

on Sunday



Difference grows over Insurance Bill tabled in Rajya Sabha



Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine gets



50 arrested, over 150 booked in Pakistan for attack on temple

Root's innings helps England fight back in first Test

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emergency use approval

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NEARBY



Politicians' support does not help us, say farmers

NEW DELHI A day after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and leaders of other Opposition parties joined protesting farmers at Jantar Mantar and witnessed the proceedings of the farmers' parliament, the farmers on Saturday said the support is welcome but it does not help them. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Weekly markets in Delhi to open from tomorrow

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal on Saturday announced that weekly markets would be allowed to open from the coming week. "Weekly markets are being opened from Monday. These r poor people. Govt is quite concerned about their livelihoods...," he tweeted. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Akhilesh questions BJP's promise for farmers

LUCKNOW Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturdav asked the BJP government to explain how it would double the income of farmers before 2022. He wondered how the income of farmers had increased when they were battling higher costs. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 7

RLD takes out 'nyay yatra' for underprivileged

GHAZIABAD The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is taking out a 'nyay yatra' to raise the voices of the underprivileged and the dispossessed. The yatra started from Saharanpur on Saturday and will culminate in Agra on October 10. NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4 **MAGAZINE** ▶ 8 PAGES

Thrilling finish: Neeraj Chopra celebrating after winning the men's javelin throw event on Saturday. • PTI

ON **TOP IN** TOKYO

Born: December Home: Panipat,

Current training base: Uppsala, Sweden Coach: Klaus Training base:

LAURELS ■ Gold, Tokyo Olympics, ■ Gold, Asian

■ Gold, Games, 2018 ■ Gold, Asian athletics cham■ Gold, world under-20 championships, 2016 with a world record

■ Gold, South Asian

■ Silver, Asian junior ■ Current world championships,

Current national record holder (88.07m), 2021

dedicated his medal to the

While Neeraj offered endur-

ing lustre, wrestler Bajrang

Punia gleaned a bronze in

the 65 kg freestyle segment

late Milkha Singh.

Punia bags bronze

junior record

holder **(86.48m)**,

Now, the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) says the committee does not even

the RTI application.



It had argued against disclosing data

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

The Union government has denied the very existence of a committee set up to oversee medical oxygen supply during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

The statement comes just two weeks after it argued strenuously before the Central Information Commission (CIC) against disclosing information about the committee on the grounds of strategic interests, commercial confidences, intellectual property and Cabinet papers.

Last week, the CIC slammed the government's rationale for a blanket denial of information as "farfetched" and "unjustified", and directed a response within 10 days.

exist. On Friday, he claimed an

"inadvertent error" due to an earlier "misreading" of

However, The Hindu has seen the DPIIT's order dated April 4, 2020, which indicates that the committee, chaired by its then Secretary, Guruprasad Mohapa-



A health worker carrying an oxygen cylinder in Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

tra, did exist. A DPIIT official, who was a member of the committee, also told The Hindu that the panel had been constituted and meetings were held.

Objective of panel The order to constitute the

panel said the objective was "to review the existing production and supply of medical oxygen and cylinders in the country" and to ensure adequacy of production capacity, availability of cylinders and measures to augment their supply, a disruption-free supply chain and smooth storage, transportation and supply to end-users, and an effective communication mechanism with the States through nodal teams constituted for the purpose.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

A ND-NDE

Neeraj spears historic Olympics gold

The 23-year-old javelin thrower becomes the first Indian to win an athletics event at the Games

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

On an incredible Saturday in Japan, the Land of the Rising Sun, India found its brightest athletics star. Neeraj Chopra's history-altering effort in the men's javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics landed India's maiden athletics gold at the Games. With his best at 87.58 m, Neeraj soared

It was also the nation's se-

cond individual gold at the Olympics, with Neeraj following in the footsteps of shooter Abhinav Bindra, who delivered the shiny metal at the 2008 Beijing edi-

For a nation that made its Olympics debut in 1900, the wait for an athletics gold spilled past a century and two decades before Neeraj offered deliverance.

Incidentally at the Paris

Games in 1900, Norman Pritchard won two athletics silvers for India but back then the country was a dominion of Britain. After that, India basked in

the glories that hockey initially offered and lapsed into agony with the near-misses of Milkha Singh, P.T. Usha and Dipa Karmakar, while some in shooting, boxing, weightlifting and tennis offered respite.

Hailing from Haryana, Neeraj, the 23-year-old Subedar with the 4 Rajputana Rifles, has been Mr. Consistent ever since he burst upon the

The transition to the senior category was seamless and he excelled at the Commonwealth and Asian Games before finding his Everest moment at Tokyo. He did it with swagger while being conscious of history as he

by defeating Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 14

ADITI MISSES MEDAL BY A

WHISKER IN GOLF ▶ PAGE 15

maker in the upcoming Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir, Sajad Lone's People's Conference on Saturday makers and political leaders, reckon with. My dream is to DETAILS ON PAGE 7

saw the entry of former law- a formidable political force to

see this caravan of change stronger. We will make more announcements in the coming weeks," said Mr. Lone, who split from the Peoples Alliance of the Gupkar Declaration earlier this year.

Influx of leaders into Lone's party

PEERZADA ASHIQ

In a bid to emerge as king-

including former Deputy Chief Minister Muzzaffar Hussain Baigh's wife Safina Baigh and two ex-Members

of Parliament from the Peoples Democratic Party. "The party is emerging as

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Appreciate support of politicians but it does not help, say farmers

'They want our support in coming polls'

STAFF REPORTER

A day after Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and leaders of other opposition parties joined protesting farmers at Jantar Mantar and witnessed the proceedings of the farmers' parliament, the farmers on Saturday said the support is welcome but it does not help them.

Davinder Singh Sandhu, member of the Bharatiya Kisan Union-Doaba, said: "They had all come here for their political gain and so that they have our support in the coming elections. It is good that they came to express solidarity but what good does it do us?"

'Our protest has power'

Sukhwinder Singh Barwa from Ropar said the presence of Mr. Gandhi and other opposition MPs is testament to the power that farmers wield. "What this shows is that our protest has power and it is not just any other agitation. Though what difference does it make to us? These people were a part of the government when the laws were passed. They are now against it because it suits their politics," he said.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Samyukta Kisan



Rahul Gandhi with other leaders at Jantar Mantar. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

These people [Oppn. MPs] were a part of the govt. when the farm laws were passed. They are now against it as it suits their politics

Morcha said the opposition MPs watched and listened to the proceedings of the kisan sansad. "These MPs said they are extending their full support to the farmers. The Speaker of the Kisan Sansad thanked the Opposition MPs, and said this kind of role reversal where elected parliamentarians are visiting the farmers' parliament is good for democracy."

Farmers have been protesting at Delhi's borders since November last year demanding repeal of the three farm laws.

DU to set up facilitation centre in Bhatti Kalan

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi University will be setting up a facilitation centre at Bhatti Kalan village in Fatehpur Beri to ease administrative processes for students in the area.

"The facilitation centre will enable DU students, living in and around Bhatti Kalan, to complete various administrative processes, including admission, examination and so on, with ease and without having to travel long distances," said Vikas Gupta, DU Registrar.

There are plans to set up similar centres in Najafgarh, South Extension and other areas, DU officials said, adding students will not have to travel to North or South Campuses to complete administrative work.

Officials said the foundation-laying event, which was supposed to be held on Sunday, has been postponed. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was to lay the foundation stone of the facilitation centre.

The university is also planning to launch an online system where duplicate mark sheets will be available for students who graduated after 2012.

D.S. Rawat, DU's Dean of Examinations said: "We are hoping to launch the online portal within a week. There will be a fee."

Communal harmony, fairness is of utmost importance: Asthana

Police Commissioner lays emphasis on community engagement, scientific probes

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

An Open House will be held for Delhi Police officials every Friday for those who want to share grievances. Commissioner of Police Rakesh Asthana said during an address on Saturday.

Mr. Asthana's video address was attended by over 10,000 police personnel of all ranks. Assuring that no police person shall face any difficulty for bonafide discharge of duty, Mr. Asthana reportedly said it is the job of the senior leadership to take care of the force as mentors and not find faults with them unnecessarily.

In addition to the Open House, fairness and transparency will be ensured in mat-



Rakesh Asthana

ters of postings and transfers "by taking into account the strength and expertise of the officers, which will be examined by the Police Establishment Board". "In this regard, an exercise has been launched by an internal committee to categorise police stations in terms of their intensity of law and order,

crime, communal sensitivity, VIP intensiveness and logistics intensiveness for posting of appropriately skilled officers to bring in more professionalism," the police said in a statement.

Speaking about investigations, Mr. Asthana said Station House Officers, Inspecand Investigating Officers should concentrate on evidence-based policing and scientific investigation.

Police credibility

"Most of the battle of investigation is fought in the court when evidence is appreciated. If undertaken properly from the beginning, cases will result in conviction and enhance police credibility. The Commissioner said that

professional work will earn respect of the masses as well as the courts," the statement added.

Mr. Asthana said communal harmony is of utmost importance and it has to be maintained by the police through engagement with leaders and respectables of all communities. Insisting on fairness and impartiality, he added: "Criminals have no religion or community and strict action on criminals be done unequivocally."

Ahead of Independence Day, Mr. Asthana directed officials to enlist cooperation of street vendors, small shop keepers, auto drivers, rickshawalas etc. "who act as our eyes and ears" against terrorists and criminals.

Man caught with 20 guns

STAFF REPORTER

Ahead of Independence Day, a 27-year-old man has been arrested along with a cache of arms, the police said on Saturday. The accused was holding balloons to mislead the police and conceal the weapons.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said Mufeed Khan, a resident of Mathura, was previously involved in an attempt to murder case in Uttar Pradesh.

Police said they got a tipoff on Friday about a criminal with a consignment of pistols coming to Delhi. "A man in his 20s holding a few balloons and a bag was spotted around 10.30 p.m. He appeared to be a balloon vendor. But when he was approached, he tried to run while waving a pistol at the police. He was overpowered and apprehended," Mr. Meena said adding that a pistol with four live rounds were recovered.

On checking his bag, 19 sophisticated pistols were also found, police said.

Wall of containers

Meanwhile, in a first, Delhi Police has erected a wall of shipping containers at the main gate of Red Fort for security reasons ahead of Independence Day celebrations. The containers have been placed in such a way that no one is able to see inside the premises of

Every DU student to plant a sapling, keep it healthy

'It is part of the new curriculum, the degree is dependent on it'

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi University (DU) on Saturday announced that from the upcoming academic year, students will have to plant a sapling and will be required to send regular status updates. 'Planting a tree' will be part of the new curriculum, senior DU officials said.

DU vice-chancellor P.C. Joshi said the new curriculum will be applicable to students enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes.

"The programme will be scientifically monitored and evaluated by respective colleges, centres and depart-

ments. Details of the methand process evaluation have been simplified and made easier for the students so that they actually contribute to society and towards better environmental protection," said Mr. Joshi.

Students will also have to send regular updates about the status of the tree they planted, and their degrees will also be based on it.

"At the end of the course,

the status of the trees that they planted. If they are unable to show it, then their degrees will not be awarded. There might be cases where the tree could have been damaged due to some natural calamity. In such instances, students will have to provide relevant proof. Through this programme, restoration of native species will be promoted," Mr. Joshi added.

the Mughal-era fort.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT **HIMACHAL PRADESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

O/o The Sub Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Banikhet Distt. Chamba (H.P.).

Telephone No. 01899254624 e-mail: sdscobanikhet@ymail.com

On line bids on item rate basis are invited by the Sub Divisional Soil Conservation Officer Banikhet Distt. Chamba, (H.P.) on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned works from the contractors/firms of "C" & "D" class enlisted with HPPWD and HP

(1) Name of Work: - Construction of Kissan Information Centre a Drabber (Salooni) Tehsil Salooni District Chamba (H.P.). Amount put to tender - Rs. 13, 58,822/-

EMD: -Rs. 34.000/-Time of Completion: - Nine Months.

Cost of Form: - Rs. 1000/-(2) Name of Work: - Construction of Residential Building at Lachori Tehsil Salooni District Chamba (H.P.).

Sub Head:- Construction of Retaining wall to Agriculture Building Complex at Lachori Tehsil Salooni Distt. Chamba (H.P.) EMD: -Rs. 18,600/-

Time of Completion: - Six Months. Cost of Form: - Rs. 1000/-

Tender document and other instruction can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal https://hptenders.gov.in by the firms /individual registered on the website, which is free of cost

As the bid are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

Key dates:-

1.	Date of Online Publication	12.08.2021 After 5:00 PM
2.	Download of e-tender Document	From 12.08.2021 05:00 PM up to 05:00 PM 26.08.2021
3.	Date of Submission of e-tendering	From 12.08.2021 05:00 PM up to 05:00 PM 26.08.2021
4.	Physical submission of Earnest Money Deposit and cost of tender document.	Up to 11:00 AM 27.08.2021
5.	Date of opening of Bid	Up to 11:30 AM 27.08.2021

Conditions:

The e-tender documents shall be uploaded online in two covers:-Cover-1 shall contained scanned copies of "eligibility information" Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" on the prescribed form.

Cover-1 shall contained scanned copies of following eligibility information (Scanned copies to be uploaded) Earnest Money in shape of NSC/saving account on any of the Post Offices in

Himachal Pradesh/Time Deposit Receipt of any nationalized bank, demand draft duly pledged in the name of the Sub Divisional Soil Conservation Officer Banikhet Distt. Chamba, (H.P.) (By designation) OR Certificate of exemption of Earnest Money Deposit or through e-payment. However in case of epayment physical submission of document is not required.

Cost of tender form in shape of demand draft of Rs 1000/- only or through e-III) Certificate of Registration HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag in appropriate

class and latest renewal thereof. IV) Income tax & GST registration and latest clearance certificate thereof

V) Affidavit not more than two work in hand.

VI) Affidavit all the information with the bid is correct. VII) Work done detail in last five year attested by Executive Engineer.

VIII) A scanned copy of undertaking that I have accepted all the terms and conditions stipulated in form PWD 6 & 8 as well as special terms and conditions appended along with schedule of quantity and NIT before quoting the rates in the BOQ chart and that I have Visited the site of work before quoting the rates.

Cover-2 shall contain BOQ where contractor will quote his offer for each item. The tenders of contractor/firms who fail to fulfill the eligibility information will be summarily rejected.

The contractor will submit the original document in respect of Ernest Money and cost of tender form in the office of the Sub Divisional Soil Conservation Officer Banikhet, Distt. Chamba, (H.P.) on or before 27.08.2021 up to 11AM. The negotiation/clarification, if any will be taken from successful contractors only in respect of error and omission, technical aspects and in case o finalized bid.

Earnest money of L1 and L2 may be retained for a period of 120 days. The representative of the firms should inspect the site himself and make

conversant with the site conditions If the tender opening day is a holiday, the tenders shall be opened on nex

working day at the same time and venue. 10. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

NOTE: - In case of failure of supply/ net connectivity problem, the tender shall

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK." HP / 3093/21-22

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department Notice inviting tender

Sealed item rates tender on form 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer HP,PWD, Karsog on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesl from the approved/eligible contractors enlisted in HP.PWD for the following works so as to reach in this office on or before 18-8-2021 upto 11.00 AM and shall be opened on the same day at 12.00 AM in presence of the contractor or their authorized representatives who may like to be present. The ender form can be had from this office against cash payment (Non refundable) upto 4.00 PM on 16-8-2021 for which the application should react in this office upto 1.00 PM 16-8-2021-2021.

The earnest money in shape of National saving certificate/time deposit account/saving account in any Nationalized Bank in H.P duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Karsog Division, HP,PWD, Karsog will be received alongwith application or obtaining tenders form. The conditional tenders will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tenders shall be kept open for 51 days from the date o opening of tender. The Executive Engineer, HP,PWD, Karsog reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. The ontractors should append their enlistment/renewed certificates/sale Tax registration Numbers with the application for issue of tender form. If any c he date mentioned above happens to be holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.

Ш				1	Form	
	1.	R/R Damages Various road under Churag Sub-Division (Tattapani Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	150000/-	3000/-	350/	One month
	2.	R/R Damages Various road under Churag Sub-Division (Alsindi Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	450000/-	9000/-	350/	One month
	3.	R/R Damages Various road under Churag Sub-Division (Churag Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	499000/-	10000/-	350/	One month
	4.	R/R Damages Various road under Pangna Sub-Division (Chindi Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	495000/-	10000/-	350/	One month
	5.	R/R Damages Various road under Pangna Sub-Division (Pangna Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D) Job -1	250000/-	5000/-	350/	One month
╢	6.	R/R Damages Various road under Pangna Sub-Division (Pangna Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D) Job -2	250000/-	5000/-	350/	One month
	7.	R/R Damages on Pangna Majhangan road Km. 0/0 to 8/0 (SH:- Supply and stacking G-I in various Rds)	140000/-	2800/-	350/	One month
	8.	R/R Damages Various road under Karsog Sub-Division (Kotlu Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D	380000/-	7600/-	350/	One month
	9.	R/R Damages Various road under Karsog Sub-Division (Katanda Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	240000/-	4800/-	350/	One month
L	10.	R/R Damages on Katanda to Pokhi & Khaneol to Sidh Chawasi road under Karsog Sub-Division (Katanda Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	320000/-	6400/-	350/	One month
	11.	R/R Damages on Shekalr to Mahog via Novidhar & GowalPur to Shakelar road under Karsog Sub-Division (Katanda Section) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	140000/-	2800/-	350/	One month
L	12.	R/R Damages on Kotlu to Katanda road under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	290000/-	5800/-	350/	One month
L	13.	R/R Damages on Rashog to Deyom road 0/0 to 9/00 under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	93881/-	1900/-	350/	One month
L	14.	R/R Damages on Karsog to Parlog road 0/0 to19/00 under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	350000/-	7000/-	350/	One month
	15.	R/R Damages Various road under Karsog Sub-Division (Karsog Section II) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	310000/-	6200/-	350/	One month
	16.	R/R Damages on Mamail Mehandi road 0/0 to19/00 under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	125000/-	2500/-	350/	One month
	17.	R/R Damages on Sainj Sainjali Via Gannu road 0/0 to5/00 under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:-C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	150000/-	3000/-	350/	One month
	18.	R/R Damages on Banthal to Puni road road under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	150000/-	3000/-	350/	One month
	19.	R/R Damages on Kalodhar to Sainj road road under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	250000/-	5000/-	350/	One month
	20.	R/R Damages on Kelodhar Chhatri road under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	120000/-	2400/-	350/	One month
	21.	Hiring of Tipper on various road under Karsog Sub Division Section Karsog-II	120000/-	2400/-	350/	One month
	22.	R/R Damages on Kao Kanda road under Karsog Sub-Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	130000/-	2600/-	350/	One month
	23.	R/R Damages on Karsog Sub Division (Karsog Section-I) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	200000/-	4000/-	350/	One month
	24.	R/R Damages on Karsog Sub Division (SH:-Hiring of tipper on Sanarli Karsog road)	120000/-	2400/-	350/	One month
	25.	R/R Damages on Karsog Sub Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	487000/-	9750/-	350/	One month
	26.	R/R Damages on Karsog Sub Division (Kelodahr Section-I) (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	495000/-	9900/-	350/	One month
	27.	R/R Damages on various road under Karsog Sub Division (SH:- C/O Unlined surface drain and maintenance for berm at various R.D)	496000/-	9950/-	350/	One month
II.	TER	MS & CONDITIONS:				

No tender form will be issued to those contractor who are not registered under HPGSTAct. No tender form will be issued to those contractor who are not registered under EPF Act

The tender forms will not be issued to those contractors whose performance is not found satisfactory.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

The earnest money for the above work should be attached with the application. The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HP.PWD.

HP / 3133/21-22

The work done performance certificate issued by the concerned Executive Engineer required to be produced by the contractor along with application, and the tender form will be issued only those contractors who have similar work don

> **Executive Engineer HPPWD Division Karsog** Distt Mandi H.P on behalf of **Governor of Himachal Pradesh**



One dead in house collapse

Three others rescued in Nand Nagri; case lodged

STAFF REPORTER

A 60-year-old man died and three persons suffered injuries when a house collapsed in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri on Saturday. Police have lodged a case.

A PCR call was received at 1.30 p.m. regarding a wall collapse and persons being trapped underneath. A police team along with officials of Delhi Fire Services, and a National Disaster Response Force team reached the spot and launched a rescue operation.

Bystanders to the rescue

Police said that four persons were trapped under the debris. One was rescued by bystanders before the teams reached the spot. Two more people were rescued and sent to a hospital where they are undergoing treatment.

The body of the fourth person, identified as Kanti Lal, was recovered

around 5.30 p.m. Police said a family lived on the first and second floor of the building, and a flour shop was located on the ground floor. The building is owned by Dhani Ram, who lives there with his wife, two sons, a daughter-inlaw and two granchildren.

The injured included Dhani Ram (65), his wife Anaro devi (65) and one Raj Kumar (64). The flour shop is run by the family.

Police said a few neighbours would gather near the shop to spend time with Mr. Ram and the deceased Kanti Lal was one of them. Police said a case under relevant sections has been lodged at Nand Nagri and further probe is under way.

Survey of weak buildings

Meanwhile, the East Delhi Municipal Corporation on Saturday decided to conduct a survey of weak buildings situated in areas under its jurisdiction.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, देवघर।

पत्रांक 659/ देवघर, दिनांक 06/08/2021

शुद्धि-पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि PR 250809 Rural Development (21-22):D को प्रकाशित अति अल्पकालीन ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या– RDD/SD/DEOGHAR/31/2021-22 (देवघर जिला के पालोजोरी प्रखंड अन्तर्गत प्रखंड विकास पदाधिकारी –सह– अंचलाधिकारी / पर्यवेक्षीय / तृतीय / चतुर्थ वर्ग कर्मचारी आवास निर्माण तथा प्रखंड परिसर का विकास एवं विविध) कार्य के निविदा आमत्रण सूचना में अपरिहार्य कारण से निम्न आशिक संशोधन किया जाता है:–

1. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि — 10.08.2021

2. ई—निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय — 18.08.2021 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक 3. कार्यपालक अभियता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर / मुख्य अभियता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन, धुर्वा, राँची में निविदा शुल्क, अग्रधन की राशि, Bank Credit

Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय 20.08.2021 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक निविदा खोलने का स्थान – मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रक्षेत्र, एफ0 एफ0 पी0 भवन,

निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय — 23.08.2021 अपराहृन 2:00 बजे

निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :— कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष

ई—निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०— 8709623131 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर) निविदा शुल्क राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक द्वारा निर्गत ड्राफ्ट या बैकर्स चेक जो कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशे"। प्रमंडल, देवघर के पदनाम से देय हो देना होगा।

परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट—बढ़ सकती है, तद्नुसार परिमाण विपत्र की राशि का 02 (दो) प्रतिशत राशि अग्रधन की राशि के रूप में जमा करना होगा। 10. विशेष परिस्थिति में बिना कारण बताये निविदा रद्द करने अथवा स्थगित करने का अधिकार अधोस्ताक्षरी को

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, देवघर। PR 250986 (Rural Development) 21-22 (D)

DELHI

SUNDAY, AUG. 08

RISE 05:47 SET 19:07 RISE 05:13 SET 19:19

MONDAY, AUG. 09 RISE 05:48 SET 19:06 RISE 06:13 SET 19:59

TUESDAY, AUG. 10 RISE 05:48 SET 19:05 ► RISE 07:15 SET 20:35

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 33°C Few spells of light rain and thunderstorm may occur with cloudy sky. Light to moderate winds likely over the

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 34°C A spell of light rain likely at some places with cloudy sky. Gentle winds and humid day would prevail.

THE HINDU

Not enough hospital beds, admits govt.

Health dept. says Delhi has three doctors for every 1,000 citizens — more than prescribed WHO ratio

NEW DELHI

The Capital has more doctors than prescribed by international standards for every 1,000 citizens, but barely makes the cut when it comes to the availability of hospital beds, the Delhi government told the Delhi Legislative Assembly during the recently concluded monsoon session.

In reply to a starred question by Malviya Nagar AAP MLA Somnath Bharti, the Health Department said the city has three doctors for every 1,000 citizens - more than the internationally prescribed 1:1,000 doctor to population ratio. The World Health Organization (WHO) also prescribes a 1:1000 doctor-population ratio.

However, when it comes to hospital beds, Delhi has less than the required 3:1,000 hospital bed to population ratio. At 2.7:1,000, the ratio in the city is slightly below what the Health De-



A team of doctors attend to patients at a COVID care centre in ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

partment termed "international standards"

The department also conceded that there is a shortfall of doctors and medical staff at government hospitals. Around 19% of the total posts of doctors, over 14% posts of nursing staff and over 18% posts of paramedical employees are vacant.

"On the basis of the latest

international standards, the doctor to population ratio should be 1:1,000 and the hospital bed to population ratio should be 3:1,000," the department said.

"Delhi has an estimated 70,000 doctors registered with the Delhi Medical Council, which is more than international standards. For a population of two crore, Around 19% of the total posts of doctors, over 14% posts of nursing staff and over 18% posts of para-medical staff are lying vacant

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

the number of hospital beds is estimated at 54,000," it also stated.

According to the department, the Delhi government was remodelling 94 existing dispensaries as polyclinics and 28 such clinics were currently functional.

New hospitals

While 505 Mohalla Clinics are currently operational, the department stated, three new hospitals had been opened between 2015 and 2021: one each at Ambedkar Nagar, Burari and Dwarka, while four more were under various stages of construction, according to the department.

The department also submitted that 2,524 of the total 15,568 sanctioned posts across various levels at government hospitals were currently vacant.

The highest percentage of vacant posts was of doctors, according to the Health Department.

The department stated that of the 2,583 posts of doctors at government hospitals, 487 or almost 19% were vacant; 1,203 of the 8,407 sanctioned posts of nursing staff and 834 of the 4,578 posts of para-medical staff were also vacant.

'Adding more beds'

The department stated it was in the process of adding 3,237 more beds to the existing pool of hospital beds, had been consistently seeking the filling of vacancies at government hospitals and many existing city hospitals were being remodeled to accommodate more beds on their premises.

The COVID-19 vaccine stock of the city is likely to last for eight days - the highest in at least a month, as per government data.

There are 5,05,810 doses of Covishield and 3,75,510 doses of Covaxin. A total of 83,833 doses of vaccine were administered in the city on Friday, less compared to 90,129 doses on

All weekly markets to open from tomorrow

Vaccine stock in city to last eight days

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

wal on Saturday announced that weekly markets would be allowed to open from the coming week. "Weekly markets are being opened from Monday. These r poor people. Govt is quite concerned about their livelihoods. However, everyone's health and lives are also imp. I urge everyone to follow Covid appropriate behaviour after these mkts are opened [SIC]," he tweeted.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejri-

Delhi BJP leaders had staged a demonstration near Mr. Kejriwal's residence on Friday, demanding permission for complete reopening of all weekly markets.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Trade and Industry on Saturday urged the Delhi Disaster Management Authority to allow malls and markets to operate till 10 p.m. These markets are presently allowed to operate only till 8 p.m.

