack on the Air Force Station in

Jammu. Two explosives-laden drones had crashed into the air base, and there were other suspicious sightings of UAVs, triggering a security

"To secure the aerial space near vital installations and highly populated areas, it is imperative to discontinue the use of drones in all social and cultural gatherings to eliminate any risk of injury to life and damage to property," Srinagar District Magistrate Mohammad Aijaz said in an order.

#### 'Posing a threat' The order, issued under Sec-

tion 144 of the CrPC, said that access to decentralised airspace had to be regulated in view of the recent episodes of misuse of drones posing a threat to security infrastructure, as reported by the media and other reliable sources.

"Keeping in view the security situation apart from Security alert: A National Security Guard team arriving at the

IAF station in Jammu to investigate the drone attack. • PTI

concerns of breach of privacy, nuisance and trespass, it is extremely dangerous to let unmanned aerial vehicles to wander around in the skies within the territorial jurisdiction of Srinagar," it read. The District Magistrate

imposed "restrictions/ban on the storage, sale/ possession, use and transport of drones/similar kinds of unmanned aerial vehicles in the city".

The order directed those possessing drone cameras or other similar kinds of unmanned aerial vehicles to deposit them at the local police stations.

The administration cautioned that any violation of the guidelines would attract punitive action, and directed the police to implement the restrictions in letter and spirit.

#### Some exemptions

The order, however, exempted government departments using drones for mapping, surveys surveillance in agricultural, environment conservation and disaster mitigation sector, but directed them to "inform the local police station before undertaking any such activity in public interest".

Srinagar is the second district in Jammu and Kashmir to ban the use and possession of drones. Earlier, the Rajouri administration had imposed a ban in the wake of the Jammu attack.

(With PTI inputs)

## Union wants true valuation of HPC mills in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

One of the two closed paper mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) in Assam sits on a large reserve of crude oil, the union of the mill's employees said.

In a letter to HPC's Kolkata-based liquidator Kuldeep Verma on July 3, the Cachar Paper Project Workers' Union demanded the disclosure of the volume and value of the oil reserve beneath the Cachar Paper Mill complex before it is auctioned off at a "throwaway price". A copy of the letter was sent to the Secretary of the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public

Enterprises in Delhi. The union said it apprehended major irregularities in the auction documents and sought clarification from the liquidator prior to the sale of assets, particularly after the reserve price of the two paper mills was reduced from ₹1,139 crore

by ₹170 crore. "More than three oil well points exist in the Cachar Paper Mill township area and there is a land lease agreement with the ONGC. But the valuation of the oil reserve has not been disclosed anywhere in the auction notification where the land area has been detailed," union's president Maobendra Chakraborty said. The auction documents should have noted the township as an oil reserve land, he said.



Announcing Offline\* Batch GS FOUNDAT PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2022

**STARTING FROM: 6th JULY 2021** Timing- 5:00 to 7:30 PM

Polity & International Relations Nikhil Lohithakshan: **Geography and** 

**Environment** 

Shubhra Ranjan:

Dr. Jayesh Khaddar: **History, Art & Culture** and IR

**Saurabh Kumar:** 

**Vivek Singh: Indian Economy** 

**Atul Garg: Ethics, Integrity** & Aptitude

### **COURSE FEATURES:**

Polity, Governance,

Social Issues and

**Internal Security** 

- COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS. • FOCUS ON CONCEPTUAL CLARITY, INTERLINKING BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS AND THE DYNAMIC ASPECTS OF THE SYLLABUS.
- PRELIMS TEST SERIES.

> jammu@shubhraranjan.com

> jaipur@shubhraranjan.com

> kolkata@shubhraranjan.com

> dehradun@shubhraranjan.com

- MAINS ANSWER TEST SERIES.
- EXCLUSIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS THROUGH **GROUP/ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS.**

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE & IR JULY 2021 TABLET BATCH**

BATCH STARTING FROM 6<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2021

Admissions open at all our Regional Centers \*Offline Batches As Per The Govt. Regulation

+91-7880015551

+91-9674345633

WILL ALSO BE CONDUCTED IN ONLINE (LIVE) MODE



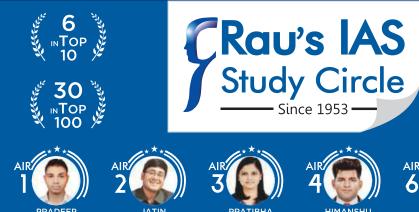
> indore@shubhraranjan.com

> patna@shubhraranjan.com



**Q** 011-45612719, 9910812719 delhi@shubhraranjan.com 🛞 www.shubhraranjan.com

25 Pusa Road, 1st Floor, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005







**OFFLINE BATCHES** 

## GS INTEGRATED FOUNDATION COURSE

LIVE - ((●)) NLINE (Commencement dates are subject to Govt. Guidelines) **BATCHES BATCHES 9** July 1 vear Bengaluru Jaipur Delhi **Regular Course 16** July For CSE 2022 Delhi **24** July 1.5 years Delhi **Weekend Course 7** Aug Bengaluru For CSE 2023

### Masters of Civil Services Exam Preparation Since 1953

**Small batch** 

discussion &

doubt solving

sizes to enable



Assignments +

Class Tests +

**Test Series** 



Video backup of classes





**Quality Improvement Programs** for Pre

+ Mains Compass

**Comprehensive Study** 

material: Blue work Books

+ Focus + Prelims Compass



Hundreds of Rau's IAS students ace CSE every year. Scan here to watch Rau's IAS Online classes review by UPSC asp **RAU'S IAS INTERVIEWS** 

1 DAF Analysis -> 2 Mock Interviews -> 3 Feedback (incl. video recordings of mock interviews) Mock Interviews are in progress. Book your session at www.rauias.com

Everything that you need to know and experience delivered by eminent retired - IAS/IPS/IFS - officers at Rau's.

ADMISSIONS OPEN | APPLY NOW

NEW DELHI 011-40786050, 9810184722, 7387992102, 8826939973, 7568054231 BENGALURU 080 - 255 35536, 9916035536, 8861822955 DAIPUR 0141 - 4106050, 8209203177, 7568054231 www.rauias.com | 011 - 40786050 | www.elearn.rauias.com

A ND-NDE

ASHOK KUMAR

ferent religions.

mid fears of the pandemic's

third wave, administering

Avaccines, at least a single

dose, to the maximum population

remains the top priority of the go-

vernment, besides improving the

health infrastructure. Though a

vast majority is willing to get vacci-

nated, a small section still remains

unconvinced for a variety of rea-

sons and are hesitant to get the

jab. The scepticism is not confined

to particular strata of society or

faith, but spreads across the rich

and the poor, the literate and the illiterate and people practising dif-

Corporate lawyer Sonia Abrol, a

Master of Corporate and Commer-

cial Laws from the University of

California, is not convinced to take

a jab because of contradictory re-

ports on the efficacy of the vac-

cines and "little clarity" on their

COVID patient with severe

He had developed ARDS, says doctor

complications recovers

after 50 days in ICU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 38-year-old patient, who

had developed severe com-

plications due to COVID, re-

covered after 50 days in ICU

and was discharged from a

private hospital here, said

in a multi-national compa-

ny was diabetic, and had

been admitted to the Mool-

chand Hospital on May 7,

when the city was battling a

fierce second COVID wave.

pneumonia and had also

developed Acute Respirato-

(ARDS), said Surabhi Awas-

thi, Director of Critical Care

According to hospital

at the hospital.

the facility.

He had severe bilateral

Distress Syndrome

The patient, an executive

authorities on Sunday.

## Fear of vaccine lurks

Many people are still hesitant to take the jab. Reasons range from inconclusive research, lack of safety at vaccine centres and doubts on the efficacy of vaccines



A health worker administers COVID-19 vaccine to a beneficiary in Gurugram; health workers attend to COVID-19 patients at a temporary hospital at Tau Devi Lal

"There is still widespread hesitancy fuelled by misinformation and mistrust. People, especially in rural areas, believe that vaccine will cause impotency, serious side effects and could even kill. Many female patients come to hospital and ask questions like if the vaccine would disrupt their menstrual cycle or could reduce their fertility. Even after getting appropriate answers, they do not take the vaccine. We know from psychology research and practical observations why people hesitate to vaccinate across all the countries. There are five universal reasons called 5C Model -- vaccine confidence, vaccine complacency, constraints, collective responsibilities and calculation," Dr. Jaggi added.

#### **Urban disease**

"People do not have confidence in the safety of the vaccine and mistakenly believe that it can cause life-threatening adverse reactions when no clear cut causality to vaccines has been proven. There is vaccine complacency among the community that they do not need to vaccinate because they will not catch the virus, especially in rural areas where people still believe this virus cannot catch them as they do not eat junk food and work in fields. According to them, this is an "urban area disease".

Then there are constraints like concerns about cost, time, I'm too busy, I've got a stressful life, or I work all day and where is the time to take the vaccine. Sometimes logistics are difficult. The fourth C is a collective responsibility which is all about if everybody else vaccinates, then I do not need to. The last and fifth C is calculation, where people do extensive research about the vaccine, read a thousand articles and weigh the benefits and still remain unsure about getting the jab," explained Dr. Jaggi.

She said the pandemic had been an infodemic with information thrust upon people from various sources, not fully researched or checked for authenticity. "Just as a jab inoculates a harmless form of the virus in order to avoid a severe disease in case we are exposed to it, an inoculation of a clear and transparent message would prevent vaccine hesitancy in individuals if they come into contact with misleading false informa-

## 67-year-old woman robbed in CR Park

Three held in connection with the case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 67-year-old woman was allegedly attacked by bikeborne robbers in south Delhi's CR Park, the police said on Sunday.

Three persons - Karan, Surjeet and Shuaib – has been arrested in connection with the case, they said.

The incident happened when the victim, Indrajeet Kaur, went to visit her daughter's house in GK-II on July 3 evening, the police

At 9.45 p.m., her daughter dropped Ms. Kaur near her house. Ms. Kaur opened her bag to fetch house keys when a man riding a pillion on a motorcycle approached her and tried to snatch her bag.

"Ms. Kaur tried to resist the robbery following which the snatcher dragged her on the road. He then sped off with the bag, which contained around ₹500 cash, a mobile phone and a debit card. The victim has sustained bruises," an officer said.

The police said during the scuffle, the robber's helmet had dropped on the ground.

'Next morning, a man picked up the helmet," the officer said, adding that the entire incident was captured in a CCTV camera.

An FIR was registered under Indian Penal Code Section 392 (robbery) and probe was launched following which the arrests were made, the police added.

## Auto driver, another held for robbing jawan in city

STAFF REPORTER

Two men, including an autorickshaw driver, were arrested for allegedly robbing an Indian Army jawan in southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony, the police said on Sunday.

The accused, Rajiv Kumar (28) and Umesh (22), are both from U.P., they said.

The victim, Tawar Raj Singh, approached the police on April 13. He told them that the incident happened when he was going for duty in Punjab's Dappar from his village Goondi in Rajasthan via bus. He reached Sarai Kale Kha bus terminal at 1 a.m. on April 13. He was waiting for a bus to reach Kashmeri Gate when an auto stopped at the spot.

He told the police that the auto already had one passenger. The driver told him that

he would drop him at Kashmiri Gate following which he boarded the auto.

Fled with pistol, ID card The driver took him to an isolated spot and started beating him, the police said. The passengers also joined the driver

and they robbed Singh of his

bag that had 10 live cartridges

of 7.6 mm pistol, uniform and his ID card. The accused then fled the

"Police analysed CCTV footage of the area and identified the auto. Later, a raid was conducted at Yakubpur village in Noida and Rajiv was apprehended. On his instance, his accomplice Umesh was also held," said DCP (South-East) R.P. Meena.

Nine live cartridges and the auto was recovered from

#### "Sometimes there are reports themselves not infected. "In a nutthat a vaccine is not approved by shell, I am being extra careful and I WHO or the other is not accepted feel there is no better vaccine than by the European Union. So which staying home and staying unexvaccine should one get? There is posed," summed up Ms. Abrol. little clarity on the process of these Implausible explanation vaccines. How much are you protected? Or how many variants are Panipat-based RTI activist P.P. Ka-

administering

vaccines were

poor said that COVID-19 was a "big you protected against? The research is not conclusive. So how mystery" for him and seemed to does one take a call? How can you be a weapon to trample the rights play with your body? It is a big of the workers and distract peorisk. I feel I am so much safer not ple's attention from the real issues getting vaccinated than getting and government's failures. Not willing to take the jab, Mr. Kapoor vaccinated," said the 34-year-old, a resident of Sector 9A in Gurugram. argued that the number of CO-Ms. Abrol, founder of law firm VID-19 cases rose and then went Sarvaya Legal, also sounded scepdown without any plausible explatical about the health infrastrucnation. He added that even taking ture saying she was not sure a vaccine does not guarantee full whether the vaccination centres

protection. Maths post-graduate Rekha, a resident of Rohtak, said her husband, a civic body employee, and in-laws took the vaccine, but she was reluctant to take it.

"I know people who got infected after taking the jab. Also, even a little overdose of vaccine can be harmful and so I am scared to take it. It also causes fever for a few days," said Ms. Rekha.

The 32-year-old said she had already got infected and recovered and was now confident that there was no need for vaccine.

#### Lack of faith

All India Mewati Samaj president Ramzan Chaudhary, a resident of Nuh, said that none in his village sewaka had got the jab except his

special camp in our village to get the pandemic.

to the fellow villagers to find out the reasons for not getting vaccinated, they told me that they feared that the vaccine might cause impotency and was anti-Islam. Many feared long-term harmful effects. We made them speak to Muslim doctors and muftis to address their fears and concerns. There is widespread lack of faith against the vaccine in the villages in Nuh, despite the best efforts of the administration," said Mr.

people vaccinated. When I spoke

Namita Jaggi, Chairperson of Lab services and Infection Control and Chief Education and Research, Artemis Hospital said that vaccines against COVID-19 prevented severe disease and deaths "We are soon going to hold a and was the only tool for ending

## DMRC implements custom-made project monitoring software

IPMS will assist in planning and execution at all stages

The Delhi Metro on Sunday announced that it has implemented a custom-made project monitoring software - Integrated Project Monitoring Software (IPMS) – for tracking the progress of its Phase 4 corridors in the city and the Patna Metro.

Through IPMS, all the stages of project planning and implementation right from the tender stage to revenue operation of each corridor will be monitored, including the issues of work front availability such as land availability, tree transplantation and shift-



accessed from anywhere. says DMRC spokesperson.

ing of services and design status, the DMRC said.

The IPMS has the features of integration of other construction-related software and will monitor the

progress of work of all disciplines - civil, electrical, mechanical, signalling and telecommunication contract package-wise at the chief project manager and project manager levels and corridor-wise at the directors and managing director-level, the DMRC said.

"The implementation of this software will enable easier round-the-clock monitoring of projects as the IPMS portal can be accessed from anywhere on mobiles, laptops, computers. This will also help in better record keeping and knowledge sharing among the engineers," a Delhi Metro spokesperson said.

## Three held for extorting money by posing as civic body officials

Accused used to target shopkeepers in east Delhi, say police

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested for allegedly impersonating civic body officials and extorting money from shopkeepers in east Delhi's Mansarovar Park, the police said on Sunday.

The accused have been identified as Omparkash (55) from Seelampur, Vikas Panchal from Ram Nagar Extension and Sandeep Garg, a resident of Shahdara, they

Former employees They all previously worked in civic bodies and BSES on a

contract basis, the police

Satender Sharma, a resident of Shahdara, reported that three persons, impersonating as civic body officials, came to his shop in east Nathu colony, Mandoli Road and asked him to show trade license, a senior officer said.

'Accused took ₹3,000'

Thereafter, they threatened him for action against the shop and asked him to pay ₹3,000 for the settlement. The complainant then paid the amount.

"Sharma got suspicious and asked for their identity cards following which some heated arguments ensued between them. The accused

On Saturday, complainant then fled the spot," said De puty Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram said.

Modus operandi

During interrogation, Omparkash disclosed that he along with his accomplices Panchal and Garg, used to impersonate as civic body officials and check the trade and other licenses of the shops and extort money from them by threatening the shopkeepers regarding cancellation of license etc., the DCP said.

Later, raids were conducted and, on his instance, his accomplices were arrested, the police said.

#### side the lungs but he manauthorities, the patient's relatives had considered airaged to overcome everything," Dr. Awasthi said. lifting him for extracorpo-Currently, the patient membrane to labourer oxygenation (ECMO) and has regained movement in lung transplant but were his upper limbs but his lower limbs are still weak, the somehow convinced to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA continue the treatment at doctor said, adding: "He

has a long road to recov-

A woman gets vaccinated in

days and on ventilator sup-

port for nearly 35-40 days.

After we could cure his

lungs, he developed qua-

driparesis and could not

tion with the help of a neu-

rologist. Then the patient

developed pneumothorax

in which air gets filled in-

"We treated that condi-

the city on Sunday.

R.V. MOORTHY

move any limbs.

"He was in the ICU for 50

72 centres found flouting e-waste rules in city: DPCC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Seventy-two e-waste collection centres in the Capital have been found violating E-waste Management Rules and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been requested to take action against them, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said on Sunday.

The degree of non-compliance is "very high" looking at the findings of the inspections, the DPCC noted.

The apex pollution control body has also been asked to cancel Extended Pro-Responsibility (EPR) authorization granted to the producers attached with these noncompliant collection centres. EPR is one of the main

features of E-waste Management Rules under importers are responsible for recovering the material placed in the market for

which brand owners and safe disposal at their cost.

## returns bag with ₹1L cash

Constable

NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police constable came as a saviour for a 53year-old labourer, who had forgotten a bag containing ₹1 lakh cash at the platform on Shivaji Bridge railway station and left on a train for home in U.P.

Vijay Kumar, who lives in Shakur Basti in northwest Delhi, on June 30, had withdrawn ₹1 lakh. But unfortunately, he left his cash bag behind on the platform and left for his hometown. Meanwhile, Constable Narender Kumar spotted the bag. On checking he found the cash and Aadhar card. He immediately informed his seniors but was unable to contact Kumar. Hours later. Kumar returned to the station when the officer handed him the bag after

due formalities.

## SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH "Justice, to which mercy is alien, is no justice at all."

This remark came from the Delhi High Court while staying the transfer of an HIV+ Border Security Force [BSF] jawan, from Delhi to

Cachar in Assam, considering his health condition. A Vacation Bench comprising Justice C. Hari

Shankar and Justice Subramonium Prasad also expressed disapproval of the BSF's decision to resist the voluntary retirement application submitted by the "We cannot appreciate

the insistence of the respondent [BSF] on the petitioner [jawan] joining duty at Cachar, in his precarious medical condition, even while keeping the application



pending," the High Court observed

The court's order came on a plea by the jawan who has contested the June 9, 2021, order of the Force to transfer him to a Battalion in Cachar, which is located at the Indo-Bangladesh Border.

**Undergoing therapy** 

The jawan contended that owing to his affliction, he is undergoing a Mega Highly Active Retroviral Therapy at the base hospital and at the

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New

HC urges mercy, stays transfer of HIV positive BSF jawan

Vacation Bench expresses disapproval of force's decision to resist his voluntary retirement

As travelling to Cachar and discharging duties would be severely deleterious to his health, and could also imperil his life, he applied for voluntary retirement on June 9. Meanwhile, a subsequent movement order was issued by the BSF, relieving him of his duties at Delhi with effect from June 21, and directing him to report at Cachar on or before July 5.

The BSF's counsel, however, submitted that the jawan ought to have submitted his voluntary retirement application at the Battalion in Cachar as he stood transferred to the said office. The counsel also argued that the jawan ought, in good faith, to have submitted his application of voluntary retirement at least

expiry of his tenure. He stated that there are as many as 17.129 BSF personnel who are in the Low Medical Category, of which 16,029 suffer from chronic diseases and 667 are HIV+. The jawan submitted, since he was detected with HIV in 2007, he has always been posted in a place -Delhi, Gandhinagar and Kolkata – which has nearby access to specialist HIV

three months before the

The court noted that though it was "hopeful that a more compassionate approach would have been adopted by the respondents (BSF), keeping in view the medical condition of the petitioner; nevertheless, the respondents have chosen to contest the petition".

treatment facilities.

The court noted it was a matter of common knowledge that, over a

period of time, HIV being a progressive disease, the condition of the patient usually deteriorates. In this context, the jawan pointed out that he has a CD4 count of 215, which is a borderline count between HIV and AIDS. It also highlighted the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines of September 28, 2017, which require that P-3 medical category BSF personnel be posted at a place that has a humidity level of less than 75% around the year and has access to specialist services nearby. "The petitioner does not

insist on retaining posting at Delhi. He has, very fairly and at the cost of his career, agreed to voluntarily retire, in accordance with the BSF Rules," the court said while staying the transfer and movement orders till the next date of hearing on September 6.

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The second wave of the pandemic saw a sudden spurt in the number of cases; it also saw a steep plunge after it hit the peak. The fluctuations were erratic. Test positivity rate (TPR) crossed 1% mark on March 20 but in little over a month, it peaked to 36% on April 22. Then, by May 31, the TPR had dropped below 1% mark to 0.99%.

Delhi's was not an exception. Experts said a similar trend was witnessed in some other States and attribute it to the type of virus variant as well as people's behavior patterns. However, they were also split on the issue of herd immunity and whether there can be a third wave in the

Jayaprakash Muliyil, an epidemiologist and former principal of Christian Medical College in Vellore, said whenever there is a sharp rise in cases, there will be a sharp drop in the number of cases. It was "expected".

"Second wave started at a time when people lost patience and started venturing out. There were Alpha and Delta variants at that time too. The Delta variant is more contagious and if one person gets infected, in most cases, the whole family will get infected. This was the reason for the sharp rise. Most parts of Delhi are a city and this also contributed to it," Dr. Muli-

#### **Susceptibility factor**

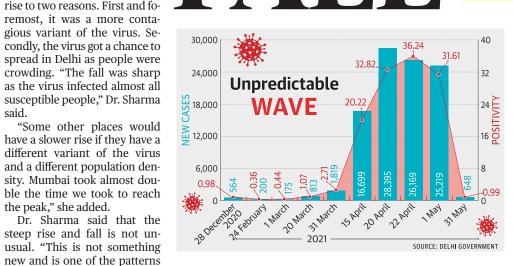
After the rise, the cases started dropping suddenly. "Practically, everyone who got infected during the second wave was those who did not get infected in the first wave. During the first wave everyone was susceptible. But during the second, after a point the virus did not have enough susceptible people. That led to the sudden fall," he reasoned.

On the other hand, wherever the spike was not sharp, rather steady, it will take time for the cases to reduce. "For example, in Kerala there are still about 10,000 cases every day as they



## did not see a sharp spike in cases like Delhi," he said. Nandini Sharma, Head of Community Medicine Department of Maulana Azad Medical College in Delhi, attributed the

The second wave of the pandemic has retreated almost as fast as it had peaked. Doctors. though, are divided about herd immunity and the possibility of a third wave



Jugal Kishore, Head of Community Medicine Department at Safdarjung Hospital said it was "not an anomaly" as it occurs in other places too, though not everywhere.

"In U.K., there was a similar rise and fall in cases. It depends on the variants of the virus in circulation at a point in time. Even in India, the trajectory [in other places] could be different to Delhi as the dominant variants might be different," Dr. Kishore said.

He said if the government was detecting new cases faster during the second wave, then that would have also aided in a quick fall in cases as those people will be isolated and hence would not be spreading the dis-

#### Immunity and third wave

The quick drop in numbers in Delhi during the second wave could be a sign of herd immunity, observed Dr. Muliyil. About the possibility of a third wave, RT-PCR test under way at GTK Road in the Capital; a woman getting vaccinated at a centre. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



he said: "We need to know how much percentage of the population has been infected and how much is still susceptible to the virus. For that we need a sero survey."

As per current estimates, about 86% of people should have immunity by natural infection in cities to get herd immunity and the figure is 60% in rural areas, he said, adding that the immunity from COVID-19 infection is "long lasting".

However, Dr. Sharma said it is difficult to ascertain whether Delhi has attained herd immunity or not. "Assuming there is no new variant that can bypass immunity and infect people who have been already infected, we will attain herd immunity if 75-80% of the population has developed antibodies against CO-VID-19. Having said that, since it is a new virus, we are still learning about it," Dr. Sharma said.