Number of doses

Total number of COVID-19 cases 14,36,695 25,066 New cases in the past 24 hours

Virus spread

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Thursday, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Saturday.

Till now, 1,05,59,669 doses of vaccines have been administered in the city, as per the bulletin.

The city reported 72 new COVID-19 cases over 24 hours, taking the total to 14,36,695. There was only one death, pushing the toll to 25,066. A total of 73,681 tests were done in a day and the test positivity rate was 0.10%.

Of the total cases, 14,11,064 people have recovered and there are only 565 active cases in the city.

Next sero survey

The Delhi government is yet to fix the date for the next serological survey, said officials. The last such survey was held in April. but the sample collection could not reach the target due to the surge in cases.

The report of the survey was submitted to the Delhi government in June, which recommended another such survey to be conducted in June end or early July.

"The most shocking part red-handed while trying to under which one should LoP demands scrapped and a probe be orbe scrapped," he added.

probe be ordered immediately

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in department be with immediate

norms proper guidelines'

is that no proper police verification was done in the recruitment of people and as a result, we come across many incidents where the personnel of the Civil De-

ties," Mr. Bidhuri alleged. He also said: "Only two days ago personnel of the extort money from people for not wearing masks. Before this, some personnel were found involved in incidents of dacoity.'

tion board could function at the district-level and its rea DCP and two ACPs. In addition to this, he stated, norms should be framed

have to undergo a fitness test, a written entrance test and police verification.

Change uniform: LoP

"Currently all those who have been recruited are like AAP cadres or those who have affiliations to the AAP leaders. No norms are followed and no guidelines are in place for this recruitment "The uniform of Civil De-

fence personnel should be changed immediately as it almost resembles that of the Delhi Police. These Civil Defence personnel are indulging in extortion and corruption and the Delhi Police is being defamed for heinous crimes," he al-

'Govt. tampering with education institutions'

It has imposed fee hikes, says Gupta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rohini BJP MLA Vijender Gupta on Saturday wrote to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal alleging that higher education institutions were being tampered with, made inaccessible due to an "irrational" hike in fee and politithe cised by Delhi government.

He said since the time the AAP government came to power, it had not commissioned even a single new college or school but had taken over the already established institutions of polytechnics and rebranded them under the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University.

"It has imposed enormous fee hike making admission into the institutions extremely difficult. Fees for the Polytechnic Diploma course has increased from ₹5,000 to ₹24,000; for BTech and MTech the fee has been raised to ₹1,44,000 from an earlier ₹35,000. There has been no justification for such a huge increase," he said.

'Spending crores in ads' He said the AAP government was "spending crores in advertising" this "newly branded" Skills University however the number of students applying remained poor due to "irrationally high" fees being charged.



Vijender Gupta demanded that the L-G intervene in the matter and roll back the fee hike at the earliest.

As a result, the government is not able to fill the seats and is pushing the last date for admission. It has again changed the last date to August 17, 2021. Previously, the last date for application was July 27, 2021, he alleged.

"The AAP government has removed the names of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Guru Nanak Dev, Kasturba Gandhi. Govind Ballabh Pant and so on from the educational institutions' names in a move to degrade the national icons. This has deeply hurt the sentiments of the nation," he said. He demanded that the L-G

intervene in the matter and reduce the fee at the earliest so that students could apply from this year onwards.

He also sought for restoration of names of national icons in the names of these institutions.

Eviction notice sent to IWPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The government has issued an eviction notice to the Indian Women's Press Corps, located at Windsor Place in Lutyens' Delhi, and asked + it to pay outstanding dues immediately, an official said on Saturday. The notice was issued on August 5 by the directorate of estates, which comes under the housing ministry.

When contacted, a senior IWPC office-bearer refused to comment.

According to the notice, the allotment was made to IWPC on May 13, 1994, and was cancelled with effect from January 6, 2021, following expiry of tenure.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

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FORTNIGHT

We are taking all necessary COVID 19 Precautionary Measures ColorPlus ARROWPARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE PUNCHKUIAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.) WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)

• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543

• NOIDA , Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP • LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Scrap all appointments made in the Civil Defence department, says Bidhuri and therefore they should

NEW DELHI

the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Saturday demanded that all appointments made in the Civil De-

he announcements by

Faridabad and Guru-

gram administrations

citizen

to identify and demolish ille-

gal structures notified under

the Punjab Land Preserva-

tion Act, 1900, have re-

newed hope among envi-

groups, concerned indivi-

duals and NGOs who have

been fighting for the survival

of the Aravalis and the pro-

tection of wildlife and for-

came in the wake of the Supreme Court observation on

July 23 in a matter pertain-

ing to Khori Basti demoli-

tion that "the direction to re-

move all unauthorised

structures standing on the

forest land applies to 'all'

unauthorised structures

Soon after the apex

court's order, Faridabad De-

puty Commissioner Yashpal

Yaday said notices would be

served to the owners of the

illegal structures and demo-

lition carried out in case

they don't adhere to the di-

Taking the cue, the Guru-

gram administration also

said a survey would be con-

ducted to identify encroach-

ments on the land notified

under the PLPA, 1900 in the

district, before the notices

are put out and demolition

Of the 5,430-acre land in

Faridabad district notified

under the Act, around 500

acre is encroached upon with 130-odd structures. Raj

Kumar, Divisional Forest Of-

ficer, Faridabad, said that

notices were served to the

owners of around 120-odd il-

legal structures with a se-

ven-day deadline – finishing

next week - to clear the

carried out.

Kumar.

rections within four days.

without any exception".

announcements

ests in South Haryana.

ASHOK KUMAR

ronmentalists,

Mr. Singh demanded that a Service Selection Board under the Delhi Police be constituted for the recruitment process of personnel in the department because "all appointments made in it came about without any

fence are found to be involved in criminal activi-

Civil Defence were caught

presentatives could include

The LoP said the selec-

Illegal construction coming up on forest land in Aravalis; citizens protest

against PLPA Amendment

Bill. • FILE PHOTOS

tal illegal structures have been knocked down in the Raisina Hills area. He claimed that the property dealers, who they spoke to in Raisina, in June, said that the sale of farmhouses was still going on and they were confident that the administration would not raze all the structures.

'Intentions of authorities' Oberoi, an environmentalist, said inaction on the NGT order even after three years betrayed the "real" intentions of the authorities. "Though the NGT had ordered the setting up of a committee within two weeks of its October 2018 order and the compliance report in three months, the Haryana government took ten months. In March 2020, the NGT again pulled up the government for inaction

The state got into action in doing a survey and issuing notices threatening demolition in May and June 2020 but little happened thereafter," said Col. (retd) Mr. Oberoi.

and allowed three more

He alleged that the few demolitions carried out on the Aravali/forest land were mere "eye-wash" and the structures were just partially damaged. He added that a lot of new illegal constructions had been carried out in the areas taking advan-

tage of the lockdown. Chetan Agarwal, a forest analyst, suggested that the NGT-appointed district committee chaired by the deputy commissioner should carry out the survey of the entire Aravalis in Gurugram measuring around 11,000 hectares and not just the hills notified under the PLPA.

"The total Aravali forested land is 11,375 hectares, but only around 6,800-hectare is notified under the PLPA and the rest comes under the purview of the Aravali notification and its status as "forest" is yet to be decided. In fact, the violation in forest land under the Aravali notification is more rampant," said Mr. Agarwal.

Eco-warriors upbeat after SC order to raze encroachments on forest land

Faridabad finds 500 acres of land under PLPA encroached upon, Gurugram to survey 6,800 acres

its submission on the matter on August 20 and directed to continue the protection granted to these banquet owners till then," said Anil Grover, Senior Additional Advocate General, Haryana, told The Hindu.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Gurugram, Vasvi Tyagi, said the paperwork was being done to carry out a drone survey in 6,800 acres of land notified under the PLPA in the district to identify the extent of violation before the demolitions.

encroachments. "Though violations of the Aravalli Bachao, a citi-PLPA are widespread, most zens' group fighting for the of the unauthorised conprotection of the oldest struction is in four-five vilmountain range, has sent lages, including Badkhal, emails to the Haryana Chief Akhneer Mewla Maharajpur Minister Manohar Lal, his and Anangpur," said Mr. Deputy Dushyant Chautala, District Commissioners of Gurugram and Faridabad, **Banquet owners move SC** Chief Secretary of Harvana, However, some banquet hall Conservator of Forest and owners have moved the Suother officials concerned on preme Court saying that June 16, 2021, and again on they had stay orders from July 27, 2021, demanding the apex court. "Hearing the them to respect and implepleas of these banquet ownment the earlier order of the ers, the SC has directed the National Green Tribunal and



Court order directing that all illegal construction on forest land be demolished.

Documentary film-maker Neelam Ahluwalia, an Aravalli Bachao member, said the sword of the regressive Amendment Bill passed by the Haryana government in February 2019 seeking to legalise all illegal constructions on protected forest areas was still hung on the future of the mountain range and Aravali Bachao had been demanding the government to withdraw this.

"In the emails, we had at-

some of the illegal encroachments in Gurugram and Faridabad Aravalis that our group has documented and have been highlighting on Twitter since January 2020. Our demand is that after the demolition, the forest department must plant native Aravali trees, shrubs and grasses in these areas to reclaim the forest," added Ms.

Ahluwalia. Gaurav Sarup, another Aravalli Bachao team member, said despite NGT orders, hardly a fraction of to-

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Haryana government to file the July 23, 2021 Supreme

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NAIDU GAVARA, 28/170, BE, Software

THE SEASE HINDU MATRIMONIAL

boys. 9447913459.

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi Bengali Bhoipuri

Bihari Chhattisgarhi

English Guiarati

Haryanvi Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri Konkani

Malayalan Manipuri

Marathi Marwari

Nepali Oriya

Parsi Punjabi

Saurashtra Sindhi

Tamil Telugu

Tulu Urdu

Advocate Business

Defence Doctor

Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt.

IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA/ CA/ ICWA

Cosmopolitan

Divorcee

Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COSMOPOLITAN GROOM NEEDED for G.Sai Jvoshna

B.Tech M.B.A. DOB: 3/4/1991, Divorced, Contact: 9348633455

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PQM 4 Sriv 33/5'1"/Delhi based, Gori, MCA, Father Ret.bank emp. Pref boy wkg in metros 9661389408 mhtsnh@gmail.com

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162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC,Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom(CNB). 9445651626 / 9790739037

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RC NADAR age 26 B.com Seeking BrideGroom for well Settled Bride :9600131536,9840425192

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DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom.CT:94436-80973 HINDU NADAR, MSC, 33, Rasi:Simmar Star:Magam, Working in Bank, seeking Suitable Groom. Ct:8190900067

HINDU MA 35/163cm, Divorcee, having 1 child, working in IT Sector, 7L PA, Seeks suitable Bride Groom, Second Marriage, Divorcee with/with-out child, Hindu any caste Ct:8807733824

HINDU KARUNEEGAR, 27/5.4', B.E. SWE, MNC seeks Non Veg Employed Groom with equivalent Qualification & decent salary. Ct: 76398 15660.

MUDALIAR: 25/160,V.Fair, BE, MS (USA), MNC, Analyst, Chennai, Seeks groom – Abroad / India – 8939012419

MUDALIAR 23/164 V.Fair, MBBS, Fa her Business, RubberIndustry, Resorts, Pharma Company, Rich Family, Seeks groom- Doctor/Business-8925019776

HINDU SC AD 34, BE SWE TCS 1 lakh/ pm, seeks suitable grooms working in Chennai/Bangalore Ct 9952147216

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA(G.S) girl 38/ AGAMUDAYAR MUDALIYAR, 28/167cm,BE (CS)Working as developer in a IT organization earning 85K per month, Divorcee(No Issues) seeks Groom, Well educated , family ori-ented person. Contact – 9884494909/

pa Kashiba/Porattathi, Sutha Jathagam, MA, Admin power Preparing for Civil UPSC Exam, Talent in Carnatic child.Lecturer at Trichy seeks edu groom,CNB Age upto 42 Ct.7406401199 music. Call: 9003076 metroravi98@gmail.com

PILLAI/ 29/ 163/ ME./ Bharani seeks suitable alliance from Pil-lai/Mudaliar contact 9444255148

9444112697 HINDU UDAYAR, 38yrs first Marriage. Degree holder, well to do family. seeks Bridegroom (FC, BC, MBC) working within India. Ct: 90803 59664.

AGAMUDAIYAR 46 MSc IT Professional in Chennai seeks Groom from OBC –

MUDALIYAR GIRL, 27Yrs/Doctor, Divorced. Seeks Settled & Educated Unmarried Groom, Caste no bar. Con-

SC AD, 38/165, Revathi, Meena Ras MBBS, MD, Govt Doctor Bangalore Divorcee, no issues seeks suitable professional groom, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8678923254/ 9731313919 / 080-25468640.

HINDU NADAR Girl, Poosam, 24/159, CA, Rs.5 lakhs P.A. seeks suitable Bri-degroom in same Nadar caste. Can contact 9566921121 or 9442272744

MUDALIAR (CASTE NoBar) 42/155, PhD (Pharma) seeks Qualified Employed Groom, India/Abroad. 9444675720/ rajasekaransguru@ 9282129789. gmail.com

SC, AD, 38, Divorced Asst. Prof. Govt. groom to be from Govt Sec-tor. 94454 25585

ADIDRAVIDAR, 27/160, Beautiful, BTech, Wipro,5Lac.PA,Well MBA, CNB.7299576644,7299576666

ried Üdayar Fair Good beks suitable ummarried Ct-joseph154@gmail.com Well to do Family, CNB. 9342409272

TAMIL GOD fearing spinster 1970/
165 M.Com, M.Phil Ex-Lecturer seeks suitable Tamil Christian god-ly backelor/widower. Email: annvex@

WMDALIAR/PILLAI 25/168CMS, Punar poosam, Fair, M.Tech Doing Ph.D a UMASS, Prefers US based growns Subsect welcome. Contact: 3841014971 poosam, Fair, M.Tech Doing Ph.D at UMASS, Prefers US based grooms Sub-sect welcome. Contact :9841014971

26, FAIR, M.S. in US Working in Bangalore, Seeks Well Groom . CNB.9489935653

HINDU NADAR MBBS MD 165cm Incom 50000PM Seeks Suitable Groom KA RA MAN NADAR Whatsup 9380791999

HINDU GOUNDER Bride Affluen 27yrs, ht: 5.4ft good looking, working location: India UK ,US , UAE, seeks groom,age : 27yr to 35yrs, Ht : 5.7yrs + business work-ing PG any discipline Doctors, respects women clean habits from

HINDU VANNIYAR Bride, Affluent Age 26 ht 5 6ft MBBS MD patholo gy – studying Location : India or abroad seeks groom Age : 26yrs to 35yr, caste No bar well educated Doctors CA Business Well settled family send mail santameera.krish@gmail.com

TAMIL BRAHMIN lyer girl, B.E., Vadamal Bharadwajam Thiruvadirai, 25 yrs / 165 cms / Suddha jathagam / Chennai, seeks Professionally qualified / Chartered Accountants from same community. Subsect no bar. Please send details and horoscope to asvaralakshmi31@gmail.con

Tamil well to do Brahmin Bride loo king for Supportive Compassionate partner 40-45 Years, Professional, well to do family. Reply with photo to WhatsApp # 98410 26998 or Email : vmuthuswami1937@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED Mudhaliar F 29 ht 5.4 Ft Slim,

M.B.A Job/settled @blr Dhanusu Sign Moola star seeks well educated. Good looking, Smart Groom with clean habit, well placed India/Abroad. Age bet 30-32 yrs same community

preferable.

0 98440 79006

Saiva Pillai, IJK Doctor 26/180 Slim Fair Revathy seeks Tamil boy orking in UK below 30yrs of age from reputed Pillai & Mudaliar family

MADHIGA, HINDU, S.C Telugu Girl, fair, B.Tech(I.T), DOB 08-11-1990, Ht.163cms. Seeks working Groom from decent family. Send full details to 7397314810. Brokers ex-Ct: 94433-95495

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vorcee. Ct: 8807703450

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9444361010

well known university.

family

YADAVA 22/177 Danusu, Moolam4 B.Tech IT,(MBA) seeks well qual suitable groom(Tamil

looking daughter, 27/165 has done her master degree from NAIDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 45/151cn ACS MBA Govt.Officer looking for Bride groom in Chennai.CNB 8778873501 The boy should be tall, well educated

ELITE RICH (Naidu) 24 / M.B.B.S, M.S., own 3 Hospitals (750 Beds) fair girl. Seeks Groom. Ct: 98845 10869 WANTED BUSINESS GROOM TAMIL

lyer Boy with good background (DOB 1992 Above) from Tamil Nadu only Send Horoscope & photo with details for Fair Girl 1997/5.5, Vadama/Nythru-NAIDU GOOD Look 1973/171cm MBA Working Seeks Groom below 49 Yrs. Ct:9444663564, dlokeswaran@ yahoo.co.in

GAVARA NAIDU 26/155, Mirugaseeri dam (3) Midunam M.Com and doing Ph.D. Seeks Suitable Groom. Aswini, Thirvathurai, Uthiram, Swathi, Vegeta-rian only. 94431 06922 BALIJA NAIDU 27/158 Fair BE/IT company seeks suitable Groom from Educated/Decent Family. Mob 9600163283

well to do 51/ 5.7 seeks Eucated,
Well settled Telugu Widower / DiSlim job MNC caste No Bar, Wanter Slim job MNC caste No Bar, Wanted employed Bridegroom. Ph: 94433

KAMMA NAIDU BE, MS in USA, 1980/ 163, Uthiram seeks BE, MS Groom. CT: 99762 54300. PARENTS INVITE groom for good looking pious 31/159 BSc (CS), IT Professional. Email: murmoh9@gmail.com 163, Uthiram seeks BE, MS Groom. CT: 99762 54300.

MUDALIAR PH.D 35, suddha Jathakam Engr, Bangalore. Seeks suitable groom working in US/India. 8072397518 Uthiradam, Rasi Danusu, Profession-HOD, 9.6L/annum, Chennai, expect ed ucated or working bride with suit-able horoscope, Caste no bar 9994527891

> MUDALIAR SAIVAM 6ft. 28. BE TCS SWE 6L/PA. Hastham, Upper Class Seek Suitable Graduate Girl 9629276108

MUDALIAR 29, M.Tech, MBA,16L P.A 176cm, Smart, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/

BRAHMIN - Divorcee 42 BE, MBA, IT, Clean Habit. Seeks Suitable Bride 34 to 40 Yrs Caste No Bar 9003052848 MARUTHUVAR - 45. MSc. MA. Govt

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MS Engg from USA, Pooram/Simharasi, working in Toronto Earning 1
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HINDU VANNIYAR Groom, Affluent, 30 yrs, ht : 5.8ft, B.E., MBA, Project manager in Canada seeks above, good looking, well educated, with good family values, Willing to settle in Canada, Call 984055523

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HINDU THEVAR, B.Com, 45 years, Legally divorced, Own House & Business in Chennai. Seeks suitable bride with respectable family. Caste no bar. Ct: 9941872820

HINDU SC, AD,44/173cm, Anusham/ Vrichikam, B. TECH, MBA Working in Central Govt Company, Chennai Look ing for Suitable Bride. First Marriage Only. Caste / Religion No Bar 8056026333 / perumalvs@ hotmail.com

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PILLAI, 28, 180 cms, Businessman, MBA from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344 MUDALIYAR, 29, 173 cms, Managing Director, BE from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an affable well educated match. Contact: 6366448346

Medicine from a premier Institute, Lives in Chennai Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

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BRAHMIN, 27, 165 cms, Management Professiona Lives in Chennai, Father is an affluent Businessmar with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match from the same community. Contact:

IUDALIYAR, 27, 165 cms, Business Development

Manager, Masters in Management. Lives in Chennai

Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345 GOUNDER, 28, 163 cms, Doctor, MBBS from a reputed Institute, Lives in Chennai, Father is a Doctor Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded Doctor match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

GAMUDAYAR, 29, 163 cms, Software Professiona M.Sc in Software Engineering. Lives in Bangalore. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth, Looking for a compatible well educated match Contact: 6366448346

IADAR, 25, 165 cms, MBA from a premier Institute Lives in Chennai, Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448344

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well settled family. Ct: 97891 39281

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R. JOTHI Ganesh, M.A, Age (33) Brahmin

(Divorcee) veg bride in any Hindu cast Ct:9710847176. (brokers avoid) TAMIL BRAHMIN divorcee 40/180 NRI employed in global company looking for North / South Indian brahmin girls without issues. No depart of the company looking street is the company looking and the company looking from US or India. Respond with BLD global street is the company looking and the company looking and the company looking and the company looking looking and the company looking loo girls without issues. No demands to ksg19@yahoo.com simple marriage. Repl myinbox81@hotmail.com Reply email

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29YR SURGEON, MS. MCh (AIIMS.Delhi) ,5'11", intercaste (Vokkali-ga/ Vishwakarma) , seeks kannada/ tamil hindu doctor bride (MBBS,MD/ MS). Mb:8618607705.

DOCTOR MD (Radiology) 34 years Hindu Tamil SC Pondicherry seeks doctor girl contact 7708756395

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KERALA BASED Anglo-Indian boy set-tled in chennai,MCA graduate,30 yrs,175 cm,working in MNC ct.:9042206638,9444985328. NAIR BOY 28 yrs/165cm Bharani

working in Central government as sci-

entist-engineer. Proposals invited (not from bureau) 9496122999, 9497429830 Chennai, Seeking Good Family Bride Ph: 8838909035 / WhatsApp – MBA/CA/ICWA

SENGUNI HAH MUDALIAR, Chennai Native, living in Mandaveli, Age 36, 180cm, Magam, Simma Rasi, MBBS M.D. Pediatrician MRCP, working in a Prime Hospital Chennai seeks preferably Doctor Bride. Father is also Doctor, MRCP, FRCP. Ct. 044–24938959. 9445195889 24938959, 9445195689, Email: selvim5@yahoo.com

HINDU SC Adidravidar, 33, MTech

YADAV/ CASTE no bar, Tiruttani, 29, 5'7", CA, ICWA, NRI, 60 lacs salary, Telugu/Tamil, 9113070596

MUDALIAR,1972/180CM UTHIRADA/Makaram, M.E.,Ph.D., Asst Prof, Divorcee seeks Divorcee/ Widow without Child. Ct: 98403714485

CASTE NO Bar : 32/182. Hand some, B.E., MBA, Established Business, Chennai, Elite Family Good looking girl

HINDU NADAR 29. BE MBA. 178cm, 23L PA, Smart Well Settled Seeks Suitable Bride CNB 7200866346/8778514465

SWI, IT, Seeks Suitable Bride with any Degree. 944536 8379 / 9791071687 HINDU AD 34/178 M.S.Biotech

Manager, Pharma co. affluent awaiting Mutual divorce seeks educated

✓ HINDU MUDALIAR 38 Yrs 164cm ME

RC 47 /5.5" MBA,ML Deputy collector St. Govt Never married well settled, seeks suitable bride 9444934393 / 9444252852

family Bride Ct:9994459158

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvadhirai 28/ 180, BE MBA Smart IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family.Caste No Bar.Mail: vela4293@gmail.com / 87785 46961

BE, ME, PIIJ, Hich, OWN properties, Issueless Divorced sought good-looking Christian / Hindu ummarried or divorced bride below 38 years without kid. All denominations Welcome Caste no bar. Visiting India this week, Contact Parents in Chennai 9994418154, Whate-App. CAMDA 2004273727316 RC/ BE/ 28/ working in Canada(permanent resident) seek a girl from a simple catholic family willing to settle in Canada.Caste no **TAMIL MUSLIM**, 29yrs/ 168cm, B.E, MBA (PGDRM), ASM in Nigeria seeks Fair, Slim, MBBS/ MD/ MS Bride from bar.Boy in chennal now with parents. Whatsapp 9677052196 mail id-rosariodomnic68@gmail.com

AGAMUDAIYAR 37 MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC – 9445612997

TAMIL GOD fearing bachelor 1972/ 175 MSc, PGDCA – IT Sr Manager seeks suitable Tamil Christian god-HINDIJ VISWAKARMA, 34yrs, B.E. ly bride. Email: annvex@yahoo.com Engineer, 20000 pm, seeks Bride caste no bar, Contact: 96003 03385. SENGUNTHAR MUDALIAR, Chennai Na-

> 9443454420. ADIDRAVIDAR, 29/168, Handsome, BTech, SWE, MNC,17Lac.PA,Decent Well to do CNB.7299576644,7299576666

Civil Engineer, Thiruvonam Magaram, Working in Dubai. Ph: 96003 MUDALIAR, 29/182, Handsome, MBA, AMD, MNC, 2500000 PA, Decent Well Settled Family, CNB. 9342409272 SENGUNTHAR / Pillai (CNB) 165cm MUDALIAR 39, PG, Good looking 10L Seyears B.E., Middle Class, Settled PA, Ragu-Ketu Dosham Seeks Bride Below37 CNB with Good Family Bride Below37 CNB with Good Family Below37 CNB With Good Family Seeks Bride Below37 CNB With Good Family Bride Below37 CNB With Goo

> HINDU SC, B.E, MBA, 45, working in govt of India company seeks allian-ce from any graduates, no expecta-tions. Caste no bar Contact 9489302145

9962350053

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NAME: MALATHY, CONTACT NO: 99406 44309 DIVORCEE 52 **DIVORCEE 52** years, Government Teacher. Seeks Bride, Government

Service Caste no bar

Contact: 9443625846

Contact: 9498001707 SAIVA PILLAI 34/160/MBA CAIIB, Govt. Bank Officer, Bharani, Mesham, only son, well settled seeks suitably qualified Bride.

HINDU GOUNDER Groom, Business Affluent B.E.MBA 42 yrs Ht : 5.9ft , location: Coimbatore, seeks pleasant looking , well educated bride (No doctors) Call 9884055523 9941379031, atchaluvijayarengan@ HINDU IYENGAR 28 B.E. IT Analysts

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BRAHMIN VISAGAM groom(29)B.Com(CA) Kowsikam, Logistics Manager. 6.2 Lk pa. OwnHouse in Chennai 9600126168 BRAHMIN, 40, ASSOCIATE Project Man-

Technologies Madurai, Brahmin Girl, Ct:

ager HCL Seeks any 9487851429 IYER, VADAMA, 40YEAR. Self Employed Chartered Accountant. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need suit-

able Bride. Call 9994934568

TAMIL IYER Boy NaithrupaKashyapa Mrigasirisham 39yrs 6ft ITManager never married seeks suitable bride 9789292228 9444402146 SEEKING BRIDE for lyer groom 34yrs
183cm Vadama Srivatsa Gotram, BE ca, 15 Lakhs Per Annum, Bride from
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ANTED BRIDE Age 39, Vellalar Pillai, BE, ECE, 171/68 kg, working as a Software Architect in International Bank Singapore, Tanjore origin, well settled, wedding function void (annuled). Expected

status no bar). Contact: +918220007064

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M.Tech 85K pm Chennai good net-worth seeks qualified fair bride 9677003920 YADAVA 29/185 fair,Magam B. E,MS(USA) Working USA sks suitable B.E(CS,IT,ECE) bride(Tamil also)

Age Limit 25-30 years. Please send your updated

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IN BRIEF



CIAL to relaunch direct flights to London

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) and Air India have joined hands to relaunch direct London services from Kochi after the United Kingdom moved India from its Red to Amber list, a categorisation created for facilitating international travel during pandemic.

IMD issues yellow alert for many Kerala districts

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM After a brief lull, the southwest monsoon appears to be showing signs of a revival over Kerala. The IMD has put Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kasaragod on yellow alert on Sunday and Tuesday for isolated heavy rainfall.

Bommai keeps Finance, Intelligence

First-time Minister Araga gets Home; portfolios of 17 Ministers retained

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Three days after 29 Ministers were sworn in, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday allocated portfolios to all his Ministerial colleagues and kept for himself the important portfolios of Finance, Bengaluru Development, and Intelligence. First-time Minister Araga Jnanendra (Tirthahalli, Shivamogga district) is the new Home Minister, the portfolio held by Mr. Bommai himself in the B.S. Yediyurappa-led government.

Seventeen Ministers, including those who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from other parties, have retained the major portfolios they held earlier.

These Ministers are: R. Ashok (Revenue); K.S. Eshwarappa (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development); S. Angara (Fisheries, Ports and Inland Transport); C.N. Ashwath Narayan, (Higher Education, IT/BT/Science and Technology and Skill Development); Prabhu Chavan (Animal Husbandry); A. Shivaram Hebbar (Labour); S.T. Somashekar (Cooperation); B.A. Basavaraj (Urban Development); K. Sudhakar (Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education); K. Gopaliah (Excise); B.C. Patil (Agriculture); V. Somanna (Housing); Umesh V. Katti (Food and Civil Supplies); J.C. Madhuswamy (Minor Irrigation); Kota Srinivas Poojari (Backward Classes); K.C. Narayana Gowda (Youth Empowerment and Sports), and Nagaraju (Municipal

Administration). Some Ministers have lost the old portfolios they held

Reaching out: Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai interacting with the public in Bengaluru . • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in the Yediyurappa-led government and have been allocated new portfolios. These Ministers are: Govind M. Karjol, B. Sriramulu, C.C. Patil, Murugesh R. Nirani, and Shashikala Jolle. Mr. Karjol has been allocated Major and Medium Irrigation. Earlier, he was holding the portfolio of Public Works.

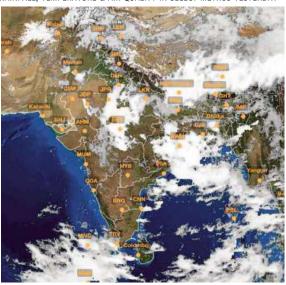
Ms. Jolle, who has been facing charges of misappropriation of funds in tendering process of eggs meant for distribution to children and lactating mothers in anganwadi centres, has been given Muzrai, and Haj and Wakf, regarded a lighter assignment. Mr. C.C. Patil, a loyalist of Mr. Yediyurappa who has held the low profile portfolio of Small Scale Industries earlier, has been given Public Works, which has a huge budgetary allocation.

Mr. Sriramulu has been given Transport and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Welfare.

The Bommai-led government has created a separate Secretariat for the welfare of

Laxman Savadi, who was dropped from the Cabinet, had held the Transport portfolio. Mr. Nirani has been allocated Large and Medium Industries, the portfolio he held in the first BJP government during 2008-2013.

Some Ministers, who served in the Yediyurappaled government, have now got more than one portfolio. They are: Mr. Somanna (Infrastructure); Mr. Poojari (Social Welfare); Mr. Katti (Forest); Mr. Madhuswamy (Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation); Mr. Narayana Gowda (Sericulture), and Mr. Nagaraju (Small-scale Industries, and Public Sector Industries). Mr. Anand Singh, who earlier held the portfolio of Infrastructure Development, has been allocated Ecology and Environment, and Tourism.



Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar, west Madhya Pradesh, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY
Agartala	43	31.7	25.7	Kozhikode
Ahmedabad		34.8	27.0	Kurnool
Aizawl				Lucknow
Allahabad		33.6	27.8	Madurai
Bengaluru	4.2	30.3	20.9	Mangaluru
Bhopal	6.4	24.8	23.2	Mumbai
Bhubaneswar	2.6	33.9	25.6	Mysuru
Chandigarh	9.2	34.4	27.1	New Delhi
Chennai	7	36.0	24.1	Patna
Coimbatore		32.0	23.0	Port Blair
Dehradun	1	33.1	25.0	Puducherry
Gangtok	0.6	25.5	17.5	Pune
Goa				Raipur
Guwahati				Ranchi
Hubballi				Shillong
Hyderabad				Shimla
mphal	19	28.8	21.6	Srinagar
Jaipur				Thiruvananth
Kochi	83	28.0	23.6	Tiruchi
Kohima				Vijayawada
Colkata				Visakhanati

Kurnool	–	36.025.3
Lucknow	0.8	33.927.7
Madurai	0.2	39.026.8
Mangaluru		
Mumbai	0.6	31.926.8
Mysuru	–	29.320.0
New Delhi		
Patna	–	35.027.8
Port Blair	15	30.125.4
Puducherry	3.2	35.223.4
Pune		
Raipur	–	33.525.2
Ranchi		
Shillong	20	22.118.0
Shimla	7	26.919.3
Srinagar	–	29.217.4
Thiruvananthapuram	24	31.523.8
Tiruchi		
Vijayawada		38.627.4
Visakhapatnam		35.627.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

...82 ..9 .15 .40 ..212 .133 48 .33 ...970 .109 ..1 ...1 .2377 .100 33 .16 11078 ...70 Visakhapatnam 17 .41 .3645 ...87

Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. invites E-tender as per details given as follows. Executive: DEN(South)BCT. Tender Notice No.: 1.BCT/21-22/165 dtd 06.08.2021. Work

& Location: CCG-VR Section:- Layin

f transition system using Geo cell an

blanketing material on the approach of major bridges in connection with Increas of speed to 160 KMPH in New Delhi

Mumbai route. **Approx. cost of work** ₹1,70,92,091.43 **EMD**: ₹**0/-. Executive**

Sr.DEN(North) BCT. Tender Notice No.

2. BCT/21-22/166 dtd: 06.08.2021. Worl 3. Location: VR-JRS Section:- Laying o

transition system using Geo cell and blanketing material on the approach o

major bridges in connection with Increas

f speed to 160 KMPH in New Delhi

Mumbal route. Approx. cost of work ₹8,58,29,934.68. EMD: ₹0/-. Executive

DEN(CENTRAL)BCT. Tender Notice

No.: 3. BCT/21-22/167 dtd: 06.08.2021

Work & Location: JRS-ST Section

and blanketing material on the approach

of major bridges in connection wit Increase of speed to 160 KMPH in Nev

Delhi-Mumbai route. Approx. cost o

work: ₹5,36,43,702.10. EMD: ₹0/-. Date & Time of submission of all above

enders: On 03.09.2021 till 15.00 hrs Date & Time of opening of all above tenders: On 03.09.2021 at 15.30 hrs

Regarding detailed nature of worl

(Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibilit

criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions please visi

www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offer will not

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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 statue NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by

reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Youth flag digital and gender divides

Vision for next two decades includes higher spend on education, research

From the pressing need to focus on education to turning the nation into a safe space for women, the youth who engaged in *The Hindu* 'Vision for India 2040' debate had an array of suggestions for the future, on what the emphasis should be and what transformations they wish to see in the next two decades.

Amrit Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha, spoke about how the digital penetration across the country that stands at 50% now, must significantly improve so that in times of distress like the current pandemic, some of the important benefits could reach everyone quickly.

"We need to have a comprehensive national climate policy that not only emphaon transitioning smoothly into a cleaner future but also creates green jobs. It has to be a people centric approach that includes and prioritises indigenous communities as well as refrains from mindless construction of dams and reservoirs in ecologically fragile regions. In terms of social security and healthcare we need to have a universal healthcare policy in which we spend at least 5% of the

GDP," he said. Mr. Mahapatra also noted how there is an urgent need to restrict the scope of contentious and ambiguous laws such as the sedition law, National Security Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act which has a chilling effect on the right to free speech.

"There should be a complete overhaul of the police system with a gender sensitive approach embedded in it. The Centre recently in a reply to Parliament said that over 350 plus people have died in police custody over the years and it is a number that should worry all of us," he added.

Naman Arya from Nainital

said the nation should invest in research and development. "If we focus on more on higher education then there will be more inventions which can change humankind. Also, the discrimination that is present in our society based on caste and religion has resulted in our downfall and passed on from one generation into another. We have to break this vicious cycle," he added. Likhitha Kaki from Hyde-

rabad elaborated on the need to tap into the right opportunities to build a sustainable future. Suhasini Haidar, Diplo-

matic Affairs Editor, The Hin*du*, moderated the event.

Mahak Raghuvanshi, Shubham Bhonsle, Om Kumar, Syed Saddique Hussain, Sapnil Kumar Patel, Shivam Tandon, Amit Kumar Samantara, Anmol Srivastava, Rajat Shukla, Rashna Doley, Akhilesh Singi, Sahil Chauhan were among those who spoke at the debate.

Mammootty, Pisharodi violate protocol, booked

They were at a crowded event

STAFF REPORTER

Actors Mammootty and Ramesh Pisharodi were booked on the charge of violating COVID-19 protocol during an event at Meitra Hospital in Kozhikode on Tuesday. The Elathur police said there were some 300 persons near Mr. Mammootty at the hospital after he launched a robotic-assisted joint replacement surgery

Cases were registered against them under the Epidemic Diseases Act. Photographs and video footage of the alleged violations were collected. Some hospital management staff and pro-



Mammooty

ducer Anto Joseph were also booked on the same charge.

The police said the participants at the function did not care to abide by physical distancing norms.

Youth Akali Dal leader shot dead in Mohali

CHANDIGARH

Youth Akali Dal leader Vikramjit Singh Middukhera was shot dead in broad daylight in Punjab's Mohali on Saturday, the police said. Two armed persons

opened fire at Middukhera in a market area and fled, Mohali Superintendent of (Headquarters) Police Akashdeep Singh Aulakh told PTI over phone.

A case has been registered, he said, adding that the police are trying to identify the accused, four in total. Footage from CCTV cameras in the area showed the miscreants open fire at Middukhera as he was getting in-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Trinamool Congress on

Saturday alleged that two of

its youth leaders from West

Bengal were injured when

their vehicle was allegedly

attacked by the BJP activists

the BJP claimed that the

TMC is a non-factor in Tripu-

ra, and West Bengal's ruling

party is spreading the "virus

of political violence" in the

CM YK

Denying the allegation,

in Tripura's Dhalai district.

AGARTALA/KOLKATA



where Vikramjit Singh Middukhera was shot

to his parked car.

Shiromani Akali Dal senior leader Daljit Singh Cheema said the incident has once again exposed the State's "deteriorating law

2 leaders attacked in Tripura by BJP: TMC

Bengal's ruling party is spreading virus of violence, says BJP

northeastern State, where

"outsiders" are fomenting

The police said two per-

sons were attacked by a

group of unidentified mis-

creants at Ambassa and their

vehicle was partly damaged.

bangshu Bhattacharya al-

leged that party leaders Su-

dip Raha and Jaya Dutta

were injured in an attack by

the BIP workers in Ambassa.

"The miscreants attacked

TMC spokesperson De-

RLD takes out 'nyay yatra'

It will amplify the voices of underprivileged, dispossessed

The Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is taking out a 'nyay yatra' to raise the voices of the underprivileged and the dispossessed. The yatra started from Saharanpur on Saturday and will culminate in Agra on October 10. It will pass through Muzaffarnagar, Bijnor, Shamli, Baghpat, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Aligarh and Mathura.

In alliance with the Samajwadi Party, these are the districts in western Uttar Pradesh where the party plans to put up its candidates in the coming Assembly polls.

During the march, the party will raise six demands,

the car, in which I was also

seated, with lathi and lethal

weapons, and pelted the

vehicle with stones," Mr.

Bhattacharya told reporters.

porters staged road block-

ades 500 m apart on NH-8,

prompting the police to fire

tear gas shells. The road

blockades forced CM Biplab

Deb to take a detour while

returning to Agartala after

grammes in Dharmanagar.

some

attending

The BJP and the TMC sup-

which include justice for the dress these issues and proalleged victim of rape and murder in Hathras, permanent job for all sanitation workers who are on contract and strict implementation of law against manual scavenging. The party also demands a compensation of ₹4 lakh for those who lost their kin to COVID-19.

'Hate crimes rising'

RLD president Jayant Chaudhary said hate crimes, targeting Dalits and crimes against women, were rising in U.P. "We are taking out this yatra to talk about incidents like Hathras and Delhi rape cases and how the government is failing to ad-

Name of work

HP / 3115/21-22

1. Performance based maintenance

contract of Bajaura Kandhi road Km. 3/700 to 12/540. (SH:

Routine repair and maintenance

vide succour to the victims and their families. Also, COfamilies VID-19-affected need to be provided with financial assistance."

Triloki Ram Diwakar, one of the party's Dalit faces, said the party belonged to farmers and workers. "It belongs to everybody and not just Jats, as some try to project. The Hathras victim's family is yet to get what was promised by the government," said the former MLA from Iglas.

On the BJP reaching out to the underprivileged with its 'Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana', he stated that it was an election gimmick.

Earnest Deadline for

Executive Engin

E mail:- ee-kul1-hp@nic.ir

On behalf of Governor of HF

19100

Banjar Division , HP.PWD., Banjar 175123

Phone No.01903-221031, Fax: 091903-221031

of Bid

13.08.2021

Himachal Pradesh

Phone No.01903-221031 Fax: 091903-221031

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Banjar Division, HP,PWD, Banjar on behalf of Governor of Himacha

Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system from the eligible Class of

952027

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website

Contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:

Public Works Department

Estimated Starting

07.08.2021

SARDAR SAROVAR NARMADA **NIGAM LIMITED** (A Wholly owned Govt. of **Gujarat Undertaking)**



Works under the Chief Engineer (E&M), SSNNL, NPHP, Indira Avenue, Block-A/2nd Floor, Vadodara -390 001. (Phone No. 0265-2413396).

Tender Notice No. 11 of 2021-22

Name of Work: Concept, Design & Execution with 3 (Three) Years Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of "Orientation Center with Hologram Technology" at Cactus Garden Kevadia Gujarat.

(I) Estimated Cost: Rs. 30.00 lakh. (ii) Last Date/Time of online bid submission: Dtd: 23/08/2021. Up to 18.00 hrs.

For further details please visit website https: www.ssnnl.nprocure.com. and www.sardarsarovardam.org

(INF-VAD-567-21-22)

HIMACHAL PRADESH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT **SOCIETY (HPNRMS)** Forest Road, Solan (HP) Pin Code 173212

(Registration No. 398/2006 dated 27/04/2006 registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1870)

PH. No.: 01792-223004, FAX No. 01792-220064, email:hpnrms@gmail.com, website www.hpnrms.org/www.hpidp.org

ADVERTISEMENT NO.: 7/6/2021/HPNRMS

APPLICATION FOR POST OF SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALIST

World Bank assisted "Integrated Development Project (IDP) for Source Sustainability & Climate Resilient Rain-fed Agriculture" has placed demand fo Subject Matter Specialists - (Procurement, Hydrology, Agriculture, Social, and Communication) one position each to Himachal Pradesh Natural Resource Management Society (HPNRMS). HPNRMS invites application from the interested candidates which should reach this office through e-mail (hpnrms@gmail.com) on or before 5.00 pm on 23-08-2021. The posts are to be filled purely on CONTRACTUAL BASIS initially for a period of one year. The contract may further be renewed on yearly basis if the performance of the appointee is satisfactory and depending upon the requirement in the Project and services will be co-terminus with the Project period.

The application forms along-with details of Terms of References (ToR) are available on the website www.hpnrms.org under the tab "Advertisement" and www.hpidp.org under the tab "Recruitments", Interested candidates, fulfilling al the eligibility criteria, may download application Performa from the above giver sites and submit the application (pdf form only) on prescribed Performa /format with duly self attested copies of requisite certificates/documents within in the stipulated time through e-mail (hpnrms@gmail.com). Only the shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview. Canvassing in any form will lead to disqualification and rejection of candidature. The number of vacancies is liable to increase or decrease as per requirement and the process can be terminated at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

HP / 0312/2021-2022

Executive Officer HP Natural Resource Management Society Forest Road, Solan-HP- 173 212 Telephone: 01792-23004

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

REGRET P.R.PICHUMANI(74) Engg , Son of Pattamadai P Ramanathan & Palamadai Gomathi Ramanathan attained the Lotus Feet Of Goddess Shri Sharadambal on Of Goddess Still Constitution of Section 2021. Deeply mourned by Krishnan, Visalam, Sanjay, Julie & Contact: 9840097621/ Bali. Contact: 9445614604.

For enquiries on

section, please contact our

office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.

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REGIONAL APPOINTMENT

trouble.



Kerala Public Enterprises Selection Board (KPESB) invites applications for the post of **Managing Director** in various State PSUs

by 15.00 hours on 6th September, 2021 For details login to website https://kpesb.kerala.gov.in. Member Secretary (KPESB)

Planning & Economic Affairs (BPE) Department Date: 05.08.2021 Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram

Last date of receipt of applications in KPESB is



Sub:- E-NIT S. No. 26/PHEP of 2021-22
Reference:- Published under this office No. PHEP/1776-89 Dated. 12-07-2021.
Due to No Response shown by the bidders, the above-mentioned e-NIT is hereby retendered. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (iktenders gov.in) as per the dates sho S.No Description

DD Publishing date of NIT 1600 Hrs 05 08 2021 1600 Hrs Download start date 2021 05 2021 1600 Hrs Bid submission end date 08 2021 1600 Hrs Bid opening date (Technical Cover) 25 1000 Hrs. Rest will remain unchanged Executive Engineer, JSD (PHE) Divn, Pulwama DIPK- 6015/21

FROM PAGE ONE

Centre denies existence of oxygen committee

Besides DPIIT officials, the committee had a representative of the Union Health Ministry, two AIIMS doctors and representatives of the All India Industrial Gases Manufacturers Association and the Petroleum and Explosives Organization.

Activist and freelance journalist Saurav Das, who filed the initial RTI request, said, "The records of this committee must be made public as it handled the crucial issue of medical oxygen. Given its stated objectives, the committee clearly recognised the issues at stake back in April 2020, so what did they do about it? This gains significance in the light of the chaos and disaster caused by oxygen shortages during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.'

Mr. Das noted that the Supreme Court was ultimately forced to create its own taskforce to carry out the duties entrusted to this committee He deplored the statement that the committee did not exist. "Such mala fide denial of information shows that the government is adamant not to reveal it even after CIC's order. Under the RTI Act, the officer is liable for penal action," he said.

There are also subsequent orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs in September 2020 and statements from the Public Information Bureau, which indicate that an Empowered Group was later reconstituted under Mr. Mohapatra's chairmanship in September 2020 to oversee medical oxygen supply.

Mr. Das filed his RTI request in April 2021, seeking information on the ninemember committee set up in April 2020 under Mr. Mohapatra. He requested information on the members, dates, agenda, minutes and presentations of the com-

mittee's meetings till date. On June 11, the CPIO of the department, Karan Thapar, responded, refusing to disclose information, citing Section 8 (1) (a) that exempts information related to the "security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State" and Section 8 (1) (d) that exempts "information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or

intellectual property" unless warranted by the larger public interest. After Mr. Das appealed his case, the CIC held a hearing on July 22, where the CPIO referred to the committee as the Empowered Group chaired by Mr. Mohapatra. The official said that as this group worked with "government and private entities, domestic and foreign" and dealt with "highly sensitive information regarding technologies, strategies and processes...and commercial and costing aspects of different industries and commodities", the information could not be shared.

Mr. Thapar argued that the information was exempt under Section 8 (1) (i), which refers to "Cabinet papers, including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and othofficers". In his submissions to the CIC, he also accused Mr. Das of being "aggressive without reason" and trying "to extort information by threatening coercing functionaries".

Subsequently, in an order dated July 29, the CIC directed the DPIIT to respond to the RTI request.

CPIO U-turn

A week later, the CPIO made a U-turn. "No such committee was set up in the month of April 2020 under the chairmanship of Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Guruprasad Mohapatra, to ensure adequate availability of medical oxygen in the wake of the CO-VID-19 pandemic," he said in his August 6 response.

Each of Mr. Das's requests for information was then dismissed with the statement, "Does not arise in view of above".

Thapar stated. "Further, the inadvertent error on the part of the CPIO in the earlier reply dated 11.06.2021, where the RTI application was misread is deeply regretted." Mr. Das said he would file a noncompliance petition with the CIC regarding the denial. On Monday, the CIC is due to hear appeals against the Centre's denial of information regarding the procurement of vaccines and the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, he added.

M.P. flood death toll rises to 24

So far, 8,832 people have been rescued from various parts of the State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The number of deaths due to heavy rain in Gwalior and Chambal divisions of Madhya Pradesh increased to 24, officials said on Saturday.

The authorities said the floods were slowly receding and no "life-threatening" situations existed in the region, where rescue and relief work was on.

"The death toll in the rainrelated incidents in the flood-hit parts of the State has risen to 24. These fatalities were recorded between August 1 and 7," Revenue Secretary Gyaneshwar Patil said.

Till Friday, officials had pegged the number of the deceased at 12.

The floods in north Madhya Pradesh had turned grim earlier this week, where more than 1,250 villages were affected by the deluge. Gwalior, Shivpuri, Sheopur, Datia, Ashok Nagar, Guna, Bhind and Morena districts were affected as the region was pounded by rain since Sunday.

However, from Thursday, the intensity of rain started going down.

Rajiv Gauba

gets a year's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Union Cabinet Secretary

Rajiv Gauba has been given

a year's extension in ser-

vice beyond August 30 by

With this extension, Mr.

Gauba, who was appointed

Cabinet Secretary, a te-

nured post for two years,

in 2019, will continue till

officer of the 1982 batch.

Mr Gauba was earlier

Home Secretary before he

was elevated to the top

post of Cabinet Secretary

by the NDA government.

He also served as the Secre-

tary, Urban Affairs and

issued by the Department

of Personnel and Training

after the Appointments

Committee of the Cabinet

headed by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi cleared it.

Housing, at the Centre. His extension order was

A Jharkhand-cadre IAS

August 30, 2022.

the Modi government.

extension

"No life threatening situa-



Flood effect: Congress State chief Kamal Nath conducting an aerial survey of Gwalior and Chambal on Saturday. • PTI

tion due to flooding exists in Gwalior and Chambal divisions at present," Divisional Commissioner Ashish Saxena said.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said 8,832 people were rescued from the flood-affected parts of the State, while 29,280 others have been shifted to safer

Teams of the National Dis-Response Force (NDRF) and Indian Air Force (IAF) have reached Ashok Nagar for a rescue operation, he said, adding that Army columns are also scheduled to reach the affected areas.

"The rescue operation in the affected areas is almost over and relief work is gathering steam," the official Meanwhile, P.K. Saha, se-

nior meteorologist with the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Bhopal office said that Ashok Nagar and Guna districts in Gwalior division received 32 mm and 164.1 mm of rainfall, respectively, in the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. "The low-pressure area is lying over northern parts of east Madhya Pradesh and its neighbourhood now. It was over central parts of north Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood on Friday," he said.

With its shift to the eastern part of the State, the situation in Gwalior and Chambal is likely to improve as rain activity is likely to lessen from Saturday.

In a series of tweets, the

CM takes stock

Chief Minister said, "I took stock of the flood situation and the ongoing rescue operation this morning in Guna, Ashoknagar, Vidisha districts. Rescue operation of IAF resumed this morning. The teams of SDRF and NDRF are also working to rescue the people trapped in villages." He said that during the rescue operations carried out using helicopters, 15 persons each were rescued from Barri and Sirsora villages of Ashok Nagar district Saturday morning. Six more persons were rescued from Vasunia Ghat village from the same district and shifted to a safer place, he said.

Three arrested for bomb hoax in Mumbai

Police searched four sites for hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Three persons were arrested on Saturday after a hoax call claiming that bombs had been planted at three railway stations and actor Amitabh Bachchan's residence in the city led to futile searches lasting hours, an official said.

No suspicious material was found at any of the four locations, the police spokesperson said.

"Our main control room received the call around 9.45 p.m. on Friday. The caller claimed that bombs had been placed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, and the Byculla and Dadar railway stations, and also at Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow in Juhu,"

the official said. "Teams of the Government Railway Police, Railway Protection Force, Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad, dog squads and local police personnel rushed to these locations and carried out searches," he said. Officials of the Anti-Terrorism Squad and Quick Response Team were also involved in the searches, the official ad-



The police using a sniffer dog to search for bombs at a railway station late on Friday. ■PTI

ded. After several hours, it was confirmed that the call was a hoax.

The police traced the caller from the mobile number to the Shil Phata area in neighbouring Thane.

The caller turned out to be a truck driver from the Marathwada region, the official said.

Along with him, two other men, his drinking buddies, were also held. It is suspected that they were drinking together when the

hoax call was made. An FIR has been registered at the Azad Maidan Police Station under rele-

vant sections of the IPC.

Sunderbans is now drowning in plastic

Unregulated inflow of relief materials has resulted in a new crisis in the fragile ecosystem

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Unregulated inflow of relief to the Sunderbans has resulted in a new crisis in the cyclone-battered region: plastic waste. Several NGOs, experts, and even officials of the District Police and the Forest Department have pointed out that the plastic accumulating on the isolated islands of the fragile ecosystem are cause for great con-

Ecologist Diya Banerjee has been pointing out the issue from as early as June. days after Cyclone Yaas inundated large parts of the Sunderbans in the last week of May 2021.