Herd immunity is different for different diseases. For instance, 95% of the children have to be vaccinated to attain herd immunity in case of measles, she pointed out. Currently, there are fewer number of reported re-infections and the emphasis should be on vaccinating more people, she added. Dr. Kishore has a different take on the third wave. "Only people who have not been infected by the virus are susceptible to it. In Delhi, majority have been infected. Also, till now there is no proof of any variant causing large scale re-infection. So, I don't think there will be a third wave in Delhi," Dr. Kishore said.

#### Less probability

But it cannot be ruled out altogether. "A third wave is possible, if the virus mutates and it is able to infect people who have been already infected," he said, adding that people who have developed natural immunity from COVID-19 have less chances of getting infected again, compared to those getting infected after taking the vaccine.

Attaining herd immunity for COVID-19, though, is more complex than initial assumptions. "In the beginning, we thought that if 60% of the population gets natural immunity then we will attain herd immunity. Later, the virus became more infectious and we thought that 80% of the population has to get natural immunity. But now we think that even if 80% of the population have natural immunity, the rest could be infected if a more infectious variant comes," he said.

### Timings

**DELHI** 

MONDAY, JUL. 05 RISE 05:29 SET 19:23 RISE 01:53 SET 15:26

TUESDAY, JUL. 06 RISE 05:30 SET 19:23

RISE 02:27 SET 16:20 WEDNESDAY, JUL. 07

RISE 05:30 SET 19:23 RISE 03:05 SET 17:16

max min Delhi City 40 26 Safdarjang 26 Palam

**Delhi Palam Today** 40°C A comfortable morning turns hot day with warm dry winds and few clouds.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 41°C Rise in day temperature Very hot day. Morning and evening would also remain

warm with partly cloudy sky

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

THE HINDU

any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch

## Stadiums to open today sans spectators

Restrictions on educational institutions, religious gatherings remain in place

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

remost, it was a more conta-

the peak," she added.

demics," she said.

of waves of an epidemic that we

teach students. There are diffe-

rent patterns of waves of epi-

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Sunday permitted stadiums and sports complexes to reopen from July 5 but without spectators subject to strict compliance of standard operating procedures and adherence to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

The rest of the restrictions on educational institutions, social, political, sport, entertainment, cultural, religious and festival related gatherings remain in place. Cinema halls, swimming pools, auditoriums, business to business exhibitions and spas remain

The Delhi Metro will continue to run at 50% of its seating capacity per coach and no standing passengers will be allowed.

The DDMA said the status of COVID-19 in Delhi was reviewed and it was observed that the number of patients and the positivity rate have



Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday. • PTI

declined considerably and the overall situation has improved. It said due caution must however be taken for consolidating the whole process

The DDMA had last week permitted gyms and yoga institutes to open with half their capacity as part of its phased unlock process. Weddings have been permitted at hotels and in banquet halls with a cap on the number of guests at 50.

### Close watch

The Delhi Police Commissioner, Principal Secretary (revenue), District Magistrates and DCPs have been directed by the DDMA to ensure compliance of all CO-VID-related extant orders such as use of face masks and social distancing. The DDMA said a very close watch will be maintained on the functioning of markets, market complexes, malls, restaurants and bars and they shall be closed if CO-VID-appropriate behaviour is not followed or if there is a growth in the number of positive cases.

## 'Around 50% municipal schools not following RTE Act mandate'

Citing report, Sisodia blames them for poor pupil-teacher ratio

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

District Information System for Education (UDISE) Plus 2019-20 report by Central government's Ministry of Education (MoE), Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday said that the poor pupil-teacher ratio in BJPruled municipal schools is bringing down the overall PTR in Delhi government

"Almost 50% of the municipal schools are not following Right to Education (RTE) Act's mandate of pupilteacher ratio (PTR), while

98% of the Delhi government schools are maintaining the PTR," Mr. Sisodia said. He alleged that the PTR ratio at civic schools were poor due to the mismanagement of BJP-ruled municipal schools and it had been confirmed in the MoE report.

## **Central report confirms**

"The BJP government at the

ing the image of Delhi. The BJP with its poor governance and incompetence in municipal bodies has put the future of lakhs of children at

Praveen Shankar Kapoor schools are better performing than the Delhi government schools

ing," Mr. Kapoor said.

## Confer Bharat Ratna on doctors: Kejriwal

'Honour them for service during crisis'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the Central government to award the Bharat Ratna to the entire medical fraternity in honour of their service during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Kejriwal said that awarding the Bharat Ratna to doctors and paramedics as a community will recognise the sacrifice of all the doctors and paramedic staff who have lost their lives on duty and pay homage to the departed souls. "I want to request the

Central government to award this year's Bharat Ratna to "Indian Doctor". By "Indian Doctor", I mean the entire medical community all doctors, nurses and paramedics should be given the award, collectively. This is the greatest manner in which we can pay our respect and homage to all those who martyred while serving the nation on COVID duties," Mr. Kejriwal said in his

The CM said that the medical community stepped up to serve our nation during the COVID-19 crisis and that he personally knew a lot of doctors who could not be home for months because of their duties.

"Without thinking twice about their families and children, they relentlessly served the country, putting their own lives at stake. They were not getting any special benefits, extra payments or promotions, they weren't getting anything in exchange. Yet, they all did their best because of their love for humanity. We salute all these brave doctors, nurses and paramedics," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India. The number of Bharat Ratna awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

## drop below 1,000 mark

Active cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The number of active cases in the Capital dipped below the 1,000 mark for the first time this year with 993 active cases in the city. According to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government, 94 new CO-VID-19 cases were reported along with seven deaths.

It added that 75,133 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours with a positivity rate of 0.13%. Of the total number of cases, 300 patients are under home isolation.

Since the pandemic began, the total number of positive cases has risen to 14,34,554 with 14,08,576 recoveries. The total number of fatalities stands at 24,995. On Saturday, Delhi had recorded 86 cases with a positivity rate of 0.11% and five deaths. On Friday, the city saw 93 cases with a positivity rate of 0.13% and two deaths.

The vaccination bulletin shared that 1,61,110 beneficiaries were vaccinated on Saturday out of which, 1,21,222 received their first

## Sushil Kumar seeks TV set from jail authorities

He wants updates on wrestling matches

STAFF REPORTER

Two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail in connection with the Chhatrasal Stadium brawl, requested the prison authorities for a television to get updates regarding wrestling, officials said on

A senior jail official said that Mr. Kumar has made a request through his advo-

He has requested for a television set so that he would get the updates about wrestling matches. He had also requested for a few gym equipment and protein supplements in his diet but it was denied. He is being given regular meal as other in-

Earlier, a Delhi court extended the judicial custody of Mr. Kumar till July 9. He has been shifted to Tihar jail number 2 from Mandoli jail, where he was earlier lodged. Mr. Kumar and his ac-

complices allegedly assaulted wrestler Sagar Dhankar and two of his friends Sonu and Amit Kumar on the intervening night of May 4 and 5 over a property dispute. Dhankar, 23, succumbed to injuries later.

Citing a report by the Unified schools.

Centre has corroborated that the BJP-ruled civic schools have made a mess of the municipal schools in Delhi. The mismanagement is so stark that municipal schools are considered the worst in the country. This is tarnishrisk," Mr. Sisodia said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson said that despite financial problems, the municipal

"Municipal schools cater to children from financially crippled section of the societv and with every passing year, number of students in these schools has been ris-



India's National Newspaper



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). Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 158

## Man kills four relatives of his daughter's lover

Efforts on to nab accused: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A man allegedly killed four family members of a youth with whom his daughter was in a relationship in Punjab's Gurdaspur district, police said on Sunday.

The accused identified as Sukhjinder Singh, a resident of Balarwal village in Batala, got enraged when he came to know about his daughter's love affair with one Germanjeet Singh, who lives in the same village, they

On Sunday morning, the accused allegedly reached the farm belonging to the family of Germanjeet Singh, who along with his father Sukhwinder was present there.

After a verbal duel, Sukhjinder Singh allegedly fired at them killing Sukhwinder Singh on the spot and injuring Germanjeet Singh, said the police.

After learning about the incident, Germanjeet Singh's grandfather Mangal Singh, uncle Jasbir Singh, cousin Babandeep and another relative Jashan reached there, they

#### **Grandfather shot**

The accused fired at them too resulting in the death of Mangal Singh, Jasbir Singh and Babandeep, the police said.

Germanjeet Singh and Jashan, who were injured in the incident, are stated to be out of danger.

Sukhiinder Singh is absconding and efforts are on to nab him, the police

Batala Superintendent of Police Gurpreet Singh said a case has been registered in this regard.

## Haryana govt.'s nod for exams as lockdown is extended by a week

Chartered Accountant Exams and Army's CEE to be held under strict guidelines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Haryana government on Sunday allowed holding of Chartered Accountant Examinations and Common Entrance Exam (CEE) by the Army Recruiting Office in Hisar even as the lockdown was again extended in the State for a week till July 12.

Extending the lockdown till 5 a.m. on July 12 to "continue the preventive and precautionary measures to conpandemic", Chief Secretarycum-Chairperson of Haryana State Executive Committee Vijai Vardhan, in a threepage order, said the Institute of Chartered Accountants was allowed to hold "Chartered Accountant Examinations" from July 5-20 strictly adhering to the COVID-related guidelines issued by

Similarly, the CEE by Ar-



my Recruiting Office, Military Station Hisar, has also be allowed subject to strict observance of social distancing norms, sanitisation and CO-VID-appropriate norms.

The Haryana government had first imposed a week-end lockdown in nine districts -Gurugram, Faridabad, Rohtak, Sonipat, Karnal, Panchkula, Hisar, Sirsa and Fatehabad – from 10 p.m. April 30 to 5 a.m. on May 3. The entire State was then brought under lockdown for a week on May 3 and the restrictions are being extended on a weekly basis thereafter.

Last week, the government had allowed the university campuses to open for research scholars, doubt classes and practical classes in laboratories.

All shops are allowed to open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and shopping malls from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. as part of the relaxations granted during a

series of earlier orders extending lockdown. The restaurants and bars, including those in hotels and malls, are allowed to open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. with 50% seating capacity.

50 people at gatherings The gatherings at weddings, funerals/cremations capped at 50 people. The

gyms are also allowed to open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m, but swimming pools and spas are closed. All production units, esta-

blishments and industries are permitted to function with strict adherence to CO-VID-19-appropriate behaviour. The sports complexes are also permitted to open for sports activities, but spectators are not allowed.

Haryana recorded only 52 fresh cases on July 3 with the positivity rate for the day at

## 'Curbs on people without jabs is like house arrest'

Gauhati HC questions Mizoram SOP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Mizoram government's standard operating procedure (SOP) debarring unvaccinated people from venturing out or eke out a living is akin to putting them under house arrest against the provisions of Article 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution, the Gauhati High Court has said.

A division bench of Justice Michael Zothankhum and Justice Nelson Sailo observed on July 2 that there is nothing to show the vaccinated persons cannot be infected with COVID-19 or that they cannot be spread-

#### 'All can be spreaders'

"It has been brought to our notice that even persons, who have been vaccinated, can still be infected with the COVID-19 virus, which would in turn imply that vaccinated persons who are COVID-19 positive, can also

spread the said virus to oth-

"If vaccinated and unvaccinated persons can be infected by the COVID-19 virus and if they can both be spreaders of the virus, the restriction placed only upon the un-vaccinated persons, debarring them from earning their livelihood or leaving their houses to obtain essential items, is unjustified, grossly unreasonable and arbitrary," the court observed.

It said there is no reason to discriminate only against the unvaccinated people if the vaccinated and the unvaccinated cover their faces with a mask according to COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

The High Court said since the SOP requires all persons to adhere to the protocols, there should not be any discrimination against the unvaccinated as the protocols are also applicable to them.

## 'CM pushed Punjab into darkness'

SAD-BJP govt. had made the State power surplus, says Badal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal on Sunday said the erstwhile SAD-BJP government had made State but Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had pushed it back into darkness

His remarks came a day after Capt. Amarinder said his government would soon announce a legal strategy to

counter the "ill-conceived" power purchase agreements signed during the SAD-BIP rule which had put an "atro-

ciously unnecessary" finan-

cial burden on the State. The Chief Minister said of the 139 power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed during the SAD-BJP rule, 17 were enough to cater to the State's full electricity demand. The remaining 122 PPAs for 1,314 MWs of expen-

sive power were inexplica-

7th JULY 2021

**CLASSIFIEDS MART** 

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

**EDUCATIONAL** 

78, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-110060

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE** 

There will be a Public Auction of Pledged Gold Ornaments Pertaining to the Gold Loar Defaulters as per the List Given Below in the Premises Situated at Shriram City Unior

ADDRESS - D-6 & 7, 1st FLOOR, KIRAN GARDEN OPP. METRO PILLER NO 715,

UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059

All below mentioned branch cases will be Auction on 15/07/2021 at the <u>ZONAL OFFICE</u> premise only. The E.M.D of Rs. 1000/- will be collected between 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM

and Auction will begin at 11.30 am. The defaulter loans which are closed on after 14/07/2021 also will have to bear the publication charges.

Note: Participating Bidders shall have to submit 10 Proof/Residential Proof for Participating in Auction

For GHAZIABAD BRANCH: REENA-CDGHAPJ2010080002, SALEEM- CDGHAPJ2010170001

Authorized Person: MR DEEPAK KUMAR SHARMA -9729220525

SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LTD

Regd. Office H No.123, Annagappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600001 And their North Admin Office at: 3rd floor Plot no-12 Block-3, berpur Near Dilshad Garden Metro Station, Ghaziabad-201006, Phone: 0120-384100

🙉 info@acubeias.com

ASPIRE | ATTEMPT | ACCOMPLISH

bly signed.

Punjab has been reeling under an unprecedented power shortage with urban and rural areas facing long hours of load shedding amid scorching heat.

The Congress-led government has been under fire from the opposition for not being able to provide sufficient electricity to consumers, especially to paddy growers for sowing their

### 1 killed in M.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 30-year-old woman died and five people were left injured after their bus came in contact with a high tension electricity line in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday, police said.

### Fun time



Children playing football in a waterlogged field in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Sunday. •PTI

## Punjab BJP seeks meeting with CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Punjab BJP chief Ashwani Sharma has sought a meeting with Chief Minister Amarinder Singh over the issue of alleged attacks on party leaders by people in the guise of farmers.

Party's State general secretary Jeevan Gupta on Sunday claimed many of the BJP leaders had faced "murderous attacks" in the last one year in the presence of police.

In some cases, police even registered cases against unidentified people, lamented Mr. Gupta.

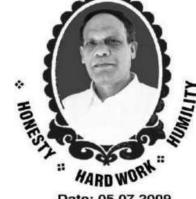
He also pointed out that on July 2, some people under the guise of farmers destroyed paddy on the farm owned by BJP leader Harjit

## **OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

Those who live uprightly enter a place of peace; they rest on their beds. - Isaiah 57:2

## TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY







KINGS

Date: 05.07.2009

KALVITHANTHAI Thiru. OORVASI D. SELVARAJ M.A., Ex-M.L.A.

FOUNDER: OORVASI SOAP

Pleasant Days Queens Land **ENGINEERING COLLEGE** Beloved wife, Children and Brothers

Dr. NALINI SELVARAJ M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., Mr. OORVASI S. AMIRTHARAJ, B.Tech, MBA (UK) - M.L.A., Srivaikundam; Mrs. Merliyn Jemima Amirtharaj, B.E, MBA Mr.S. Anandaraj, B.Tech, MBA, Mrs. Mercy Angel Anandaraj, B.Com, MBA, Mrs. S. Rajapriya Joel Raja, M.A., Mr.S. Joel Raja, MBA, ತಡಿತಡಿತಡಿ Mr. D. Victor, Mr. D. Gnanaraj ೩೫೩೫೩೫೩೫

### **HPPWD**

**Tender Notice** 

Sealed Item rates Tenders on PWD form 6&8 are invited by the Executive Engineer HP.PWD Nurpur on behalf of the Governor of HP from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HPPWD (B&R), so as to reach in his office on or before 17/07/2021 up to 11.00 AM and shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 AM in the presence o intending contractors or their authorized representative, if any. The tender forms can be had from his office through Challan payment (NR) in the Minor Head 0070-60-800-17 on HP e-challan up to 16/07/2021. Application for issue of tenders should reach in the office along with all the required documents on or before 15/07/2021. The earnest money in the shape of FDR duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, NurpurDivn. HP.PWD Nurpur must accompany with the application. Conditional tender and tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 90 days. The XEN reserves the right to reject

any te	ender without assigning any reason.				
SI. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time limit	Cost of tender form (Rs)
1.	C/O link road from Johar Pull to Charoh(Mehrka) Kms. 0/0 to 1/0 under MMGSY (SH:- Providing and laying 80mm thick ISI marked interlocking paver block in kms 0/100 to 0/275) length 175 mtr.	491114/-	10000/-	One month	350/-
2.	C/O link road from Johar Pull to Gahli to UppralaKatera Kms. 0/0 to 1/200 under MMGSY (SH:- Providing and laying 80mm thick ISI marked interlocking paver block in kms 0/050 to 0/2/5) length 175 mt.	491114/-	10000/-	One month	350/-

Terms and Conditions:

IP / 2094/21-22

The contractor should produce copy of enlistment/renewal (Latest)

**Executive Enginee** Nurpur Division, HPPWD HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

## Odisha govt. constructs 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures

It will facilitate water conservation and groundwater recharge

pleted. The department ex-

STAFF REPORTER

monsoon.

Odisha has come up with more than 10,000 rainwater harvesting structures (RWHS) to facilitate water conservation and groundwater recharge in 114 towns in less than three-month time before onset of south-west

A State-wide campaign on the theme 'Catch the Rain: Where it Falls and When it Falls' was launched on April 15 across all urban local bodies under Mukhyamantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan Yojana (MUKTA), an urban wage employment scheme for migrant labourers.

The Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department has selected 15,000 sites for RWHS. "As of now pected to achieve the figure of 12,000 by July 10," said the State government in a state-**Water surplus State** 

Annual rainfall in Odisha varies from 1200 mm to 1800 mm making it a water surplus State.

"Though the average rainfall in Odisha is measured as 1,400 mm, its spatial distribution is uneven and erratic. The State receives about 76% of rainfall between the period of mid-June and mid-September and receives the remaining 24% of the rainfall throughout the year," the government said.

The State has both coastal region and high land. "There

10,176 RWHS have been comis ample scope to arrest the surface runoff where it fall using contour techniques. The best possible option is to tap the runoff through construction of RWHS, there by addressing the key challenge of water scarcity in urban areas of the State," it said.

> The RWHS, which are being constructed in parks, playgrounds, open spaces and in vacant lands inside the institutions, have been planned in all the 2035 wards across 114 ULBs of the

> To further strengthen transparency and accountability measures, the HUD department has decided to introduce social audit as a tool for performance improvement and outcome measurement on a pilot basis.

## Man beaten to death in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A physically challenged person died in Odisha's Kendrapara district on Sunday after he was allegedly beaten by a group of miscreants over a land dispute.

CENTRAL RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO : DRMWNGP-24/2021 OF 30.06.2021

Sr. No. 1: Jacketing to Abutment Pie and replacement steel girders by pre-cast PSC Slabs on Bridge No. 785/4 UP and DN, 2/9.14 m, on WARDHA NAGPUR section. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 1,22,19,401.29, Date & Time Closing of Tender: 22.07.2021 15:00 Hrs. Complete details an nstructions for e-Tendering and online participation for the above work i vailable on Railway's websit www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (Works)

PM-46 Central Railway, Nagpur SECURITY HE-PLINE 182 hair.

## 2 tribal women thrashed for chatting on phone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DHAR (M.P.)

Two tribal sisters here were assaulted with sticks by their relatives for allegedly chatting with their uncle's sons over phone, police said

Video goes viral

on Sunday.

Seven people were arrested in connection with the incident, which took place last month, after a video of it went viral on social media platforms, they said.

In the video, several people, including a woman, were purportedly seen hitting the victims with sticks and dragging them by their

The victims, aged 19 and 20, were beaten up by their kin on June 22 in Pipalva village, located around 70 km from Dhar district headquarters, Tanda police station in-charge Vijay Vaskale said. "On June 25, we came

across a video in which two women were seen being beaten up. While verifying the clip, we came to know that their family members were involved in this," he

The police found that their family members were angry over the women talking on phone to the sons of their maternal uncle, the officer said.

A ND-NDE

PUBLIC NOTICE that the company propose to make applicatio to the Central Govt, under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013, seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on Monday, 15th Day of March, 2021 to enable the company to shift its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to 'State of Guiarat" Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on MCA Portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing Investor Complaint Form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest & ground of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region, B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within 14 days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at registered office at the address mention below Taru Development Initiatives Foundation (CIN: U74899DL1995NPL074977) 221, Ground

For and on behalf of the Applicant
Taru Development Initiatives Foundation SD/- Mr. BINU MATHEW (Director) (DIN: 05312120) Place: New Delhi Date: 05-07-2021

Floor, Okhla Phase-III, New Delhi-110020.

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the certificate for the under mentioned securities of the company have been lost/ have been untraceable & the holders of the said securities have applied to the company to issue duplicate certificates. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said Securities should lodge such claim with the compan at its Registered office within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue a new certificate(s) with new folio number & new distinctive number & no further claim will be entertained by the Company for the old certificate(s) thereafter

ate: 05-07-2021, Place: New Delhi. SD/- Manu Prakash TARU LEADING EDGE Pvt. Ltd.



### PUBLIC NOTICE Public at large are hereby informed that Smt. Sukhvarsha Bhatia & Sh. Gulshan Kuma Bhatia claims to be the absolute owner and ir

PUBLIC NOTICE

bratta claims to be the absolute owner and in possession of Property bearing No.F-60, area measuring 220 sq. yards, situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur, Mansarover Carden New Delhi, on the basis of Sale Deed dated 05.03.2021 executed by Sh. Parveen Chander, Sh. Rakesh Patel & Sh. Ravi Lal Patel. 103.03.2021 executed by sh. Parven Chander, Sh. Rakesh Patel & Sh. Ravi Lal Patel. Now, Smt. Sukhvarsha Bhatia & Sh. Gulshan Kumar Bhatia are proposing to mortgage aforesaid property with our client Mis HDFC Bank Ltd. having its Regional Office at Property No. 3.1, 3rd Floor, Tower-B, Najatgarh Industrial area, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi against the loan facility being availed by them. Any person(s) claiming any rights, title or interests whatsoever, in and over the aforesaid property or any part thereof through sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise may lodge their claims/objections with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned, within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, as otherwise our client shall proceed towards the mortgage transaction with good faith, as if there are no subsisting claims/objections, & all such claims/objections field in time shall be deemed to have been waived & given up and shall not be

Advocates & Legal Consultants I-1693, Cittaranjan Park, New Delhi -110019 Mobile No: 9654708907 Ph. 011-46063838, 41018803 Extn. 106

SITUATION VACANT

**GENERAL** 

Arch Finance Ltd. a stock Broking Co. pany secretary. Interested candidate can E-mail their resume: archfin@archfin.com #011-43710000

### IN BRIEF



#### get life insurance cover HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has decided to provide life insurance coverage to weavers with an assured sum of ₹5 lakh, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said in Sircilla on Sunday, To help weavers, the government has also decided to provide 50% subsidy on the yarn, colours and other inputs. Mr. Rao also announced disbursal of old age pensions for people aged above 57 years of age from next month.

#### Premature deaths of tribals being examined

The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has ordered a comprehensive investigation into the suspected premature deaths at the Anakkampoyil tribal settlement in Kozhikode district of Kerala. The Commission members found that the average lifespan of those included in the list of premature deaths was 40. A study report submitted by the Tribal Extension Officer said the reasons for the majority of deaths were various liver diseases.

A plot by Maoists to trigger a claymore mine blast targeting police personnel was thwarted in Telangana's Mulugu district on Sunday, the police said. During combing operations, a police team spotted an electric wire on an interior stretch in Kaushettivai village. The team alerted the bomb disposal squad, which unearthed iron pipes filled with gelatin powder, two detonators, electric wire and five grenades. The seized explosives were defused.

## IB sounds alert on Bangladeshi nationals

Eight arrested in A.P. on Saturday say many have entered India; police looking into terror angle too

The eight Bangladesh nationals arrested in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday with fake documents have reportedly admitted that several of their countrymen had entered Indian territory along with

Protection Force (RPF), the Government Railway Police (GRP), and the Law and Order police of Rajamahendravaram and Vijayawada had arrested the Bangladeshis while they were travelling by the Howrah-Chennai and Howrah-Vasco da Gama Express trains.

During questioning, they reportedly said several persons from Bagerhat and other districts in Bangladesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Karnataka Tourism Minister

C.P. Yogeshwar on Sunday li-

kened the Chief Minister's

position to that of the Dasara

elephant carrying the gol-

den howdah and indirectly

revived the debate for lea-

dership change in the State

by saying the lead Dasara

Speaking to reporters in

Mysuru after calling on vete-

ran politician and BJP MP re-

presenting Chamarajanagar

V. Srinivas Prasad at his resi-

dence, Mr. Yogeshwar said

people respect the howdah,

which carries the deity of

Chamundeshwari. Hence,

the Chief Minister should be

elephant

permanent.



Illegal trespassers: The Bangladeshi nationals being produced

had sneaked into India along

Job search

Lead Dasara elephant is never permanent: Yogeshwar

C.P. Yogeshwar

a capable person, possess-

ing sensibilities and high

ideals to meet the aspira-

tions of the people. "For the

elephant carrying the how-

dah, it is not just the weight

[of the howdah] that is im-

portant; successfully reach-

ing the destination is equally

Investigation officers suspect that many Bangladeshis are clandestinely staying in Kol-

kata, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Goa and other cities. "Due to poverty, many Bangladeshis

important," he said, before

saying the lead elephant had

Mr. Yogeshwar said the

jumbos Arjuna, Abhimanyu,

and Balarama had all carried

the golden howdah. "Just be-

cause the lead elephant car-

ries the howdah, we can't

have its calf do the same," he

said, in an apparent taunt at

B.S. Yediyurappa's son B.Y.

Vijayendra. However, he

said he would not like to

speak about Mr. Vijayendra

as the latter did not have a

taka was well known for ele-

phants and tigers and there

would be no difficulty in

finding a "capable elephant

to carry the howdah".

The Minister said Karna-

post in the government.

often been replaced.

luring them. Ultimately, a da railway stations," an infew of the intruders are turning into sympathisers and sleeper cells, and helping the banned organisations in creating unrest in India," a police officer said.

The Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Counter Intelligence (CI), the RPF, the GRP, the State Intelligence and the Law and Order police have sounded an alert following

**Embassy to be informed** 

vestigation officer told The

"The intruders are in possession of fake ID cards with addresses in Bengaluru. They also have mobile phones with Indian and Bangladeshi numbers. The police are trying to find out who purchased train tickets for them and how they obtained PAN cards," a senior police

## SC to hear appeal against mandatory Ph.D. clause

Kerala HC made it must for some posts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has decided to examine an appeal against a Kerala High Court decision that a Ph.D. degree is necessary to retain associate professorship in technical colleges after March 5,

A Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul has issued notice to the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), State of Kerala and the Director of Technical

Education.

The High Court had held that "after 5-03-2010, the qualification of Ph.D. is mandatory for the posts of Principals, Professors and Associate Professors (re-designated post of Assistant Professor)." The High Court

had held that a Rule which gave seven years' leeway to Assistant/Associate Professors to obtain their Ph.D. expired on March 5, 2010. Rule 6A(ii) of the Special Rules for Kerala Technical Education Service, 1967 (Special Rules) was introduced in 2003. The High Court held that it was not applicable after the cut-off date of March 5, 2010.

Three Associate Professors have approached the top court, saying that making the Rule redundant would lead to their demotion. They said the Supreme Court had itself, in April 2016, said the Rule was in tune with the AICTE regulations. The court further impleaded the AICTE as a party in the case.

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm with lightning at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala.

Υ	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
artala		33	25.8	Kozhikode	0.5	31.5	25.1
medabad		37.5	27.5	Kurnool	5	35.3	25.6
awl		–	22.9	Lucknow		35.4	28.3
ahabad		36.6	28.2	Madurai	17	38.2	24
ngaluru		31	22.4	Mangaluru	0.7	28.4	23
opal		35.7	25	Mumbai		32.6	27.2
ubaneswar		30.6	26	Mysuru		30	18.6
andigarh		36.4	27.6	New Delhi		39	26.2
ennai		34.7	26.7	Patna		34	26.5
mbatore		33.6	23.8	Port Blair		31.9	25.6
hradun		33.5	23.8	Puducherry	9.3	33.2	21.7
ngtok	7	21.2	17.5	Pune		32.2	22
a	40	32	24.7	Raipur	5.4	32.5	25.4
wahati	33	25.1	19	Ranchi	35	32.2	21.1
bballi		28	22	Shillong	46	20.9	16.5
derabad		33	24.7	Shimla		28	20.2
ohal		30.2	21.3	Srinagar	5	28.8	15.6
pur		–	29.9	Thiruvananthapuram.	0.7	30.5	24.4
chi	15	31.8	24.6	Tiruchi		37.3	26.2
nima		26.2	18.6	Vijayawada		–	
kata	8	31.9	27.5	Visakhapatnam			
infall data i	in mm·	temner	ature in	(Celsius)			

## 10 .84 101 ..177 .178 .58 ....97 .114 Visakhapatnam 13 .46 .28

Yesterday

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

lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur death in people with heart or lung disease

## + THE HINDU EDUCATION PLUS

www.thehindu.com/education

www.twitter.com/thehinduedge

GEETHA GOPINATH AND VIJAYALEKSHMI N.S.

While we have changed track and reassigned resources to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers and educationists are constantly reviewing strategies and incorporating changes to help students overcome the trauma. As a teacher involved in teacher education, it is evident that the impact on the 'student teacher' requires intervention and change in philosophy of and approach to teaching. Nature has many lessons about bouncing back - or resilience - to enable individuals overcome difficul-

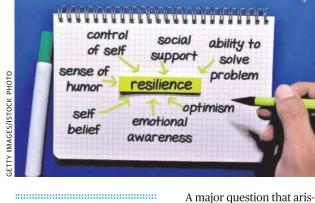
Resilience is the capacity of an individual to cope with, adapt to, and recover from situations of adversity. This varies according to the individual, is influenced by biological, social, and environmental factors, and can be developed through right training and skill development. Kintsugi, an ancient Japanese art, adds flavour to this idea. The word means, "to join with gold" because broken pieces of pottery are glued together with lacquer inflected with gold powder, so that they emerge with a richness that converts the cracks into beautiful designs. Students too can develop resilience and psychological well-being, and learn to redesign their lives to make meaning out of its problems.

### **Promoting factors**

Students can develop resilience by developing a sense of autonomy to become independent and unique individuals. Autonomy can only occur through taking respon-

## Convert crisis into **OPPORTUNITY**

As students traverse problem mazes, they acquire the skills to face adversity and thereby develop resilience



Students can develop resilience and learn to redesign their lives to make meaning out of its tragedies

sibility, becoming accountable, and free of dependence. As students solve the problem maze independently, they acquire the skills necessary to deal with adversity. When failure or feelings of negativity occur, they learn to reframe their thoughts to think positively, and find options with divergent and convergent thinking. Most importantly, they learn coping strategies to face insurmountable problems, answering questions such as 'What are the options to solve this problem?' 'How to face the unexpected?' 'How to deal with a

tragedy?' ...

es is: how can these be implemented amid the COpandemic? Educationists have to think creatively to develop strategies in this new scenario. Students need protection from infection, yet have to develop resilience. Teachers can achieve this by working in tandem with parents, developing home assignments and encouraging a participative, proactive culture and attitude. Online tools can be used for class discussions, peer teaching and coopera-

Some salient features are: Self-evaluation and sharing: Students can identify their strengths and weaknesses by discussing ways and means to enhance their strengths and tide over their weaknesses. This can be done by analysing successes

tive learning techniques.

and failures, sharing what contributed to their success or failure. They can share personal experiences; describe the approaches they took to deal with situations and the outcomes, providing them a window into their own lives and that of their peers.

**Emotional regulation** and flexibility: Emotions have psychological and physical components. Students need guidance about their bodies, their propensities, and how the interactions affect their mood or mindset. They can learn self-regulation and ventilation of emotions to face the pressures of the body/mind/environment

Dealing with trauma: Coping skills such as preventing breakdown through channelising energy, not giving up hope, and having a positive attitude with realistic evaluation of situations, along with attitudinal change that teach flexibility.

Encourage new experiences: Students should be guided to seek new experiences (hobbies and explorative experiences) to upgrade their life participation.

As students use these tools and deal with crisis, the process enables them to increase their resilience and master life skills. As they learn to overcome small and surmountable challenges, they slowly learn to deal with larger and tougher issues.

Geetha Gopinath is Assistant Professor, Department of Education. University of Hyderabad and Vijayalekshmi N.S. is Assisstant Professor, Department of Education. Fathima Memorial Training College, Kollam.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

**DRDO-ITR Chandipur** Junior Research **Fellowship** 

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to candidates below 28 years who hold a B.E./B.Tech. degree with first division and valid GATE score or an M.E./M.Tech. degree with first division both at the graduate and postgraduate le-

PRIZES/ REWARDS: ₹31,000 per month plus HRA and medical facilities as per rules APPLICATION: Email

**DEADLINE: July 09** b4s.in/edge/DRR2

#### **National Scholarship** Scheme (SAMADHAN) -II HRDM

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to candidates between 16 and 40 years who have completed any one or more than one education level: Class 10, Class 12, graduation, post-graduation, or diploma. PRIZES/ REWARDS: Variable APPLICATION: Online DEADLINE: July 15

#### **HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECS Scholarship**

b4s.in/edge/SHR7

HDFC Bank supports meritorious students from underprivileged sections of society. The scholarship will be given on the basis of merit cum means or family/personal crisis.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian nationals between Class 6 and Class 12 or at the Diploma, Undergraduate or Postgraduate (including professional and non-professional courses) le-

PRIZES/ REWARDS: Upto ₹75,000 APPLICATION: Online **DEADLINE: July 31** b4s.in/edge/HEC9

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

## Take a chance

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column by Nandini Raman, practising counsellor and trainer, may help



Dear Chandan, Employment of economists is projected to grow 14% by 2029. The increasing complexity of the global economy and a more competitive business environment also are expected to support demand for economists. Your choices are as follows - Economist, Consultant, Policy Analyst, Budget Analyst, Market Research-

lucrative. Should I consider **Economics** ISI-Delhi/Kolkata?

for the best and work on building your credentialsand move slowly to your dream

NANDINI RAMAN

I am pursuing my M.A. in Analytical and Applied Economics. Though I aspire to clear the UGC NET IRF, I am not interested in being a lecturer. What are my options? – Chandan Naik

er, Data Scientist, and Statistician, besides others. I am currently pursuing a

Master's in Economics from Ashoka University but its placement records are not switching to Delhi School of

If you are already into your course, complete what you have started and give it your all. Do not bank only on campus placements, but get involved in meaningful internships and projects that will set you apart from the rest. Aim

I am about to complete my B.Com and want to do an MBA from a reputed B-School. However, I have not prepared for the CAT. What if I don't make the cut? -Namrata

Dear Namrata,

Admission to a reputed B-School will require you to put your best foot forward and prepare for CAT. You could always apply to any other B-School. If you can afford the time off and the prep work, go for the CAT. There are no guarantees that you will make it to the cut off, but you will know you gave it your best.

I am a 20 year old doing B.Com (Hons). I took the CAT last year, but didn't do well. I am worried about my future. What are my prospects? -Amit Kumar

Dear Amit.

Do not lose hope. It just means that you need to prep harder and go through the areas where you believe you made mistakes. You are young, rest assured that this one test result doesn't mean anything. Strive harder, set your routine, and work with a friend if that helps you study better. Set reasonable goals

and work hard. Disclaimer: This column provides advice, guidance and suggestions on education and careers. It is a guiding voice from a practising career counsellor.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus. thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

For more articles, columns, and news on scholarships and admissions, visit www.thehindu.com/education



Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (Established by Reserve Bank of India,

**Admission for Fifth Batch of** Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Technology

IDRBT, the premier Institute for Banking Technology in India invites applications for the full-time one year Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Technology (PGDBT) commencing from

August 16, 2021. The last date for receipt of applications is July 18, 2021. Please visit www.idrbt.ac.in for details and call 8919132013 for queries.

100% PLACEMENT OF FIRST FOUR BATCHES

Karnataka Minister revives leadership debate again

#### Mine planted by Maoists defused, say police

BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDEM

# RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS

Personnel of the Railway

in a court in Vijayawada on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

are entering India illegally by road in search of work. However, terrorist groups are

Saturday's arrest.

"We are probing the terror angle too as the arrested persons have no passport and are carrying multiple fake identities. The Andhra Pradesh Police will apprise the Bangladesh Embassy on the arrest of eight persons at the Rajahmundry and Vijayawa-

Hindu. Two of the arrested, Hyder Ali Khan and Md. Hassan, reportedly said they stayed in Bengaluru from 2017 to 2020, worked with an iron

scrap dealer, and went back to Bangladesh during lockdown. "They returned to India with two others in June this year in search of work in Goa," a GRP official said.

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced



## Covid shield

The change at the helm in Uttarakhand seems triggered by legal and political obstacles

ushkar Dhami has replaced Tirath Singh Rawat as the new CM of Uttarakhand, in the second change of guard in the State within four months. Mr. Rawat was not a member of the State legislature, and would have had to be elected an MLA if he were to continue in office beyond six months. The BJP has put out a narrative of a legal limbo to explain the change, claiming that it had become impossible for him to be elected an MLA within the six-month timeframe. Mr. Rawat said in an exit statement that "given the constitutional crisis, I felt it was right for me to resign". He went on to add, "bypolls could not be held because of COVID-19", which was not his decision, or the BJP's to take. The Representation of the People Act 1951 mandates that a bypoll for any vacancy should be held within six months of that vacancy arising, provided that the remainder of the term is not less than one year, or the ECI and the Centre do not certify that holding that bypoll in that timeframe is difficult. The Act does not bar a bypoll even when the remaining term of the Assembly is less than one year, though it becomes optional in that case. In the past, the ECI has conducted bypolls for Assemblies that had less than one year of life remaining. It also remains unclear whether the ECI decided not to conduct bypolls to the two vacant seats in the Uttarakhand Assembly on account of COVID-19 or any other reason.

The change of guard appears to be a political decision of the BJP but the party does not want it to appear so. Over two terms, the BJP has had seven CMs in the State. For all its claimed mastery over matters political, the party picked the wrong horse in Mr. Rawat, an admission implied in his replacement. Far from putting the BJP house in order, Mr. Rawat's tenure of nearly four months aggravated the tensions within the State unit and embarrassed the party elsewhere. While a political party can run its affairs as it deems appropriate, backing up its decisions with speculation on how the ECI might act creates an unhealthy fog around the institution, which has had to deal with similar situations elsewhere too. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is not a member of the State Assembly, needs to be elected to it within four months. The Assembly has seven vacant seats but there is no clarity regarding the ECI's plans to hold by-polls. For its own reputation and to demonstrate fairness in the conduct and timing of elections, the ECI must explain its thinking regarding pending bypolls. The pandemic has raised unprecedented challenges in the management of elections that the ECI has to adapt to. It must do so in a transparent manner and ensure that its actions or silence do not appear designed to accommodate political machinations.

## Mixed bag

Restoring health of every constituent sector

is a must for long-term growth in exports ndia's merchandise exports reached an all-time quarterly high of \$95 billion in the three months lacksquare ended June, providing welcome cheer on the eco nomic front. That the record was notched up during a quarter when the second wave of the pandemic hit its peak, and amid varying degrees of lockdowns, is all the more noteworthy. Exports last month surged 47% from June 2020 to \$32.5 billion. Even discounting the fact that the year-earlier period provided an anomalous base as the economy had just begun reopening from a protracted nationwide lockdown, growth in shipments was still a robust 30% when compared with the prepandemic June of 2019. Propelling the surge from the 2019 levels were non-rice cereals, which quadrupled; iron ore, which more than doubled; and organic and inorganic chemicals that rose 62%. Engineering goods exports had the biggest jump in dollar terms, adding \$2.73 billion in value, or 42% over June 2019, as the rising vaccination coverage and economic recovery in key developed markets including the EU and the U.S. bolstered demand. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was enthused enough by the export performance to posit that shipments of goods to overseas markets could touch the \$400 billion mark this fiscal, a figure which, if achieved, would represent an annual record.

Trade data, however, reveals that a significant driver of the export growth has been the runaway rally in commodity prices that have benefited from the accelerated reopening of major economies, as well as an increased appetite for raw materials and grains in China. On the other hand, the crucial job-generating export sectors including readymade garments, leather and leather products and tea all posted double-digit declines from June 2019 levels, reflecting the deeper structural problems that dog each one of them. If the tea industry has been facing a long-term downtrend exacerbated by inadequate product variety, lack of marketing-savvy and sharp competition from rivals including Sri Lanka and Kenya, the leather goods segment has been put on the ropes by a combination of short-sighted policy measures, WTO-mandated withdrawal of export incentives and a pandemic-induced slowdown in orders. For a segment that provides large-scale employment, the recent imposition of an import duty on a key raw material has thrown the sector's very viability into question. With the Government dragging its feet on notifying the rates applicable under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme, exporters are still unsure of how to price their products while bidding for orders. A container shortage and heightened congestion have also sent freight rates out of Indian ports soaring. Policymakers need to look beyond headline numbers and expedite action to restore the health of every constituent sector if economically enduring long-term growth in exports is to be ensured.

## The problem now with the military synergy plan

The Indian military must note that consultative strategising is a prerequisite before a concrete structure is put in place



t is indisputable that the Indian military continues to work in silacksquare los, like all governmental agencies in India, and a need was rightly felt and directions issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring about jointness, leaving the task to the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India. It is also indisputable that the aim is to bring about a synergy in operations while economising through the elimination of duplication and wasteful practices or processes. At the outset, it also needs to be clearly stated that, contrary to the recent media reports, debates and some opinions, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is not playing 'dog in the manger' and resisting the formation of theatre/functional commands. With my 40 years in uniform, as I understand the doctrine and philosophy of the IAF, it is keen to bring in the requisite reforms to improve the warfighting capabilities of the Indian military as a whole while also economising.

#### Nuances of air power

The statement that the IAF wants to fight its own private war thus comes from people who do not understand the nuances and capabilities of air power and lack the expertise in its effective utilisation. In the current formulation of theatres, the objections from the IAF have essentially been due to air power being seen as an adjunct to the two surface forces, the Indian Army and the Indian Navy, and being divided into penny packets which would seriously de-

grade the effectiveness of air operations in any future conflict or contingency. It is better that such objections and dissenting opinions come out now before the structure is formalised than once it is set in stone and the use of air power is found to be sub-optimal under the military ethos of "an order is an order". We must remember that in war there is no prize for the runner-up. The nation would then end up paying a heavy price, with the Air Force carrying the burden and blame for the failures.

#### **Political objectives**

If war is the continuation of politics by other means, then it is essential to first define the political objectives flowing into a national security strategy before any effective use of force can be truly contemplated. The failures of the mightiest militaries in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and even our own Indian misadventure in Sri Lanka bear testimony to the lack of clear political objectives and appropriate military strategies.

It is, therefore, unfortunate that even after over seven decades after Independence, India still does not have a clearly articulated national security strategy. Only such a strategy can define the types of contingencies the military is expected to address, leading to appropriate military strategies, doctrines and required capabilities. That would define the structures required for the conduct of synergised operations with the requisite communications and training requirements. Concurrently, such an intellectual exercise would identify duplication, wasteful resources and practices. This is what the CDS should have been pursuing before first freezing the structure and then trying to glue the pieces together or hammer square pegs in round holes.



such an exercise may well result in identifying air power as the lead element, particularly since the Indian political aim, even in the foreseeable future, is unlikely to be occupation of new territories. A large, manpower-intensive army with unusable armour formations would then also come into focus. Even the proposed air defence command conflicts with the domain commands in seamless employment of air power. It is due to the absence of such an intellectual exercise that the IAF does not wish to see its limited resources frittered away in fighting frontal defensive battles by a land force commander with little expertise in employment of air power. The Army fails to realise that offensive air power is best not seen, busy keeping the enemy air force pinned down elsewhere while giving own surface forces the freedom to manoeuvre and operate with impunity, as shown in 1971.

#### The Army-Air Force silo

Historically, the Indian Army has always kept the IAF out of the information loop and demonstrated a penchant to 'go it alone'. The charge that the IAF joined the party late during Kargil (1999) is also totally baseless and shows a lack of knowledge of events and a failure to learn from historical facts. Recorded facts and a dispassionate view would clearly show that the IAF began conducting reconnais-As argued elsewhere earlier, sance missions on May 10 as soon

as the Indian Army just made a request for attack helicopters, without sharing full information. It is also surprising that a request for photo-reconnaissance of the entire area was not made to first gather essential intelligence on what the Army was facing, before launching foot patrols which were mostly ambushed with unnecessary casualties, instead of asking for armed helicopters. This despite the IAF pointing out the unsuitability of armed helicopters at these altitudes and their vulnerability.

The use of offensive air power close to the Line of Control also required that the political leadership be kept informed due to possibilities of escalation, something that the Army was unwilling to do. Even the Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) initially threatened to go it alone on his return from his visit abroad. As for silos, the CoAS himself admitted later that information was not shared even between the Director General of Military Operation (DGMO) and the Director General of Military Intelligence (DGMI) within Army headquarters, much less with the IAF. All this was despite the fact that the Defence Programme post-1962 was based on the assumption that China posed the major threat and that the IAF be made capable of assuming some of the Army's deterrence capability.

#### **Echoes from Kargil**

Seen in this light, the Chinese incursion into Eastern Ladakh last vear is reminiscent of Kargil. While the response has been swift, it is evident that a clear intent to use combat air power, as against 1962, has significantly contributed in deterring China. However, such intent and a joint strategy would have been forcefully signalled by the presence of air force representatives in the ongoing negotiations

to restore status quo ante. The continuing build-up of the infrastructure for the Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) in Tibet further emphasises the need for an air-land strategy, with air power as the lead element to deter or defeat the Chinese designs at coercion.

#### Address the structural gaps

Finally, theatre or any lower structure requires an institutionalised higher defence organisation, which has been sadly missing since the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) became defunct in the 1950s, leading to little regular dialogue between the political and military leadership, except in crises resulting in knee-jerk responses. This led to a remark from a scholar-warrior that, "it is ironic that the Cabinet has an Accommodation Committee but not a Defence Committee". In the current proposal, it appears that the CDS, as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC), would also exercise operational control of the theatre/functional commands, a move that is unlikely to be palatable to the politico-bureaucratic leadership and which has, perhaps, called for further deliberations.

Prudence demands that instead of ramming down such structures without adequate deliberations and discussions with all stakeholders, we first evolve appropriate military strategies in a nuclear backdrop in concert with the political objectives. Thereafter, joint planning and training for all foreseen contingencies, with war-gaming, would automatically indicate the required structures with suitable command, communications

Air Marshal Harish Masand is a retired fighter pilot from the Indian Air Force and

## A crucial State and a key party's line of going it alone

BSP leader Mayawati's plan for the U.P. Assembly election has to be seen in the context of changing social, political times



ow does one read the recent move by Mayawati, **⊥** chief of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), in declaring that the Pradesh and Uttarakhand Assembly elections? More importantly, how does one read this politically? In a series of Tweets recently, Ms. Mayawati had said, "The BSP wishes to clarify that, except Punjab, the BSP will not contest the assembly election in alliance with any party in U.P. and Uttarakhand. where the elections to the assembly are to be held at the beginning of next year. The BSP will fight the assembly elections in both the states on its own strength."

### Eye on social groups

There may be multiple ways to understand her decision about the participation of her party in the important Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh. If one analyses the electoral history of the BSP, one may find that most of the time, the BSP has preferred not to form an electoral alliance with political parties but has been more inclined to form alliances with various social groups. The BSP believes that it represents a larger Dalit-Bahujan social base and has what it takes to offer other social communities

better political space when they join the BSP. The BSP has scripted most of its political victories through its strategies to associate various social groups around its Dalit social base, by providing them various forms of representation. It must be noted that it was when they began losing their capacity to form an alliance with various non-Dalit communities directly that they felt compelled to go in for alliances with political es during the Lok Sabha/gen eral election, in 2019.