'What we are seeing is tonnes of plastic in the remote areas of the Sundarbans, like Gosaba, Mousuni, Bali, Patharpratima and Kultali. People residing in these areas are not responsible in any way for the huge plastic



Upsetting the balance: Plastic waste in the Sunderbans has resulted in a new crisis in the region. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

introducing and bringing a covered about 300 kg of large quantity of plastics, completely oblivious and ignorant to its long-term impact on the region," Ms. Banerjee said. She added that a

waste; it is outsiders who are local NGO Mahajibon had replastic waste from the Gosaba block days after Cyclone

> While it is difficult to estimate the total amount of

in about 50 inhabited islands of the Sunderbans spread across thousands of square kilometres, Sourav Mukherjee of the Kolkata Society for Cultural Heritage has estimated about 56 tonnes of plastic in the Gosaba block alone. "We have calculated the amount on the basis of how much packaged relief material was received by families, how many times, in the past few weeks," Mr. Mukherjee said.

plastic waste that is arriving

Long-term impact Not only conservationists,

even police officers have raised concerns over the huge dumping of plastic waste. Arijit Basu, Additional Superintendent of Police, Baruipur Police District of South 24 Parganas, had put up a post on social media a few weeks ago, pointing out that relief workers brought plastic water bottles, which rywhere. The police officer urged locals and NGOs to organise cleanliness drives to remove plastic from the Sunderbans. Tuhin Ghosh, Director of

were being disposed eve-

the School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, said that plastics would have a long-term ecological impact on the Sundarbans ecosystem.

"The presence of plastic in saline water will increase the toxicity of water gradually and also there will be eutrophication of water. Because of the presence of plastics in the water, there will be an increase in microplastics, which will slowly enter the food system," Professor Ghosh said.

He said that the Sunderbans were connected to the sea and the increase of plastic in the region could lead to plastic waste entering the

ZSI gets its first woman director

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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

Dhriti Banerjee, entomologist with an expertise in Diptera, has taken over as the 18th director of the

105-year-old institute. Dr. Banerjee had spearheaded the ZSI faunal information system, a multidimensional platform housing information on ZSI collections, spatial and temporal data about fauna of India as well as genetics and molecular information about the country's faunal species.

"When I joined the institute in the late 1990s, the number of women scientists at the ZSI was about 24%. This has considerably increased and reached 40% under the encouragement of the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change," she said.

'Ancestral Dravidian tongues spoken on Indus Valley sites'

Paper throws light into a puzzle of South Asian prehistory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A recent publication has provided crucial evidence that ancestral Dravidian languages were possibly spoken by a significant population the Indus Valley Civilisation.

The paper titled "Ancestral Dravidian Languages in Indus Civilization: Ultraconserved Dravidian Toothword Reveals Deep Linguistic Ancestry and Supports Genetics", by Bahata Ansumali Mukhopadhyay was published this month in a Na-Group journal Humanities and Social Sciences Communications.

This study seeks to resolve a crucial part of this perennial puzzle of South Asian prehistory, through establishing the certain existence of ancestral Dravidian language(s) in the Indus Valley Civilisation.

In the absence of any deciphered written documents of Indus Valley Civilisation, there are no direct ways of identifying Harappan languages.

Thus, the only feasible starting point is to find certain proto-words whose likely origin in Indus Valley Civilisation gets confirmed through historical and linguistic evidence, whereas archaeological evidence indicates that the objects



Into the past: Archaeological excavation at Rajasthan's Binjor, considered to be an Indus Valley civilisation site. • FILE РНОТО

signified by those protowords were prevalently produced and used in the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Analysing numerous archaeological, linguistic, archaeogenetic and historical evidences the study finds some such proto-words. It claims that the words used for elephant (like, 'pīri', 'pīru') in Bronze Age Mesopotamia, the elephant-word used in the Hurrian part of an Amarna letter of ca. 1400 BC, and the ivory-word ('pîruš') recorded in certain sixth century BC old Persian documents, were all originally borrowed from 'pīlu', a Proto-Dravidian elephantword, which was prevalent in the Indus Valley civilisation, and was etymologically related to the Proto Dravi-

its alternative forms ("*pel'/"*pīl'/"*pi'/). Dravidian Analysing

dian tooth-word "pal" and

grammar and phonology, Ms. Bahata, a software technologist in Bengaluru, says the elephant words 'pīlu', 'palla', 'pallava', 'pilluvam', etc., which are attested in various Dravidian dictionaries, are related to the Proto-Dravidian tooth-word "pal". The paper points out that elephant-ivory was one of the luxury goods coveted in the Near East.

The researcher, however, makes a disclaimer, saying that it would be wrong to assume that only a single language or language-group was spoken across the onemillion square kilometre area of the Indus Valley civilisation. "Even today, people across the greater Indus Valley speak several tongues including Indo-Aryan, Dardic, Iranian, along with the isolated Dravidian language Brahui and the language isolate Burushaski," she added.

Bombay HC dismisses Raj Kundra's plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bombay High Court on Saturday dismissed the pleas filed by Raj Kundra, businessman and husband of actor Shilpa Shetty, and his aide Ryan Thorpe challenging their arrest over a pornographic racket busted this year and seeking immediate release from the Arthur Road Jail.

A Single Bench of Justice A.S. Gadkari was hearing the petition through physical hearing.

Mr. Kundra and his aide were arrested on July 19 by the Property Cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch. They challenged the magistrate's order rejecting their bail applications on July 28. The magistrate court had held, "If released, they will hamper the investigation and the alleged offence is detrimental to the health of society."

Chief Public Prosecutor Aruna Pai had argued that initially a notice was issued by the police to Mr. Kundra under Section 41A (notice of appearance before police officer) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which he refused but Mr. Thorpe accepted.

Ms. Pai said Mr. Kundra was the admin of Hotshot (the app used to produce and circulate pornographic content). He refused to sign the notice and did not cooperate at all.

'Most parents trust in conventional learning'

93% believe in in-person teaching

STAFF REPORTER

A survey conducted among 5,000 respondents, including parents, students and around 70 academicians from 30 major cities across the country, suggests that around 93% parents strongly believe that traditional methods of learnings like inperson interactions, writing and learning and practical learning are best suited for their children and that they were worried about the physical and mental well-

being of their children. Feedback Insights, a B2B2C research-based consulting firm, in association with the Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CIE) at the Indian School of Business (ISB), carried out the survey "Schooling in the time of pandemic", in order to determine how online classrooms impacted various aspects of learning and student development.

As per the survey, around 33% parents expressed concern over the effectiveness of online learning and how a virtual learning environment might be hampering their child's ability to be competitive in the future. Also 36% parents were worried about the long-term psychological impact of online learning on their children. On an average, students spend three hours a

day on online sessions.



Most students have had to depend on online classes.

S. Arunachalam, Academic Director, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, ISB, says, "The ability of faculty and teachers to monitor student activities has significantly gone down and so has participative learning. It has a sociopsychological impact on both the faculty as well as the students."

Connectivity issues, both for the teachers and the students and lack of a dedicated study space at home were seen as some of the most common deterrents to online learning and retention. 67% of the students said they found it difficult to study due to Internet connectivity issues. Better educated parents were more capable of supporting children's education through direct assistance, having highexpectations, and providing more resources.

This shift was definitely not a boon for this stratum of society. Hence, a hybrid model seemed more effective, observed the report.

CBI gets more time for report in exam scam

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM

The Manipur High Court on August 2 extended the time for submission of investigation reports by the CBI into the alleged irregularities in the conduct of the Manipur Civil Services Combined Competitive (Main) Examination, 2016, by another six months.

This extension is final. Some candidates of the examination had filed a writ petition contending that there were irregularities. The HC had given three months' time to submit the report. However the CBI had sought extensions four times. Taking cognizance of the writ petition, the High Court directed the Manipur government to examine the complaint by constituting an inquiry committee. However, the committee submitted the report saying that there were no irregularities. On the basis of this report, many of the "successful candidates" had been absorbed in the civil and police services. But their services were terminated later.

Some candidates obtained documents under the RTI Act which established that there were rampant irregularities in the examination. The Supreme Court had directed the HC to conduct trials. Later, the examination was cancelled.

A ND-NDE

Distrust between Opposition and govt. grows

Government unwilling to concede any ground on Insurance Bill, which will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The General Insurance Busi-(Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 that seeks to enhance private participation in public sector insurance companies will be tabled in the Rajva Sabha on Monday despite a demand from Opposition parties that it be sent to a parliamentary committee for further scruti-

The Congress, the Left parties, the Trinamool Congress, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and others had demanded that the Bill be sent to a Standing Committee of Parliament, but the government has not budged.

60 hours lost

In the face of continued disruptions by Opposition parties protesting against the Pegasus spyware allegation, the government has refused to concede any ground, adopt-



At an impasse: In the face of disruptions by the Opposition, the government has adopted an aggressive stance. ■FILE PHOTO

ing an equally aggressive stance. Due to continued disruptions for the past three weeks, 60 of the 78 hours of Parliament time has been lost. Last week, the Rajya Sabha cleared eight Bills.

Sources, however, said that the government was unlikely to move the Electricity Amendment Bill in the past five days of the monsoon

On Thursday, the Kerala Assembly had moved a unanimous resolution asking the Centre to withdraw this Bill. Farmers' organisations the proposed law, claiming that it will lead to an increase of 500% in their cost of irri-The proposed amendment seeks to remove all cross-subsidies and make all consumers pay the actual cost of supply. Farmers and rural consumers will pay the highest price for electricity, as the cost of supply to rural

areas is significantly higher

than that

consumers.

have been protesting against

"The only reason the government is hesitating on the Electricity Bill is because of the upcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. They do not want to take any political missteps ahead of such crucial polls," Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) MP Elamaram Kareem said. "There is no such political reluctance for the Insurance (Amendment) Bill."

The growing distrust bet-The General Insurance

Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021 was passed in the Lok Sabha on August 2.

Unexpected Bill

government stunned the Opposition in the Rajva Sabha on Thursday when it brought the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal reached out to Opposition parties, meeting individual leaders. In one such meeting, Mr. Goyal met DMK's floor leader Tiruchi Siva. According to sources, he made no mention of the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021. "We were given the impression that the government will send the Bill for further scrutiny. But they utilised the disarray in the Rajya Sabha to pass it in the din," an Opposition leader

ween the government and

Opposition leaders has led to often bitter exchanges between the two sides. At the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC, a panel of all parties to allocate time for various Bills and discussions) on Friday, the TMC's chief whip Sukendu Sekhar Ray walked out. "At the BAC, they [the government] fix 3-4 hours per Bill but on the floor of the house, they rush through the Bill,

wrapping up the debate in

10-15 minutes," Mr. Ray said. At the same meeting, sources said that Mr. Goyal asked for cooperation from the Opposition parties for the passage of the Constitution Amendment Bill, which reverts the right of States to notify their own list of Other Backward Castes. At this, Congress Chief Whip in the Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, retorted that it's for the government to ensure order in

Rahul's Twitter account 'temporarily suspended'

Move comes after NCPCR complaint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Congress on Saturday claimed that Twitter had "temporarily suspended" the account of its former chief Rahul Gandhi, but later said it has been "temporarily locked" after the microblogging denied having suspended the account and stated that it continues to be in service.

The action by Twitter came over a post by Mr. Gandhi with a picture of his meeting the family of a nineyear-old Dalit girl who died in the national capital earlier this week allegedly following sexual assault. Twitter has deemed that the account violated its rules against posting private information.

Delete post: Twitter Twitter communicated that

all the features of Mr. Gand-

hi's account could be restored in 12 hours once the tweet violating its rules is deleted by him, the sources

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had asked the Delhi Police and Twitter on Wednesday to take action over Mr. Gandhi posting the photo of the girl's family, saying it violated the Juvenile Justice Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)

According to party sources, some features of Mr. Gandhi's account have been temporarily limited, and no tweets, retweets, follows, fleets or likes were allowed.

Sources in the party claimed that Mr. Gandhi had done nothing wrong and they had the consent of the family of the girl for posting the photograph.

J&K traders get threats on shutdown call

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Saturday said that traders in Srinagar had received threats from outside to observe a shutdown on August 5.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar, Sandeep Chaudhary, said in a tweet, "Srinagar-based traders and shopkeepers were threatened through messages to observe a strike on August 5 or face consequences."

He uploaded a "threat" message conveyed to the traders on the social media platform WhatsApp, which reads that "we [the sender] know what the administration and the police have told you [traders] but you have to observe a hartal". The message further reads that "we should not be forced to take a tough ac-

"People still came out and went ahead with their businesses on August 5," Mr. Chaudhary said.

A shutdown was observed on August 5 in parts of Kashmir on the second anniversary of the revocation of J&K's special status.

The police statement comes after several shopkeepers in Lal Chowk alleged that the police broke open their shops to ensure shutdown observed.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said in a tweet on Saturday, "The Government of India threatening shopkeepers with FIRs for shutting their shops on 5th Aug as a mark of protest is the latest addition to the growing number of CBMs [confidence building measures] for Kashmiris since all party meeting. First CBM - firing government employees on trivial grounds followed by denying jobs and pass-

OMAR RASHID

fore 2022.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhi-

lesh Yadav on Saturday

asked the BJP government to

explain how it would double

the income of farmers be-

tion manifesto and promises

made by Prime Minister Na-

rendra Modi and other party

leaders that farm income

would be doubled by 2022,

Mr. Yadav wondered how

the income of farmers had

increased when the agrarian

Referring to the BJP's elec-

Influx of leaders into Lone's party

People's Conference has emerged as strong player in north Kashmir

PEERZADA ASHIQ

In a bid to emerge as kingmaker in the upcoming Assembly election in J&K, Sajad Lone's People's Conference (PC) on Saturday welcomed former lawmakers and political leaders, including Safina Baigh, wife of former Deputy Chief Minister Muzzaffar Hussain Baigh, and two former MPs of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), into "The party is emerging as

a formidable political force to reckon with. My dream is to see this caravan of change stronger. We will make more announcements in the coming weeks," said Mr. Lone, who split from the Peoples Alliance of the Gupkar Declaration earlier this year.

Those who joined Mr. Lone's party include former legislator Murtaza Khan, former PDP MPs Nazir Ah-



with newly joined members, in Srinagar on Saturday. • PTI

mad Laway and Mir Mohammad Fayaz, and former Srinagar Deputy Mayor Sheikh Mohammad Imran.

Ms. Baigh's entry hints at a patch-up between her husband and Mr. Lone. Mr. Baigh had been disowned by the PC immediately after the multi-party meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following his controversial statements. His exit position, who is DDC chairperson of Baramulla with the support of the councillors.

In the Kashmir Valley, with 46 Assembly constituencies, there is growing competition among the regional players, including the National Conference, the PDP, the PC and the recently floated J&K Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari. The PC is fast emerging as a force in north

Kashmir and if it manages to win 15 seats, the party will emerge as a kingmaker.

"The PC will immensely benefit from these leaders and expand the reach of the party beyond its strongholds," Mr. Lone said, adding that his party "will play a constructive role in the region to enable an environment for engagement". "To bring reprieve for the people of J&K, we will work tirelessly to halt further erosion. This cannot be done through theatrical outbursts and rabble-rousing. In this digital age, our statements and utterances are read across the country. We should act in a manner that we do not enable further erosion and disrupt delivery. By making delivery difficult for Delhi, the people of J&K are the only losers," he said in an oblique reference to the PDP and the

Al-Badr militant, policeman killed in Valley violence

2 policemen were also injured in militancy-related incidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A local militant and a policeman were killed and two policemen were injured in two separate militancy-related incidents in Kashmir valley on Saturday.

Suspected militants fired at a police party on Saturday evening at Pombai area in Kulgam, just a day ahead of Lieutenant Governor Manoi Sinha's visit to the district.

"One policeman was killed and two others were injured in the attack. The area was cordoned off immediately to nab the attackers," officials said.

L-G Sinha and J&K regional parties including the National Conference, the Peoples Democratic Party and the J&K Peoples Conference condemned the attack. "I strongly condemn the cowardly attack in which our brave police jawan, Nisar Ahmad Wagay, attained martyrdom. Terrorists will never succeed in their nefarious designs. Those responsible for such heinous acts shall be brought to justice," L-G Sinha said.

Omar Abdullah (NC) and Mehbooba Mufti (PDP) also joined the condemnation and expressed sympathies with the victim's family.

Pre-dawn operation

Earlier in the day, security forces gunned down a militant and arrested another in Budgam in a pre-dawn operation. "The trapped terrorists were given the opportunity surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the search

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uidelines and SOPs are available on the website of MoRD i.e. ddugky.gov.in.

Those who are interested, may please apply through the porta

ttp://erp.ddugky.info/login on or before 30th September 2021.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Description

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party. In the ensuing encounter, one terrorist of the Al-Badr was killed and his body was retrieved from the encounter site" IGP Vijay Ku-The police identified the

slain militant as Shakir Bashir Dar, son of Bashir Ahmad Dar, a resident of Goripora, Awantipora in Pulwama district. Dar and his associate were encircled in Mochwa, Chadoora area, during a cordon and search operation by the police, the Army and the

"While the operation was in progress, another terrorist had managed to escape from the encounter site. The police got leads about his + movement and arrested him from Mantagi Colony in Khrew area. He was hiding in a truck," IGP Kumar said.

Casteist abuse shameful, says women's hockey team skipper

Family of Vandana Katariya faced harassment in Haridwar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA токуо

Indian women's hockey team skipper Rani Rampal on Saturday condemned the allegedly casteist abuse that her teammate Vandana Katariya's family has faced, saying it was nothing short of The family of Ms. Katari-

ya, who scored four goals during the Olympics, found itself at the receiving end of allegedly casteist slurs from a few people in their neighbourhood in Haridwar after the team lost the semi-final clash against Argentina on Wednesday. "It's such a bad thing

which has happened. We

Akhilesh mocks BJP promise

of doubling farmers' incomes

Senior OBC leaders join SP ahead of U.P. Assembly polls



Rani Rampal

work so hard to represent our country. Stop all these things like discriminating on religion, casteism because we work above all these things," Ms. Rani said during a virtual press conference.

India finished fourth in

the Games after going down to Great Britain 3-4 in an infought bronze tensely play-off.

"We come from different parts of India, follow different religions. But when we come here we work together for India. It's so shameful when we see people indulging in such behaviour," Ms. Rani said.

"But there are also people who have given us so much love even though we didn't win a medal."

Two men had reportedly danced and burst firecrackers outside Ms. Katariya's house in the Roshnabad area of Haridwar in a gesture of

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I	1	Start of online submission of Application	12 th July 2021@ 1700 Hrs
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BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

Date: 06.08.2021

Under "works" category from companies/ persons for Sale of mill reject waste coal or 'As is where is' basis from stock yard, from SILO points/ Mill bay area, at YTPS for a period of One year. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 19.08.2021 @ 11.00 Hrs. ir the Office of Executive Director/ YTPS-RPCL, Yeramarus. Last date & time for bid ubmission along with Technical & Financial Bid (Part I & II): 06.09.2021 upto 18.00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bid (Part-I): 07.09.2021 @ 10.00 Hrs. & Opening o Financial Bid (Part-II): 07.09.2021 @ 14.30 Hrs. (Subject to intimation). The brief bid notification and details are also available on website: www.karnatakapower.con Further details can be obtained from the Executive Engineer (M-2), RPCL, YTPS Yermarus-584134, Dist. Raicur. Telefax: 08532-286003. Mob: `+91´ 94806´ 82547



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July 28, 2021

Due Date

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The Controller of Administration, on behalf of the Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thycaud P.O., Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014, Kerala, INDIA, invites ONLINE BIDS for the following requirement:-

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Last Date and Time of Submission of Bids (Technical and Price Bids): SEPTEMBER 06, 2021, 15.00 Hrs.

Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bids: SEPTEMBER 06,

2021, 15.30 Hrs. Tender forms can be downloaded from our e-Tendering Portal

(https://rgcb.euniwizarde.com). Interested Bidders shall enrol on the e-Procurement module of the portal https://rgcb.euniwizarde.com by clicking on the link "Bidder **Enrolment**". Enrolment Charges and Tender Processing Fee as applicable shall be payable to the Application Service Provider(ASP), M/S. ITI Ltd., Bangalore.

Controller of Administration

community was battling higher costs due to rise in price of pesticides and other



essentials and inflation.

"The people and the farmers want to know what is the income of the farmers today," Mr. Yadav asked at a press conference.

Several OBC leaders in-

cluding former BSP Rajya Sabha MP Rajpal Saini from Muzaffarnagar in west U.P., which is witnessing farmers' protests, joined the SP at the event. Other entrants to the par-

ty were leaders from the Nishad and Kashyap community including Tufani Nishad who had contested on a Congress ticket and Bhojpuri artist Kajal Nishad.

Mr. Saini said the OBCs were being neglected under the BJP government and claimed that there was a hawa (wind) in favour of the SP in west U.P. ahead of 2022 Assembly election.

'Cong. infighting hurting people in Rajasthan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The BJP on Saturday alleged that the people of Rajasthan are suffering due to the infighting in the ruling

"How can a government take care of the people of the State if it is not able to satisfy even its MLAs," BJP national general secretary and State incharge Arun Singh said.

The BJP is preparing to corner the State government over farm loan waiver, unemployment allowance and other issues,, Mr. Singh said. He claimed the Gehlot government is trying to save itself by 'delaying' Cabinet expansion.

E-mail: eechpmytpskpcl@ karnataka.gov.in

Gehlot seeks Centre's help for projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rajasthan has sought the Centre's cooperation in the financial and policy domains to ensure socio-economic development of States in the true spirit of cooperative federalism. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the economic slowdown during the COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected the fiscal position of all States.

In a meeting with NITI Aayog members over the weekend, Mr. Gehlot said since the need to increase the scope of social security was being felt more during the pandemic, the Union government should help in expediting and smoothly conducting social and economic welfare activities.

Mr. Gehlot interacted with NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand, senior adviser Yogesh Suri and adviser Rajnath Ram.

Seroprevalence linked to lower caseload

Testing and tracking is the

key COVID-19 surveillance

lence, or those with SARS-

CoV-2 antibodies, of 44% and

Himachal at 62%, which is

below the national average

Himachal Pradesh also

has the highest proportion of

population of 75% inoculated

with one dose. But several

States that have managed to

inoculate at least half their

population with at least one

dose are still seeing a signifi-

cant number of cases added

Karnataka for instance has

53.6% who got at least one

method used by States.

Inference made based on data of 21 States that were part of ICMR survey

JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI

More than the effect of two doses of vaccines, it's sero-prevalence above 70%, combined with at least half the adult population getting at least one shot of a vaccine, that is strongly linked to a low COVID-19 caseload and death rate.

These are the inferences from publicly available data on State mortality and vaccination trends as well as results from a recently conducted serology survey from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

With over 50.5 crore doses of vaccine administered until Saturday and the Centre's stated target to inoculate all Indians by the yearend, the broad principle is that double-vaccinating the population as quickly as possible ought to be the priority.

However, data from 21 States which were part of the

ICMR's serology survey, suggest that States with the lowest death counts, or those with fewer than 10 daily deaths, are also those with the lowest number of cases being added every day. These are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Of these Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have double-vaccinated less than 10% of their eligible population, with the others

ranging from 13% to 20%.
On the other hand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala, two States with the highest rates of double vaccination at 24.6% and 22% respectively, are seeing an increasing trend in cases.

Himachal Pradesh is adding 150-200 cases a day since July, while Kerala is on a runaway expansion of 11,000-20,000 cases a day.

Earth to hearth

a runaway expansion of 11,000-20,000 cases a day.
Population-wise, Kerala has the lowest seropreva-

cases being added in July. Deaths have fallen from nearly 100 a day last month to about 30 a day as of the first week of August.

Telangana, also having vaccinated 52.5% of the population with one dose, is seeing less than seven deaths a day but nearly 600 cases are being added everyday, again a decline from about 1,000 from a month ago.

Halfway mark

Getting closer to the 50% population mark improves daily case loads – Assam has 43% with one dose and Haryana 49% and both are seeing less than 30 deaths a day for over a month. The northeastern State is adding 1,048 cases a day. However, high seroprevalence on its own isn't an influential factor, as seen in West Bengal and Jharkhand. Both have over 60% seroprevalence and a similar fraction – 30% – with at least one dose. But West Bengal is adding nearly 700 cases everyday to Jharkhand's 28. The former is adding 10 deaths a day and the latter is reporting zero deaths. But Uttar Pradesh – India's most populous state

- with 71% seroprevalence

and only 29% with at least one dose is reporting less than 50 cases a day and less than 10 deaths. "One way to look at it is that high seroprevalence with one shot of vaccine is equivalent to two doses of vaccine and that could explain the protectivity in prevalence these high States," said Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist and public health expert. "But U.P., M.P. and Bihar have also a substantial number of under-reported cases as the seroprevalence surveys and excess death counts

reveal."

"States like Kerala with low seroprevalence should be given more vaccines as opposed to those with high seroprevalence. So far the evidence is that only the m-RNA vaccines, none of which are used here, have some role in reducing transmission," he said.

J&J vaccine fifth to get emergency nod

No word yet on timeline of rollout

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

The single-dose COVID-19 vaccine of Johnson and Johnson (J&J) was on Saturday given approval for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) in India, making it the fifth COVID vaccine to get the clearance in the country.

The exact road map for making the vaccine available in Indian markets is still under discussion, Health Ministry officials said. Responding to a query by *The Hindu* on the vaccine availability timeline, the Johnson & Johnson India spokesperson said, "While we look forward to meeting our delivery commitments, it is premature for us to speculate on the timing of our vaccine deliveries."

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a tweet, announced that the EUA had been granted to the vaccine and that India now had five EUA vaccines.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had allowed the emergency use of Covishield, Covaxin, Sputnik V and Moderna vaccines.

Earlier this week, NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul said the "Indian government is still in talks with Moderna and Pfizer on the indemnity issue to allow their vaccines into India. Moderna's vaccine had earlier received the EUA, but is still not available in India."

The Health Ministry has maintained that it is continuously working towards ensuring increased supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

In a response given in the Lok Sabha during this session, it maintained that "CO-VID-19 vaccination protects from severe manifestation of disease and improving herd immunity and is ac-



The J&J vaccine is a single dose jab. • GETTY IMAGES

cordingly likely to mitigate the impact COVID-19 may have with any future resurgence. Vaccines currently being utilised for immunisation offer substantial protection again COVID-19 besides reducing severity of disease, hospitalisation and deaths."

It said the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had granted permission to conduct the Phase 1 clinical trial of an intranasal adenoviral vector COVID-19 vaccine (BBV154) (in the age group of 18 and above) to Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad.

Trials for children

Also so far as injectable vaccine for children was concerned, the CDSCO had granted permission to conduct clinical trials of vaccines in children as follows: Phase 2/3 clinical trial to Bharat Biotech, Hyderabad (in the age group of two to 18) for Whole-Virion Inactivated SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine and Phase 3 clinical trial to Cadila Healthcare Ltd., Ahmedabad (in the age group of 12 years and above) for a

"Further, the CDSCO has not granted permission to conduct clinical trial of any imported COVID-19 vaccine on children in the country," the Ministry noted.

DNA-based vaccine.