### Alliance with SP and after

In its early years, the BSP formed a successful electoral alliance with the Mulayam Singh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) during the 1993 Assembly election but the leadership in both parties realised later that their parties represent the interests of social groups that are contesting against each other at the grassroots due to various socio-political reasons. So, this electorally successful alliance could not work out when it came to governance due to inherent social contradictions with the aggressive rise of Other Backward Classes and Dalit communities that had political aspirations.

Therefore, Ms. Mayawati's decision cited above – about not forming an electoral alliance with any political party – needs to be reread in the context of changed political time and social context. The fact is that Ms. Mayawati is struggling to keep her voter base intact. Her Dalit base faces problems on account of various possibilities of



tion of marginal communities, and a leading section of marginal communities are looking for comparatively better space in various political parties with the aim of acquiring political power. A section of Dalit communities is also disillusioned with Ms. Mayawati despite her record of being a four-time Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. They are critical of her and ready to move towards exploring other political options in their quest for empowerment. So, this would mean an electoral alliance with any political party that brings them in close contact with the cadres and the leaders of alliance partners that may help prepare the conditions needed for their upward mobility.

Therefore, it is to preserve her voter base that Ms. Mayawati feels a need to go it alone in the election and inculcate hope among her voter base for their better political future. It would appear that Ms. Mayawati may be projecting herself as strong and aggressive just to make her voter base be confident and cohesive. Ms. Mayawati's recent political actions reflect that

her primary aim/priority in this election is to retain her voter base vote rather than form the government. She has also declared her position well in advance not to form an alliance with any political party to reduce any confusion among her followers following rumours. In a related Tweet, she had said, "A news channel is broadcasting news since yesterday that in the upcoming UP Assembly elections, BSP will contest along AIMIM. This news is completely wrong, misleading and devoid of any fact. There is not even an iota of truth in this. The BSP vociferously denies this."

### **Versus the BJP**

Ms. Mayawati's stand may be guided by her compulsion and the need to save her electoral base but it is going to be beneficial for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the State in some sense. It is easy to understand that a fragmented and dispersed Opposition may not be able to present itself as a strong counter to the BJP. Voters against the BJP may remain fragmented even as the BIP is trying hard to expand its politics among various castes and social communities in the State. It can be seen trying to reach out and form alliances with various social communities and bringing them under its fold using three strategies: by providing them political space; nurturing the identities of various backward and marginal communities by providing them a sense of dignity, and distributing democratic and state-

sponsored resources to the various Bahujan communities. Ms. Mayawati's main challenge now is to prevent Hindutva politics from +making inroads and saving her marginal and Bahujan base. It is interesting to observe that the BSP is constantly losing its capacity to attract other castes to join its Dalit-Bahujan base vote. Given this situation, it would be difficult for Ms. Mayawati to win a number of seats that may help her take over the

In my understanding, Ms. Mayawati's decision to 'ekala chalo', or go alone in the coming election is probably influenced by the party's earlier experience of electoral coalitions. In fact, an electoral coalition may not be successful unless it enables chemistry between social groups at the grass-root level. The conflict and contradiction between the social bases of allied partners may weaken the possibility of an electoral victory as seen during the last parliamentary election 2019, where the SP and the BSP contested together in Uttar Pradesh, only to perform so badly. Second, it is also the result of her main worry to keep her voter base intact. In fact, the Mayawati-led BSP is going to contest one of the toughest, if not the toughest, election in its political history. Let us see how she takes it further and performs in the forthcoming U.P. Assembly election, in 2022.

Badri Narayan is Director, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute (a Constituent Institute of the Central University of Allahabad), Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

online, scan the QR code

of say ₹100 for heavy

transactions of say ₹50,000

### 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.

### The Rafale deal again

After a lull, the Rafale issue has taken centre stage again (Page 1, "French judge to probe Rafale deal", July 4). Anyway, the point of origin of any alleged financial irregularity emanates from France. In India, calling for a Joint Parliamentary Probe or constituting a commission would be an exercise in futility. It can at the most provide some fodder to the Opposition which is directionless in its fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party government. None of such probes in the past has seen the light of day, nor has there been any follow-up action taken even if the reports were made public. It would be an avoidable diversion at the

time of a raging pandemic. The Congress has no moral right to seek a probe as it stonewalled attempts to get to the truth in the Bofors deal. Moreover, The Hindu, which came out with a series of revelations on the Rafale deal, only pointed out the procedural lapses involved, rather than any intentional wrongdoing on the financial front. V. SUBRAMANIAN,

As the probe brings a certain industrial group and its businessman owner in the spotlight now, there will be questions on whether there was preferential treatment and a bypassing of mandatory procedures that are necessary to select a

manufacturing partner. The Congress may claim that its leader stands vindicated after his allegations but one hopes that the French probe does not turn out to be another Bofors deal that rocked the then Congress R. PRABHU RAJ,

#### **Covaxin trial results** The long-awaited results of

the Phase-3 clinical trials of Covaxin (Page 1, "Covaxin demonstrated 77.8% efficacy against symptomatic COVID-19", July 4) should be immediately sent for peerreview, and the results published in a scientific journal of repute, so that the claims can be cemented and controversies surrounding

this vaccine can be put to rest. The Centre should ramp up all vaccine production, ensure that the procurement of imported vaccines is speeded up, and inequities in distribution rectified to achieve its target of vaccinating a large percentage of the population by the end of the year. DR. BIJU C. MATHEW,

### **Revenue stamps**

A revenue stamp is required for receipts of amounts for ₹5,000 or above even though payment is made through banks. This meaningless colonial practice at times results in signed receipts becoming useless in case the gumming of revenue stamps is not proper as a major part

of the signature vanishes in case a poorly gummed revenue stamp drops off from the signed receipt. The Government should do away with the requirement of revenue stamps for any receipt either by cash or through a bank. If needed, special receipt papers printed at the government security printing press on the lines of stamp papers may be introduced at a cost

and above. Such receipt papers, if introduced, should be made available at all post offices and bank branches (private and public sector) apart from other convenient centres by having a sale

SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL,

### **CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**

The opening paragraph of a Business page interview with TVS Srichakra EVP P. Madhavan (July 4, 2021) erroneously said the tyre manufacturer planned to invest ₹1,000 in capital expenditure over the next three years. It should have been ₹1,000 *crore*.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No persona visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com





## How Chhattisgarh has stalled a historic judgment

The Salwa Judum judgment was delivered 10 years ago, but nothing has been done to implement it



Ten years ago, on July 5, 2011, Justices B. Sudershan Reddy and S.S. Nijjar delivered a historic judgment banning Salwa Judum, a vigilante movement started in 2005 and sponsored by the Chhattisgarh and Central government, ostensibly to fight against the Maoists. The judges also ruled that the use of surrendered Maoists and untrained villagers in frontline counter-insurgency operations as Special Police Officers (SPOs) was unconstitutional. It directed that the existing SPOs be redeployed in traffic management or other such safe duties. Other matters, especially prosecution of security forces and others involved in human rights violations, and rehabilitation of villagers who had suffered violence, were left pending, since the State had been asked to submit comprehensive plans for this.

Ten years on, nothing has been done to implement the judgment. Instead, the State government has merely renamed the SPOs. They are now known as the District Reserve Guard (DRG). Conversations with DRG members have revealed that most of them are captured or surrendered Maoists and are given automatic weaponry as soon as they join the police force. Some of them get onethree months of training, and some not even that. They commit the most excesses against their former fellow villagers, suffer the most casualties in any operation, and are paid much less than the regular constabulary, all the reasons the judges had outlawed their use. A contempt petition filed in 2012 is still awaiting hearing. Although 'final hearings' commenced in December 2018 before another bench of Justice Madan Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta, the judges retired soon thereafter and there has been no hearing since.

### **New struggles**

Much has happened on the ground since then. At its peak between 2005 and 2007, the Judum involved forcing villagers into government-con-



trolled camps. Those who refused were punished by having their villages burnt. Hundreds of people were killed and their deaths were not even recorded as 'encounters'. Villagers fled to neighbouring States or into the forests around their villages. Sangham members - active but unarmed Maoist sympathisers – were either jailed or compelled to join the security forces as SPOs.

Today, the Judum camps are virtually empty with only the former SPOs and their families remaining, in now permanent houses. Villagers split between those who went to the camp and those who went to the forest are now reconciled. People have come back and started cultivation. An entire generation has grown up and, as we see in the movement against the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Silger, have

embarked on new struggles. Across the region, villagers are demanding schools and health centres. Instead, what they have got in abundance are CRPF camps. These have come up at intervals of less than 5 km, and roads are being bulldozed through what were once dense forests. The only Supreme Court direction to have been implemented since 2007, when the case began, was that security forces vacate the schools where they were camped. But that is because with its own larger takeover of public land and private fields, the CRPF no longer has any use for these ruined structures.

Villagers have tried out all the tools of getting justice but failed. The residents of Tadmetla, Timapuram and Morpalli, whose villages were burnt by the security forces in 2011, travelled hundreds of kilometres to give evidence before the Central Bureau of Investigation, which found in their favour, and filed a charge sheet

against some SPOs. In a rare moment, the National Human Rights Commission castigated the government for violations in village Kondasawli, in a case filed by lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj. The villagers of Sarkeguda, where 17 innocent people, including children, had been shot dead one night in June 2012, showed great courage and persistence in deposing before a judicial enquiry commission. But in all these cases, where the government and security forces have

been indicted by independent inqui-

ries, no steps have been taken to pro-

secute those responsible.

T.R. Andhyarujina and Ashok Desai, the lawyers who argued for the villagers pro bono in the Supreme Court, have passed away. And Justice Nijjar too. Ms. Bharadwaj has been in jail since 2018 on contested charges. Along with five others, I have survived a false charge of murder levelled by the police, and even been compensated by the NHRC for the mental trauma undergone, though our case is an exception. Podiyam Panda, former Communist Party of India (CPI) activist, who supported the Tadmetla villagers to demand justice, was arrested, allegedly tortured and is now a 'police informer'. The Maoists will not let him or his wife, the former sarpanch of Chintagufa, return to the village, even though all the people in Chintagufa and neighbouring villages want them

### **Promises not kept**

In 2014, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government replaced the 10year-old Congress government at the Centre. In 2018, a Congress government replaced the 15-year-old BJP government in Chhattisgarh. Mahendra Karma, the Adivasi face of a violent movement jointly run by the BJP and Congress, was killed by the Maoists in 2013. The medical college hospital in Dimrapal is now named after him. S.R.P. Kalluri, as Bastar Inspector General of Police, was accused of many human rights violations. He was moved out of Bastar, but never prosecuted despite being named in an internal report by the CBI for burning Tadmetla.

When contesting the elections in 2018, the Congress promised to do something about the thousands of innocent villagers who are arrested en masse by the police as suspected Maoists and spend long years in jail before being acquitted. For these villagers, meeting their families is difficult and hiring lawyers drains their meagre resources. Even as a few dedicated human rights lawyers have tried to help, the scale of arrests is massive. Yet, the government's resolve in freeing prisoners - even during COVID-19 - is in stark contrast to its resolve in setting up security camps and arresting more people.

Deaths in encounters between jawans and Maoists periodically hit the national headlines. But extrajudicial killings of villagers and Maoists and killings of suspected informers by Maoists continue at a steady pace, rarely hitting any high publicity note. An estimate given to the press on June 28 at Sarkeguda claimed 187 deaths in fake encounters between

2015 and 2021 Another promise made by the Congress – providing protection to journalists - also lies in shreds. The difficulties faced by activists of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan and the CPI in reaching Silger and Sarkeguda show how the BJP's tactics continue. The villagers were told that COVID-19 restrictions meant they could not mourn the victims on the anniversary of the Sarkeguda massacre, but a day later, the administration laid out a red carpet and large crowds to welcome Congress MLA

Unless both sides get serious about peace talks, another 10 years will pass. The 2011 Supreme Court judgment will be rendered even more meaningless, as will the idea of justice or the rule of law ever being possible in this land, in this time.

Nandini Sundar, Professor of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, is one of the petitioners in the Salwa Judum case

### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

## A dialogue for continuity and change

While editors seek inputs from readers, they also use editorial judgment to decide what changes should be made



One of the defining lessons I have learnt as a journalist in the last three decades is actually a life skill that one could deploy in any sector. It is about navigating change while retaining your core values and cardinal principles. Technology is galloping at an exponential rate; geopolitics is always shifting; and what was a sunrise sector has become a sunset sector in less than a decade, with a revenue model which has no relationship to influence, trust and reach.

#### Classic yet contemporary

At The Hindu, a phrase I often encounter is 'classic yet contemporary'. The headline for a feature on the food outlet, The Yellow Chilli, by Shonali Muthalaly was "Classic yet contemporary" (January 9, 2014). A

profile of eminent dancer and choreographer Akram Khan was titled "When classic meets contemporary..." (October 21, 2015). A piece on composer V. Dakshinamurty had the headline "Classic but always contemporary" (August 8, 2013). A short report on Pieter Louis Eras-

mus had the headline "Traditional yet contemporary" (July 30, 2011). Interestingly, the newspaper's design for its print as well as Internet edition, created by Garcia Media, had the governing theme, 'Contemporary-Classical'. Former Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's book on India's foreign policy is called Continuity and Change.

It is feedback from readers that shapes changes in the newspaper even as it retains its core values. Feedback helps to draw the crucial line between public interest and what the public is interested in, and ensures that the sacrosanct line balances the two contending, and often contradicting, interests. While editors seek inputs from readers, they also use editorial judgment to decide what changes should be made and what cannot be tampered with. The omnipresence of digital technology has led to the proliferation of cut-and-paste critique by various interest

groups. Editors are not swayed by amplification of such narrow interests.

For instance, this newspaper carried a report from its legal correspondent headlined "SC refuses to stay Vanniyar reservation" (July 3). In the report it was pointed out that the Tamil Nadu State law temporarily provides 10.5% special reservation to Vanniakula Kshatriyas within the quota for the Most Backward Classes (MBCs). The strap line provided the context for the report. It read: "Bill was passed barely an hour before model code of conduct kicked in".

### **Amplification of vested interests**

We have received innumerable mails and phone calls questioning the use of the word 'temporary' in the report. R. Arul, a reader from Chennai, felt that the word was inserted by the newspaper and had no legal or legislative basis. If there is no legal basis for the use of the word 'temporary' with reference to the State Act, he said, the newspaper should retract the story. He also cited one of the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India: "The newspaper should promptly and

> with due prominence, publish either in full or with due editing, free of cost, at the instance of the person affected or feeling aggrieved/or concerned by the impugned publication, a contradiction/reply/ clarification rejoinder sent to the editor in the form of a letter or note."

This letter from Mr. Arul was written in both English and Tamil. Within hours, we were flooded with letters. All these letters had copy-pasted Mr. Arul's arguments. This orchestrated amplification of vested interests failed to look at facts in a dispassionate manner. The report was based on a petition filed in the Supreme Court. It clearly stated that it was the previous Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who had tabled the Bill. The Chief Minister had said then: "The reservation provided for in this Bill will be temporary. Once the caste-based census is completed, this will be revised based on the findings."

Readers who want to know the process that governs the selection of news can take part in the virtual Open House we have convened on July 17. We will be closing the call for this virtual meet on July 10.

readers editor @thehindu.co. in

The Man Frindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Liberian ship sinks off Madras

A Liberian cargo ship "Ocean Glory" sank

this morning [Madras, July 4] in the Bay of

Bengal, 160 km. south-east of Madras. All the

31 members of the crew of the ill-fated vessel

were, however, rescued by a British passen-

ger-cum-cargo ship and brought to Madras

safely. The 10.850-tonne ship is said to have

suddenly developed a leak in the engine

room which ultimately flooded the vessel.

The ship had to be abandoned with all its

cargo. It was loaded with sulphur and was

sailing from the Persian Gulf to Visakhapat-

nam. The Captain of the British ship, "Chil-

ka", and the Ennore Post and Telegraphs

Wireless Station received messages from the

'distress ship' about the leakage and that it

should be rescued immediately. The Wire-

less Station got in touch with the British ship

and requested it to proceed toward the Li-

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1971

## The heavy footprint of a light rail

A part of the land that has been earmarked for acquisition for the light rail in Kerala are wetlands

A light rail is a symbol of modernity that would surely appeal to the vanity of a society's establishment. What is less evident though is the cost at which it could come. These are not

just the upfront costs of installing one but also the hidden environmental impact. which can vary enormously according to geography and the project's spread. A light rail project has found favour

with the Government of Kerala. It's unique selling proposition, apparently, is that it will reduce very substantially the travel time between the two extremities of the State, namely the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram in the south and the town of Kasargod in its north. So far, the project has mostly drawn criticism from environmental groups but there are also economic considerations that must be brought to the table when judging its desirability. It may seem odd to say this as the economy is embedded in nature and we cannot ignore environmental cost. However, there are instances when the environmental impact of alternative projects is the same but the economic returns vary significantly and vice

### **Environmental costs**

What are the environmental costs of vet another rail line in Kerala? The land here is of an undulated topography combined with an often rocky surface that is prone to crumbling when dislodged. Excessive quarrying and construction have already left it vulnerable to torrential rain, as seen in the devastating landslides recorded across the State in recent years. Therefore, the first thought that comes to mind when contemplating another railway, light though it may be, is how it will impact the stability of the earth's surface along its course. So far, we have only considered the consequences of the land use at stake. However, natural capital comprises not only the earth's surface, and the services it renders to us, but also the ecosystem as a whole. It has been pointed out that a part of the land that has been earmarked for acquisition for the project are wetlands, including paddy fields. This should concern us. Paddy is the staple food of Malayalees. Its production in Kerala has been in decline for over half a century. Part of this is explained by economic factors but some part of it is due to the lack of an

assured water supply. A double whammy of building over paddy fields and shrinking water bodies threatens food security. There is a recognisable pattern to the development

strategy of the present government in Kerala. Two years ago, it had dismissed protests by the villagers of Keezhattur in Kannur District against a highway project that would destroy their paddy fields. It now has a chance to listen to citizens' concerns on the plan to install a light railway across the State, the consequences of which will be far more widespread.

Taking into account alternatives It is not anyone's case that the government should not develop transportation. The point is that it should take into account all alternatives. Kerala already has a railway line that is two-laned for the most part. There is an international airport in every urban conurbation. It is well connected by road, with one of the higher road densities among States. But of the highest promise are the possibilities of transportation over water. There is at present an ongoing project for transportation through inland waterways. Finally, nothing prevents the government from developing a seaborne ferry service connecting Thiruvananthapuram with Kasargod, and all the ports in between. This

would leave the land untouched. There is an irony in the pitch for a light rail by a Communist government. In the 1950s, when it was believed that land reforms would deliver the land to them, the peasants hopefully sang "we will (one day) harvest all the fields". Now, by their actions, the ruling class seems to be saving to the workers who installed them in power "we shall (one day) kill all the fields". Spoken in Malayalam, the statements rhyme.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana

### DATA POINT

## Vaccination hits record pace

increased significantly in India. From June 21 to 30, 5.57 million doses were administered every day on average, the highest for any 10-day period since the vaccination drive started. The seven-day rolling average of doses administered per day reached a peak of 6.44 million on June 26. However, the rate could not be sustained in the final days of June. By June 30, the average doses dropped below the 5 million-mark. The spike in doses was mainly due to a significant increase in the vaccination pace in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Among the major States, only Andhra Pradesh recorded a decrease in the vaccination rate in the considered period. By **The Hindu Data Team** 

## However, to vaccinate all adults by December 31. 8.39 million doses need to be administered daily

>70% 50-70% 25-50% <25%

**FASTEST RATE, BUT** 

**STILL NOT ENOUGH** 

From June 21 to 30, 5.57

million daily doses were

administered on average

Phase 1 pace (Jan 16 - Feb 27) 0.34 119.18 Phase 2 pace (Mar 1 - Mar 10) 1.14 363.78 Phase 2 pace (Mar 11 - Mar 20) 1.89 587.57 1.85 574.13 Phase 2 pace (Mar 21 - Mar 30) Phase 3 pace (Apr 1 - Apr 10) 1,071.89 860.34 Phase 3 pace (Apr 11 - Apr 20) 2.85 Phase 3 pace (Apr 21- Apr 30) 2.49 766.80 Phase 4 pace (May 1- May 10) 1.77 590.91 Phase 4 pace (May 11- May 20) 1.92 625.11 Phase 4 pace (May 21- May 30) 2.13 672.69 Phase 4 pace (June 1 - June 10) 3.00 861.89 Phase 4 pace (June 11 - June 20) 3.40 942.09 Phase 5 pace (June 21 - June 30) 5.57 1.365.78 8.39

Target pace (July 1 - Dec 31) HIGHS AND LOWS | After peaking at 6.44 million on June 26, the average number of daily doses administered fell. However, it was still higher than what it was on most days Seven-day rolling of daily doses (M= million) 4M 3M 2M May 30 June 30 **SHARE OF POPULATION** Only 6.3% of the country's population was fully vaccinated, while 29.3% had received at least one dose as of June 30. In nine States, less than 5% of the population had received two doses of the vaccine % population % population

Haryana Chhattisgarh vaccinated with Uttarakhand at least one dose both doses Tripura Delhi (38.2%) Delhi (11.3%) Himachal U.P. (17.8%) U.P. (3%) Puducherry Nagaland A.P. (22.6%) Chandigarh | Kerala r.N. (23.4%) Ladakh D&N Islands % who got at least one dose % who got both doses

1889.41 U.P. Gujarat Maharashtra T.N. Raiasthan Karnataka Bihar West Bengal Andhra Telangana M.P. Kerala Odisha Jharkhand Punjab Assam Delhi J&K  $\oplus$ 0-0 0-0 STATE OF PLAY The chart shows Goa average daily doses eghalaya 🦱 Sikkim = June 11 and 20 (P1 🔘) Mizoram | and June 21 and 30 (P2) in all States. An increase Arunachal ( in the average daily dose in P2 compared to DNH,DD ( ( ) and a decrease is Manipur ( shown by ( )

Average doses per day (million)

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1921 Gandhi portrait case Cocanada, July 4: The 16 accused in what is

berian vessel to rescue the crew.

known as Vadapalli Car Festival Case are discharged to day by the District Magistrate, Mr. Uzielli of Godavari. The complaint is that on 18th April when the car festival was going on at Vadapalli in Razole Taluq some of the accused put up three Gandhi portraits on the car and that in spite of protestations of the Sthanachari and Dharmakartha the said portraits were not removed, that subsequently accused removed the portraits and thereupon pilgrims did not pull the car, that thereafter the accused and others held a meeting preaching Non-Co-operation and that at that meeting it was resolved under any circumstances the persons who stood in the way of pictures being put up should be shoved out by force and that the portraits should be put out there at all costs. In the rush some of the accused assaulted police, used force against them by committing offences under 147, 353 and 188 I.P.C., the offence under, latter section being disobedience to orders of public servants in pulling the car in spite of the Sub-Magistrate's orders to the contrary. The defence of the accused was that at the instance of the Sub-Magistrate and Police the Sthanachari and Dharmakartha asked the accused not to put up the Gandhi portraits on the car and that no pilgrims objected to putting up of portraits and that as nobody pulled the car without portraits the officials were disappointed and put up this case with a view to affect the Non-Co-operation movement.

### FROM PAGE ONE

## Pushkar Dhami sworn in as Uttarakhand CM

Ms. Arya, Mr. Dhan Singh Rawat and Mr. Yatishwaranand, who were Ministers of State in Mr. Tirath Singh Rawat's Cabinet, have been elevated to Cabinet rank.

Earlier Mr. Dhami met senior party leader and Cabinet colleague Satpal Maharaj at his residence with a bouquet of flowers amid reports that the senior leader and a few other MLAs of the BJP were sulking since Saturday as they were not happy with his election as the new leader of the BJP Legislature Party in Uttarakhand.

#### **Visits predecessors**

He also paid courtesy visits to his predecessors, Tirath Singh Rawat, Trivendra Singh Rawat and B.C. Khanduri, at their residences.

He takes over the reins at a time when Uttarakhand has just a few months to go for the Assembly election, due early next year.

Mr. Dhami is not only the youngest Chief Minister of the State, but also an appointment from Kumaon to the top post. He has worked his way in the BIP hierarchy first in student politics with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), in 1990. He was the officer on special duty to his political mentor and former Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari when the latter held the post he is holding now.

In Mr. Dhami's elevation, clearly an attempt is being made to strike the right caste and regional balance in Uttarakhand, as State BJP chief Madan Kaushik is a Brahmin from the Garhwal region and having a Thakur leader from Kumaon as the Chief Minister is being seen

## Congress calls for probe into Rafale deal

"After more than 24 hours of the decision by France to investigate corruption, influence peddling, money laundering, favouritism, there is one question every responsible and concerned Indian citizen asks: Why is the Government of India still silent," asked party spokesperson Pawan Khera at a press conference.

"It is not France that has been cheated or robbed, rather it is every single Indian taxpayer who has been cheated and robbed off," he added.

Maharashtra Former Chief Minister Prithiraj Chavan tweeted, "France has shown zero tolerance towards corruption and not spared even their former President Nicolas Sarkozy. in #RafaleScam by the French anti-corruption agency will unearth the truth and expose massive corruption something which India could not do." Leader of the Opposition

Hopefully, the investigation

in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge asserted that Mr. Gandhi's allegations of corruption had been "vindicated as scandalous details of the scam have been revealed".

"In 2019, the then CJI dismissed the need for an inquiry into the Rafale deal. However, the new revelations have substantiated the doubts regarding the dubious deal. A JPC must be immediately constituted to probe the matter," Mr. Kharge tweeted.

## Domestic air traffic sees steady improvement

cline that would touch a low of 39,370 passengers on May

### **Booking in advance**

According to travel portals MakeMyTrip, Cleartrip and ixigo, there is now a rise in the number of people booking tickets well in advance as opposed to last minute emergency travel.

"Round trip share is about 25% and the share of trips for travel over four weeks from date of booking has breached 10% level. We expect this trend to continue with reducing caseloads and increasing vaccination

But, from March began a de-levels," said a Cleartrip spokesperson.

> According to ixigo's chief executive officer and director Aloke Bajpai, "The share of bookings for travel beyond 30 days has doubled in the last one week – a sign of growing confidence for

> This is despite the fact that the period from July-September is traditionally considered a lean season for travel as schools reopen af-

> "Seasonality in travel demand doesn't hold right now as there is a lot of pent up demand," Mr. Bajpai

## Farmers plan stir outside Parliament

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Farm unions are taking their fight back to Parliament this month. At least 200 protesters will protest outside Parliament every day during the monsoon session, said the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), in a statement issued after its general body meeting on Sunday.

While the monsoon session begins on July 19, the farmers will begin daily protests on July 22. Earlier plans for a march to Parliament have been dropped for now.

Before the session, the SKM plans to "send a warning letter to all Opposition parties to ensure that the session is used to support the farmers' struggle, and that farmers' demands are met by the government".

## Assam plans sub-groups to stabilise population

State has to manage population explosion, says Himanta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The BJP-led government in Assam, eyeing a two-child policy in the long run, has decided to constitute eight sub-groups toward stabilising the State's population.

The decision was taken after a meeting between Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and indigenous Assamese Muslim leaders on Sunday. "If we have to be among

the top five States, we have to manage our population explosion," he told presspersons, adding that the participants of the meeting agreed on the "real threat" the population explosion in some parts of Assam posed to the development of the State in



Himanta Biswa Sarma

an "economic sense". Dr. Sarma said Muslim leaders had sought the formation of sub-groups to achieve the goal.

Each group would work in specific sectors such as health, education, financial inclusion and women empowerment, besides popula-

"The inputs of these subgroups will help us prepare a five-year road map when we meet again after three months," Dr. Sarma said.

**'Similar initiative'** 

He said he would meet the organisations and leaders of Bengal-origin migrant Muslims within three days for a similar initiative, while the government would be conducting a series of meetings in the next three months on population management.

The Chief Minister underlined the cultural distinction between migrant Muslims who settled in Assam a little more than a century ago and indigenous Assamese Muslims who have a 600-yearold history.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Army chief General Manoj Naravane will inaugurate an Indian Army memorial in the Italian town of Cassino during an official visit to the U.K. and Italy from July 5 to 8, the Army said on Sunday.

Naravane to inaugurate

Army memorial in Italy

"During the second leg of his tour, on July 7 and 8, the Army chief will be holding important discussions with the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Staff of the Italian Army. Additionally, the COAS [Chief of the Army Staff] will also inaugurate the Indian Army Memorial in the famous town of Cassino and will be briefed at the Italian Army's Counter Improvised Explosive Device [IED] centre of excellence at Cecchingola, Rome," an Army statement said.

Italy has pushed for a



General Manoi Naravane

central role for India in the European Union's Indo-Pacific Initiative, which is congruent with India's own vision for the region.

During the visit to the U.K., Gen. Naravane will interact with the Secretary of State for Defence, Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of General Staff, among others, and will also be visiting various Army formations, the statement added.

## Lynching is against Hindutva: RSS chief

All Indians share the same DNA and cannot be differentiated on the basis of worship, says Bhagwat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, addressing a programme organised by the Muslim Rashtriya Manch, mentored by RSS associate Indiresh Kumar, asked the Muslim community in India not to get trapped in a cycle of fear that Islam was in danger in the country and asserted that those who indulged in lynching were against Hindutva.

The function was organised around the theme "Hindusatani First, Hindustan First" and included the launch of a book, The Meeting of Minds: A Bridging Initiative, written by Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmad, who had earlier been associated with former Prime Minister P.V.



If a Hindu says that no Muslim India], then that person is not a Hindu

Narasimha Rao. Mr. Bhagwat asserted that

the DNA of all Indians was the same and they cannot be differentiated on the basis of worship. He added that the concept of Hindu-Muslim unity was misleading because there was nothing to unite as differences did not exist in the first place.

"There can never be any dominance of either Hindus or Muslims; there can only

be the dominance of Indians," the RSS chief said.

**Decries lynching** 

He decried incidents of the lynching of minorities and stated that those who were indulging in such violence were "against Hindutva".

He added, however, that sometimes false cases of lynching had also been registered against people. "If a Hindu says that no Muslim should live here [in India], then that person is not a Hindu. Cow is a holy animal, but the people who are lynching are going against Hindutva. Law should take its own course against them without any partiality," he said. He urged members of the

Muslim community in India to get over any fear that Islam was in danger in India. "Don't get trapped in the cycle of fear that Islam is in danger in India," he said.

"It has been proven that we're the descendants of the same ancestors from the last 40,000 years. People of India have the same DNA," he said, adding that politics cannot unite people. "There are some things that politics cannot do, it cannot unite people. Politics cannot become a tool for uniting people, but can become a weapon to distort unity," he said. "The basis of unity should be nationalism, glory of ancestors," he added.

At the beginning of his speech, Mr. Bhagwat made it clear that this was not a novel outreach for him or any attempts at cultivating a vote bank.

He mentioned that he had also earlier met with clerics from Dar-ul-uloom Deoband, one of the leading Sunni Islamic seminaries, in the normal course of his meetings with people from different walks of life. He added that neither he nor the RSS was in politics to bother about image issues.

## North Bihar districts face flood threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Several districts in the border areas of north Bihar are facing a flood threat due to heavy rain in the catchment areas of Nepal. The movement of trains, too, has been affected.

Sources in the Water Resources Department said 11 districts were facing a threat as the water levels in the Bagmati, Kamala Balan, Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak and Adhwara group of rivers, along with the local rivers, were in

Several villages

Birpur in Supaul district received 140 mm of rainfall on Saturday and Chanpatia in West Champaran district received 190 mm, leading to the inundation of several + villages, disrupting traffic and forcing locals to take shelter on highways.

Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi, who hails from the flood-prone Champaran district, on Saturday reviewed the situation and the steps taken for the transfer of ₹6,000 to those likely to be affected.

Due to incessant rains in the last one week, floodwaters entered a dozen villages in the five blocks of Araria and Purnia districts, forcing people to shift to safer locations.

"The movement of several mail and express trains have either been diverted or cancelled due to the water level at bridge No. 248 between Sugauli-Majhoulia in the Muzaffarpur-Paniyahawa section," said Rajesh Kumar, Chief Public Relations Officer, East Central

## Stan Swamy on ventilator support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Sunday asked the Maharashtra Chief Secretary to ensure that imprisoned activist Father Stan Swamy received "every possible medical treatment".

Fr. Swamy had recovered from COVID-19, but continued to remain critical. Sources at Mumbai's Holy Family Hospital said, "He was put on the ventilator early [on Sunday] morning, but has improved a little."

His close associate, Fr. Joseph Xavier, also told The Hindu that Fr. Stan had improved now.

"[NHRC] has today issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, calling upon him to ensure that every possible efforts are made in providing him proper medical care," an NHRC statement said.

travel in July.'

ter summer break.

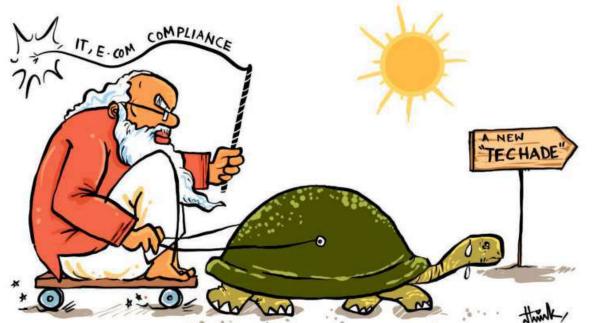
#### Karni Sena On the draw chief courts



controversy

Talking about the opposition to the construction of a mosque in Bhora Kalan village, he said the locals should root it out. Mr. Ammu said the cases of conversion and "love jihad" were rising in Pataudi. He said 17 girls were "victims of love jihad" in the area.





## Four years on, delay derails Railways' CCTV project

Investigation reveals irregularities in tendering process of project envisaged under the Nirbhaya Fund

S. VIJAY KUMAR CHENNAI

More than four years after a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Railways and RailTel for the installation of surveillance cameras at 983 stations across the country, the project envisaged under the "Nirbhaya Fund" to enhance safety of women passengers has derailed.

With no progress in the national project for years and an investigation initiated by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) revealing serious irregularities in the tendering process, the Ministry of Railways has now asked its General Managers to go ahead and install Video Surveillance Systems (VSS) at the railway stations earmarked for the purpose in their respective zones.

The Nirbhaya Fund was created by the Union government after the brutal gangrape and murder of a 23year-old woman in Delhi in



railway station in Tamil Nadu. ■ c. VENKATACHALAPATHY

2012. The dedicated fund was meant for projects specifically designed for the safety and security of women.

As part of the scheme, RailTel was allotted the execution of VSS at 983 railway stations across the country at an estimated cost of ₹500 crore. It was described as one of the largest projects of its kind, involving the integration of Indian Railways and RailTel systems, with the collaboration of multiple agencies.

Though tenders were

floated for four regions of RailTel in 2016, the project never took off due to alleged irregularities, which led to an investigation by the CVC. A detailed inquiry revealed that certain conditions in the tender document were "ambiguous". Later, over 1,400 queries were received from prospective bidders, leading to more ambiguities in the

Inquiries also revealed that the tender notice was issued and documents uploaded even before the approval of the competent authority. The Tender Committee was not strictly as per the prescribed Schedule of Powers.

"The Tender Committee was found to be working beyond their jurisdiction on certain parameters like testing of some of the items like switches in the laboratory of the firm and that too without covering all parameters prescribed in the tender documents... The overall supervision and control on the process was found to be lacking on the part of the Board level officers," the System

Improvement Report said. When the technical bids were opened and taken up for scrutiny, the Finance Member of the Tender Committee recorded his dissent note. Even after the recommendations of the committee were changed, the Direc-(Finance)

'recommended discharge of the tender on the ground that the Tender Committee got influenced and guided by the Independent External

Monitor's report". According to a Railway official, the zonal Railways

were also asked to implement the VSS project even though an MoU for the same purpose was signed with RailTel. Some zones like the Central Railway even floated tenders and were on the verge of awarding the contract. "But it was later decided to ask RailTel to complete the work. It is not just the 983 stations, but the installation of surveillance cameras in hundreds of other railway stations and thousands of coaches in premium trains. Only a detailed investigation by an independent agency can reveal why and how the whole project got derailed and at whose intervention," the official, who preferred

not to be quoted, said. With no sign of the highpriority safety project taking off, the Ministry of Railways has asked Zonal Railways to install surveillance cameras on their own by floating ten-

## On 'excess deaths' in Rajasthan

SRINIVASAN RAMANI CHENNAI

In the article titled "Rajasthan 'excess deaths' 5 times official toll", published on Sunday, The Hindu had calculated 45,088 excess deaths in the State during the pandemic period based on State Civil Registration System data maintained in the Pehchaan application. But the State's registration toll in the CRS report released by the office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner for 2018 and 2019 were 4,43,173 and 4,51,315 respectively, nearly double the data in the Peh-

chaan system for the same years - 2,16,370 and 2,19,814 respectively. If the full CRS data for Rajasthan is analysed, the undercount factor may change and could go up further. The excess deaths calculations and undercount factor will be updated if and when the full CRS data for 2020 and 2021 is made available. In light of this, the article has been amended in the online edition with the headline, "Excess deaths in Rajasthan are at least five times the official COVID-19 tally", and the graphics and data conclusions have been accordingly updated.

vear old Asmera Sajana needs your support in Fransplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai, Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE** SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your e-mail ID.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 / 7338978027 E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@

# into Rafale deal, PM's role

Demand follows France's appointment of a judge in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) must be formed to investigate the truth behind the Rafale deal and look into the role of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said on Sunday. The demand follows a French judge's appointment to investigate the multi-million dollar deal.

The CPI(M)'s highest body discussed the issue at its meeting on Saturday. "The Polit Bureau reiterates its demand raised in September 2018 for the constitution of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate the role of the Prime Minister and the government in this whole episode and establish the truth of the deal," said a statement.

It noted that France's public prosecution services had ordered an investigation by a French judge into the 2016 deal following a decision by its financial branch. Judicial investigation was formally opened into the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on June 14. The



France's public prosecution services recently ordered a probe into the 2016 deal.

statement pointed to a French investigative website's expose of official papers that allegedly show that Rafale manufacturer Dassault Aviation entered into an agreement with Anil Ambani's Reliance Group on March 26, 2015, which was 15 days before PM Modi's announcement of the new deal that excluded state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

This reconfirms the apprehensions raised by the CPI(M) that the turnaround from the earlier purchase agreement is mired in deep corruption and money laundering, said the statement.

It also condemned the Essential Defence Services Ordinance, 2021, claiming that it aimed to prohibit "legitimate protests" in ordnance factories against the "naked loot of national assets".

Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja told The Hindu that a Joint Parliamentary Committee is a must to reveal the truth. "It's not a new demand but we are merely renewing our old demand to probe the issue. We have always said that the deal bypassed our public sector undertaking and patronised and promoted a corporate house. When an investigation has been ordered in France, why is the Modi government mysteriously silent," Mr. Raja asked.

#### Raking in revenue

The CPI(M) accused the Centre of "raking in revenue at the expense of ruining people's lives" by hiking excise duties on petrol and diesel and demanded that these duties be scrapped.

Noting that the price hikes have led to an inflationary spiral in the prices of essential commodities, it urged the Centre to give a direct cash transfer of ₹7,500 to all families outside the income tax-paying bracket and distribute free food kits.

## CPI(M), CPI for JPC probe Sidhu bats for free power in Punjab

He demands free electricity up to 300 units and 24-hour supply for consumers

OFB workers slam 'draconian' Ordinance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former Punjab Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been at loggerheads with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, on Sunday argued in favour of providing free electricity up to 300 units and round-the-clock power supply to consumers in the State. Mr. Sidhu's tweets come at

a time when Punjab is reeling under an acute power shortage crisis, with urban and rural areas facing hours of load shedding in the peak summer months.

He said in a tweet: "Punjab already provides 9,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Five federations of em-

ployees of the Ordnance Fac-

tory Board (OFB) have issued

a resolution condemning the

government's promulgation

of the "draconian" Essential

Defence Services Ordinance

(EDSO), 2021, which bans ci-

vilian defence employees

from going on strike, and

urged its withdrawal. The

Ordinance came ahead of

NEW DELHI



Navjot Singh Sidhu

crore subsidy but we must do more for Domestic & Industrial consumer giving power at ₹3-5 per unit instead of surcharge inflated ₹10-12 per unit, along with 24-hour supply with No Power-Cuts & Free Power (Up to 300 Units). It is definitely

the planned indefinite strike

by employees of the OFB

against the decision to con-

vert its 41 factories into se-

ven government-owned cor-

A joint resolution issued

by the five federations after a

virtual meeting on July 1 stat-

ed: "The draconian steps ta-

ken by the Government to

suppress and crush the de-

mocratic rights of the de-

fence civilian employees is

porate entities.

achievable." The dissident Punjab Congress leader's tweet follows Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's recent promise that 300 units of free electricity would be given to each household and a 24-hour power supply would be available if AAP came to power in the State.

#### **Discarding PPAs**

The cricketer-turned-politician has been targeting the Amarinder Singh government for not discarding the "faulty" power purchase agreements (PPA) signed when the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party combine was ruling the

retrograde, undemocratic,

anti-worker and is totally un-

acceptable to the trade un-

ions and the entire work-

force of the defence

industry." The meeting also

unanimously resolved to ob-

serve July 8 as an "All India

The resolution was sent to

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh and Secretary, De-

fence Production, Raj Ku-

mar. It appealed for "with-

Black Day".

State. In another tweet, he said: "Let us start with Congress High Command's Pro-People 18 Point Agenda and get rid of the faulty un-negotiable Badal-signed Power Agreements Purchase through "New Legislation in Punjab Vidhan Sabha" fixing rates as per National Power Exchange with No fixed charges!"

On Saturday, the Punjab Chief Minister had said the PPAs that put an "atrociously unnecessary" financial burden on the State were already under review and his government would soon announce its legal strategy for them.

drawing the EDSO and

starting immediate negotia-

tions" with them on the cor-

The joint meeting of the

five federations condemned

provisions such as the dis-

missal of employees without

holding an inquiry, arresting

employees who call the

strike and participate in the

strike, and punishing em-

ployees with imprisonment

of up to two years.

poratisation of the OFB.

## Mayawati and Cong. trade barbs in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Sunday said the 'C' in Congress stood for "cunning" as she attacked the party for accusing her of having an understanding with the BJP.

The Congress Uttar Pradesh unit had tweeted, "The 'B' in BSP means BJP." It was an apparent dig at the BSP for allegedly helping the ruling BJP and its ally secure 67 out of the 75 zilla panchayat chairperson posts in the State.

In response, Ms. Mayawati said the Congress was a party "running on oxygen" even in U.P. She said the Congress's reference to 'B' in the BSP as the BJP was highly objectionable. The 'B' in BSP stands for Bahujan, which includes SCs, STs, OBCs, religious minorities and other oppressed classes, who were called Bahujan as they were in the numerical majority, she said. "The 'C' in Congress actually meant 'cunning' party, which formed governments at the Centre and in States for a long period through the votes of Bahujans but kept them helpless and like

## Assam woman gets bail in sedition case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Gauhati High Court has granted bail to an Assam woman, who was booked for sedition for allegedly having lunch on a tablecloth resembling the

Rajina Parbin Sultana was arrested on May 16 by the police in Abhayapuri in Bongaigaon district. She was also charged under the Prevention to Insult of National Honour Act, 1971. Hearing her bail plea on June 8, the court noted: "It does not prima facie suggest to be an act to have the affect (sic) of subverting the Government by bringing that Government into contempt or hatred or creating disaffection

## Full surveillance



On the frontline: Women soldiers of Assam Rifles at Wasun in Ganderbal district of Kashmir on Sunday. The personnel have been deployed in some areas to help frisk women and children at checkpoints. • NISSAR AHMAD

## India-U.S. partnership has a truly global significance: PM

Modi extends greetings to the U.S. on its Independence Day

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

India's strategic partnership with the U.S. has a "truly global significance", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on July 4. The message was part of Mr. Modi's greetings to U.S. President Ioe Biden on the occasion of the 245th Independence Day of the United States, which was celebrated on July 4.

"Warm felicitations and greetings to President of the United States Joe Biden and the people of the USA on their 245th Independence Day. As vibrant democracies, India and USA share values of freedom and liberty. Our strategic partnership has a truly global signifiAs vibrant democracies, India and USA share values of freedom and liberty

NARENDRA MODI

cance," Mr. Modi said.

The message from the Indian leadership came as the United States began the process of withdrawing its troops from neighbouring Afghanistan, ending a nearly two-decades-long military operation that began in 2001.

On July 2, the U.S. appointed Atul Keshap, a career diplomat, as the Charge d'Affaires at the U.S. Embas-

The greeting from the Indian side is in contrast to the silence that Delhi maintained during the centenary celebration of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on

It is understood that toplevel greetings to China were not sent as India views the celebration as a party affair. Neither the BJP nor the Congreeted the CPC, though Left parties congratulated China.

Prime Minister Modi and President Biden participated in the first-ever leadership summit of the 'Quad' arrangement on March 12. The U.S. leader had emphasised democratic values during his speech on that occasion.

## Tardy process blamed for job aspirant's death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After a 24-year-old job aspirant under the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) ended his life in Pune, political and student leaders have urged Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray to ensure timely exams and provide jobs for unemployed students.

While BJP's Devendra

Fadnavis urged Mr. Thackeray to overhaul the MPSC structure, NCP's Rohit Pawar said the results must be announced soon and the recruitment process streamlined immediately.

Student leader Kuldeep Ambekar said the confusion over the examinations for the last 20 months had resulted in a loss of faith in the ruling government.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ (An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)

### RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced persons for the

Name of the Post Deputy PMA Head, NRO, DDU-GKY

Communications Manager, IEC, MoRD For other details such as Job Description, Qualification, Experience.

Work Location, Application Submission etc., please visit our website: www.career.nirdpr.in; www.nirdpr.org.in

Advt No.: DDU-GKY, NIRDPR-09/2021/01 Last Date : 26/07/2021

Addl. Project Director

TAMA TAKE

### OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER PHONE NO. 0145-2624748

UBN No. PHE2122WLOBO4250

No. F.()/ Ar. MP/ 2021-2022/ 3972-4012 NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS Following bids are invited from interested bidders online upto 20.07.2021". Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal

(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) Brief Description of works
CONSTRUCTION OF OHSR'S & PROVIDING, LAYING, JOINTING, Testing & COMMISSIONING OF RISING/ DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES OF VARIOUS SIZES/ TYPES TO PROVIDE FHTC CONNECTIONS AT 37 VILLAGES INCLUDING ONE YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF MVS & SVS UNDER JJM IN THE JURISDICTION OF PHED SUB DIVISION NASIRABAD, DISTRICT RURAL DIVISION AJMER (Estimated cost of

PROVIDING, LAYING, JOINTING, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF RISING/ DISTRIBUTION PIPELINES OF VARIOUS SIZES/ TYPES TO

PROVIDE FHTC CONNECTIONS AT 17 VILLAGES(14 SCHEMES) AND

THERE DHANIES INCLUDING ONE YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF MVS & SVS UNDER JJM IN THE JURISDICTION OF PHED DIVISION BEAWAR, DISTT AJMER. (Estimated cost of work- Rs. 1498.62 lacs) UBN No. PHE2122WLOBO4252

NIB No. PHE2122A1899

DIPR/C/6325

Additional Cheif Enginee PHED, Region, Ajme

## to churn in Haryana politics Farmers' stir, caste dynamics are key factors, say experts The release of former Harya-

O.P. Chautala's release adds

na Chief Minister and Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo Om Prakash Chautala could not have come at a more opportune time for his party, which is struggling to keep itself relevant in the

The popularity of Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, who broke away from the INLD to float the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) before the 2019 Assembly election, has taken a beating during the ongoing farmers' agitation. The BIP, too, faces opposition from the farmers in its traditional stronghold along GT Road, presenting an opportunity for the INLD.