Development went on during pandemic: Shah

Home Minister praises PM's efforts

 $\frac{\textbf{SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT}}{\textbf{AHMEDABAD}}$

India's development march went ahead despite the pandemic, which has affected the entire world, but India won the battle against CO-VID-19, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah, crediting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for continued development works and the Centre's effective fight against the virus.

"When the wheel of development came to a halt across the world, in India, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the pace of development continued. We fought strongly against coronavirus and even won the fight, and at the same time, carried on with the development," the Union Home Minister said in his address delivered virtually to mark the completion of Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's five years in office, being celebrated as 'Vikas Div

Mr. Shah also virtually inaugurated and laid founda-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

President Ram Nath Kovind

on Saturday interacted with

the Union Council of Minis-

ters and hosted high tea for

them at the Rashtrapati Bha-

van Cultural Centre on Sa-

turday evening, according

NEW DELHI

President hosts high

tea for Union Ministers

tion stones of projects collectively worth ₹5,300

The Union Home Minister said projects worth around ₹900 crore of the total project cost of ₹5,300 crore are taken up in his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency while projects worth ₹630 crore were inaugurated and foundation stones were laid for other projects worth ₹241 crore.

"The fact that the projects worth ₹3,322 crore related to roads, bridges, water and electric supply, houses for the poor etc., being inaugurated today means that they were constructed and completed entirely during the coronavirus pandemic period.

"In Gujarat, the inauguration of projects worth ₹3,322 crore and launching many such projects in the last ten days shows that even during the coronavirus pandemic period, Gujarat ensured that the development never stops," he added.

to an official communique

Apart from Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi and

members of the Union

Council of Ministers, Vice

President M. Venkaiah Nai-

du was also present on the

occasion, it said.

Legality of PM Cares Fund challenged

Clay magic: A Kashmiri potter setting earthen pots to dry in the sun at Bandipora in north Kashmir on Saturday. A special variety

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

An appeal challenging the legality of the PM Cares Fund in the Supreme Court has alleged that "oceans of money" are being diverted from Ministries, government agencies, departments and other bodies to the fund as "contributions" every day.

Petitioner Divya Pal Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, alleged that "unimaginable and unfathomable amounts of public money is pumped unabatedly every day, into the coffers of the Fund". "Shockingly, the money even from government-controlled funds such as 'Assistance related to Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster' meant for the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, has not been spared and is also being drained into the said Fund," the petition, drawn by a group of young lawyers, Rajesh Inamdar, Shashwat Anand, Jawad Ur Rehman, Ashutosh Mani Tripathi,

There was a compelling need for transparency and

Syed Ahmed Faizan Mohd

Kumail Haider and Amit Pai,

accountability in the affairs of the Fund formed to monetarily help the fight against the pandemic, it stated

the pandemic, it stated. 'The ideals of democracy can never be realised, unless there is transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the affairs of governance. The citizen's right to information is increasingly being recognised as an important mechanism to promote openness, transparency and accountability in the affairs of the state," the petition, settled by senior advo-Devadatt Kamat,

The appeal noted that the Allahabad High Court dismissed the case after it was "misled" by the government into concluding that the Supreme Court had upheld the validity of the Fund in a case filed by an NGO, Centre for PIL, in 2020. In fact, Mr. Singh argued that the CPIL case was concerned about the transfer of money in PM Cares Fund to the National Disaster Relief Fund and the framing of a National Plan to combat the pandemic. The 2020 case had not questioned the validity of the

Fund itself, he contended.

Goyal for steps to boost handloom exports

Panel to be set up to raise production

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Handloom exports should increase from ₹2,500 crore a year to ₹10,000 crore in the next three years, Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food and Public Distribution Piyush

Goyal said on Saturday.

Speaking at the National Handloom Day programme, he said steps need to be taken to increase the production capacities of handloom sector from the current ₹60,000 crore to over ₹1.25 lakh crore to increase exports. A committee consisting of weavers, trainers,

equipment makers, marketing experts and other stake holders will be formed to recommend ways to achieve the objective.

Textile Secretary U.P. Singh said an e-commerce portal is being developed in coordination with Digital India Corporation so that handloom weavers and handicraft artisans can sell their products directly.

products directly.

Mr. Goyal and Minister of
State for Textiles and Railways Darshana Jardosh also
inaugurated a Design Resource Centre in TamilNadu
and the building of Weavers'
Service Centre at Raigarh in
Chhattisgarh.

SUDOKU

		8				6	7
9					2		
				3	1	5	
	1	6		3 4 8		3	
3			5	8			6
	4		5 9 8		8	1	
	9	3	8				
		4					5
1	7				3		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	7	4	1	9	3	2	5
3	5	1	8	6	2	4	7	9
9	2	4	5	7	3	8	1	6
7	1	2	6	4	5	9	3	8
4	9	5	3	2	8	1	6	7
6	3	8	7	9	1	2	5	4
5	4	9	2	3	7	6	8	1
2	8	6	1	5	4	7	9	3
1	7	3	9	8	6	5	4	2

Location of Dara Shikoh's grave still a mystery

The Centre had formed a committee to find the spot in the Humayun's Tomb complex in 2020

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI

The final resting place of Mughal prince Dara Shikoh remains a mystery, with the Archaeological Survey of India saying it has not located the grave within the Humayun's Tomb complex over a year after a committee was formed for the job.

In response to a Right to Information query by *The* Hindu, the ASI on July 28 replied "no" when asked if it had located the grave of Dara Shikoh inside the complex. The government's quest for locating the grave, which some believe is among the many unmarked graves inside the complex, started in February 2020. Then Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel had announced the setting up of a committee to locate the grave.

Dara Shikoh, who was Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's son and expected heir, was killed on the orders of his brother Aurangzeb in 1659 after losing the war of succession. While there are some mentions of his grave in texts, there has not been a consensus among historians as to where exactly he was laid to rest.

On December 17, 2020,

speaking during a ceremony at Rahim's Tomb, Mr. Patel said the committee had submitted its interim report and that after one more meeting, it would be publicly released. Mr. Patel said it was Dara Shikoh who was responsible for making the Upanishads available to the West as he had them translated. Then, on March 9 this year, Mr. Patel replied to a question in the Rajya Sabha that a committee had been formed to study the tangible and cultural heritage of Dara Shikoh and Rahim Khan-e-Khana. "Tangible remains of Dara Shikoh are expected outcome. Report of the committee is awaited," his reply

ated. Members of the panel



Long quest: Some believe that the Mughal prince's grave is inside the Humayun's Tomb complex. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

have failed to reach a consensus. One of the members of the committee, retired ASI Additional Director-General B.R. Mani, was of the opinion that there was enough evidence to say that one of the three unmarked cenotaphs in a row marked Dara Shikoh's resting place. Mr. Mani told The Hindu on Saturday that he had submitted his own opinion to the ASI a few months ago. Interestingly, a South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) engineer Sanjeev Kumar Singh had claimed that Alamgirnama,

the history of Aurangzeb's reign, said that Dara Shikoh was buried with emperor Akbar's sons, Daniyal and Murad. Mr. Mani said he agreed.

Some sceptical

Other committee members, however, were sceptical. Former Joint Director-General of ASI R.S. Bisht said "there was no irrefutable evidence" about the location of the grave. He added that *Alamgirnama* was written by the court historian of Aurangzeb who would have wanted to paint him in a bet-

ter light. "If he [Aurangzeb] really cared, he wouldn't have had his brother killed and his body paraded through Delhi," Mr. Bisht said. He added that there were other ways to honour Dara Shikoh, "a man of letters" who was known for his "tolerance and academic aspects", like restoring his library and the *dargahs* of Sufi saints he followed.

A committee member and

A committee member and former ASI Director (Archaeology), Syed Jamal Hassan, said it was difficult to identify the grave as there were no inscriptions, and references did not confirm the site as well. He added that he had submitted his opinion to the ASI, that he disagreed with the SDMC engineer's claim. He said the three cenotaphs in question were on one platform and looked to be made at the same time.

ASI Director-General V. Vidyavathi could not be reached for comment.

dialogue on Electricity Bill

Mamata seeks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi protesting against the Centre's move on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill and urged him to refrain from proceeding with the legislation. She sought a transparent dialogue.

"I write this letter to relodge my protest against the Union government's fresh move to place the much-criticised Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 in Parliament. It was proposed to be moved last year, but many of us had underlined the anti-people aspects of the draft legislation, and at least I had detailed out all the salient pitfalls of the Bill in a letter to you on June 12, 2020," she stated. Ms. Banerjee said the Bill aims at making the State grid an appendage of the national grid.

Second Afghan city falls into Taliban hands

The capture of Sheberghan comes less than a day after militants seized the provincial capital of Nimroz

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban militants entered the capital of northern Afghanistan's Jawzjan province on Saturday, a provincial lawmaker said, after sweeping through nine of 10 districts in the province.

The government did not deny lawmaker Mohammad Karim Jawzjani's claim that Taliban militants had entered Sheberghan, but said the city had not fallen. If the city falls, it will be the second provincial capital in as many days to succumb to the Taliban. Several other of the country's 34 provincial capitals are threatened.

On Friday, the Taliban took control of the southwestern Nimroz provincial capital of Zaranj, where the government says it is still battling insurgents inside the

Prisoners freed

Sheberghan is particularly strategic because it is the stronghold of U.S-.allied Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum, whose militias are among those resurrected to aid the Afghan National Security



Afghan security personnel taking position against the Taliban in Herat province, west of Kabul, in this file photo. • AP

Heavy airstrikes were reported by residents of Sheberghan, who also said the Taliban had freed prisoners from the city jail. They requested to remain anonymous fearing retaliation from both sides.

Taliban militants have swept through large swathes of Afghanistan at surprising speed, initially taking districts, many in remote areas. In recent weeks, they have laid siege to several provincial capitals across the country as the last U.S. and NATO

outreach with new global push

It announces a provision of 2 billion doses by end of the year

troops leave the country. The U.S. Central Command says the withdrawal is more than 95% complete and will be finished by August 31.

The U.S. Air Force continues to aid the Afghan Air Force's bombing of Taliban targets in southern Helmand and Kandahar provinces as Afghan security forces try to prevent a Taliban takeover.

On Friday, Taliban militants assassinated Dawa Khan Menapal, the chief of the Afghan government's press operations for local and foreign media. It came

U.S., U.K. tell citizens to leave Afghanistan

The U.S. and British Embassies in Kabul warned its citizens still there to leave "immediately" as the security situation deteriorated. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul also issued a statement on Saturday condemning the Taliban's military onslaught saying it was contrary to the insurgent group's claim to support a negotiated peace settlement. AP

just days after a coordinated attempt was made to kill acting Defense Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi.

In a report to the UN Security Council on Friday, the UN envoy for Afghanistan urged the council to demand the Taliban immediately stop attacking cities in their offensive to take more territory.

Deborah Lyons also called on the international community to urge both sides to stop fighting and negotiate to prevent a "catastrophe" in the war-torn country.

In Afghanistan's Helmand

and Kandahar provinces in the south of the country, thousands of Afghans were displaced by the fighting and living conditions.

In Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan's elite commando forces aided by regular troops were trying to dislodge the Taliban but with little success, said Nafeeza Faiez, a provincial Council Member. Taliban are in control of nine of the city's 10 police districts.

Ms. Faiez said conditions for residents are desperate as they hunker down inside their homes, unable to get supplies or get to hospitals for treatment. Many of the public buildings have also been badly damaged in the fighting.

"People have no access to any service," she said.

More than half of Afghanistan's 421 districts and district centers are now in Taliban hands. While many are in remote regions, some are extremely strategic, giving the Taliban control of lucrative border crossings with Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

50 people held in Pakistan for attack on Hindu temple

More than 150 booked in connection with the incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE

Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Saturday arrested over 50 people, including the main suspects, allegedly involved in an attack on a Hindu temple in a remote town of the country's Punjab province, a day after the Supreme Court admonished the authorities for their failure to protect the shrine.

They also booked 150 people in connection with the attack on Wednesday.

A mob attacked the temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district of the province, in protest against the release of an eight-year-old Hindu boy, who was arrested for allegedly urinating in a local seminary.

"More than 50 suspects have been arrested so far through analysis of video footages in a shameful ran-



Attack site: The Hindu temple cordoned off by local authorities after it was stormed by a mob in Bhong. • AP

sacking incident at a temple in Rahim Yar Khan," Punjab CM Usman Buzdar tweeted.

Restoration work

"We will make sure that no such incident happens (in the future). Besides, the restoration work of the temple has been under way in full speed," he said.

District Police Officer (DPO) of Rahim Yar Khan Asad Sarfraz said that all

"main suspects" have been arrested. An FIR has been registered under terrorism and other sections of the Pakistan Penal Code against over 150 people, he said.

Pakistan's Supreme Court on Friday pulled up authorities for failing to stop the attack and ordered the arrest of the culprits, observing that the incident has tarnished the image of the

'No talk for U.S. military base in Pak.'

NSA Yusuf made the comments as he wrapped up U.S. visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has said that no U.S. official or lawmaker asked for a military base in Pakistan, rejecting reports that the Biden administration was seeking American military bases in the country to influence developments in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Mr. Yusuf made the com-

10-day trip to the U.S. He met senior officials during his visit before leaving for Islamabad, the Dawn newreported Saturday.

ments as he wrapped up his

"The word base was not mentioned, not even once, during our talks, except in the media," Mr. Yusuf told U.S.-based Pakistani journalists while summing up the

cussed at all from either side during this trip because we have already made our position clear. That chapter is closed," he said. Prime Minister Imran

"Bases were not dis-

Khan in June ruled out hosting American bases in Pakistan for military action inside war-torn Afghanistan, fearing it might lead to his country being "targeted in revenge attacks" by terrorists.

Herculean task: A helicopter dropping water onto a forest fire near Malakasa, north of Athens, on Saturday. • AFP

Mass evacuations as Greece fires rage on

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Thousands of tourists and residents were evacuated and a thick cloud of smoke hung over Athens as forest fires raged in Greece on Saturday, while heavy rains brought some relief to neighbouring Turkey.

At least 1,450 Greek firefighters, along with 15 aircraft, were battling the internos, with reinforcements arriving from other countries, the fire service said.

The blazes in Greece are set to continue, with strong winds and temperatures of up to 38 degrees Celsius forecast in some regions on Saturday. As of August 5, the areas burnt were 180% more than the average for the period 2008-2020, according to the European Forest Fire Information System.

In Turkey, eight people have been killed. Rains have brought the blaze under control in the southwestern province of Turkey.

Israel hits Gaza in response to fire balloons

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Israel conducted overnight air strikes against Hamas targets in Gaza in retaliation for the launching of incendiary balloons from the Palestinian enclave that caused fires in southern Israel, the country's military said early on Saturday.

Incendiary balloons caused four fires on Friday in Eshkol region near Gaza, Israeli firefighters said.

Iran rejects G7 and EU charge over ship attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Iran on Saturday rejected allegations its drones were used in a tanker attack, while accusing Israel of concocting the "scenario" in a bid to undermine the Islamic republic.

The MT Mercer Street, an oil products tanker operated by Israeli-controlled Zodiac maritime, was struck last week off Oman's coast. killing two crew members a Briton and a Romanian.

G7 Foreign Ministers on Friday blamed Iran for the attack, as the U.S. military released findings of an investigation, alleging the drones were made in Iran.

"We condemn the baseless statement by the G7 Foreign Ministers and the EU's high representative for foreign affairs in which thev have directed baseless accusations at the Islamic Repu blic of Iran," Foreign Minisspokesman Khatibzadeh said.

China's declaration this week that it would provide 2 billion doses of vaccines to the world by year-end marks a stepped up effort by Beij-

Wang Yi

China steps up vaccine

ing to take the lead in international vaccine coopera-

developing

tion and position itself as

countries, amid growing

concerns over widening vac-

cine inequity with the West.

at an international meeting

organised on August 5 by

Beijing, which brought to-

gether Foreign Ministers,

Health Ministers and other

senior officials from a num-

ber of countries, including

Sri Lanka and Pakistan in

South Asia; Thailand, Malay-

sia Indonesia, and Philip-

pines in the ASEAN region;

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Co-

lombia, Ecuador and Mexico

in Latin America; Egypt, Mo-

rocco, and South Africa in

Africa; officials from Russia,

Serbia, Turkey, Hungary and

the UAE; and the Director

General of the World Health

Organisation (WHO).

'No political purpose'

China's Foreign Minister

Wang Yi said the meeting

was aimed at "strengthening

international cooperation

on vaccines and promoting

fair and equitable distribu-

tion of vaccines around the

world". At the forum, Mr.

Wang read out a message

from President Xi Jinping an-

nouncing the provision of 2

billion doses of vaccines by

the end of the year as well as

a donation of \$100 million to

the COVAX Facility for distri-

The announcement came

representing

buting vaccines to developing countries.

Mr. Wang said China "has no political purpose" and "there have never been any political conditions attached to such cooperation."

Beijing has, however, stepped up its criticism of the U.S. in particular in recent months both for failing to step up to provide vaccines to developing countries as well as for what China has called "politicising" the ongoing investigation into the origins of COVID-19. Its vaccine outreach comes as Beijing looks to build a broad coalition of support including at the UN and the WHO as it pushes back against criticism from the West over the question of access to investigators looking into the origins of the pandemic in Wuhan, China, where it began.

Mr. Wang told the meeting, "We need to defend morality and justice and offer more assistance to developing countries." China's offer was welcomed by participating countries, including Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told the meeting "there still remained significant inequalities in vaccination programmes across the world" and he thanked "both bilateral and international partners, particularly China, for the timely supply of over 10 million vaccines, including the gift of 2.7 million Sinopharm vaccines to Sri Lanka's vaccination Mr. Wang said China had

donated vaccines to more than 100 countries and exported more than 770 million doses to over 60 countries, "the most of any nation in the world." He said China welcomed more countries to join a Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation under Mr. Xi's signature Belt and Road Initiative.

Initial studies from phase three trials have shown China's vaccines, including Sinopnarm and Sinovac vac cines that lead China's vaccine exports, are less effective than the mRNA vaccines but do offer protection against serious infection and may help reduce hospitalisation rates. Some countries, including China, using Chinese vaccines are considering a third booster dose, particularly against the Delta variant.

China in June said it had administered more than 1 billion doses at home and plans to fully vaccinate 70% of its population by year end. China is currently dealing with the biggest spread of local clusters in over a year, and as yet has offered no timetable to when it will open up to international travel with strict restrictions and effective travel bans still remaining in place for most countries, including India.

WATCO

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO

Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India Telefax: - +91-674-2391444; E-mail – mail@watcoodisha.in; md@watcoodisha.in

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1. Name of the work

2. Estimated Cost

3. Period of Completion document in the portal

4. Date & Time of availability of bid . Last date / time of receipt of bids

. Name and Address of the Officer

Bhubaneswar. : Rs.124.05 Lakh (Approx.) : 03 (Three) Months From 11.00 AM of Dt.12.08.2021 to 5.00 PM of 26.08.2021

: 5.00 PM of 26.08.2021

6. Date & Time of opening of technical bids: 12.30 PM of 27.08.2021 Managing Director, WATCO, Telefax:-0674-2391444. E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in: md@watcoodisha.ii

: Improvement of water supply to Kapileswar village

in ward No.59 under Watco Sub-Division, Old Town,

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OIPR-13083/11/0019/2122

U.S. is now averaging 1 lakh COVID-19 infections a day

Virus spreading through unvaccinated populations

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

The U.S. is now averaging 1,00,000 new COVID-19 infections a day, returning to a milestone last seen during the winter surge in yet another bleak reminder of how quickly the Delta variant has spread through the country.

The U.S. was averaging about 11,000 cases a day in late June. Now the number is 1.07.143.

It took the U.S. about nine months to cross the 1,00,000 average case number in November before peaking at about 2,50,000 in early January. Cases bottomed out in June but took about six weeks to go back above 1,00,000, despite a vaccine that has been given to more

than 70% of the adult population. The seven-day average for daily new deaths also increased, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. It rose over the past two weeks from about 270 deaths per day to nearly 500 a day as of Friday.

The virus is spreading quickly through unvaccinated populations, especially in the South where hospitals have been overrun with patients.

Health officials are fearful that cases will continue to soar if more Americans don't embrace the vac-"Our models show that if we

don't (vaccinate people), we could be up to several hundred thousand cases a day, similar to our surge in early January," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky said.

The number of Americans hospitalised with the virus has also skyrocketed.



49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-03/5327/2021-22

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M.A. Public Administration

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TEXT BOOK PRODUCTION & MARKETING, BHUBANESWAR-1

OIPR-02005/11/0008/2122

Dated. 07.08.202



Tipping point

Overturning Circulation (AMOC) may be near a tipping point. A study published in Nature Climate Change shows that it may have become unstabile over the last century AMOC maintains temperature equilibrium of Europe and influences world weather. The Gulf Stream is a part of AMOC.



Ancient viruses

Scientists have found viruses Tibetan Plateau that are over 15,000 years old. These survived by remaining remained frozen. The study, published in Microbiome, analysed the genetic codes of 33 such viruses of which some 28 were completely new. They further deduced that the viruses must have originated with soils or plants and not with humans or animals.

Tuning the private sector share in vaccine administration

Asking the companies not to earmark for the private sector 25% of the vaccines is a tacit acknowledgement of the failed vaccine sharing formula

CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

When the Indian government, under 'Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy', earmarked for the private sector 25% of total monthly covid-19 vaccines produced in the country, it did not seem to have considered the evidence. In

India - a mixed healthcare system - though the private sector provides a majority of curative and diagnostic services, when it comes to preventive and promotive services, the private sector's contribution is relatively small. In the almost four-decade-old universal immunisation programme of India, private facilities deliver 10% to 15% of total vaccines. The share of the private sector in mass vaccination campaigns such as Japanese encephalitis, polio, measles, etc has been even smaller.

Differential rates

Then, as part of the liberalised strategy, manufacturers were also allowed to charge differential rates in which the cost of vaccines to the private sector was fixed at four-tonine-fold higher than the rate for the government. The stated rationales for differential rates and earmarked allocations were to allow manufacturers to earn profit and to push the private sector to support the vaccination drive in

Ever since the liberalised vaccination strategy was implemented in early May, while Private Sector COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (PSCVC) received sustained and uninterrupted vaccine supply; the COVID-19 Vaccination Centres (CVC) in the government facilities struggled and had regular vaccine 'dry days' and were often shut down intermittently. The outcome was that those who could afford to pay had easier availability and early access to vaccination than the rest; further widening the vaccine inequity. Many public health experts flagged that PSCVC was just 3% to 5% of total CVCs in India; however, these had been assured a quarter of total vaccines produced every month. Yet, the vaccine sharing formula was not revised when the government announced a partial amendment in the liberalised strategy on June 7.

In the last three months, there have been major impacts of differential pricing and vaccine sharing formula. One, the four-nine times higher price of vaccines for the private sector essentially meant that of the total cost of COVID-19 vaccination in India, people would have ended up spending more than the government spending on vaccines. This effectively counters the government's claim that CO-VID-19 vaccination is free in India. Second, the differential rate of vaccines in two segments of a market,

Vaccine administration

Major challenges of differential pricing and vaccine sharing formula

■ The fournine times higher price for the private sector meant people would have ended up spending more than the government spending on vaccines

differential

rate of

the moral right and to regulate

vaccines. under government implicitly legitimised differential pricing, weakening stand of the government

An easier access to paid vaccination skewed the vaccine availability and

under government oversight, implicitly legitimised high differential pricing and has weakened the moral right and stand of the government to regulate the prices in future. Third, an easier access to paid vaccination (majority were in urban settings and major cities) skewed the vaccine availability (by income groups and geography) and introduced inequities, contrary to what a government policy should to- to ensure equity, against a stated principle in India's National Health Policy 2017.

On August 3, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, responding to a question, informed the parliament that in the last three months

the private sector has contributed only 7% of total vaccination in India against the allocated vaccine share of 25%. The minister also informed that the vaccine manufacturer has now been informed not to earmark the entire 25% of the vaccine and should supply as per the demand from the private sector and allocate remaining vaccine to the government.

Tacit acknowledgement

This is a tacit acknowledgement of failure of the private sector vaccine sharing formula. There is a long way to go for India's vaccination drive. The country has administered 50 crore doses, and at least around 1.38 billion more vaccine doses are yet to be administered to the adult population. However, it is time more is done, and the policy makers need to review the entire vaccination policy and do more corrective actions.

Refining strategy

To start with, policy makers need to consider emerging evidence to refine strategy. First, the fourth national seroprevalence-survey has estimated a variable pool of susceptible populations amongst States. There is sustained transmission in a few States, high test positivity rate in many districts and effective reproduction number rising above in many States. These demand implementation of a better targeted vaccination by geography, population groups and other parameters. However, the availability of vaccines continues to be a constraint. Second, only 7% of total vaccine being administered by private sector, a capped service fee of Rs. 150 in private sector has been termed unviable by them, and a high differential price is arguably a 'lose-lose situation' for all stakeholders including vaccine manufacturers, private sector, government and the citizen, where none is gaining much and it is affecting vaccination drive. It is time the government should consider a few steps.

First, revert to 100% procurement by Central Government (in any case, now 93% would be administered by government) as before April 30. This would give the government more flexibility in allocation, facilitate the targeted vaccination and tackle inequities. Second, renegotiate single price with each vaccine manufacturers for both public and private sectors. This could be higher than what the government currently pays but uniform for a vaccine. Third, once the government provides free vaccines to the private sector, an ideal situation would be that the cost of service charge in the private sector is also paid by the government; however, a more pragmatic way is that government revises the service charge in private sector upward to make these

The COVID-19 vaccination in India is a tale of a series of policy and delivery failures never witnessed in the history of health programmes in India. However, the bigger threat is that in failing to implement COVID-19 vaccination drive effectively, the trust of the citizen in government health service delivery has been further eroded. It is call for urgent policy corrections to regain the trust.

(Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, a physician-epidemiologist, is a public policy and health systems expert and co-author of 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The CO-VID-19 Pandemic'.)

Ladakh glacier retreat due to warming, low winter precipitation, finds study

The study is based on four years of field observations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Pensilungpa Glacier located in Ladakh's Zanskar Valley is retreating due to increase in temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters, a recent study has found. Since 2015, the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) at Dehradun, an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology, has been working on various aspects on glaciology - glacier health (mass balance) monitoring, dynamics, discharge, past climatic conditions, speculation for future climate change and its impact on glaciers in this region. A team of scientists from the institute ventured to study the less explored region of the Himalayas at Zanskar in Ladakh.

Stake networking

"Based on field observations for glacier mass balance collected via stake networking... over the glacier surface since 2016-2019, they assessed the impact of climate change



Icy Himalaya: The study covered the less-explored Zanskar region in Ladakh.

through the lens of past and present response of the Pensilungpa Glacier, Zanskar Himalaya, Ladakh," the study said. In stake networking, stake made of bamboo, is installed on the glacier surface using the steam drill for mass balance measurement.