Political analysts are unanimous that the return of the old patriarch will boost the party's morale, but they do not expect any big turnaround in its fortunes. Former Haryana Agriculture University Professor and political analyst Ram Kan-



O.P. Chautala after being released from jail on Friday.

war said the "euphoria" among the party cadres and the media was understandable, but it would not be correct to read "too much" into the release in terms of the impact on the party's prospects, with the lat and non-Jat divide being a new reality of the State politics.

"The politics in the State largely being caste-based, the presence of Mr. O.P. Chautala might cause the division of Jat votes. But that, too, will be limited with the Hoodas' strong influence among Jats in Rohtak, Jhajjar, Sonipat and Panipat districts. But it will give a new lease of life to the INLD. However, any division in Jat votes would eventually benefit the BJP," Professor Kanwar said.

Professor Rajendra Sharma, of the Political Science Department at Maharishi Dayanand University, said Mr. O.P. Chautala was the natural inheritor of his father Chaudhary Devi Lal's legacy. He said the workers disillusioned with the JJP for supporting the BJP and not taking a stand on farmers agitation might return to the

He added that despite the BJP emerging as a big political force in the State, there was still space for regional parties like the JJP and the

"Historically, the INLD has opposed the Congress, but had tie-ups with the BJP. So, the possibility of an alliance, maybe post-poll, between BJP and INLD cannot be ruled out, if the JJP becomes politically weak. So, it will not be correct to writeoff the INLD," he said.

पद/ स्थिति

स्थिति की

तिरुवनंतपुरम / Thiruvananthapuram - 695 022

भारत सरकार / Government of India अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन / Indian Space Research Organisation विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

अनिवार्य अपेक्षाएँ

विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी 318 दिनांक 05.07.2021 ADVERTISEMENT NO. VSSC - 318 Dated 05.07.2021

मारत के प्रमुख अनुसंधान संस्थान, **विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी)**, तिरुवनंतपुरम के **अंतरिक्ष भौतिकी प्रयोगशाला** (एसपीएल) में कॉनेप्ट अनुसंघान अध्येता (जे आर एफ) के पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। Applications are invited for the position of JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW (JRF) tenable at one of the premier research institutions in India, the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL) of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram.

Name of Position	No.of Position	Essential Requirements
कनिष्ठ अनुसंघान अध्येता (जे आर एफ) JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW (JRF)		(क/सभी सेमेस्टरों के औसत के साथ कुल न्यूनतम 65% अंक था 10 के स्केल में न्यूनतम a) 6.84 या समकक्ष की सीजीपीए/सीपीआइ ग्रेडिंग के साथ मौतिकी/ अनुप्रयुक्त मौतिकी/ अंतरिक्ष मौतिकी/वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान / मौसम विज्ञान/ ग्रहीय विज्ञान में एम एस सी डिग्री।  बा  सभी सेमेस्टरों के औसत के साथ कुल न्यूनतम 60% अंक था 10 के स्केल न्यूनतम 6.5 या समकक्ष की सीजीपीए/सीपीआइ ग्रेडिंग के साथ वायुमंडलीय विज्ञान/अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान/ ग्रहीय विज्ञान /अनुप्रयुक्त मौतिकी में एम टेक या समकक्ष।
	12	M.Sc. Degree in Physics/Applied Physics/Space Physics/Atmospheric Science/Meteorology/Planetary Sciences with minimum 65% marks as average of all semesters in aggregate or CGPA/CPI grading of 6.84 on a 10 point scale or equivalent.  OR  M.Tech in Atmospheric Science/Space Science/Planetary Science/Applied Physics with minimum 60% marks as average of all semesters in aggregate or CGPA/CPI grading of 6.5 on a 10 point scale or equivalent.  (ख/ आवेदक निम्नलिखित में से किसी एक में योग्यता प्राप्त होने चाहिए b) 1) नेट- लेक्चरशिप के साथ सीएसआइआर - यूजीसी राष्ट्रीय योग्यता परीक्षा । 2) एमएचआरडी द्वारा संघालित इंजीनियरिंग रनातक अमिक्षमता परीक्षा (गेट) । 3)संयुक्त प्रवेश रक्वीनिंग परीक्षा (जेस्ट) । Applicants should also have qualified one of the following: 1) CSIR-UGC National Eligibility Test, including NET-Lectureship. 2) Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) conducted by MHRD. 3) Joint Entrance Screening Test (JEST).

आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु विस्तृत सूधना तथा मार्ग निर्देश के लिए कृपया http://www.vssc.gov.in वीएसएससी वेबसाइट देखें। आवेदकों को सभी संदेश ई-मेल/ वीएसएससी वेबसाइट के माध्यम से ही दिए जाएंगे।

For detailed information and guidelines for submission of applications, please visit VSSC website http://www.vssc.gov.ir All communications with the applicants will be made through e-mail/VSSC website only. आवेदन ऑनलाइन द्वारा ही प्राप्त की जाएंगी तथा ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने हेतु दिनांक 05.07.2021 को 1000 बजे से दिनांव 19.07.2021 के 1700 बजे तक वेबसाइट खुला रहेगा ।

Applications will be received on-line only and the website will be open from 05.07.2021 1000 hrs to 19.07.2021 1700 hrs for submission of online applications.

As many as 194 crocodiles have been relocated from a lake near the Statue of Unity in Narmada district, Gujarat, in the last two years for the safety of tourists who come to enjoy boat rides there, officials said on Sunday. The Panchmuli lake, sit-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD

uated near the 182-metre tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kevadia, a major tourist attraction, had a large number of crocodiles that posed a threat to visitors, they said.

Crocs relocated from Gujarat lake

Move to ensure safety of tourists visiting Statue of Unity

"In 2019-20 [October-March], we relocated 143 crocodiles. In 2020-21, another 51 crocodiles were shifted to two rescue centres in Gandhinagar and Godhra," Kevadia Range Forest Officer Vikramsinh Gabhania said. There were still many crocodiles in the lake, he

The Panchmuli lake, also known as 'Dyke-3' of the Sardar Sarovar Dam, was deve-

added.

loped for tourists visiting the Statue of Unity. Hence, the authorities decided to relocate crocodiles from the water body to prevent any harm to tourists, the official said. In 2019-20, 73 rescued

crocodiles were released into the Sardar Sarovar reservoir. The animals rescued later from the lake were shifted to the rescue centres at Godhra in Panchmahal district, and Gandhinagar, he said.

### Tourists with COVID-19 jabs can visit Sikkim

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GANGTOK

People who have taken both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine can now visit Sikkim from Monday as the State government on Sunday lifted the temporary ban on the entry of visitors from other parts of the country following a dip in fresh coronavirus cases.

The State government had prohibited the entry of tourists since March this year following a surge in the cases. The State Home Department said fully vaccinated tourists can enter the State through Rangpo in East Sikkim and Melli in South Sikkim after exhibiting vaccination certificates at the border check-gates.

The State government also allowed hotels, guest houses and homestays to operate at 50% capacity with strict adherence to COVID protocols. Shopping malls, showrooms and shops have been allowed to open.

## Second wave hit young people significantly, says study

Data collected under National Clinical Registry for COVID-19 revealed higher portion of hospitalisations not related to comorbidities

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

The ongoing second CO-VID-19 wave had a lower mean age of patients, higher percentage of hospitalisations despite fewer comorbidities and patients with breathlessness in greater frequency, says a new government study - "Clinical profile of hospitalised COVID-19 patients in first and second wave of the pandemic: insights from an Indian registry-based observational

The study, recently published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, was jointly conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), using data collected under the National Clinical Registry for Covid-19 (NCRC).

The study looked at data from patients enrolled in 40 hospitals between September 1, 2020 and January 31, 2021, and then February 1 and May 11, 2021. It took into account 18,962 individuals -12,059 hospitalised patients from the first and 6,903 second COVID wave - enrolled in the NCRC.

#### **Higher mortality**

Doctors and researchers across the country have expressed concern about the fact that the study found a greater percentage of younger patients being more affected during the second wave and worse, mortality increased for all age groups except in the under-20 age

The study says mortality among hospitalised patients increased by 3.1% in the second wave. Also a higher proportion of patients complained of shortness of breath, developed acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), and required oxygen support and ventilators in the second wave.

Sanjeev Dutta, head of the department and senior con-

## **Breaking it down**

The second COVID-19 wave hit India's younger population causing more severe symptoms and higher mortality, says a government study. But it is not indicative of any trends for the third wave. Excerpts from the study:

■ The share of hospitalised patients in the 20-39 age group increased from 23.7% in the first wave to 26.5% in the second wave

■ The share of hospitalised patients in the 40-60 age group increased from **40%** in the first wave to 41.3% in the second wave

sultant, paediatrics, QRG

Health City, Faridabad,

speaking about the study

which analyses the characte-

ristics of the first wave (from

April 2020 to January 2021)

and the second wave (which

started around February-

March 2021), said, "In both

the waves, people above 60

years were mostly affected,

but the second wave also af-

fected a significantly younger

population under 40 years

■ Fewer patients over **60** in the second wave (27.8%) compared to the first wave (32.5%)

hospitalised patients across all age groups had comorbidities in the second ve (21.1%) compared to the first wave (21.7%)

> and many had no comorbid conditions like diabetes, hypertension and diminished immunity status."

He said that in both waves, most people had fever as the commonest symptom, but in the second wave, a greater number of affected people had chest problems such as difficulty in breathing, oxygen need and pneumonia. "Fatalities have also been higher in the second wave. Higher usage of healthcare facilities (ICU, oxygen beds) is hence projected in the anticipated third wave of the pandemic," he said.

Dr. Dutta added that CO-VID-appropriate behaviour will be an essential prevention for the third wave of the pandemic. Greater vaccination coverage is the global strategy of prevention.

"While we are awaiting vaccination approval for children (under 18 years), it is assumed that the adult vaccination campaign will result in lessened risk of infection to the children," he said.

#### Third wave different

Gopi Krishna Yedlapati, consultant interventional pulmonologist, Yashoda Hospitals, Hyderabad, said the second wave was worse in terms of outcomes of treatments with several young and middle-aged patients requiring high oxygen and ventilation support and showing different symptoms.

"It is expected that the

from the second wave, as a lot of the active working population has had exposure to the disease, thereby developing immunity to the disease. As per scientific estimates, the third wave might be shorter and milder, in lieu of mortality and morbidity, just like the Spanish flu. With the advancements in treatments and preparedness of the

healthcare sector, we can

fight against the third wave

effectively," he said.

third wave will be different

Speaking exclusively to The Hindu, Samiran Panda, Head, Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Division, ICMR, noted that this study presents a comparison of information collected during two different phases of the COVID-19 epidemic in India and these are the findings obtained from inpatient

He noted that the proportion of asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic infections occurring in the community during these two waves should also be taken into consideration while discussing such issues.

"It is also important to appreciate that inferring about clinical severity that could be encountered in time to come should there be a third wave - based on the data obtained from first and second wave will be inappropriate as any trend analysis requires data from at least three time points," he said.

Dr. Panda further noted that multiple factors such as heterogeneity between patient groups, immunity developed at the community level from earlier two waves of SARS-CoV-2 infection in India, vaccination coverage as well as the characteristics of the infecting viral variant will be the determinants of clinical manifestation of CO-VID-19 disease in future.

"There is no scientific basis, as yet, to be alarmed and to think that the third wave is going to be presenting with clinically more severe diseases," he said.

## It's raining fish!



Seasonal shifts: Rabha tribal women catching fish as the monsoon inundated their paddy fields in Kamrup district of Assam on Sunday. The fishing goes on till the planting of paddy seedlings. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

## More child marriages being foiled in Odisha

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

staff.

BHUBANESWAR Odisha has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of child marriages prevented over the past four years, following increased awareness and better coordination among field-level

As against 657 child marriages stopped in 2019, 1,108 were stopped in 2020. In the first five months in the current year, attempts to solemnize 726 such marriages have been foiled.

In 2017, 324 child marriages were stopped following the last-minute intervention from community, NGOs and field-level officials. In 2018, the number grew marginally to 411. However, the last two years saw a massive jump in the number of marriages being stopped.

This year, Ganjam recorded highest 125 preventions followed by Nabarangpur

(111) and Malkangiri (90).

### **Action plan**

According to the "Odisha strategic action plan to end child marriage", the preva-lence among girls was reported to be 21.3% against the national average of 26.8% whereas for boys it was only 11% against the national average of 20.3% (NFHS-4, 2015-16).

Fifteen districts including many southern districts

have higher percentages than the State average. There are eight districts where the practice is higher than the

> national average. Odisha witnessed a decline of nearly 16 and 11 percentage points (between NFHS 2005-06 and 2015-16), for girls and boys marrying before the legal ages of 18 and 21 years respectively.

"Still one in five women was married by the age of 18 in Odisha," says the paper.

## Police deploy drones on beaches in T.N.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a move to enforce physical distancing and wearing of masks on Chennai's beaches, the city police is using drones to monitor the crowd and reminding people over the public address systems to stay safe.

Recently, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced relaxations to COVID-19 lockdown norms and reopened beaches between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. for walkers. To ensure walkers followed COVID-19-appropriate behaviour, Commissioner of Police Shankar Jiwal asked his force to strengthen surveillance over all the

The police teams in Mylapore, Triplicane and Adyar are using drones to monitor the crowd on the beaches in their jurisdiction. "In Marina, we are using one drone, one in the beach falling under Triplicane police jurisdiction and another in Besant Nagar," said N. Kannan, Additional Commissioner of Police, South.

When the drone shows someone without a mask or in a group without maintaining physical distancing, the police warns them over a public address system."The walkers are supposed to use the service road only and should not venture onto the sand. The beaches are closed to the during other hours," said P. Pakalavan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Triplicane.

## Literacy, numeracy mission deadline pushed to 2027

No extra funds; money coming from Samagra Shiksha scheme

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

The Centre's new mission to ensure that every Class 3 child has foundational literacv and numeracy within five years will be rolled out on Monday. Although the National Education Policy had included a 2025 deadline to achieve the goal, the Centre has pushed back the target date to 2026-27, given that COVID-19 has already disrupted two academic years.

The School Education Department says no additional funding is being allocated for the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat). Instead, money is being allocated from the flagship Samagra Shiksha scheme, which actually saw a 20% drop in its budget this year.

The vision of NIPUN Bharat Mission is to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27," said an Education Ministry statement, adding that a five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the national. State, district, block and school levels. NIPUN Bharat is likely to emphasise goal setting and accountability for State governments, and



children finish Class 10. PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION

provide guidelines for teacher training, assessment and the creation of printed resources, according to people who helped develop the mission.

"It will be funded through Samagra Shiksha itself," said a senior official of the School Education Department, confirming that there is no additional allocation being made. "Samagra Shiksha is an umbrella scheme, and this year it has been revised. According to that revision, a provision has been kept for FLN (foundational literacy and numeracy)," added the official. For 2021-22, the budget estimate for Samagra Shiksha was ₹31,050 crore, a 20% drop from the previous year's estimate of ₹38,750 crore, although the revised estimate for 2020-21 was just ₹27,957 crore, with poor utilisation due to COVID-19 disruptions.

Central Square Foundation, a non-governmental or-

ganisation with a focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, has provided inputs and technical support to the Centre in the development of this mission. "We estimated that achieving the goal would cost about ₹500 per child per year, amounting to an annual cost of about ₹2,200-2,300 crore nationwide," said CSF's comanaging director Bikkrama Daulet Singh.

Rukmini Banerji, CEO of the Pratham Education Foundation, also provided feedback on the Centre's draft plan. She emphasised that money would not be the decisive factor, but rather a mindset change.

"So far, the goal has simply been to enrol children in school, and then to ensure that they finish Class 10. This mission specifies stage-wise learning goals to ensure that students are acquiring the necessary building blocks,"

## TH CROSSWORD + 13291

1 Caught in a big frenzy, fish swallowed whole as an antidote (5,6)

12 Keen to right away take left, that's a good score in a game (5)

13 Bill managed to get head start, returned with a huge catch at sea (7)

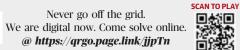
7 Second... the second character joins the crowd (3)

10 Nude model has to change – remains the same (9)

**11** Experience morbid rock music, it's hard (2,7)

9 Jack is wearing something trendy (5)

15 Horse galloped around the circle (4)



18 Channel essentially a 19 (4)

20 Hurt twice - showing no interest or talent (7)

23 Aggregates fall from top to bottom (5)

24 In a daze - shouts of "Bravo" for showing endurance... (9) 26 ... showing thick skin, therefore returns after everyone in town (9)

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

27 "Pick me up" says a Greek character (5)

28 Bird going back and forth (3) 29 All remedies free in Ireland (7,4)

### DOWN

1 Not one to go round a corner for some wood (8)

2 Shimmering issues within Germany's borders (8)

3 Serve an ex-President half-heartedly (5) 4 Fund must run call centres, but it's not the norm (7)

5Hide when the King is out (7) 6 Once tax was collected here, legal profession came into money (5,4)

7 I've one paper plane (6)

8 Harry is a token republican (6)

14 It's a solid come down as voice calls are up (9) 16 Half the school is asleep, keep quiet — it's the drink (8)

17 Sing a ballad at last in peaceful surroundings (8)

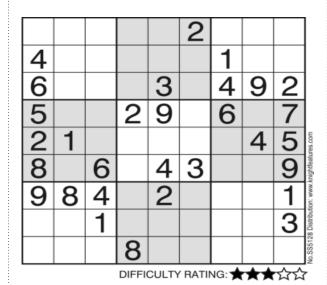
19 Tops with Irish cream in coffee, they say it's great (7) 20 China moves army to Syrian city (7)

21 The last legal extract (6)

25 Collected a thousand in arrears (5)

22 Ultimate move, it goes with charm (6)

## **SUDOKU**



So	Solution to puzzle 13290										S	olı	ıtio	n to	o ye	ste	rda	y's	Suc	loku				
		D		Α		S		Α				S				a	R	6	1	3	2	1	7	5
D	R	Υ	Α	D		Ρ	Α	G	_	z	Α	Т	Е		Н	J	U	U		U	-	1	-	J
Ε		Ε		М		-		$\supset$		-		I		Α	П	2	4	7	1	6	5	3	9	8
D	0	S	S	ı	Е	R		Е	Z	R	Α	O	П	П	H	0	4	-	0	7	0	0	0	A
U		Т		R		-				>		М		D	Ц	3	1	5	9	1	8	2	Ь	4
С	R	U	О	Е	S	Н			П	Α	s	Α	Ζ	Т	П	6	a	4	7	1	3	8	5	2
Т		F				L		0		Ν				0	H	•	_		-		-	0	-	-
		F	ī	Ν	G	ш	R	s	Т	Α	ш	L				1	5	2	8	4	6	9	3	7
Α				Α		S		Т				Α		Н	ı	-	0	0	-	^	0	0	A	4
В	Α	Ν	Α	Z	Α	ഗ		Α	L	в	Α	Ν	ı	Α	П	1	3	b	5	2	9	6	4	
В		Е		K				$\neg$		R		D		S	П	5	6	1	3	8	7	1	2	a
0	S	Т	R	1	С	Н		С	Н	Α	S	S	1	S	Н	J	U		U	U		7	~	0
Т		Т		Ν		Э		0		Η		L		L	П	8	7	3	2	9	4	5	1	6
	В	L	1	G	Н	Т	Ε	D		М	0	1	R	Е	l	4	^	~	-	-		-	0	0
		Ε				Э		Е		s		Ρ				4	2	9	0	5	1	1	g	3

## **FAITH**

## Desika's rich description

Krishna's birth, and the events that followed it have been described by sage Suka and sage Parasara. But the night of Krishna's birth finds an even grander description in Vedanta Desika's Yadavabhyudaya, said V.S. Karunakarachariar, in a

Vasudeva carried Krishna in a basket, and stepped out into the dark night. It was drizzling gently, when Vasudeva left the prison. But it must have rained heavily in the vicinity of the Yamuna, for the river was in spate. How was this dark night illumined? Adisesha was following father and son, spreading his hood over them, so that not a drop of rain fell on them. The gems on his hood sent out thousands of rays to light up the path. So Adisesha served as umbrella and torch! Now Adisesha had already taken birth as Balarama. So how could he accompany the new born Krishna? That is because Nityasuris like Adisesha are not limited in any way, and can

be present wherever they please. Despite illumination, one can lose one's way in the dark. Besides, Vasudeva had been imprisoned for long, and was also in a state of hurry, for he had to get Krishna to safety. At this crucial juncture, the graha devatas ensured that he did not get lost. They served as his guides. The processional deity of a temple is always accompanied by a group of pandits chanting the Vedas. Desika, who had witnessed many such processions, includes a further detail in Krishna's trip to Gokula. He says that as Vasudeva carried Krishna, Vedic chants were heard. Where did they come from? They came from Garuda, who was also accompanying Vasudeva and Krishna. Garuda was flapping his wings, and from this came chants of Sama Veda. Such is the rich description given by Desika about the events on the night of Krishna's birth.

## Families flee as Taliban seize key district At least 45 killed in military

Insurgents make gains in Kandahar, Badakhshan provinces; 300 military personnel flee to Tajikistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Taliban have captured Panjwai district in the southern province of Kandahar after fierce night-time fighting with Afghan government forces, officials said on Sunday, sending scores of families fleeing from the area.

The fall of Panjwai, a key district in Taliban's former bastion of Kandahar, comes two days after U.S. and NATO forces vacated Bagram Air Base near Kabul, from where they led operations for two decades against the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies.

Over the years, the Taliban and Afghan forces have regularly clashed in and around Panjwai, with the insurgents aiming to seize it given its proximity to Kandahar city, the provincial capital.

The leader of the Taliban, Akhundzada. Hibatullah hails from Panjwai.



Uncertain times: Afghan policemen on an armoured vehicle at a checkpoint in Panjwai district on Sunday. • AFP

The province of Kandahar is the birthplace of the Taliban, who went on to rule Afghanistan with a harsh version of Islamic sharia law until being overthrown by a U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Panjwai district Governor Hasti Mohammad said Afghan forces and the Taliban clashed during the night, resulting in government forces retreating from the area.

"The Taliban have captured the district police headquarters and the governor's office building," he said.

Scores of families from Panjwai fled their homes. "The Taliban fired on our car as I was fleeing with my family. At least five bullets hit my car," Giran, a resident of Panjwai, said.

The Taliban are on top of the mountains and firing at

any moving vehicles. The Taliban don't want peace."

Assadullah, a commander of border police in the area, said it was only the police force that was fighting against the insurgents. "The army and the commandos who have better military equipment are not fighting at all," he said.

Panjwai is the fifth district in Kandahar province to fall to the insurgents in recent

#### 'Poor morale'

Meanwhile, Taliban fighters are making gains in the country's northeastern parts with the capture of several districts in Badakhshan province from fleeing Afghan forces. "Unfortunately, the majority of the districts were left to the Taliban without any fight," said Mohib-ul Rahman, a provincial council member.

In the last three days, 10

districts fell to the Taliban, eight without a fight, said Mr.

He blamed the Taliban successes on the poor morale of troops, who are mostly outnumbered and without resupplies.

Hundreds of Afghan Army, police and troops surrendered their outposts and fled to the Badakhshan provincial capital of Faizabad. said Mr. Rahman.

More than 300 Afghan military personnel crossed into Tajikistan as insurgents advanced toward the border, Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security said in a statement.

In late June, the Afghan government resurrected militias with a reputation of brutal violence to support the beleaguered Afghan forces but Mr. Rahman said many of the militias in the Badakhshan districts put up only a half-hearted fight.

# plane crash in Philippines

Some of the 96 on board jumped out before craft hit ground

REUTERS

A Philippines Air Force plane crashed and broke up in flames on a southern island on Sunday, killing at least 45 people after some jumped free, officials said, in the country's worst military air disaster in nearly 30

Pictures from the scene showed flames and smoke pouring from wreckage strewn among coconut palms as men in combat uniforms milled around, while a column of thick black smoke rose into the sky.

The Lockheed C-130 transport aircraft, carrying troops bound for counter-insurgency operations, crashed with 96 people on The plane had attempted

to land at Jolo airport, but



Fatal fall: The wreckage of the Philippines Air Force plane after it crashed in Jolo town, Sulu province. • AFP

overshot the runway without touching down. It failed to regain enough power and height and crashed at nearby Patikul

"A number of soldiers were seen jumping out of the aircraft before it hit the ground, sparing them from the explosion caused by the crash," the Joint Task Force Sulu said in a statement.