Rate of decline

The study also said that field observations for four years (2015-2019) showed that the glacier is now retreating at an average rate of 6.7 plus/minus 3 metre per annum. In the study published in the journal Regional Environmental *Change*, the team attributes the observed recessional trends of the Pensilungpa

The study showed that the glacier is now retreating at an average rate of 6.7 plus/minus 3 metre per annum

Glacier to an increase in the temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters.

Debris cover

The study also points at the significant influence of debris cover on the mass balance and retreat of the glacier's endpoint, especially

Furthermore, the mass balance data for the three years (2016-2019) showed a negative trend with a small accumulation area ratio.

The study also suggests that due to continuous rise in the air temperature in line with the global trend, the melting would increase, and it is possible that the precipitation of summer periods at higher altitudes will change from snow to rain, and that may influence the summer and winter pattern.

New technique to study ultrasmall particles in cells

The technique exploits the quantum emission properties of erbium-doped nanoparticles

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers from IIT Madras and IISER Kolkata have developed a method to detect minute quantities of chemicals in solution. They use a variation of absorption spectroscopy that surpasses the systemic limits imposed by absorption conventional spectroscopy. With this technique, they can, in principle, illuminate the insides of cells and detect minuscule quantities of substances present there. The work was published in Nanoscale.

Spectroscopy, the tool

Absorption spectroscopy is a tool to detect the presence of elements in a medium. Light is shone on the sample, and after it passes through the sample is examined using a spectroscope. Dark lines are seen in the observed spectrum of the light passed through the substance, which correspond to the wavelengths of light absorbed by the intervening substance and are characteristic of the elements present in it. In usual methods, about a cub-

ic centimetre of the sample is needed to do this experiment.In the method developed here, minute amounts of dissolved substances can be detected easily.

Usually in absorption

spectroscopy, the principle used is that light because of its wavelike nature, shows diffraction patterns, that is, dark and light fringes, when it scatters off any object. A related concept called the Abbe criterion sets a natural limit on the size of the object being studied. According to this criterion, the size of the observed object has to be at least of the order of the wavelength of the light being shone on it. "If you want to perform absorption spectroscopy using visible light, namely, blue, green and red, the wavelengths [of these colours are about 400 nm. 500 nm and 600 nm, respectively. the diffraction limit is typically half of that, about 200 nm for the blue light," explains Basudev Roy, from the Department of Physics of IIT Madras and one of the corresponding authors of the study along

with Ayan Banerjee of IISER

In the method used by the researchers here, tiny, nanosized particles that can absorb light being shone on them and re-emit red, blue and green light were employed. "We use a nanoparticle of sodium yttrium fluoride (a kind of glass) with some dopants, which has the special property that when you excite this with infra-red light at 975 nm, it emits blue, green and red light from the particle itself," says Dr Roy. These particles were made

by M. Gunaseelan at Department of Physics, University of Madras.

Like a bar magnet

The particles emit electric fields that are analogous to how a tiny magnet would give off magnetic lines of force - this is called a dipole, and the particle is like a tiny mobile phone's antenna. 'Our dipole... generates an electromagnetic field depending upon the quantum properties of the erbium dopants in the glass. Our emission pattern is typically limit-

ed to a cone of 45 degrees, starting from a diameter of the size of the particle," he adds.

The absorption leaves a gap in the reflected light, which is what is observed and used to analyse the nature of the absorbing material. Since this works at the level of photons, this surpasses the limit on the size of the substance or sample being studied.

Inside living cells

There are many potential applications. "We are ourselves going to put these particles inside living cells, and the emission can be used as a tiny flash lamp to look for absorption from individual molecules in the close proximity to the particle," he says. "This is way in which small molecules almost tenmillionth of a mm in diameter can be detected while these pass the emission region of the glass particle... The future is to use it to measure individual molecules, see an absorption spectroscopy of a single DNA or protein molecule."

Some facts on hair - why it drops and how it grows

Among hair's many functions is protecting the skin from external insults and offering temperature control



D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

The six-yard sheet that covers our body is the skin. There is 1.5 to 2 square metres of it, which offers us protection from a variety of external sources that may be harmful. This protection is done by covering the skin through hair. Scalp is the skin covering the head, excluding the face - thankfully! Hair is produced by the cells at the outermost layer of the skin, using what are called follicles which are mini-organs which produce a variety

of proteins. The entire list of these proteins, or what biologists call as the 'proteosome' or 'proteome', is a subject of contemporary interest which is being worked out. These mini-organs play key roles in producing hair, protecting the skin from external insults such as infections, offering temperature control and so on.

The proteome offers pigments that colour the hair - and for us humans, these pigments come largely in three lots - black, brown or shades of red. Lack of pigmentation causes hair to turn white (as we age). During evolution, we humans seem to have found these colours best suited for us. Indeed, relating the changes in pigmentation with time as we age offers us a picture of life events of an individual as he or she ages.

Like tree rings

This is somewhat like how tree rings offer information about what all a tree has gone through in time. As we age, our hair turns white. A group of dermatologists have done a quantitative mapping of hair colour and find that there are over 300 proteins that are more or less abundant in white hair than in dark hair. Many of these proteins are involved in energy production in the cell. Several of these are involved in increasing energy metabolism



variations that occur in eleven genes in a human sample. ■ GETTY IMAGES and in synthesising lipids this due to psychosocial

and amino acids. Hair colour agents and hair tonics, with all their nice and refreshing smells do the same.

Colour and stress

Hair colour can also be predicted by looking at a small number of DNA variations that occur in eleven genes in a human sample. This test can predict whether the individual being sampled have black, brown, red or blonde hair colour with 90% accuracy. And this test goes beyond scientific curiosity. It can be very useful in forensics, as hair colour is an externally visible characteristic. Hair goes grey as we age. Is

stress, also called life stress events? Indeed, changes in hair colour appear to be associated with changes in stress levels. Researchers have found that greying is related to energy metabolism. As the latter decreases, the former increases. It may be possible to halt, or at least temporarily reverse, greying by triggering energy metabolism. How can this be done? Here is where proteome analysis will be of use.

Drug chemists have suggested the use of compounds called phthalates, which smell good and promote hair health. However, there is a catch in this. Too much us-

age of these chemicals can lead to lung damage and kidney failure.

But there are far easier ways to do this. Nutritionists point out that healthy appearing hair indicates excellent general health. If you have adequate nutrition, your hair grows well. Malnutrition, alcoholism, advanced age - all of these cause hair colour to change, get weakened or be lost. Deficiency of vitamins (A, C, E and selenium) does this, too.

So, where do we go for these nutritious materials? Not too far. Our everyday meals, wherein we use onion, garlic and ginger, green vegetables, fruits and protein-rich pulses such as dal, soyabeans, will suffice.

Yoga and hair growth

Traditional yoga exercises are seen to stimulate the growth of hair by increasing blood circulation in the scalp. No wonder we see all yoga gurus full of hair! Yoga not only relieves stress and anxiety but also helps in massage. Some of the yoga asanas suggested by them are: aadho mukha savasana (the downward dog pose), sarvangasana (erect shoulder stand) and uttarasana (standing forward bend pose). These are well worth practising. In addition, doing breathing exercises such as pranayamam (deep breathing and holding for several seconds) also help. So, let us go for these as well and stay healthy and let our hair look attractive and plentiful! What about loss of hair as

we age? Epidemiological stu-

dies suggest that moderate to extensive hair loss is seen in 16% of men in the 18-29 years age group, and 53% in those aged 40-49. Premature loss of hair can lead to strange psychosocial effects. Here too, proteomic comparison of dermal papilla cells, found in the hair follicle, from balding and non-balding males, indicates 128 up-regulated and 12 down-regulated proteins. Some of these differently expressed proteins may one day be ameliorative targets for baldness.

(This article has been written by D. Balasubramanian in collaboration with Sushil Chandani who is a professional computational biolo-

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Question Corner

Warming aurorae

What makes Jupiter so

An international team of esearchers has found the mechanism behind Jupiter's atmospheric heating.

Using data from the Keck Observatory in Hawaii, the researchers created the most-detailed yet global heat map of the planet's upper atmosphere and confirmed that Jupiter's powerful aurorae are responsible for heating the planet.

Using the Keck telescope, the researchers found that temperatures start very high within the aurora, and despite their taking up less than 10% of the area of the planet, appear to heat the whole planet.

The researchers were able to confirm that the equatorial heating is directly associated with

auroral heating. Previous maps of the upper atmospheric temperature had insufficient resolution to explain how the temperature varied across the planet, thereby providing few clues.

This study created five maps of the atmospheric temperature at different spatial resolutions. Models of the atmospheres of gas giants suggest that they work like giant refrigerators, with heat energy drawn from the equator towards the pole. These new findings suggest that fast-changing aurorae may drive waves of energy against this poleward flow, says a release from the University of Leicester.

Observations also showed a region of localised heating in the sub-auroral region that could be interpreted as a limited wave of heat propagating towards its equator, which could be interpreted as evidence of the process driving heat transfer.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in





Contentious circular: The police in Kashmir have asked field intelligence units to look into the involvement in street protests whenever someone applies for a passport or a government job. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Rejection, way out

When can an applicant be denied a passport? Does facing a criminal case mean a person cannot travel abroad?

K. VENKATARAMANAN

The story so far: A recent circular issued by the police in Kashmir has asked field intelligence units to look into the past record of involvement in stone-pelting incidents and other street protests whenever someone applies for a passport or a government job. Security clearance can be denied to applicants if the police find evidence of any criminal activity in their records. The development brings to the fore the circumstances in which applicants can be refused a passport or a government job based on their antecedents.

Can antecedents of an applicant be used to deny a government job?

It is fairly well-known that verification of the character and antecedents of a person is part of the recruitment process for government jobs. This is usually based on a form filled up by the applicants themselves in which they will have to say whether or not they have been arrested, detained or prosecuted in the past, as well as state whether any criminal proceedings are pending against them. While the presence of a criminal record is not an automatic disqualification, it can be used to cancel the

In January 2016, the Delhi High Court upheld the validity of Section 6(2)(f) of the Passport Act, which allows the Centre to refuse a passport to anyone against whom criminal proceedings are pending, but it has been challenged

applicant's candidature. Case law from various High Courts and the Supreme Court shows that the employers are not bound to appoint anyone with a criminal record, but they do have the discretion to consider the nature of the pending proceedings or concluded cases and make a decision. However, suppression of relevant information on one's criminal record is considered quite grave,

and can lead to both criminal prosecution and cancellation of candidature, if yet to be appointed, or termination of services, if already recruited. If there is a long delay between the appointment of a person and the surfacing of the truth about a past incident, an inquiry will be required to establish the circumstances in which the facts were suppressed before a confirmed employee's services are terminated. The Supreme Court summarised principles culled out from a series of judgments over many decades and set out some guidelines in *Avtar Singh vs. Union of India* (2016).

When can the passport authority deny an applicant a passport?

Under Section 6(2) of the Indian Passports Act, 1967, the passport authority can refuse to issue a passport for specific reasons such as the applicant being not a citizen of India; that the applicant may engage, outside India, in activities prejudicial to the country's sovereignty and integrity, or that the applicant's departure may be detrimental to the country's security; or that the person's presence abroad may prejudice India's friendly relations with a foreign country.

Refusal of passport may also be related to a person's antecedents. Conviction for any offence that involves "moral turpitude" with a sentence of not less than two years in the five preceding years would mean denial of passport. It can also be refused if any proceedings are pending in a criminal court against the applicant; and if any arrest warrant or summons for appearance is pending. There is a general power to deny a passport or travel document to anyone "if in the opinion of the Central government, it is not in public interest".

Is there a legal remedy if an application is rejected?

Section 22 of the Act confers power on the Union government to exempt any person or class of persons from its provisions by way of notification. On August 25, 1993, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a notification to provide relief to citizens against whom proceedings are pending before a criminal court. Under this notification, they can be issued a passport or travel document if they produced an order from the court concerned permitting them to depart from India. If the court specified a period in its order, they could be issued passports with validity for that period, or, if no period was specified, it could be given for one year.

What have the courts said on these provisions?

In January 2016, the Delhi High Court upheld the validity of Section 6(2)(f) of the Act, which allows the Centre to refuse a passport to anyone against whom criminal proceedings are pending. Prashant Bhushan, senior advocate, the petitioner in this case, appealed against the verdict in the Supreme Court. His main contention was that the clause makes no distinction between serious and non-serious offences, or even bailable and non-bailable offences, and is, therefore, unreasonable and arbitrary. The 1993 notification is also under challenge in the same case for imposing an 'arbitrary' one-year limit for the validity of a passport issued on the basis of a court order.

Why is retrospective tax being scrapped?

Have legal cases forced the Centre's hand? Will global investors be satisfied with the changes?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: On Thursday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha to nullify the tax clause provision that allows the government to levy taxes retrospectively. The government has been fighting legal cases against Vodafone and Cairn Energy on taxes it has claimed retrospectively on transactions these entities entered into relating to operations in the country. Both the U.K.-based companies have won international arbitration rulings that held the Indian government in breach of bilateral investment protection agreements with the Netherlands and the U.K. respectively.

What is the genesis of the retrospective tax imbroglio?

In May 2007, Vodafone bought Hong Kong-based Hutchison Whampoa's controlling stake in Hutchison Essar for \$10.9 billion. The transaction took place in the Cayman Islands where Hutchison's HTIL unit owned 100% of CGP Investments (the actual stakeholder in Hutchison Essar), which in turn was acquired by Vodafone's Netherlands-based Vodafone International Holdings. That September, India's Income Tax Department served a notice on Vodafone for failing to deduct tax at source from the amount it paid to Hutchison in lieu of the capital gains tax it contended the seller Hutchison was liable for. The case went to court. In January 2012, India's Supreme Court backed Vodafone, ruling that indirect transfer of shares to a non-Indian company would not attract tax in India. Separately, in 2006-07, Cairn Energy U.K. had reorganised its Indian oil and gas exploration business ahead of a planned IPO in India and subsequently sold part of its stake in Cairn India Ltd., first to Malaysia's Petronas, and then the Vedanta Group during the 2009-11 period.

In the Union Budget of 2012, the then Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee, introduced an amendment to the Finance Act, which allowed the government to retrospectively tax such transactions. In 2014, the Income Tax Department froze Cairn's remaining shares in Cairn India. The next year, Cairn initiated international arbitration against the government under the India-U.K. bilateral investment treaty. In 2018, the Income Tax Department also took over the U.K. firm's 5% stake in



That de removed. The centre has brought in a bit to hattiny the provision for retrospective tax.

Vedanta. These shares were later sold, while tax refunds amounting to \$223 million were withheld in another transaction. It also seized dividends worth \$159 million due to Cairn Energy U.K.

What are the proposed changes?

The Bill proposes to do away with retrospective taxation on the sale of assets in India by foreign entities executed before May 2012, with a caveat − the companies that will benefit from the amendment must withdraw all legal cases against the government and forfeit interest, costs and any damages. The government, on its part, is willing to refund any tax dues it may have collected or seized. At ₹7,900 crore, the amount transferable to Cairn Energy takes up the bulk of the total ₹8,100 crore of such proposed refunds.

Why did the government decide to rescind the provision?

Though the government had raised tax demands in 17 such cases, Vodafone and Cairn attracted the most attention. Both initiated international arbitration under bilateral agreements. Vodafone got a favourable ruling in September 2020 at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague in the ₹22,000-crore case. In December, an Arbitral Tribunal ruled in favour of Cairn, awarding it \$1.2 billion plus interest and costs in damages, which came to \$1.7 billion in total. India has appealed against both rulings. This year, Cairn had applied in courts in the U.S., Canada, Singapore, Mauritius and the Netherlands for

Though the government had raised tax demands in 17 such cases, Vodafone and Cairn got the most attention. Both opened international arbitration and got favourable rulings

seizure of Indian assets such as the state-owned national carrier Air India's aircraft. It also obtained a legal order in France freezing some real estate assets owned by India in Paris, valued at about \$24 million.

Though the cases are in appeal, the loss of the arbitration cases and Cairn's pursuit of India's

assets abroad may have forced the government's hand. The Bill says: "It is argued that such retrospective amendments militate against the principle of tax certainty and damage India's reputation as an attractive destination... The country today stands at a juncture when quick recovery of the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic is the need of the hour and foreign investment has an important role to play..."

How are global investors likely to react?

Even after the Bill becomes law, entities such as Cairn Energy must convince its shareholders and accept the caveats. Prospective investors, however, may take heart from the fact that the government has shown the intent not to claim tax retrospectively and demonstrated a willingness to undo a measure that was seen as hurting the inflow of foreign investment.

How will digital voucher payment system work?

What is the e-RUPI platform for welfare services? Will it be leak-proof and stop misuse of funds?

JOHN XAVIER

The story so far: On August 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a new digital payment system to send the government's monetary benefits directly to beneficiaries' mobile phones. The e-RUPI platform, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Department of Financial Services, the National Health Authority and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is said to be 'leak-proof' and offers non-transferable monetary service to citizens. The e-RUPI system is accessible to anyone with a mobile phone, even if the recipient does not have a bank account. It comes in the form of one-time use e-vouchers to access government health services. It could gradually be implemented to cover welfare services a beneficiary is already receiving from different government

What is the need for this?

The e-RUPI is a digital voucher that can be redeemed by beneficiaries to avail themselves of a specific service. The digital platform does not require a card, app or internet access to redeem an e-voucher. The e-vouchers can be issued by the government or private entities to the beneficiaries through QR codes or long-string SMS. The service is aimed at plugging holes in the existing welfare payment disbursement system. "The idea here is to track and trace how the subsidies and benefits given to citizens are used," Mihir Gandhi, partner at PwC, told *The Hindu*. Secondly, with e-RUPI, government agencies can keep track of how much of the allocated funds have been disbursed to citizens. Otherwise, carrying out reconciliation for unused subsidies could be an accounting "nightmare for the go-

vernment", Mr. Gandhi explained.

The contactless prepaid payment system can be issued by

How does e-RUPI work and where can it be used?

both government agencies and corporate entities to a specific individual to avail a targeted service. The Union government plans to use e-RUPI for its CO-

A Harvard University study of 2018 found that even among men, only 71% owned a cell phone, essential to access digital services like e-RUPI vouchers. Online data portal Statista pegged India's smartphone penetration rate at 42% in FY2020

VID-19 vaccination drive for citizens and gradually implement it as part of other government schemes. To begin with, the NPCI has tied up with more than 1,600 hospitals where e-RUPI can be redeemed. The transaction begins with a QR code or a long-string SMS pushed into a beneficiary's mobile device. The beneficiary

will then need to show it to the welfare service provider to authenticate the transaction. Citizens do not have to carry any printout, and as these vouchers are created for a specific purpose, they cannot be transferred or cashed out.

e-RUPI is powered by the NPCI's UPI platform, and the service has authorised 11 banks to issue digital vouchers. These include both private and public banks. Beneficiaries will be identified by their mobile numbers, and the evouchers will be sent to their phone through the bank's voucher management system. The digital voucher can on-

ly be issued by a government agency or a corporate entity. It cannot be issued by one person to another.

Is it a digital currency?

The e-RUPI is built for a specific transaction to avail a service at a particular welfare centre. The digital vouchers have a one-time use case and they can't be transferred. This puts e-RUPI within a voucher-based payment system rather than a virtual currency. But the government's move could be a good starting point to experiment with digital currency. "It can be a preamble to a digital currency, but it may not directly be the platform that is used for the digital currency because UPI will be the overlay on top and below it can be actual or digital currency," Mr. Gandhi said.

What are some of the challenges in implementation?

A 2018 research by Harvard University revealed a 33-percentage point gender gap in mobile phone ownership in India. In their study titled 'A tough call: Understanding barriers to and impacts of women's mobile phone adoption in India,' the authors point to the economic and normative barriers as important drivers of the mobile gender gap. They also note that the disparity exists across Indian society, and is not limited to rural, less educated or poorer groups. In the same study, even among men, only 71% owned a cell phone, an essential device to access digital schemes like the e-RUPI vouchers. Online data portal Statista pegs India's smartphone penetration rate at 42% in the financial year 2020 and estimates it to reach 51% by 2025. Closing the mobile gender gap and enabling a large proportion of citizens to own a mobile phone will remain a problem to be solved.

What causes a mental block mid-air?

How did U.S. athlete Simone Biles overcome the disorientation and stage a comeback?

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

The story so far: Simone Biles was seemingly adept at defying gravity and always blended aesthetics with accuracy. But something was amiss and it became evident when the acclaimed gymnast from the U.S. withdrew from the floor final at the Tokyo Olympics. Attention was immediately drawn to mental health, a grim theme coursing through the sporting world, and Biles joined the aggrieved ranks of tennis star Naomi Osaka and cricketer Ben Stokes.

What made Biles withdraw from several of her events?

Deep within Biles was battling depression and she knew that her mind and limbs were not in sync. Gymnasts flip mid-air and are expected to land like a cat while maintaining a peacock's graceful vibe. But if the mind is at sea, a life can be in peril. The 24-year-old Biles was performing a vault when she appeared disoriented and stumbled as she landed. India got familiar with the Produnova vault which Dipa Karmakar pulled off at the Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016. But it has another name: the vault of death.

What are 'twisties' and why is it considered dangerous?

Sport is about skill, athleticism, muscle-memory and

balance. The last two attributes have greater significance in gymnastics as its purveyors often levitate without a smidgeon of a doubt. Later Biles said: "It's honestly petrifying trying to do a skill but not having your mind and body in sync." She was trying to

explain 'twisties', a condition in which the concerned athlete is up in the air and inexplicably has no idea where the ground is nor about how or where to land. It is like an aeroplane's 'Mayday' distress call, and triggers doom.

What makes the athlete feel that he or she is diving into a pool without water?

When the 'twisties' strike, the imbalanced athlete can lose the reflexive attribute of seeking the floor. While diving into a swimming pool, the water breaks the fall and its tactile stimulation and the resultant reflexive swimming ensures that the diver is safe. But imagine if the pool is devoid of water, the athlete then has to pirouette in time and land well, else the risk of fractures and a spinal injury quadruples. Gymnasts are expected to

deal with this quandary in their profession.

What role does the brain play in executing skills and maintaining balance?

According to Kathleen Cullen, a professor of biomedical engineering at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who spoke to livescience.com, "the brain draws sensory information from the eyes – proprioceptive nerve cells pass on information about the

body position – and the vestibular system, the sensory system in the inner ear, which controls balance." When something goes askew, vertigo strikes and the person feels that the world is spinning. The 'twisties' is another variant. Experts mention that

variant. Experts mention that gymnasts, through practice, condition their brains to accept their unique movements. The brain and the limbs are on autopilot but when athletes are dealing with stress or, worse, depression, they become acutely conscious and in trying over-think their physical responses

to over-think their physical responses to external stimuli, it unhinges the synergy between the brain and the limbs.

How can an athlete regain balance and confidence?

The first step is to admit there is a problem, and Biles did that. A break from sport and sustained counselling is mandatory and once the athlete has shed the mind's cobwebs, repetitive practice with foam cushions in place on the floor, just in case the 'twisties' strike, should help in sharpening muscle-memory. Biles did come back to compete in the beam final and won a bronze on Tuesday.

AMRULLAH SALEH

The many lives of the Taliban's top nemesis

The former spy chief, who has survived several attempts on his life, maintains that Pakistan's support is the Taliban's key source of strength

STANLY JOHNY

In focus Amrullah Saleh was one of the close aides of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the Taiik commander of the Northern Alliance that fought the Taliban in the 1990s ■ When the Islamic

Afghanistan established after the fall of the Taliban, Saleh was named the chief of National Directorate of Security, the country's spy agency

Republic of

■ Saleh was appointed Interior Minister by President Ashraf Ghani in 2018 and the next year, he joined election team and got elected as the First Vice

President

▼n the spring of 2006, Amrullah Saleh, who was then heading the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan's spy agency, decided to conduct a field study on the Taliban's advances. The Taliban were operating largely from Pakistan, occasionally launching attacks in rural Afghanistan. The country, which was under Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001, was steadily transitioning into an elected democracy. In 2004, the country held a presidential election and in 2005, parliamentary and provincial elections. Mr. Saleh travelled across the country, met active Taliban commanders and sources to collect intelligence.

In May 2006, he completed his classified paper, "Strategy of the Taliban", in which he wrote that the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI), Pakistan's spy agency, decided in 2005 to support the Taliban with cash and aid. The consolidation of the Hamid Karzai government in Afghanistan and the possibility of a united Afghanistan emerging as an ally of India prompted Pakistan, which he called an "India-centric country", to support the Taliban.

He concluded in the paper, the content of which was revealed by American journalist Steve Coll in his book, Directorate S, that the Taliban would make gains and launch an all-out insurgency that would bog the international troops down.

President Karzai was angry about his findings. He dismissed Mr. Saleh's predictions. The spymaster told his President, "I hope time will prove me wrong, but this is a product of your intelligence service," writes Mr. Coll. Fifteen years later, Mr. Saleh is the first Vice-President of Afghanistan. And he knows more than anybody that time

did not prove him wrong. Now, when the U.S.-led international troops are set to leave Afghanistan by September 11, the government is facing an existential threat in the face of the Taliban's advances. Ever since the remaining American troops started withdrawing on May 1, the Taliban have made rapid territorial gains, capturing more than half of Afghanistan's districts and most of its border crossings. The

In 2011, after Bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, Saleh said the NDS had had intelligence as early as 2004 that the terrorist was living in one of Pakistan's residential areas

:....

fighting is now moving from the hinterlands to the country's city centres, under the watch of Mr. Saleh and his President Ashraf boss, Ghani.

The guerrilla

Mr. Saleh has had an illustrious career in Afghanistan's fractious world of politics, intelligence and security. Born in Panjshir in October 1972, he grew up in Kabul. He was the youngest of five brothers. Like many Afghans of his generation, Mr. Saleh, a Tajik, grew up witnessing political violence under the Soviet-backed communist regime and suffering personal tragedies.

In his early 20s, he joined the militia commanded by the legendary Tajik warlord Ahmad Shah Massoud, the "lion of Panjshir". Massoud sent him to Pakistan in 1992 to do a course on "post-conflict reconstruction and management". After the fall of the communist regime in 1992, the Mujahideen were briefly in power and Massoud was the Defence Minister. But when the Taliban captured Kabul, Massoud retreated to Panjshir from where the Northern Alliance of the anti-Taliban warlords continued its resistance to the Taliban.

Mr. Saleh was one of the youngest advisers of Massoud. In 1999, Massoud sent him along with seven other senior aides and commanders to the U.S. to attend a CIA training programme. He had already been posted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, as the Northern Alliance's liaison officer. In that capacity, Mr. Saleh coordinated closely with the intelligence networks of the U.S., Russia, Iran and India. On September 9, 2001, when Massoud was assassinated by al-Qaeda, Mr. Saleh was in Dushanbe. He was immediately summoned to Kulyab, a Tajik city close to the Afghan border. In a hospital in Kulyab, Mr. Saleh was told by his comrades that the commander was dead.

He later recalled a conversation he had with a CIA operative immediately after Massoud's killing. "The decision is that we will fight," Mr. Saleh told him. "We will not surrender. We will fight to our last man on the ground." Two days later, al-Qaeda attacked the World Trade Center in New York. Within weeks, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan. The Taliban regime, which had hosted al-Qaeda's Osama bin Laden, would soon crumble like a house of cards.

The spymaster

In 2004, after the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was established, Mr. Saleh was appointed by President Karzai the head of the NDS. The years he spent as the Northern Alliance's intelligence liaison officer came in handy. Mr. Saleh had developed close contacts with the CIA, the RAW and other regional intelligence agencies. He recruited Pashtun agents and deployed them across Afghanistan and even inside Pakistan to infiltrate into the

Taliban networks. He launched a frequent intelligence briefing for the President. The objective was to build a vibrant intelligence community in Afghanistan that could foresee and neutralise threats from the Taliban and al-Qaeda. His relentless pursuit of the jihadists earned him a reputation as being the Taliban's top enemy in Kabul. The insurgents carried out multiple assassination attempts on him, the most recent one being in September 2020.

In 2011, after Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan's Abbottabad, Mr. Saleh said the NDS had reached the conclusion as early as 2004 that Bin Laden was in one of Pakistan's residential areas. In 2006, he had brought it to the attention of Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, who was then the ISI chief, at a conference in Bagram. Mr. Kayani was angry. 'I don't need to be taught intelligence by someone the age of my son," he said, according to Mr. Saleh.

But he continued to pursue the thread. In a summit between President Karzai and Pakistan's dictator Gen.

ANNALENA BAERBOCK

Pervez Musharraf, Mr. Saleh brought up the Bin Laden issue again. "Why have you have brought this Panishiri guy to teach me intelligence," a furious Musharraf told Mr. Krazai, Mr. Saleh told The Guardian.

The warm relationship between Mr. Karzai and Mr. Saleh did not last long. When Mr. Karzai started looking for a dialogue with the Taliban, Mr. Saleh fell out with him. In 2010, he resigned as the NDS chief. Mr. Saleh believed that the Taliban problem would not be resolved unless the Taliban were disarmed and reintegrated into society. And he remained a strong advocate of the use of force against the Taliban, despite allegations of high casualties from aerial attacks.

In a 2011 interview with PBS Frontline, when Mr. Saleh was asked if he supported President Barack Obama's drone campaign, he said "drones are not enough". "I encourage America to use the Air Force, bomb Pakistan and force it to stop supporting the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Period."

The politician

For Mr. Saleh, the resignation from the NDS was an opportunity to build a broader support base before an eventual entry into politics. He turned out to be a critic of Mr. Karzai's policies. He founded an organisation, Basej-e Milli (National Movement), which he called Afghanistan's "anti-Taliban constituency". He travelled across the country trying to mobilise supporters in favour of Basej and organised mass rallies in Kabul and elsewhere. In 2018, Mr. Saleh returned to the government when President Ashraf Ghani appointed him the Interior Minister. A few months later, he resigned to join Mr. Ghani's election team. In the 2019 presidential election, Mr. Ghani, who was seeking re-election, picked Mr. Saleh as his running mate, which set the stage for his ascent as the First Vice-President.

Throughout his three-decade-long career, Mr. Saleh has seen several ups and downs. His views have also evolved. He once quarrelled with Mr. Karzai over his efforts to talk with the Taliban. Now, the administration he is part of is seeking a political settlement with the Taliban through the Doha talks. As an intelligence chief, he spent almost his entire focus on the Taliban, still he could not stop the advances of the Taliban. Throughout his career, he remained critical of Pakistan, but he could practically do nothing to stop Rawalpindi deepening its influence in Afghanistan through the Taliban.

Now, his country on the brink of a tragedy, which he had predicted. In the 2011 PBS interview, when asked whether he was worried about what would happen when the Americans withdrew, he said, "Yes. If they withdraw and the situation is in the way it is, it will be a disaster. Massacre of people. Bloodbath. Disintegration of power and fragmentation of authority." When the interviewer asked him why should America stay in Afghanistan, he responded, with a smile, "Why did they

INS VIKRANT

Made-in-India carrier

Country's first indigenous aircraft carrier has set out to sea for its maiden trials

S. ANANDAN

n August 4, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1), a freshly minted warship displacing 40,000 tonnes, set out to sea for its maiden set of trials, propelling India to a select group of nations capable of designing and building a complex platform such as this.

It marked a watershed. The vessel, to be named Vikrant after the first carrier operated by the Indian Navy, is the largest and the most complex platform so far designed by the Directorate of Naval Design, and is slated to join the Navy next

It was nothing short of a baptism by fire for the Cochin Shipyard, which built the carrier. While the public sector shipbuilder had built mammoth commercial vessels and taken care of the now-retired Viraat through its lifetime, the IAC-1 offered it a steep learning curve which it thinks will stand it in good stead as the Navy contemplates building a second indigenous carrier.

Having operated two British-origin carriers, Vikrant and Viraat, the Navy wanted to build an air defence ship right from the 1980s but the idea crystallised into a project in the late 1990s. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) accorded approval for the project in 2002, its keel was laid in 2009 and the financial estimate was revised in 2014.

Roughly about ₹20,000



crore has been spent for the construction of the vessel.

But it led to a giant leap in military shipbuilding in India as it resulted in the development of warship-grade steel indigenously by Steel Authority of India (SAIL) and the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) besides capability and skill-development at the shipyard.

Advanced platform

The IAC-1 is an advanced platform in comparison with Vikramaditya, the only aircraft carrier in service with the Indian Navy, in terms of capabilities, automation and net-centricity. And its degree of indigenisation is about 76%.

Vikramaditya, Unlike which is steam-propelled, Vikrant is propelled by four gas turbines that were produced by GE but integrated and commissioned by its Indian partner, the public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). Similarly, the CO-

GAG (combined gas and gas) gear boxes from Germany were integrated by an Indian company named Ele-

About 550 Indian companies, including about 100 medium and small scale industries (MSME), had a role to play in the construction of the carrier.

The IAC-1 is 262 metres long, 62 metre at its widest part and has a height of 59 metres, including its super structure. Its diesel alternators, eight of them, generate as much as 24 MW power, which is enough to light up an entire city.

The ship has about 2,000 km of cabling, 120 km of and 2,300 compartments.

It has 14 decks, including five in the super structure, and will have a complement of a little less than 1,700 personnel. It's the first ship with purpose-built genderspecific accommodation, as the Navy has begun deploying women officers on board ships. The largest alleyway of the vessel is on the fifth deck, with a length of 240

The ship can carry up to 30 aircraft, fighter jets and helicopters, and is capable of cruising at 18 knots speed with an endurance of about 7,500 nautical miles. It has a very high degree of automation for machinery operation, ship navigation and survivability.

'One of the best'

It's believed that it's going to have an integral fleet of MiG29-K aircraft, a la Vikaramaditya. The twin-engine deck-based fighter (TEDBF) being developed by HAL could also be part of it. Reports suggest that the dimensions of the elevators which bring the aircraft from the hangar to the flight deck are a little constricted to take on bigger aircraft.

"But it's our design and a little modification is always possible," says a naval officer. The carrier will also have Kamov 31 early warning and Kamov 26 anti-submarine warfare helicopters.

It's not the *USS Nimitz* for sure, but the IAC-1, equipped as it is with the Barak 8 LR-SAM (long range surface to air missile), the AK-630 close-in-weapon system and the Israeli MF-STAR radar for tracking and fire control, is among the best with self-defence capabilities, says an officer.

"The significance of the IAC-1 is that it has given us a capability that can be built upon," he says.

In a race to the top

In a Germany battered by floods, Greens are promising an economic transition

G. SAMPATH

n April this year, Germany's Green party, for Lthe first time in its history, announced a Chancellor candidate for the federal elections, scheduled to take place in September. The anointment of Annalena Baerbock, co-chair of the Greens since 2018, puts the seal on a transition that has been in the making - an ideological entity shifting gears to become a party that is ready to make political compromises, especially of the kind that may be unpalatable yet necessary to form a coalition government with the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which has been in power for four terms under Chancellor Angela Merkel.

As part of this transition, for some years now, the Greens have been trying to break the stereotype of being a one-issue party that doesn't care about anything beyond the environment. Ms. Baerbock, for instance, has spoken strongly on human rights abuses in China, Russia's aggressive moves on Ukraine, and economic inequality. In the weeks after her candidature was announced, the Greens even briefly led the opinion polls, before controversies around Ms. Baerbock's professional ethics saw them fall back.

In a string of exposes, it emerged that Ms. Baerbock had not disclosed to Parliament some bonus payments she had received from her



have, as per the rules. Then came plagiarism allegations. An Austrian blogger put out a post, subsequently picked up by German media, claiming that some passages in her book, Now. How We Renew Our Country, were plucked wholesale from different sources without attribution. Another set of damaging allegations concerned 'resume padding', with a German journalist revealing on social media that her official resume falsely claimed she was a member of the German Marshall Fund and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), besides other organisations.

Media storm

As Ms. Baerbock was weathering a media storm over these charges, a real one emerged, pushing the Greens' core ideological agenda to the forefront of national politics. With flash floods claiming 181 lives in Germany and causing billions of euros worth of damage, suddenly climate change, even for conservative voters, was no longer about Arctic ice caps or something that happens in 2050 but an urgent crisis that needed management by adept hands – and who better than the Greens to do

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

But the Greens have been wary of drawing - or rather, being seen as drawing political mileage from the floods. In public comments in the aftermath of the floods, the party has dwelled more on beefing up infrastructure and building positivity rather than talk about climate change.

Ms. Baerbock has opted to let voters draw their own conclusions about the floods, and they have, with a recent poll revealing that 55% of Germans linked the flash floods to climate change. The Greens, at the same time, are aware of a growing sense among voters that the massive economic

mate change is unlikely to come from the two mainstream parties, the CDU and the SPD. But rather than get into the negativity of floodrelated losses, the Greens have simply announced a €25 billion plan to help the economy and industry shift into climate neutral mode. In a poll conducted this

reset needed to tackle cli-

week, the Greens scored 19% in approval ratings, eight points behind the CDU at 27%, though ahead of the SPD at 18%. While Ms. Baerbock garnered 16% of the hypothetical votes, the CDU's Chancellor candidate Armine Laschet was at 20%. The most popular candidate, ironically, was from the least popular of the three major contenders, with Olaf Scholz of the SPD way ahead

The Greens have never formed their own government at the federal level. They have, however, been part of a ruling coalition with the SPD for two terms, 1998 and 2005, before returning to the Opposition. With barely a month to go for the elections, unless something big happens to change these numbers drastically, it would appear that the Greens are once again on course to be kingmakers rather than king. But if they do better than the SPD, and Ms. Baerbock stays ahead of rival Chancellor candidates in popularity ratings then Germany may well get a Green Chancellor to guide them in an era of climate crises.

Muthoot Q1 profit rises 14% to ₹979 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Muthoot Finance Ltd. reported consolidated net profit for the first quarter increased 14% to ₹979 crore.

Consolidated Loan Assets Under Management grew 25% to ₹58,135 crore, the company said.

Standalone net profit increased 16% to ₹971 crore.

"We consciously decided to go slow in terms of non-gold lending business due to continued uncertainty and emerging uncertain credit behaviour," said George Alexander Muth $oot, \, managing \, director.$

"We are redrawing our strategies in terms of nongold lending business. On gold loan front, we are targeting 15% growth in the next three quarters," added Mr. Muthoot.

BoB turns profit on interest income, lower provisions

Fresh slippages rise almost twofold; MSME, retail, agriculture loans witness stress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Saturday reported standalone net profit of ₹1,209 crore compared with a net loss of ₹864 crore a year earlier.

The turnaround came on the back of 15.8% growth in net interest income to ₹7,892 crore, and lower provisioning for bad loans.

However, stress was seen in the MSME, retail and agriculture loan segments. Fresh slippages rose to ₹5,129 crore from ₹2,740 crore.

Of this, the MSME share was ₹2,180 crore as against ₹308 crore; retail loans had a fresh slippage of ₹1,245 crore as compared with ₹88 crore, while agriculture loans clocked up ₹1,086 crore



Systemic stress: Retail loans saw fresh slippage of ₹1,245 crore compared with ₹88 crore a year earlier. • VIJAY SONEJI

compared with ₹44 crore, the bank said in a filing with the exchanges.

The bank's asset quality improved with gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) falling to 8.86% of the gross advances as on June 30, from

9.39% a year earlier. However, the net NPA ratio rose to 3.03% from 2.83%, the bank added.

Total provisions and contingencies for the quarter eased to ₹4,111.99 crore from ₹5,350 crore. The provisioning coverage ratio stood at 83%. Write-offs were to the tune of ₹4,660 crore compared with ₹1,729 crore. Recoveries increased to ₹1,027 crore from ₹554 crore.

Provisions for non-performing assets declined 26% to ₹2.557 crore.

Organic retail loans increased 11.8%. Within retail loans, auto loans climbed 25% and personal loans grew 19.5%. Gold loans rose 37.7%.

Domestic deposits increased 3%, led by a 12.7% increase in domestic current and savings account deposits. Domestic advances fell 2.3% due to a run-off of low yielding corporate loans. Agriculture loans rose 9.4% and organic MSME advances increased 6.9%

Shriram City Union to focus on SME, bike loans

Liquidity not an issue for NBFCs: MD

N. ANAND CHENNAI

Shriram City Union Finance Ltd. will focus on small and medium enterprise (SME) and two-wheeler disbursements to grow its assets under management (AUM) by 12-15% during FY22, a top official said.

"Our loan book of SMEs used to be 55% of AUM, but it has come down to 49% in Q1 due to sporadic lockdowns," said S. Chakravarti, MD & CEO.

Noting that SMEs were badly hit on account of the first and second waves, he said that they were not able to reach SMEs on time to lend them a helping hand. "Currently, liquidity is not



Y.S. Chakravarti

an issue with NBFCs. Our first priority is to improve SME portfolio. For this, we have to reach out and work with them," he said.

Out of the total portfolio of about ₹30,000 crore, SMEs accounted for 49%, two-wheelers 26%, loans 14.5%, personal loans 7% and auto loans 2%

INTERVIEW | MAHESH ANAND

'We will return to pre-COVID levels by October-December'

July-Sept. should be good: Nippon Paint India executive

N. ANAND

The decorative division of Nippon Paint India is looking forward to the festive season for business to return to pre-COVID-19 levels, says the division's president Ma**hesh Anand** in a telephonic interview. Excerpts:

How did you tackle the lockdown situation?

■ On March 24, 2020 when the complete lockdown was announced, at that point, nobody was prepared for anything, but somehow, over the next two months, people had realised that this is going to be the way of life.

Paint companies started introducing products such as sanitisers. We also launched sanitisers, masks and gloves.

We educated the painters and supported 3,500 painters through digital mode, paid for their daily needs, supplied groceries and extended some COVID insurance for about 3,000 of them. Simultaneously, we also educated dealers.

Therefore, in the first wave, if you see in March, 10 days sales were not there and in April, there was a complete washout.

In May, there was a recovery of about 30% and from June onwards, it started increasing by 60% to 70%. Overall, 2020 was actually a flat year for the paint industry.

Did sales rise during the festive season?

■ The normal festive season sales from October to December, especially in the North and the West, was very good. But sales was affected during January to March 2021 due to the second wave.

above the curve?

We continued our

operations and the

supply chain didn't

the second wave

The southern States were

the first to get affected. Even

though it was not a complete

lockdown, business was dis-

rupted from the last week of

April. May 2021 was again a

disruption with only about

From June, we are looking

I wouldn't say that the sit-

uation is back to normal but

it's about 80% back to nor-

mal as far as industry is con-

nufacturing was stopped for

almost 30 days. Industries

wave, they allowed continu-

ous manufacturing [indus-

tries] with 30% occupancy.

nue our factory [operations]

without any lockdown and

the supply chain didn't get

during the second wave.

Dealer shops were closed

We are looking at a good

July-to-September period

and then, as usual, we are ex-

pecting the festive season to

come back like the last time

and we should be back to

pre-COVID-19 levels by Oc-

disrupted.

But during the second

That helped us to conti-

were asked to close down.

During the first wave, ma-

30% of sales

at a slight recovery.

get disrupted during

tober to December.

When compared with industry standards, are you

■ Yeah, when compared with industry standards, we are above the curve.

It's a challenging task, still we are above the curve. About 70% of Nippon Paint's sales comes from the southern States. During both the waves, southern States were the worst affected. However, since our focus and resources are more deployed, we are able to float above the curve in the South also.

What is the current

production capacity? ■ We have three plants altogether: one each for decorative, industrial and automotive refinish. The decorative plant at Sriperumbudur is operating at 50% efficiency.

Any capex plans?

■ When we open a new dealership, we invest in some automation in the plant. Besides, we gift each dealer a Point of Sales tinting machine. My plant is currently semi-automated. We will be investing in silos. Silos is one of the automations, which we will be doing and that is a major investment. Another one is an effluent treatment plant that we need to invest in. When production capacity rises, it will automatically lead to an increase in effluent [discharge]. These are the investments we will be doing in the next few years.

What is your company's current market share?

■ We have a sizeable market share in Tamil Nadu. Now, we will be better in South than West and the North.

'Collections improving but a lot hinges on festival season'

Chola Investment CFO says situation only 'stabilising' now

K. BHARAT KUMAR

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd.'s collections against loans have begun improving from the start of this quarter but the festival season will be an important milestone to see how the company's customers are able raise capacity utilisation, earn revenues and service debt, said CFO and executive vice-president Arulselvan D. The company had earlier

said that both disbursements and collections had been impacted in the first quarter due to the second wave of COVID-19. "For us,

TV PICKS

England vs India: 1st Test,

day 5, Sony Six (SD & HD),

TNPL 2021: Star Sports 3

(SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30

Tokyo 2020: Closing Cere-

mony, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD),

4.30 p.m. (onwards)

Ankita & Mona lose

Ankita Raina and Mona

Maitane Arconada and

\$115.000 WTA tennis

Other result (doubles

& Rutuja Bhosale bt

Rhythm

tournament here.

semifinals):

Barthel of Germany lost 4-6,

Cristina Bucsa of Spain in the

\$25,000 ITF women, Parnu,

Oleksandra Olynykova (Cro)

finishes on top

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rhythm Sangwan of Harya-

na was in brilliant form as

she won the junior wo-

men's sports pistol event,

beating Simranpreet Kaur

Brar 3-0 in the shoot-off in

the National shooting se-

lection trials on Saturday.

The 17-year-old Rhythm,

who had topped qualifica-

tion with 587, was tied on

25 with Simranpreet in the

final. While Rhythm had

shot 293 in precision and

294 in rapid fire, Simran-

preet had shot 561 in quali-

fication. Naamya Kapoor

sports pistol: 1. Rhythm

Sangwan 25(3) 587; 2. Sim-

ranpreet Kaur Brar 25(0) 561;

3. Tanu Rawal 21 (566).

SHOOTING

& Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-2,

Estonia: Magali Kempen (Bel)

6-4, [10-8] to USA's Usue

doubles semifinals of the

IN BRIEF

CONCORD (USA)



July performance is almost at par with March 2021. Borrowers who did not pay April and May dues have begun paying across June and July." However, he noted that the situation was only 'stabilising', not 'normalising' for the financial services firm that is into vehicle financing, loans against property and lending to small and medium enterprises. "Our borrowers need to

operate at least at 60% ca-

pacity. When that goes up to 70%, they can start paying that month's dues. When it inches towards 80%, then earlier dues on which they had defaulted would be serviced." With the arrival of the festival season, Mr. Arulselvan reasoned, the ability to service dues for April and May would return to the company's borrowers. The caveat, of course, was the risk to the economy from a likely third wave, he added.

INDIA IN ENG

NOTTINGHAM

Skipper Joe Root led from the front with a superb counter-attacking hundred but Jasprit Bumrah's fivewicket haul on the fourth day made India favourites to chase down a tricky victory target of 209 against England in the first Test.

In the time left during the day, India scored 52 for one with Stuart Broad dismissing K.L. Rahul (26, 38b) with a beauty.

Rohit Sharma and Cheteshwar Pujara were unbea-

Century No. 21

It was Root's 21st Test hundred - a masterful 109

However, the Indian bowlers were taken to task by the England captain, whose mode of survival for the better part of the innings was swift counter-attack that fetched him as many as 14 boundaries before Bumrah got one to rear up ensuring Rishabh Pant had the ea-

On the final day, if weather permits, India will need another 157 runs but in these conditions, it could prove to be more than a However, the day be-



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ten on 12 each.

off 172 balls, that saw England put up a much-improved batting show, scoring 303 in 85.5 overs and secure a lead of 208 runs. Bumrah (5/64 in 19 overs) polished the tail in a jiffy with the second new ball en route to his sixth five-wicket

Taken to task

siest of catches.

longed to Root, who once again bossed the Indian bowling having scored a half-century in the first es-



Wrecker-in-chief: Jasprit Bumrah's five-for has given India the edge in its victory pursuit. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Bumrah got Zak Crawley with one that was shaping in but straightened while Sibley tried to go for a loose cover drive when the ball seamed back to take an in-

side edge.

While Root's kicked up from length, Curran was the only one who got a bouncer and Stuart Broad could not counter a mean yorker.

SCOREBOARD

England - 1st innings: 183. India – 1st innings: 278. England — 2nd innings: Rory

Burns c Pant b Siraj 18 (49b, 3x4), Dom Sibley c Pant b Bumrah 28 *(133b, 2x4)*, Zak Crawley c Pant b Bumrah 6 (7b, 1x4), Joe Root c Pant b Bumrah 109 (172b, 14x4), Jonny Bairstow c Jadeja b Siraj 30 (50b, 4x4), Dan Lawrence lbw b Shardul 25 (32b, 4x4), Jos Buttler b Shardul 17 (22b, 3x4), Sam Curran c Siraj b Bumrah 32 (45b, 4x4), Ollie Robinson c Rahane b Shami 15 (12b, 2x4), Stuart Broad b Bumrah O (1b), James Anderson (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-6, nb-10): 23; Total (in 85.5 overs): 303.

Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Burns. 15.1 overs), 2-46 (Crawley, 16.6), 3-135 (Sibley, 45.5), 4-

177 (Bairstow, 57.3), 5-211 (Lawrence, 64.5), 6-237 (Buttler, 70.2), 7-274 (Root, 80.6), 8-295 (Curran, 84.4), 9-295 (Broad, 84.5)

India bowling: Bumrah 19-2-64-5, Siraj 25-3-84-2, Shami 15.5-1-72-1. Shardul 13-1-37-2. Jadeja 13-3-39-0.

India – 2nd innings (Target: 209): K.L. Rahul c Buttler b Broad 26 (38b, 6x4), Rohit Sharma (batting) 12 (34b), Cheteshwar Pujara (batting) 12 (13b, 3x4); Extras (lb-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for one wkt. in 14 overs):

Fall of wicket: 1-34 (Rahul,

England bowling: Anderson 5-1-12-0, Broad 5-1-18-1, Robinson 4-0-21-0.

Columbian should score in feature event HYDERABAD: Trainer P. Shroff's mar 52 and 10. Downtown Gal (4) 20 to 45 - 3.15: 1. Max (2) N.B.

ward Columbian should score over his rivals in the K. Mahipathi Rao lion, the feature event of Sunday's (Aug.8) races. Rails will be announced one hour

before the first race. MALAKPET PLATE

1 (1,200m) Maiden, (Terms) 3-y-o only – 1.05 p.m.: 1. City Of Bless-ings (11) Rafique Sk 56, 2. Gregor Clegane (10) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 3. Indian Glory (7) Md Ismail 56, 4. Salisbury (2) Kiran Naidu 56, 5. Joy O Iov (8) P. Gaddam 54.5, 6. Kimberley (1) Ajinkya 54.5, 7. Lifes Song (3) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 8 Lucky Lady (Ex: Nefertiti) (9) Surya Prakash 54.5, 9. Morior Invictus (6) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 10. Muaser (5) Afroz Khan 54.5 and 11. Soloist (4) Koushik 54.5.

2. GREGOR CLEGANE, 3. SOLOIST

NEWMARKET PLATE (1,400m) 2 rated 60 to 85 (Cat.II) – 1.35: 1. Havelock Cruise (10) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Reno Star (9) Koushik 59, 3. Sovet Pride (5) Abhay Singh 58.5, 4. Agni (1) A.A. Vikrant 57, 5. Prince Valiant (6) Surya Prakash 54.5, 6. Strategist (7) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 7. Lombardy (8) Zervan 52.5, 8. Long Range (2) Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 9. N R I Valley (3) Akshay Ku-

3. N R I VALLEY

o only – 2.05: 1. One More Time (10) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Sye Ra (8) T.S. Jodha 56, 3. City Of Bliss (2)
Akshay Kumar 54.5, 4. Garden Of
Eden (3) Koushik 54.5, 5. Halle
Berry (7) Surya Prakash 54.5, 6. Inception (5) Ajinkya 54.5, 7.
Mehrnoosh (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 8. 8. Mireya (9) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Racing Rani (4) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5 and 10. Total Darc (6) Afroz Khan

3. MIREYA

1. PEAKY BLINDERS, 2. SAFFRON ART, 3. FIRE POWER

5 SILVER JET PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m) 5-y-o & upward, rated

3 MALAKPET PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m) Maiden, (Terms) 3-y-

1. CITY OF BLISS, 2. TOTAL DARC,

4 BIPSO PLATE (1,600m) rated 40 to 65 (Cat.II) – 2.40: 1. Southern Legacy (5) S.S. Tanwar 60, 2. Mirana (8) Ashad Asbar 59.5, Ajit Singh 54.

3. Crazy Horse (2) Md. Ismail 57.5, 4. Peaky Blinders (3) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 5. Horus (1) T.S. Jodha 57, 6. Rapid Fire (4) Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 7. Fire Power (6) P.S. Chouhan 54 and 8. Saffron Art (7)

shay Kumar 59.5, 3. Dunkirk (5) P.S. Chouhan 59, 4. Loch Stella (6) Nakhat Singh 58.5, 5. Linewiler (4) Afroz Khan 58, 6. Four One Four (7) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 7. Dillon (8) Ajit Singh 56.5, 8. Nearest (Ex: Cincia Azzurra) (9) G. Naresh 55, 9.