It was not immediately

clear how many jumped or whether they had survived.

Military chief Cirilito Sobejana said the plane had "missed the runway trying to regain power". The Department of National Defence said 45 people were killed, including three civilians on the ground, while 53 were injured, including four civilians. Five military personnel were missing.

## Man who 'threatened' to bomb Indian mission held

Maldives police arrest him over tweet

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

Maldives police on Saturday arrested a man for "threatening" to bomb the Indian mission, days after India expressed concern over "malicious" media reports targeting its diplomats.

According to Maldivian media, the arrested man, in his early forties, is said to be a member of the ruling Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). The threat to the Indian mission was stated in a tweet that has since been deleted, local media said.

Police are investigating the development and have also enhanced security for

the resident Indian and Chinese missions, local media reported.

### 'Media attacks'

The developments have drawn attention in the wake of a recent letter that the High Commission of India in the Maldives sent to the country's Foreign Ministry, seeking action on persons behind "repeated attacks" on Indian diplomats in the media. Within days, the Foreign Ministry responded, issuing a statement urging the country's media to refrain from publishing "false news and accusations" against resident diplomats.

## 25 killed in Myanmar clashes

Villagers say Army personnel fired indiscriminately; junta says fended off ambush

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Twenty-five anti-junta fighters and civilians were killed during clashes with the military in central Myanmar, villagers said on Sunday, as locals increasingly take up arms against the regime.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a February coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government, with 890 people killed in a junta crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

In some areas civilians have formed "defence forces" to combat the State Administration Council, as the junta dubs itself, often using hunting rifles or makeshift

weapons cobbled together from household items.

The central Sagaing region has been the site of multiple skirmishes between defence forces and the military, and on Friday fighting broke out in Depayin township.

Residents said that military trucks entered their area and opened fire on a village near the jungle hoping to flush out members of the local defence force. "We heard the shooting of

artillery 26 times," said a villager, who added that antijunta fighters tried to retaliate but could not fend off

"They shot everyone who they saw on the road and in the village. They did not just have one target," he said. Civilians were among the dead, he added.

Villagers waited until Saturday to venture out of their homes to assess the casualties, said a member of the local defence force helped collect bodies.

### 'Shot in the head'

"We firstly got nine dead bodies and buried them," he said, adding that eight more were found by a different team and also buried the same day. On Sunday, they found eight more bodies.

"I noticed from their bodies that most of them were shot in the head," he said.

3 MONTHS

**3 STAGES** 

**GOVERNMENT** 

STEP for Competitive exams is a

AND BANK EXAMS.

tailor-made English course that trains you

"The army has been hunting us in the jungle since this morning," he said.

BBC News Burmese reported a similar death toll. State-run media offered a different account of the skirmish, saying the military was patrolling the area when they were ambushed. Soldiers fended off "armed terrorists" and later found

"four mortars and six per-

cussion lock firearms", re-

ported the Global New Light

of Myanmar newspaper,

which did not give a toll. Despite the threat of crackdowns, protesters in Myanmar are still taking to the streets daily in defiance of the military regime.

## Tigray rebels accept 'ceasefire in principle'

They seek exit of outside forces

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Rebels in Ethiopia's wartorn Tigray region on Sunday accepted "a ceasefire in principle" but posed strict conditions for it to be formalised.

Notable among those conditions was the withdrawal from the region of Eritrean forces as well as fighters from the neighbouring Ethiopian region of Amhara, who have been supporting the Ethiopian Army during the eight-month long conflict.

Tigray has been the scene of fighting since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent the

Army in November to topple the dissident regional authorities, which emerged from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner accused them of orchestrating attacks on Ethiopian military bases.

After early successes and a premature declaration of victory, government forces were bogged down in a vicious and months-long battle with pro-TPLF fighters the Tigray Defence Forces, or TDF. The Ethiopian Army was backed by troops from the neighbouring Amhara region and the army of Eritrea, which borders Tigray.

### **ELSEWHERE**



Pope Francis in hospital for colon 'surgery' VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis was admitted to a Rome hospital on Sunday afternoon for "scheduled surgery"on his colon. Vatican said. The Vatican said the Pope, 84, was suffering from "symptomatic diverticular stenosis" of the colon, a condition that can cause recurrent abdominal pain, bloating and changes in bowel habits. REUTERS

#### 'Face masks to become a personal choice in U.K.'

The wearing of face masks in the U.K. will become a personal choice and the data that will determine if lockdown can be lifted this month was looking "very positive". Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick said. "It will be a different period where we as private citizens make these judgments rather than the government telling you what to do," she said. REUTERS

## Chinese astronauts complete first spacewalk at new station

They are the first crew aboard Tiangong space station

Chinese astronauts successfully performed the country's first tandem spacewalk on Sunday, working for seven hours outside the new Tiangong station in orbit around the Earth. Tiangong's construction

is a major step in China's ambitious space programme, which has seen the nation land a rover on Mars and send probes to the moon. Three astronauts blasted off last month to become the

station's first crew, where they are to remain for three months in China's longest crewed mission to date. On Sunday morning, two of them exited the station for around seven hours of work

Manned Space Agency said. "The safe return of astronauts Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo to the Tianhe core

squarely blamed the govern-

ment for the high death toll.

"This government has killed

more than 5,00,000 peo-

In its first two months of

hearings, the parliamentary

panel of inquiry focused on

the government's delays in

The inquiry took a sud-

ordering vaccine supplies.

ple...," she said.





Aiming high: A screen grab from a video released by CCTV shows a Chinese astronaut outside the Tiangong station. • AFP

module marks the complete success of the first spacewalk in our country's space station construction," the space agency said.

Their tasks involved elevating a panoramic camera outside the Tianhe core moin the first spacewalk at dule, as well as testing the Tiangong, the China station's robotic arm which will be used to transfer future modules around the sta-

tion, state media said. The astronauts installed foot stops on the robotic arm and, with its support, carried out other assembly work, added the space agency. In a video clip of Mr. Liu leaving the cabin, he exclaimed: "Wow, it's too beautiful out here."

footage Television showed the astronauts preparing for the spacewalk by donning gear and conducting health checks while exercising.

## Cyprus hit by worst forest fire in decades, four dead

Greece, Israel send firefighting planes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cyprus said a deadly forest fire that was the worst to hit the island in decades was close to being brought under control on Sunday after water bombing by Greek and Israeli aircraft.

Fanned by strong winds, the fire broke out on Saturday afternoon and swept through the southern foothills of the Troodos mountain range as the country grappled with a blistering

The blaze killed four Egyptian labourers, destroyed 50 homes, damaged farms and power lines, and forced the evacuation of 10 villages.

"Everything was a nightmare and pure hell here; the village was surrounded by fire," said Akis Giorgiou, 45, from Arakapas.

By late Sunday afternoon, the government reported a "reduction of (fire) outbreaks" thanks to "effective water drops by Greek and Israeli aircraft".

The Egyptian government said the four dead were farm workers from the North African country, while Cyprus vowed in a tweet to "stand by the victims' families... offering every support".

for Government exams such as UPSC, SSC, PSC and Bank exams. This 3 month course helps you master the fundamentals and excel in all three stages of the exam. Practice sets on reading comprehension I Video lessons on parajumbles and word

reordering I Idioms, phrases, antonyms/synonyms I Lessons on fill in the blanks (cloze test) I

for written English

Important vocabulary words including words from the Indian Constitution Paraphrasing and summarising for precis writing I Essay writing I Advanced grammar skills

Interviews

Training on common interview questions I Lessons on expressing opinions I Emphasis on speaking clearly with relevant details, significant points, etc.







a Rio de Janeiro protest,

Thousands of Brazilians took to the streets on Saturday to protest against President Jair Bolsonaro, who faces an investigation over an allegedly corrupt CO-

RIO DE JANEIRO

It was the third day of demonstrations against the government, which is also confronting mounting pressure from a parliamentary inquiry into its handling of the pandemic that has claimed over 5,00,000 lives in the country.

VID-19 vaccine deal.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

den turn, however, after a Health Ministry official, Luis Ricardo Miranda, said he had faced "atypical, excessive" pressure to approve the purchase of three mil-

Lima Mendes, a 47-yearold physician taking part in

lion doses of the Indianmade Covaxin vaccine at a cost far higher than for other vaccines.

Thousands in Brazil join

anti-Bolsonaro protests

He is facing inquiry over 'Covaxin deal'



Q. My dad's post office senior citizens savings scheme deposit will be maturing. Please suggest an investment option that gives better rates without risks.

A. The post office Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, being government-backed, is one of the safest options one can think of in the current environment, protecting principal.

Its interest rates have also been consistently higher than those on options like bank and NBFC deposits. It is best that your father renews his investment for 5 more years in this scheme. While deposits with top banks today offer rates of just 5-5.5%, SCSS rates are currently at 7.4% per annum. In debt investments, any option that offers much higher rates than government bonds usually carries risk to principal. Today, the 5-year government bond offers an interest of about 5.7%. You should therefore be wary of any instrument, that isn't government backed and yet offers much higher rates.

Given the impact that COVID-19 second wave has had on banks, NBFCs and firms, any entity that sources deposits at high rates would be quite risky.

Q. I am a 25-year-old student with a science background. I want to invest ₹500 a month in MF SIPs for good returns over 1-3 years. **BASTABIK DAS** 

A. Most people think of stock markets when referring to MFs. However, there are also MFs that invest in government securities, company bonds, money-market instruments, gold and stocks listed overseas, apart from combinations of these. If you would like to invest in stock or equity MFs, which can deliver high returns, you need to be prepared to risk capital losses and also for a long waiting period of 7 years or more to make good returns. This is because stock markets move in cycles and may fall sharply after delivering bumper performance in some years. As we have seen stock markets rise steadily in recent years, a correction may be in the offing. In that case, you may make low or even negative returns with holding periods such as 1-3 years. The category of MFs that best fits a 1-3 year holding period is debt funds which invest in bonds, with a fixed interest rate. You can consider ultra-short term or short-term bonds funds for SIPs, after checking if their portfolios are invested in sovereign bonds and highly rated corporate bonds. However, all MFs are market-linked, where you can lose capital to market swings. As you're just starting on your investing journey and may not have a high risk appetite, consider investments such as Post Office or bank recurring deposits to

Q. I hail from a lower middle-class family. I want to start investing ₹1,000 a month in stocks. I am interested in learning both fundamentals and technical analysis. Please suggest the best, inexpensive resources. SHANMUGANATHAN

A. It is quite usual for investors to develop a sudden passion for stocks, believing that it's an easy road to riches. When a correction unfolds and stock prices tumble, the rea risks of stock market investing hit home! We suggest you make a start by investing in index MFs that passively mimic the movement of indices like the Nifty50, Sensex30, Nifty100 and Nifty Next 50 as this is a low-cost route to getting a feel of the market. Before you look at fundamental or technical analysis, it is essential to understand the foundations and concepts of equity investing. To make a beginning, you can read a combination of global and India-specific books on the subject. Peter Lynch's One Up on Wall Street and Beating the Street, Stocks to Riches and Value Investing by Parag Parikh, A.K. Narayan's How to Invest Right and Prosper, Monika Halan's Let's Talk Money and Warren Buffett's annual newsletters at Berkshire Hathaway are some easy-to-understand books that can set you on the right path. You can also follow blogs like FundooProfessor Dr. Vijay Malik who deals with fundamental analysis. You can attend free investor awareness events conducted by MFs, SEBI and the bourses.

#### Q. My parents, aged 56 and 51, are Haryana government staff. Will they get any health insurance cover?

RACHIT GOEL

K. Nitya Kalyani answers

A. Most State government health insurance schemes are quite comprehensive. Please go through the prospectus or similar documentation to learn their scope and also see if optional extra covers are available on payment of extra premium. This information, should be readily available with the relevant personnel and human resources departments of your parents' service.

If you find the scope of their coverage lacking, you can enhance coverage by buying an additional hospitalisation policy or a top-up policy. If the government scheme has no viable option for retirees, then a commercial policy will serve the purpose. Buying it now when your parents are in their early and mid-fifties is a lot easier and they would have worked off the initial waiting period for coverage of pre-existing

conditions well-before they retire. Regarding health insurance for senior citizens, many companies now offer options, but you will find them dwindling as age advances. Taking a supplementary independent policy a few years before

retirement appears to be a prudent idea. (K. Nitya Kalyani is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

# Adding firepower to the TERMPLAN

SAJJA PRAVEEN CHOWDARY

A term life insurance plan is a cost-effective, pure-protection life insurance product that has become essential given unprecedented times such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under such a plan, the policyholder pays a small amount as premium and if the he or she dies within the policy tenure/ term, the financial dependents of the policyholder receive a large cover amount as a payout. For example, a 25-year old person can get a life cover of ₹1 crore for 25 years at a premium of about ₹500 per month.

The payout amount can be used by the dependents to meet daily expenses, repay loans and pay one-time expenses such as children's education and or for

Apart from the regular death benefit, a term life insurance the plan also provides additional financial benefits provided you have bought the necessary riders. Riders are like accessories that are to be purchased along with the base policy.

Attaching the right riders to vour term-life insurance plan gives the plan extra firepower, making it more comprehensive and beneficial for you, the customer. The cost of the riders is

over and above the base policy's premium though, generally, the premium for the riders is low. Here are some of the most important riders that you must add with your plan to avail enhanced coverage.

**Critical illness** 

Over the last decade, there has been a significant rise in the number of people affected by critical illnesses. Some of the prominent reasons for this spike are a rise in levels of pollution, unhealthy eating habits, and a sedentary lifestyle.

While it is important to follow a healthy lifestyle, it is equally important to stay financially protected in case an illness strikes you. Under this rider, if the policyholder is diagnosed with any of the listed illnesses – these usually vary basis the plan or the insurer and cover between 8 and 60 illnesses the insurer pays the rider cover amount as a lump sum.

For instance, say Amit Kumar has a ₹1 crore cover along with a critical illness rider of

Opting for the right riders to go with a term insurance policy can prove beneficial

can be used to take care of loss of income due to early retirement or moving to a less-stressful/low-paying job that such people see post diagnosis of a critical illness

Waiver of premium Under the waiver of premium rider, all the future premiums



policy tenure/term. This is very helpful when someone is at a stage where their income is affected or they are no longer in an earning position.

Currently, there are two different variants of this rider available namely - waiver of premium on disability and waiver of premium for critical illnesses. Under the waiver of premium on disability rider, if the policyholder meets with an accident and becomes completely disabled physically, all his future premiums will be waived and the base term policy will keep working.

Similarly, if one chooses to

select waiver of premium for critical illness and the person is diagnosed with any of the listed critical illnesses, all the future premiums are waived while the base policy continues to work normally.

**Accidental disability** 

Every year, more than 10 lakh road accidents are reported in India whereby a lot of young people are left disabled. While the plan takes care of your family's future expenses, disability is another bad situation to end up in where the person may not be able to work and earn for the family.

In such conditions, this rider comes to the rescue of such people by paying the rider-cover amount that can be used to take care of loss of income due to the situation. It is highly recommended for people

> who travel frequently or those whose daily commute is more than an

It comes out clear that riders help give a upgrade a term-insurance plan. They help us to plan our family's future more effectively. Based on our lifestyle, source of income and work conditions, we must choose the appropriate riders.

Various insurance companies in the market offer term-insurance policies and many more riders at competitive rates. One must compare and understand the rider benefits, associated terms and conditions carefully before making a decision.

(The writer is Business Head, Term Insurance, PolicyBa-

### THINK INVESTOR: BEING CASH READY

## Liquidity can impact financial well-being

**CRITICAL** 

**ILLNESS** 

An investor must achieve a fine balance between immediate cash needs and life goals

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

It is important to avoid decisions that can harm your life goals. Consider the desire to invest in highly-liquid investments. Liquidity refers to your ability to sell an investment at a price that is not significantly affected by the urgency with which the investment is sold.

You can sell your real estate at a distress price if you need to raise cash urgently, but you may have to wait for a while if you want a fair price. Liquidity also refers to your inability to sell your investment because of its lock-in feature.

In this article, we discuss the impact of highly liquid investments on your financial well-being.

When lock-in is good

True, we all need liquidity to meet unforeseen expenses. But the desire for high liquidity also depends on your emotional

nancially insecure are more likely to prefer liquid investments than others.

Typically, those who are fi-

Note that you may have a comfortable lifestyle and reasonable income and yet be financially insecure.

Nonetheless, it is important to give up liquidity for your goal-based bond investments. Why? Instead of keeping too much money in your savings account or short-term deposits, invest in fixed deposits that

align with your life goals. That is, if you must achieve a

life goal five years hence, then invest in a five-year deposit. This may seem obvious, but many invest in short-term deposits despite having long-term

One, the feeling of insecurity drives them to make investments that can be quickly converted to cash. And two, longterm deposit rates may not be adequately high compared to

short-term rates. For instance, the difference between a one-year deposit and a five-year deposit offered by a large bank is just 0.50 percentage point. Yet, aligning deposits with life goals denies easy access to money, and therefore, prevents you from spending it for other purposes.

Also, you do not have to look for reinvestment opportunities till you need the money to meet your goal.

₹25 lakh attached to it. Now, if

Mr. Kumar is diagnosed with a

critical illness, say heart attack,

his insurer will pay him ₹25

lakh on diagnosis without any

connection with your hospital

bills. While few people have

health insurance to pay for hos-

pital bills, a person's lifestyle

When lock-in is harmful For goal-based equity invest-

ments, you should avoid products that force you to lock in your money for a specified period. Why? For one, you are exposed to the risk of heavy losses as the market could decline during the lock-in period.

For another, you need liquidity to sell (rebalance) some of your investments annually so that the proportion of equity in your portfolio is not high because of unrealised gains. However, the lack of a lock-in feature could tempt you to liquidate your investments before the end of the time horizon for a life goal! You typically set up a systematic investment plan (SIP) on an equity fund. You can be tempted to stop the

Loan Amount (Rs.)

7.85-9.00 7.85-9.00 7.85-9.00

7.95-9.45

8.25

7.95-9.45

8.25



Bank on it: One should create an emergency fund to take care of reasonably foreseeable liquidity needs. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

South Indian Bank

Tamilnad Mercantile Bank

SIP if you feel financially insecure. Worse, you may liquidate the entire investment to meet other expenses that may seemingly assume more importance at present. Both actions can be harmful to your financial wellbeing as they could jeopardise

the originally intended life goal.

So, how should you do this? Set up the SIP in your spouse's name. Importantly, your spouse should keep the login credentials. If you are unmarried, the login credentials can be managed by your parent or your sibling. This process locks vou into the investment because stopping the SIP or liquidating the investment requires the other person's authentication. You should create an emergency fund to take care of reasonably foreseeable liquidity needs. That way, it will be emotionally less stressful to lock in bond investments through the time horizon for a life goal and to avoid liquidating your equity investments to meet other expenses.

The saying "[w]e have met the enemy and he is us," popularly attributed to Pogo, the comic character created by Walt Kelly, could just as well refer to our personal finance! Moderating our biases improves our financial well-being. An unreasonable desire for high liquidity is one such bias.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal invest-

## TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

## Gold, silver fell most since Nov. 2016 in June

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

Precious metals lost sheen in June, recording the worst monthly performance since November 2016. The strengthening U.S. dollar, along with the firm trend in equity markets affected sentiment towards precious metals. Reports that the U.S. Federal Reserve will start tapering bond purchases and their decision to raise interest rates in 2023 also played a part in keeping the prices depressed.

Comex gold lost 7% to close \$26.19 an ounce. Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold futures fell 5.1% to ₹46,839 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures closed 5.5% lower at ₹69,074 per kg.

Comex gold price remained subdued in June. The shortterm outlook for gold remains weak. The price is likely to fall to the immediate target of \$1,710-1,715 range. A fall below \$1,710 would impart momentum to the fall and the price could then test the next target zone at \$1,650-1,660.

This outlook would be under threat if the price closes above the immediate resistance at \$1,830-1,840. Until this resistance zone is taken out, there would be a case for a slide to \$1,710 and lower.

The short-term outlook for Comex silver, too, is weak and the price can fall to the immediate target at \$24.5-25.10

**Bank Fixed Deposit Rates** 

Interest Rates (%)



range. This outlook would be at \$1,771.8 an ounce. Comex invalidated if the price moves silver lost 6.5% to settle at above the resistance level at \$28.70-29.50. Till \$29.5 breached, there would be a strong case for a slide to \$25.1 or lower. MCX gold too closed on a weak note in June. The short-term outlook is negative and the price could fall to the immediate target zone at ₹44,500-45,000. This view would be invalidated if the price rises above the resistance level at ₹49,200-49,600.

The near-term outlook for MCX silver, too, is negative. It may slide to the immediate target of ₹64,000-64,500. This would be invalidated if the price moves above ₹72,500-73,000. A close below ₹68,000 would strengthen the case for a slide to ₹64,000 and lower.

(The writer is a Chennaibased analyst/trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)

## **Home Loan Interest Rates**

Loan Amount (Rs.)

Name of Lender	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh		
			(In %		
PUBL	IC SECTOR	BANKS			
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60		
State Bank of India	6.70-7.50	6.95-7.65	7.05-7.75		
Bank of Baroda	6.75-8.35	6.75-8.35	6.75-8.60		
Union Bank of India	6.80-7.60	6.90-7.65	6.90-7.65		
Punjab National Bank	6.80-7.75	6.80-7.90	6.80-8.00		
Central Bank of India	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30		
Bank of India	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.3		
Canara Bank	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90		
UCO Bank	6.90-7.25	6.90-7.25	6.90-7.2		
Bank of Maharashtra	6.90-8.05	6.90-8.40	6.90-8.40		
IDBI Bank*	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.0		
Indian Bank**	7.00-7.25	7.10-7.35	7.20-7.40		
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05	7.15	7.30		
55.00					

6.65-7.30

6.90-11.50

7.20-7.75

7.35-9.55

7.50-8.75

7.65-7.70

6.75-7.30

6.65-7.30

6.75-7.45

6.90-11.50

7.35-9.55

7.50-8.75

6.65-7.30

6.90-8.55

7.20-7.75

7.35-9.55

7.50-8.85

7.75-7.80

Kotak Mahindra Bank ^

ICICI Bank

Axis Bank

**HSBC** Bank

Karur Vysya Bank

Bandhan Bank	8.50-11.75	8.50-11.25	8.75-11.25					
RBL Bank	10.20-12.80	10.20-10.70	9.50-10.00					
HOUSING FI	NANCE COM	PANIES (HF	CS)					
HDFC Ltd.***	6.75-7.45	7.00-7.70	7.10-7.80					
Bajaj Finserv	6.75-8.50	6.75-8.50	6.75-8.50					
Tata Capital	>=6.90	>=6.90	>=6.90					
LIC Housing	6.90-7.85	6.90-8.05	6.90-8.05					
PNB Housing	7.35-9.35	7.35-9.55	7.70-9.55					
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.45	>=7.45	>=7.45					
Repco Home Finance	>=7.75	>=7.75	>=7.75					
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.65	>=8.65	>=8.65					
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50					
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00					
*10 bps concession for women borrowers under limited period offer. Conditions apply.  **Interest rate of 6.85%-7% p.a. offered under IND AWAS Scheme								
Special HLBT rates start								
***Special interest rates available under limited period offer. Valid for								

disbursements availed on or before June 30

7.95-9.45

8.25

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FI	NANCE E	BANKS		
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.35	6.35	6.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.50	6.50
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.50	5.60	6.25	6.00
AU Small Finance Bank	6.25	5.00	6.25	6.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.50	5.75	5.25
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.00
PRIVATE	SECTOR	BANKS		
DCB Bank	6.50	5.80	6.50	6.50
RBL Bank	6.50	6.10	6.30	6.50
State Bank of Mauritius	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.00
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.00
Nainital Bank	6.35	5.25	5.35	5.35
IDFC First Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	6.00
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.50	5.65	5.75
Bandhan Bank	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.50	5.25	5.25
CSB Bank	5.75	5.00	5.25	5.25
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75
Karnataka Bank	5.60	5.20	5.50	5.50
South Indian Bank	5.65	5.40	5.50	5.65

#### Interest Rates (%) Highest 1-year 3-year 5-year 5.25 5.40 5.60 4.90 5.15 4.90 5.15 Bank 5.50 5 50 4.25 5.50 5.30 5.10 5.30 nu & Kashmir Bank 5.30 4.50 5.10 k Mahindra Bank 5.30 5.60 5.25 ara Bank 5.50 5.20 5.50 5.25 of India 5.30 5.30 5.15 5.30 5.25 5.00 5.25 4.90 4.90 5.25 5.25 Bank n Overseas Bank 5.20 5.15 5.20 5.20 of Maharashta 4.90 4.90 4.90 3.85 4.50 sche Bank 6.25 Bank 4.00 3.10 4.00 4.00 3.50 2.75 3.50

Zico runs

Olympic Torch

Relay in Ibaraki

Zico carries the Olympic

The Olympic Torch Relay

kicked off its leg in Ibaraki

Prefecture on Sunday as

Brazilian football legend Zi-

co ran as one of the last

He joined Kashima An-

tlers (known as Sumitomo

Metal Kicking Team) in

1991 as a player, and stayed

with the club until July

ASSOCIATED PRESS

torchbearers here.

## England demolishes Ukraine to swagger into last four

Harry Kane gets into stride with a brace as the Three Lions book a clash with Denmark for a place in the title round

## **EURO 2020**

REUTERS

Harry Kane struck twice as England thrashed Ukraine 4-0 on Saturday to reach its first European Championship semifinal since 1996 and set up a clash with Denmark.

The England captain raced onto a Raheem Sterling through ball to fire in the opener from close range after four minutes at the Stadio Olimpico, England's earliest goal in a Euros match since 2004.

Harry Maguire headed home a second less than a minute into the second half and Kane soon nodded in his side's third as Ukraine's resistance crumbled.

**Completing the rout** Substitute Jordan Henderson

completed the rout with his first international goal to ensure England's comfortable passage into the last four.

Gareth Southgate's side will face Denmark at Wembley on Wednesday for a place in the final after the



Heading home: Harry Kane nods in England's third as it ran riot against an abject Ukraine. • AFP

Danes defeated the Czech Republic 2-1 in Baku.

Fans had barely settled in their seats by the time England took the lead with a well-worked move.

Sterling cut in off the left wing and slid a through ball into a pocket of space behind the defence for Kane to race through and guide into the net with a neat finish.

Ukraine mustered its first effort when Kyle Walker gave the ball away in midfield and Roman Yaremchuk raced through to draw a good save by Jordan Pickford from a

### Top goalscorers







(Sweden)

(Up to the quarterfinal stage)

tight angle, while England's Declan Rice and Jadon Sancho had shots beaten away by Georgiy Bushchan before

Flexing muscles

But England flexed its muscles after the break and ended the game as a contest within five minutes of the restart, helped by two fine assists from Luke Shaw.

The left-back whipped a free-kick onto Maguire's head for a close-range finish in the first minute of the second half before steering a perfect delivery towards Kane for a simple close-range header four minutes later.

with Alan Shearer as England's second-top scorer at major tournaments with nine goals, behind Gary Lineker on 10, and he was denied a hat-trick when his ferocious volley was palmed away by the diving Bushchan. England made it four from the resulting corner when Ukraine again failed to deal with a set-piece delivery as Henderson nodded in from six vards to score his first goal for his country on his 62nd cap.

The goal sent Kane level

The results: Quarterfinals: Ukraine O lost to England 4 (Kane 4, 50, Maguire 46, Henderson

#### By The Numbers

- **2** Gareth Southgate will be just the second manager to take England to the semifinals of both the World Cup and the Euros after Alf Ramsey in 1966 and 1968
- 3 England is the first side in tournament history to score three headed goals in
- 4 England has scored four goals in a knockout match of a major tournament (World Cup/Euros) for only a second time; after the 1966 World Cup final against Germany
- 7 The Three Lions have kept seven consecutive time in their history

#### **SEMIFINAL LINEUP**

Italy vs Spain 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday, July 7)

**England vs Denmark** 12.30 a.m. (Thursday, July 8) Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 &

In 2002, he was appointed the Japan National coach and led the team to the 2006 World Cup in Germany. He is currently the Technical Director of

## Indian team for World Jr. tennis final

Kashima Antlers.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has selected a three-member boys' team with coach Sajid Lodi as captain for the ITF World Junior tennis under-14 Finals to be held in Prostejov, Czech Republic, from August 2 to 7.

The Asia-Oceania qualification event could not be held. Considering the previous three years results, the ITF had selected Japan, Thailand and Indonesia for the boys' event from the region.

The tournament, featuring 16 teams, will be played on a league-cum-knockout basis on clay courts.

The team: Rethin Pranav, Krish Tyagi, Tejas Ahuja. Reserve: Manas Dhamne. Captain: Sajid Lodi.

South Africa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

South Africa capitalised on

on Saturday. Defending a total of 168 for four, thanks to half-cen-

143 for nine. The scores: South Africa 168/4 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 60. Adien Markram 70) bt West Indies 143/9 in 20 overs (Evin Lewis 52, Shimron Hetmyer 33, Lungi Ngidi 3/ 32). Toss: South Africa. MoM:

South Africa won by 25 runs, takes five-match series

## Third ODI

### SL IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Heavy rain prevented England completing a likely whitewash of its one-day

was abandoned in the afternoon with no result before England could reply to Sri Lanka's 166 all out in 41.1 overs.

Toss: England.

## Full crowds allowed from quarterfinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crowds at Wimbledon's Centre Court and No. 1 Court can increase to 100% capacity for the singles quarterfinals through the end of the tournament.

The All England Club said on Sunday that will mark "the first full outdoor stadiums at a sporting event" in Britain since the start of the coronavirus pandemic last year.

Wimbledon was cancelled in 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the first time in 75 years that the oldest Grand Slam tennis tournament was not held

The club said the rise from what has been limited to 50% full crowds at the two main arenas comes after "the successful staging of the first week of The Championships" and with government approval.

## Medvedev claws back from two-set deficit

The second seed calmly wrestled back control to neutralise Cilic's game

### WIMBLEDON

REUTERS

Second seed Daniil Medvedev overturned a two-set deficit for the first time in his career to grind down former runner-up Marin Cilic in a bruising third-round clash at Wimbledon on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Russian looked flat in the opening two sets as Cilic used his powerful serve and forehand to great effect, but Medvedev calmly wrestled back control to neutralise his opponent's game and claim a 6-7(3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Having enjoyed his longest career runs at this year's Australian Open (runner-up) and French Open (quarterfinals), Medvedev has now posted a new Wimbledon best by reaching the last 16 where he will face Poland's 14th seed Hubert Hurkacz

With Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rubley already through, it is only the third time in the professional era that a Grand Slam tournament has had three Russian men in the last 16.

Divij Sharan and Britain's Samantha Murray Sharan



Stretched: Daniil Medvedev outslugged Marin Cilic in a bruising third-round clash. • REUTERS

### THE RESULTS

Third round: Men: 2-Medvedev (Rus) bt 32-Cilic (Cro) 6-7(3), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Mixed doubles: Second round: 10-Klaasen (RSA) & Jurak (Cro) bt Divij & Murray Sharan (GBr) 3-6, 7-6(1), 6-3.

### Fallen seed

■ Men: 32-Cilic

lost to 10th seeds Raven Klaasen of South Africa and Croatia's Darija Jurak in the mixed doubles second round on Saturday.

### MANIC MONDAY LINE-UP

- 8-Pliskova (Cze) vs Samsonova (Rus)
- (Ita) • 16-Auger-Aliassime (Can) vs
- 4-Zverev (Ger)

Men

- 14-Hurkacz (Pol) vs 2-Medve
- dev (Rus) • 10-Shapovalov (Can) vs 8-
- Bautista-Agut (Esp) • 7-Berrettini (Ita) vs Ivashka
- (Blr)

ken quite a bit earlier on Sa-

turday at Worcester, where

she made an unbeaten 75 off

86 balls to lead India to a four-

wicket win in the final ODI

against England. When she

moved to 15 during that in-

nings, with a boundary over

the head of bowler Nat Sciver,

she went past Charlotte Ed-

It has not been an easy journey: Mithali

## Red hot Verstappen surges to the front

Leaves Hamilton in his wake

#### **AUSTRIAN GP** REUTERS

Formula One leader Max Verstappen led from start to finish as he won the Austrian Grand Prix for Red Bull, powering 32 points clear of Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in the championship on Sunday.

Hamilton was a distant fourth, behind Finnish team mate Valtteri Bottas in second and McLaren's Lando Norris in third.

Verstappen, who has now won on three successive weekends, also set the fastest lap to take his tally to 182 points.

Hamilton has 150 and Red Bull is 44 points clear of Mercedes in the constructors' standings.

The results: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:23:54.543; 2. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) +17.973: Lando Norris (McLaren) 20.019: 4. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 46.452; 5. Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) 57.144; 6. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) 57.915: 7. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren) 1'00.395; 8. Charles Leclerc

wards's 10,273 international

rence, Mithali spoke about

how her long journey over the

last 22 years took her to the

top of batting charts in wo-

men's cricket. "It has not been

The skipper said there

were times when she wanted

to give up for various reasons.

"But something kept me go-

ing, and here I am after 22

years of cricket," she said.

"The hunger for scoring runs

for India has never dried up. I

an easy journey," she said.

At a virtual press confe-

runs, across formats.



celebrates. • REUTERS

ly (AlphaTauri) 1'01.844; +1 lap: 10. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) 70; 11. George Russell (Williams); 12. Yuki Tsunoda (Alpha-Tauri):13. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); 14. Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo); 15. Nicholas Latifi (Williams); 16. Kimi Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo): 17. Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin): +2 laps: 18. Mick Schumacher (Haas); 19. Nikita Mazepin (Haas); DNF: Es-

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 182; 2. Hamilton 150; 3. Perez 104; 4. Norris 101; 5. Bottas

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 286; 2. Mercedes 242; 3. McLaren 141; 4. Ferrari 122; 5. AlphaTauri

am still passionate to go out

there and win games for

room for improvement in her

batting. "I am working on that

and I have a few months be-

fore the World Cup (starts),"

she said. About her two pre-

vious innings in the series

drawing criticism for slow

strike-rate, she said, "I have

played for a long time and I

have a certain responsibility

to the team. "I am not here to

please people, but to do the

role assigned to me."

She said there was still

India.'

## clinches series

### SA IN WI

ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

the misfiring power-hitters of the West Indies to claim a series-clinching 25-run victory in the final T20I of their five-match contest to clinch the series 3-2 here

turies from Aiden Markram and Ouinton de Kock, the Proteas limited the hosts to

Markram; MoS: Shamsi.

## abandoned

international series against Sri Lanka on Sunday. The third and final ODI

The scores: Sri Lanka 166 in 41.1 overs (Dasun Shanaka 48, Tom Curran 4/35) vs England.

Match abandoned due to rain. England won the threematch series 2-0.

A ND-NDE

## Revathi tops trials

STAN RAYAN

S. Dhanalakshmi provided the big surprise by finishing third in the women's 400m trials in Patiala on Sunday evening. The trials were held to select the three girls (including a reserve) for the 4x400m mixed relay team for this

month's Tokyo Olympics. V. Revathi won in 53.55s, while V. Suba finished second. Jisna Mathew and Vismaya finished fourth and sixth.

A trial for three athletes was also held to pick the reserves for the men's 4x400m relay and Sarthak Bhambri topped the event. The results: 400m: Women:

1. V. Revathi (53.55s), 2. V.

Suba (54.26), 3. S. Dhana-

lakshmi (54.27), 4. Jisna

Mathew (54.31), 5. Kiran

(55.21), 6. V.K. Vismaya

(55.34). **Men:** 1. Sarthak

Rhambri (47.73s). 2. Alex An-

tony (47.83), 3. P. Naganath-

## Reyan triumphs SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bihar's Mohammad Reyan

Andhra Pradesh's Bhaa-

### won the National U-10 open rapid online chess title on su-

NEW DELHI

perior tie-break score over Goa's Ethan Vaz after they tied at 10.5 points from 11 rounds on Sunday.

on Saturday, these twin tri-

umphs ended Artemiev's re-

sistance, with two games to

van Kolla took the third spot after being tied with Maharashtra's Vivaan Saraogi at 9.5 points. The event, suspended after seven rounds due to server issues, resumed on Sunday and the last four rounds were completed.

## Aronian claims Asian rapid chess title

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

an (48.24).

Levon Aronian cruised to a 2-0 shutout of Vladimir Artemiev in the second set to win the Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess title on Sunday.

2.5-1.5 victory in the first set

The title ensured Aro-Coupled with Aronian's

Champions Tour Final in September. For the third place, Mag-

nian's place in the 10-player

Liren in the blitz tie-break 1.5-0.5. The match went into the

nus Carlsen defeated Ding

tie-breaker after Ding crushed Carlsen 3-0 in the second set. to make amends for the loss of the first set on Saturday.

## • 1-Barty (Aus) vs 14-Krejcikova

- 18-Rybakina (Kaz) Sabalenka (Blr)
- Muchova (Cze)

- 7-Swiatek (Pol) vs 21-Jabeur
- 30-Badosa (Esp) vs 19-

- Raducanu (GBr) vs Tomljan-
- 23-Keys (USA) vs Golubic

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

men's cricket.

Mithali Raj's answer was brief. "I am just happy,"

she said smiling, at the post-

match presentation, on be-

coming the all-time leading

scorer in international wo-

Her bat, though, had spo-

#### Women • 20-Gauff (USA) vs 25-Kerber • 1-Djokovic (Srb) vs 17-Garin

- 6-Federer (Sui) vs 23-Sonego
  - Fucsovics (Hun) vs 5-Rublev (Rus)

## • 25-Kachanov (Rus) vs Korda (Ferrari) 1'01.195; 9. Pierre Gas-

## O'Connor soars to Alpine stage win

TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS Defending champion Tadei Pogacar kept a close eye on his challengers as he retained the overall leader's yellow jersey in the Tour de France after the ninth stage, a 144.9km mountain trek

from Cluses in the northern Alps on Sunday. Australian Ben O'Connor of the AG2R-Citroen team won the stage from the brea-

kaway, ahead of Italians

Matteo Cataneo and Sonny Colbrelli. Slovenian Pogacar, who claimed the yellow jersey on Saturday, was in control all day and responded to a late attack by Ecuador's Richard Carapaz, his main rival for

the general classification, in the final climb. With his maiden Tour win, O'Connor climbed up to second in the overall standings, two minutes and one second off the pace, with Colombian

Rigoberto Uran in third.

## The Mithali Raj factfile

A look at Mithali Raj's numbers across formats

(10337 international runs):											
	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s				
Tests	11	18	3	669	214	44.60	4/1				
ODIs	217	196	55	7304	<b>125</b> n.o.	51.80	58/7				
T20Is	89	84	21	2364	<b>97</b> n.o.	37.52	17/0				

WHAT THEY SAY Really the star of the day was Mithali Raj, she showed us exactly why she has continued to keep breaking records. It just shows you the class that she is LISA STHALEKAR Former Australia captain

Her (Mithali's) records speak for themselves. What she has achieved is comparable to the achievements of the great Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar. It is safe to say that she will be lonely at the top for a long time. I don't see her record being broken anytime soon

SHANTHA RANGASWAMY

Former India captain

our excitement over young talent. we shouldn't lose patience with our experienced stars. Encourage youth but don't write off seniors, one of cricket's oldest lessons MOHAMMAD KAIF

Mithali

that in

Raj shows



international women's cricket. • GETTY IMAGES

#### TV PICKS

Wimbledon 2021: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. Copa America 2021: Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
NBA: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. (Tuesday)

#### IN BRIEF

#### **Bucks book shot at title**

LOS ANGELES Milwaukee Bucks powered into the NBA Finals for the first time since 1974 on Saturday with a series-clinching 118-107 win over Atlanta Hawks.

The result: Eastern Conference finals: Atlanta Hawks 107 lost to Milwaukee Bucks 118 (Bucks win series 4-2). AFP

#### Merritt, Niemann share lead; Lahiri slips

Anirban Lahiri slipped to T-70 on day three at the Rocket Mortgage Classic here on Saturday. American Troy Merritt and Joaquin Niemann shared the lead on 14-under 202. Australia's Cam Davis shot six birdies for a 67 to trail by just one shot. PTI

#### Kyriacou wins title; Tvesa finishes T-32

Australia's Stephanie Kyriacou won the Big Green Egg golf open with an 18-under 270 here on Saturday. India's Tvesa Malik finished T-32 and Diksha Dagar T-53. РТІ

#### Bhullar improves, Shubhankar 57th

KILKENNY Gaganjeet Bhullar shot a two-under 70 to be tied 21st even as Australian Lucas Herbert took a one-stroke lead at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open here on Saturday. Shubhankar Sharma's 72 puts him at three-under T-57. PT

#### Aditi moves up to T-37; Ko shoots to the top

Aditi Ashok shot two-under 69 on Saturday to rise to tied 37th at the Volunteers of America Classic golf tournament here. She is now two-under over three rounds. South Korean Ko Jin-Young shot a five-under 66 to take the lead at 14-under. PT

## Messi inspires Argentina into semifinals

Ospina is Colombia's hero in penalty shoot-out win over Uruguay

### COPA AMERICA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lionel Messi scored his 76th international goal and is now only one shy of Pele for the South American record as Argentina beat Ecuador 3-0 to progress to the semifinals of the Copa America.

Messi scored from a late freekick on Saturday and earlier laid on two assists as Argentina eventually subdued Ecuador and kept the superstar's dream of winning his first major international title alive.

Argentina's rival on Tuesday will be Colombia, which earlier overcame Uruguay on penalties.



Free-kick king: Lionel Messi, right, shows why he is so good with this strike against Ecuador. • AF

The other semifinal will feature defending champion Brazil and Peru.

Two penalty shootout saves by goalkeeper David Ospina put Colombia in the semifinals after a 0-0 draw with Uruguay in regular time and kept alive its hopes of a first Copa title since 2001. The results: Quarterfinals: Uruguay O drew with Colombia O (Colombia won 4-2 on penalties).

Argentina 3 (De Paul 40, Martinez 84, Messi 90+3) bt

### **SEMIFINAL LINEUP**

Brazil vs Peru 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday, July 6) Argentina vs Colombia 6.30 a.m. (Wednesday, July 7)

Live on Sony Ten 1, 2 &

Sony 6 (SD & HD)

## By The Numbers

- 4 Messi leads the scoring chart so far in this tournament
- **58** Messi's goals via free-kicks for club and country
- 76 Messi's tally of international goals for country, one shy of Pele's record

The day's action saw six

stages and 90.92km of ac-

tion in warm and sunny con-

ditions on roads around the

Latvian coastal town of Lie-

"We had to push for the

whole rally. This series is ve-

ry strong with some of the

best drivers competing and

we had to fight hard at every

### Dutee, Bhavani take pragmatic approach

tential to win a medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

spear 85.47m in South Africa in March 2020 to qualify for the Olympics, was addressing a virtual press conference organised by the Bhubaneswar-based KIIT University to felicitate its Olympics-bound athletes and sports medicine specialist Dr. Sudeep Satpathy on Sunday.

#### Looking at stats

"I am 110 per cent sure that we are going to win a medal in javelin. Last time the (bronze) medal came at 85.38m (Keshworn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago),"

Neeraj Chopra, with a throw of 88.07m, is fourth among the top throwers in the world in 2021. Shivpal, who achieved his personal best of 86.23m at the 2019 Asian championships, is 27th with an effort of

### Step-by-step

Sprinter Dutee Chand, who qualified in 100m and 200m for her second Olympics, said she would eye a semifinal berth in Tokyo.

"I have gathered a lot of experience since my last Olympics in 2016. I did 11.17s (in 100m) in the Indian GP and will aim at doing 11.10s so that I can reach the semifinals. That will be my first target," said Dutee.

C.A. Bhavani Devi, the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, was proud of her achievement.

"It's a dream come true for me. It has taken 15 years of hard work to reach here. It is a matter of great pride for the fencing family of the country," said Bhavani, who will move from Italy to France next week to continue her training.

## First-ever podium finish for Team MRF in ERC

### **MOTORSPORTS**

SPORTS REPORTER

With a second-place finish at the Rally Liepaja, Team MRF Tyres registered its first-ever podium in the European Rally Championship (ERC) on Saturday.

It was a hard-fought finish with Craig Breen and Paul Nagle battling against Europe's best throughout the

stage. Getting our first-ever podium in the ERC is very satisfying for me and Team MRF Tyres," said Breen.

Day to remember: Team MRF Tyres which finished second at the Rally Liepaia. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Angad, Mairaj complete their vaccination

### SHOOTING

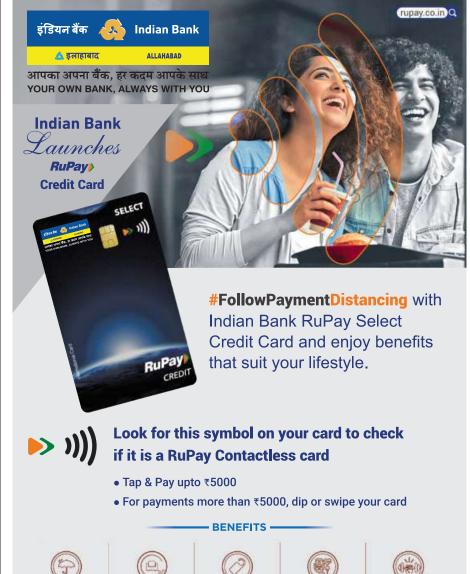
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The two skeet shooters Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Mairaj Ahmad Khan completed their vaccination process in Zagreb. Croatia, following a long drive from their training base in

While Asian champion Angad required a second dose, as he had taken the first shot on April 1, Mairaj had not been given any dose till July 1. Thus, Mairaj was administered the Johnson & Johnson single

dose vaccine, and Angad got his second shot of Covishield.

All efforts to have the vaccine in Italy itself had proved unsuccessful, despite the government and national federation communicating the urgency to the authorities concerned.



upto ₹10 lakh

Lounge Access Concierge Service

**GYM, SPA services** 





Contact 1800 4250 0000 or visit nearest Indian Bank branch for more details

📞 1800 425 000 00 🛛 📵 www.indianbank.in 💮 Follow us on : 👩 🕚 🔞 🖸 🛅

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 **4 YEARS FOR** THE OLYMPICS,

> 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.





URBAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (UCE) in a sprawling 45 acres campus on the outskirts of **Hyderabad.** This will have at least about 20 acres of open/green space.

One of its kind, this center will act as a National/Regional level think tank on urban issues and will have, among others, R&D facilities on urban issues, a hub for urban innovations and a center for urban start-ups, training & conference facilities and will act as a state/national/regional level center for hosting conferences/ workshops on urban issues. It will also act as a repository of and will house urban innovations and all the latest in this sector. The center will have classrooms, conference halls, auditoriums & full-fledged accommodation facilities along with gymnasium & sports facilities for the campus. The center will also house live-models of the latest innovations /best practices in urban sector in about 5 acres of land on a dynamic basis.

UCE campus (all structures/ buildings/ designs)

development and innovative architecture. The entire campus will be a green campus & will have inbuilt elements of energy saving design, optimum usage of natural light, landscapes and using space in eco-friendly innovative manner.

Reputed architectural firms / consortium of design firms/individuals specializing in architecture, design, landscape / individual architects (local/national/international) who have ideas to make a difference and are looking for proper platform are encouraged to participate in this design proposal.

A nominal fixed remuneration will be paid by Govt. of Telangana to all such designs which are accepted at initial stage and additional remuneration will be paid to shortlisted design concepts.

Design needs to be submitted within 8 weeks. A committee of experts will shortlist top 5 designs and these will be asked to make detailed presentation.

Details of the project, concept and requirements are available at

https://www.hmda.gov.in/Excellence.php

https://nium.org.in/rfpurban/

Site inspection & queries would be facilitated.

The last date for submitting proposal is 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

### Email:

1. dg@nium.org.in

2. prlsecy\_maud@telangana.gov.in



Issued By: Commissioner, I & PR Department, Government of Telangana

**Arvind Kumar, IAS** 

CM YK

To catch all the live updates, visit www.sportstar.thehindu.com

Shivpal smells a medal Y.B. SARANGI KOLKATA Shivpal Singh feels Indian javelin throwers have the po-

Shivpal, who threw the

said Shivpal.