Green Turf (1) T.S. Jodha 52.5, 10. Rhine (3) B.R. Kumar 52.5. 11. Hashtag (10) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 12. Story Teller (12) R.S. Jodha 51.5. 1, MAX. 2, N R I VISION, 3, DUNKIRK K. MAHIPATHI RAO MEMORIAL

6 GOLCONDA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m) (Terms) 3-y-o only – 3.50: 1. Akido (8) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Bugsy (5) A. Imran Khan 56, 3. Columbian (3) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Johannesburg (6) Neeraj 56, 5. Knotty Dancer (7) Akshay Kumar 56, 6. Alicia (1) Zervan 54.5, 7. New Look (4) Kiran Naidu 54.5 and 8. Scintillating Lass (2) Sandesh 54.5. 1. COLUMBIAN, 2. SCINTILLATING LASS, 3, KNOTTY DANCER

7 MAHALAXMI PLATE (1,400m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat.III) – 4.25: 1. Mark My Day (7) B.R. Kumar 62, 2. Bisate (10) P.S. Chouhan 61, 3. Proud (9) A. Imran Khan 61, 4. Cheltenham (5) N.B. Kuldeep 60.5, 5. Trump Star (2) Deepak Singh 60.5, 6. N R I Sun (3) Akshay Kuways Success) (6) Ajinkya 57.5, 9 Team Player (4) R.S. Jodha 54 and 10. Lightning Pearl (8) Surya Prakash 50. 1. BISATE, 2. N R I SUN,

3. CHELTENHAM

SILVER JET PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 5.00: 1. Angel Tesoro (6) Aieeth Kumar 60. 2. Mind Reader (8) B.R. Kumar 59, 3. N R I Magic (3) Akshay Kumar 3. N R I Magic (3) Akshay Kumar 59, 4. King Maker (12) Surya Prakash 58.5, 5. Blickfang (2) Mukesh Kumar 58, 6. Ashwa Arjun (4) Rafique Sk 57, 7. Dancing Doll (7) B. Nikhil 57, 8. Gusty Note (11) A.A. Vikrant 57, 9. Explosive (10) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 10. Starwalker (5) P. Gaddam 52.5, 11. Silver Set (13) Nakhat Singh 51.5, 12. Southern Lady (9) Ajit Singh 51.5 and 13. Air Salute (1) Afroz Khan 50.5.

1. ANGEL TESORO, 2. KING MAKER, 3. N R I MAGIC Day's Best: LOMBARDY Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, Treble: (i) 1,2 & 3. (ii) 3, 4 & 5. (iii)

Multifaceted triumphs Australia posts win BENGALURU: Darius Byramji-A Star Is Born (Yash) 2. Teresita

trained Multifaceted (S. John up) won the Monsoon Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (August 7). The winner is owned by Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards.

1. ACCUEILLIR PLATE (1,200m),

rated 00 to 20: INDIAN STAR (A Imran) 1, Dream Chaser (P. Ramesh) 2, Sizzler (Bhawani Singh) 3 and Bahurupah (Chethan G) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 2-3/4. 1m, 14.53s. Owner and trainer: Mr. B.

Prithviraj.
2. ALWAYS A RAINBOW PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35: IN A BREEZE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Dynamical (Kiran Rai) 2. Orleans (In-Thoughts (Naveen K) 4. 6-1/4, 2-3/4 and Shd. 1m, 13.29s. Owners: Hyperion Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. & Mrs. Farouq K. Rattonsey, Mr. Sameer F. Rattonsey and Mr. Zaheer F. Rattonsey. Trainer: Irfan

3. K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): AN-GELICO (Akshay K) 1, Divine Blessings (Neeraj) 2, Analect (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Star Of The Hills (D. Patel) 4. 3-1/2, 5-3/4 and 8-1/4. 1m, 12.50s. Owners: Mr. S.R. Sanas, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/S. DT Racing & Breeding LLP and Mr. Inderraj Anand. Trainer:

4. DHARMAPRAKASH L.S. VEN-KAJI RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): STOCKBRIDGE (Neeraj) 1, (Zervan) 3 and Southern Dynasty (Kiran Rai) 4. 1/2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 25.53s. Owner: United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.
5. K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL

TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): ALL ATTRACTIVE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Brunhild (Dhanu Singh) 2, Ruling Goddess (Akshay K) 3 and Muir field (Neeraj) 4. 1-1/4, 4-1/2 and 3-3/4, 1m, 11,92s, Owner: M/S, Kuna Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: B . MONSOON CUP (1,400m), rated

85 & above, 4-y-o & over, (Terms): MULTIFACETED (S. John) 1, Northern Alliance (A. Imran) 2, Automatic (S. Shareef) 3 and Mauritania (Akshay K) 4. 1, 2-3/4 and Snk 1m, 24.60s. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Ed wards. Trainer: Darius Byramji.
7. PADDIWICK PLATE (1,400m). rated 45 to 65: LAKE TAHOE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Redoubtable (Akshay K) 2, Forever Together (Yash) and Whizzo (A. Imran) 4. Lnk, 1/2 and Shd. 1m, 25.38s. Owners: Mr.

Aditya P. Thackersey, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

8. ALWAYS A RAINBOW PLATE
(DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35:
DRUSILLA (Sandesh) 1, Flamingo
Road (J.H. Arul) 2, Bloom Buddy (Anjar Alam) 3 and Embosom (Dhanu Singh) 4. Not run: Own Legacy. 3-1/2, 1-3/4 and Shd. 1m.

13.85s. Owner: Mr. Saurabh Jetli

Trainer: Neil Darashah.

AUS IN BANGLADESH AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Dan Christian smashed 39 in a low-scoring contest as Australia defeated Bangladesh by three wickets in the fourth Twenty20 Interna-

tional here on Saturday.

Chasing 105 for victory, Australia depended on Christian's 15-ball blitz and Ashton Agar's 27 to achieve the target in 19 overs and register a consolation win in the five-match series.

Bangladesh, which sealed its first-ever series victory over Australia after winning the third match on Friday, leads 3-1.

Three wickets each

Mitchell Swepson and Andrew Tye took three wickets each to set up Australia's victory after restricting Bangladesh to 104 for nine.

The fifth T20I will be played on Monday.



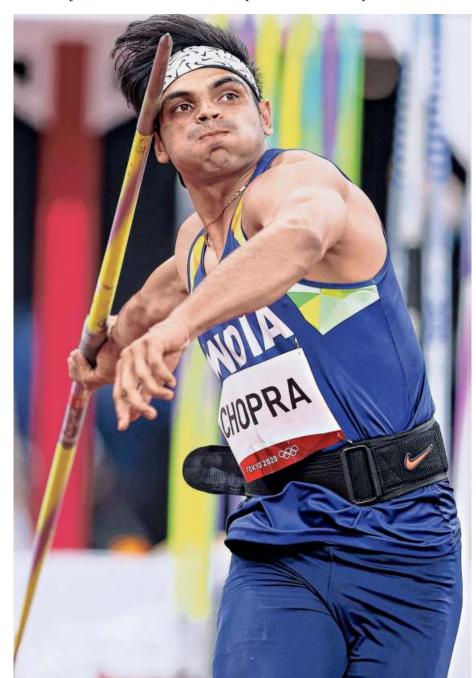
The scores: Bangladesh 104/9 in 20 overs (Swepson 3/ 12, Tye 3/18) lost to Australia 105/7 in 19 overs (Christian MoM: Swepson. Australia

won by three wickets with six balls to spare, Bangladesh leads five-match series 3-1.

who had shot the second best score of 583 in qualification was placed fifth. The results: Junior women

Neeraj's stellar show gives the Indian campaign a golden sheen

The 23-year-old showcases his potential with spectacular throws in the first two attempts, something that proves beyond the reach of the other competitors



Soaring high: Neeraj's ploy to start with big throws stunned the field. • GETTY IMAGES



SHYAM VASUDEVAN

It was a historic day for the nation as Neeraj Chopra's javelin pierced the Tokyo night sky to herald a new dawn for Indian sports. August 7, 2021, will be etched in Indian hearts for eternity as the 23year-old from Haryana won India's first track and field gold medal at the Olympics.

This was also India's first gold medal since shooter Abhinav Bindra won the 10m air rifle gold in 2008.

With Neeraj's gold on the penultimate day, India ended its campaign at the XXXII Olympiad with seven medals - the country's best performance at the Summer

Neeraj dropped the javelin ahead of his first throw as he tried to fix his throwing belt at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium. But that was the only false step he took this evening, as he sent the javeling soaring, a minute later, to a distance of 87.03m.

His throw put him in an early lead. Neeraj produced a throw of 87.58m with his second attempt. He knew that it was special and raised his hands in celebration as soon as he released the javelin. No

though two Czech Republic throwers gave him a few anxious moments. Neeraj had a third throw of 76.79m and he fouled on the next two attempts, but it did not matter.

The favourite for the gold medal, Germany's Johannes Vetter, endured a tough start and managed a best of 82.52m. He was eliminated after three throws.

Neerai's coach Klaus Bartonietz said the athlete's ability to bend his body like a dhanush (bow), transfer his body elasticity and weight into the javelin, and release the spear at 34-36 degrees was the secret of his success.

Neeraj, though, was barely able to sit down as the competition moved into the last three throws. He shadow practised in a corner. cheered on by the 20-odd Indian contingent in the stands.

The field started to get thinner and only the two Czechs – Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m) and Vitezslav Vesely (85.44) – remained in the fray till the end. "These guys

X = FOUL

had me frightened until the very last throw," Neeraj said, flanked by the two Czech throwers, at the press meet.

Tribute to Milkha

The bandana-wearing athlete from Panipet in Haryana gave the 1.3 billion people a reason to celebrate, a reason to cry, and a reason to unite.

Wearing the medal, which many in India have yearned for, Neeraj remembered the legendary Milkha Singh, who finished fourth in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Neeraj dedicated his medal to Milkha, who had passed away in June. "When we were in Kourtane, Milkha Singh ji passed away and I felt very bad. I did not meet him when he was alive, and I wanted to meet him with an Olympic medal.

"Sadly, he's not among us but I hope he's seeing us from above and is happy (medal) that his dream has come true. Even other athletes like P.T. Usha and others who missed out on a medal by centimetres - I hope they're all happy."

Saluting

the hero

showed unparalleled Your javelin grit. Congratulcarried the tricolour all ations for winning the the way and gold made it PM NARENDRA MODI flutter with the pride of

every Indian

happy

Gold! Legend!

creates history

He played with

remarkable

passion and

PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVING

The elusive gold medal has finally been won. Our first ever in track and field, and we sign off Tokyo 2020 in the best way possible LEANDER PAES

Welcome to the club - a much needed addition! Extremely proud

Unprecedented win by Neeraj Chopra!

Your javelin gold breaks barriers and

Realised my unfinished dream today after 37 years. Thank you, my son

We knew you were a special talent, now you're a golden GURPREET SINGH SANDHU





I did not meet Milkha Singh Ji when he was alive. I wanted to meet him with an Olympic medal

The podium finishers' series

NEERAJ CHOPRA (IND) 87.03 87.58 76.79 **x x 84.24** JAKUB VADLEJCH (CZE) 83.98 VITEZSLAV VESELY (CZE) 79.73 85.44

BCCI's cash bonanza for Neeraj, other medallists

- The BCCI has announced cash awards for Indian medallists at the Tokyo Olympics
- Neeraj will get ₹1 crore, and silver medallists Mirabai and Dahiya ₹50 lakh each
- Bronze winners Sindhu, Lovlina and Bajrang will get ₹25 lakh each. The Indian men's hockey team, which also won a bronze, will be awarded ₹1.25 crore
- Neeraj will also receive a cash award of ₹1 crore from three-time IPL champion Chennai Super Kings
- CSK announced that it will create a jersey with the number

India glows in Neeraj Chopra's historic gold in track and field

Strange and remarkable night in Tokyo as the Indian thrives on the world's biggest stage; Vetter fails to shine

STAN RAYAN

Is this a dream? This is simply unbelievable!

For a country that had been waiting for its first-ever Olympic medal in athletics, Neeraj Chopra delivered it with a wonderful bonus. And it's a gold.

Vetter's flop show

On a strange and remarkable night, when Johannes Vetter who began as the favourite with a series of 90m-plus throws this year but ended up as the biggest flop in Tokyo after failing to make it to the top eight after the halfway mark, Neeraj was confidence-personified.

The 23-year-old, the world's fourth-best thrower this year, opened with an 87.03m throw that nobody could come close to on Saturday night. He raised it to 87.58m, his day's best, with his next.

From Milkha Singh to P.T. Usha, it has been a story of near-misses in athletics for decades for India which was forced to celebrate fourthplace finishes at the Olym-

Now the country will have a gold to talk about for ages. The prayers of a 1.4 billion people have been answered in the most unexpected way. It's also the country's second individual Olympic gold, after shooter's Abhinav Bindra's vellow in 2008.

Very rarely do Indians put up a confident face at the Olympics.

Often looking timid, they wilt under the pressure of the big stage. Neeraj is made

Despite coming to Tokyo with just three international meets under his belt, the Indian looked the most confident javelin thrower tonight; in fact he was exuberant.

And just as the qualification round which he topped. Neeraj's opening throw forced the others to fight for silver and bronze which Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch (86.67m) and Vitezslav Vesely (85.44) took. And Vetter, who had won his 19 previous competitions, was ninth with 82.52.

Even Indian national javelin coach Uwe Hohn, whose longest throw in history forced the world athletics body to make changes to make it safe for everybody, appeared surprised as he watched Neeraj in action.

Son of a farmer from Khandra village, near Panipet in Haryana, Neeraj took to javelin after watching seniors in action.

He was fascinated by the pear flying into the s And his rise was quick and

amazing. A few years ago, the late Gary Calvert had told this correspondent that he had not seen a talent such as Neeraj in nearly 30 years and that he would finish among the greats.

The Australian was the coach when Neeraj won his first title, the under-20 Worlds gold with a junior world record.

That was the first step and he went from strength to strength, winning golds at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018.

He has now made us

Olympic Stadium, Hohn's

words came true. Neeraj had

indeed made history. He did

what no Indian track-and-

field athlete had ever done:

win a medal at the Olympics

Hohn himself had done

with a javelin no one else ev-

er has. He is the only one to

throw 100m or more, his

feat coming on Olympic Day

of the athletics meet in Ber-

lin on July 20, 1984. His ef-

to do since the age of 14,

Hohn had said in an inter-

view. Unfortunately for him,

he could not compete at the

Olympics that year at Los

Angeles as East Germany

pics for no fault of mine,"

Hohn had said. "I could have

be rankling him, but Neeraj's

gold in Tokyo could make

won the gold."

him feel better.

"I had to miss the Olym-

That thought might still

had boycotted the Games.

That was what he wanted

and a gold at that!



Glittering show: Neeraj's gold is the first medal by an Indian athlete at the Olympics.



The Hohn influence on Neeraj

The German had predicted Olympic glory for his ward P.K. AJITH KUMAR with a National record of On Saturday at Tokyo's

Ţwe Hohn, India's javelin coach, has played a significant role in shaping Neeraj Chopra's career.

It was while he was training with Hohn that Neeraj won the gold at the 2018 Asian and Commonwealth Games.

A couple of months after Neeraj clinched the gold at the Asian Games in Jakarta 88.06m, Hohn had said in an interview, at the Ekamra Sports Literature Festival at Bhubaneswar, that his ward was destined for greater

One of the world's best

"A medal at the Tokyo Olympics is not beyond him," he had said. "He is already one of the best in the world." That was three years ago.



Flashback: Neeraj with coach Hohn after winning the gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. ■ FILE РНОТО

The restless kid who made it big

A visit to the Shivaji Stadium in Panipet changed it all

STAN RAYAN

Neeraj Chopra got a lift from German Johannes Vetter a few weeks ago on the way to the airport in Finland.

"My English is not strong but we spoke for some time about our country, our background and about our early years," said Neeraj, recalling the drive with the German, the world's best javelin thrower this year. incident, which brought the two closer, probably helped Neeraj realise that the German was just another competitor and beatable.

Growing up at Khandra village, near Panipet, Neeraj was an overweight and restless kid most of the time. Since they wanted to keep him occupied, his dad, a farmer, took him to the Shivaji stadium.



seeing a few heavy men hurl the javelin, he took to it. • AFP

sports too. He was not too fond of running, but when he saw a few heavy men throwing the javelin, he wanted to try it too. When he realised that he was good at it, he started loving

A natural

"He is a natural when it comes to javelin," said Australian Gary Calvert, who Neeraj had tried other coached him to the un-

Worlds in Poland. Many, including Calvert

der-20 gold at the 2016

and Volker Herrmann, who was the AFI's High Performance Director before quitting in November last year, felt that Neeraj would start winning medals from the 2024 Paris Olympics. He has proved them right by clinching a medal and proved them wrong by doing it four years early!

The Armyman has given new life to Indian athletics

K.P. MOHAN

Will India ever win a medal in athletics in the Olympic Games? That question had been disturbing through decades and many of us were resigned to our fate that we may never see an Indian athlete climb the podium in the quadrennial

games. Neerai Chopra found more than an answer to that day. He did not win just a medal, he took the gold! A billion-plus prayers seemed to have been answered as he opened his challenge to the German favourite, Johannes Vetter, with an 87.03m. He extended it to 87.58m on his second and the gold for India was no longer a dream.

Vetter had problems adjusting to the pace and grip on the surface that was praised by the sprinters, and which had seen some fabulous timings and upset results over the past nine days. A high-voltage contest that was expected to develop between the German and the Indian thus never materialised.

There was none in the rest of the field who could pose a threat to Neeraj after round one. Some of the best did not even enter the Olympics because of injuries. A few others who were front-runners for the season had crashed out in the qualification round.

"It feels unbelievable," Neeraj was quoted as saying in Tokyo after the event. It is unbelievable for the rest of us who watched with growing expectations as the final day's athletics action at the Olympic stadium unfolded.

Ever since he won the World junior championships title in Bydgoszcz, Poland, in 2016 with a World under-20 record of 86.48m, Neeraj was talked of as a fu-

ture Olympic medallist. Notwithstanding a serious injury in 2019 and loss of opportunities to compete because of it, he remained high on the world lists, his best coming this year at

home at 88.07m. Little could anyone have, however, imagined that on his Olympic debut he would win the gold medal to end the debate about Indian athletes being world-class at home and, barring a handful of exceptions, also-rans at the global level.

As he rightly observed in Tokyo, India rarely wins gold in the Olympics. Since Abhinav Bindra opened the country's golden tally in Beijing in 2008, gold had been elusive through two editions, sending the country down in the medals standings which is what the public looks at and which is what the media focuses on.

Just 10 Indian track and field athletes had qualified for the finals in Olympic Games till this edition despite tall promises at least through the past two decades.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI), for once, did everything to support Neeraj with handsome contributions from the Government and the Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS).

Had he failed, we would have gone back to the same old story of qualification to the Olympics being the only target for our athletes, federation, the authorities and

The Haryana youngster, an Armyman, has given new life to Indian athletics.



Golden journey: It was a magical night for Neeraj • PTI

Bajrang Punia claims bronze in style

Beats Kazakh Niyazbekov comprehensively for India's second wrestling medal

TOKYO OLYMPICS

Y.B. SARANGI

Cuperstar Bajrang Punia Omet his fellow countrymen's expectations as he recorded a comprehensive 8-0 victory over World championships silver medallist Daulet Niyazbekov of Kazakhstan to claim a men's freestyle 65kg bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday.

a three-time Bajrang, Worlds medallist and an overwhelming favourite for a podium finish, gave a controlled performance to notch up his first medal on debut and elevate his status in Indian wrestling.

After Sushil Kumar, Bajrang is the first Indian wrestler to win medals in both Olympics and the World championships. Bajrang is the sixth Indian wrestler ever to claim an Olympic

This is the country's second wrestling medal in Tokyo 2020, after the two medals in London 2012.

Bajrang, who had lost to Niyazbekov in the 2019 World championships semifinals in Nur-Sultan, came back on the mat with confidence. He was watchful even



Too strong: Bajrang Punia grapples Daulet Niyazbekov to the mat on his way to bronze. •AP

while attacking his opponent in the first period and opened his account through a passivity point. Bajrang doubled it by driving Niyazbekov out of the circle.

Determination

The 27-year-old Indian returned after the break with a lot of determination and executed his game plan of attacking the Kazakh's right leg

He managed a two-pointer through his first take-

WRESTLING

down with less than 90 seconds left.

With his coach Shako Bentinidis shouting 'only right side' from his corner, Bajrang stuck to his task and made it 6-0 through a counter. He collected two more points and successfully defended his 8-0 lead.

After his loss in the Olympics semifinals on Friday, it was a huge sigh of relief for Bajrang and the Indian coaching staff. Shako and chief coach Jagmender Singh celebrated by hugging each

INDIAN ODYSSEY

Athletics: Men's javelin (final): Neeraj Chopra, bags gold. Women's individual (fourth and final round): 4. Aditi Ashok, T-50. Diksha Dagar.

Wrestling: Men's freestyle 65kg (bronze medal match): Bajrang Punia bt Daulet Niyaz-



A special moment for Indian wrestling! Congratulations to Bajrang Punia for winning the bronze

Your accomplishment makes every Indian proud and happy NARENDRA MODI

Great grit shown! **Brilliantly fought!**

Absolutely brilliant to win 8-0 and the bronze

V.V.S. LAXMAN

What a bout! A well-deserved bronze

Sheer class and domination on display SACHIN TENDULKAR

That was pure domination DINESH KARTHIK

Congratulations for winning the bronze at **Tokyo 2020**

The Bajrang Punia file

- Hails from Khudan village, Jhajjar district, Haryana; lives in Sonipat, Haryana
- Parents: Father Balwan and mother Om Pyari
- Achievements: Bronze (60kg), silver (65kg) and bronze (65) medals in World championships in 2013, 2018 and 2019
- Bronze (65kg) in Tokyo Olympics in 2021
- Gold (65kg) and silver (61kg) in Asian Games in 2018 and
- Gold (65kg) and silver (61kg) in Commonwealth Games in 2018 and 2014
- Seven medals, including two gold in 2017 and 2019, in the Asian championships
- Gold in the 2016 and 2017 Commonwealth championships
- Silver in 2017 World under-23 championships. Awards: Arjuna Award (2015), Khel Ratna Award (2019),
- Padma Shri (2019)
- Sixth Indian wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics
- India's fifth bronze in wrestling at the Games

■ Compiled by Y.B. Sarangi



Rewarding: Bajrang Punia won India's fourth bronze medal of

Durant leads US to fourth straight gold

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NBA All-Star Kevin Durant poured in a game-high 29 points to lead the United States past France 87-82 for a fourth straight Olympic basketball gold medal.

The Americans started slowly but earned a 22-18 lead after the first quarter and were 44-39 ahead at halfway, then survived some nervous moments

Gregg Popovich's men had headed to Tokyo after defeats to Nigeria and Australia in lead-up exhibition matches, sparking questions about their global dominance.

They then crashed to seventh-ranked France in their opening group game, their first defeat at an Olympics since Athens

But spearheaded by Durant, they steadied the ship and began gelling, with a French team led by NBA stars Rudy Gobert, Evan Fournier and Nicolas Batum unable to repeat their feat in the final.

Australia won a first-ever basketball medal beating Slovenia 107-93 in the bronze match for bronze.

GOLD MEDAL WINNERS ON SATURDAY



Domination continues: The USA basketball team that won the top prize for the fourth straight Olympics. • AFP

ROC: Artistic Swimming: Team Neeraj Chopra (Ind): Athletics: Men's Javelin Jakob Ingebrigtsen (Norway): Athletics: Men's 1500m

USA: Athletics: Men's 4x400m Sifan Hassan (Ned): Athletics: Women's 10,000m Peres Jepchirchir (Ken): Athletics: Women's Marathon

Mariya Lasitskene (ROC): Ath-Athletics: USA: Women's 4x400m Relay Janan: Rasehall: Men USA- Raskethall- Men Christian Sorum & Anders Mol

Galal Yafai (GBr): Boxing: Men's Fly Stoyka Zhelyazkova Krasteva

(Nor): Beach Volleyball: Men

(Bul): Boxing: Women's Fly
Galal Yafai (GBr): Boxing: Men's Middle

Busenaz Surmeneli (Tur): Boxing: Women's Welter Xu Shixiao & Sun Mengya (Chn): Canoe Sprint: Women's

Canoe Double 500m Queiroz dos Santos (Bra). Canoe Sprint: Men's Canoe Sinale

Hungary: Canoe Sprint: Women's Kayak Four 500m Germany: Canoe Sprint: Men's Kayak Four 500m Denmark: Cycling Track: Men's

Cao Yuan (Chn): Diving: Men's Sweden: Equestrian: Jumping

Nelly Korda: Golf: Women **Brazil:** Football: Men France: Handball: Men Feryal Abdelaziz (Egy): Karate: Women's Kumite +61kg Sajad Ganjzadeh (Iri): Karate: Men's Kumite +75kg Joseph Choong (GBr): Modern Pentathlon: Men

Linoy Ashram (Isr): Rhythmic All-around

France: Volleyball: Men **USA:** Water Polo: Women Takuto Otoguro (Jpn): Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 65kg Abdulrashid Sadulaev (ROC): Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 97kg Yui Susaki (Jpn): Wrestling: Women's Freestyle 50kg

Aditi Ashok misses medal by a whisker

Indian puts up a tremendous fight; Nelly Korda takes gold

GOLF

SHYAM VASUDEVAN

Aditi Ashok came within touching distance of a historic Olympic medal but ended up a very creditable fourth.

After missing birdie opportunities narrowly on the last two holes, she finished two strokes behind gold-winner Nelly Korda of the United States. Ranked 200 in the world,

Aditi gave her more celebrat-

ed opponents – Korda and New Zealand's Lydia Ko – a run for their money. The 23vear-old Indian began the day in second spot and remained in contention until the very end.

bag, Aditi birdied the par-5 fifth and was tied for the lead with Korda and Ko after the latter double-bogeyed the seventh hole.

Bogey on 11th

Aditi's bogey on the 11th saw her slip to second alongside Ko and Japan's Mone Inami, who went on to win the silver in a play-off.

She dropped to fourth

ATHLETICS

lay gold.

pic treble.

Packed schedule

three-medal haul.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

athlete Mariya Lasitskene

won the women's high jump.

Hassan raced to her second

gold of the games after an

earlier win in the 5,000m.

Twenty-four hours earlier,

Hassan had taken bronze in

the 1,500m final, part of an

audacious bid for an Olym-

Hassan was in action on five

days of the nine-day sche-

dule of track and field, run-

ning more than 61 laps in to-

tal en route to her

"I am just so thankful, and

The Netherlands' brilliant



With her mother on the So near, yet so far! Aditi Ashok did India proud with a highly creditable performance. • REUTERS

spot after her approach shot on the 14th hole found the bunker. She was back to tied third shortly after as Ko bogeyed the 16th.

The players had to rush indoors as play was halted due to an incoming thunderstorm. The break of play seemed to have robbed Aditi

of her momentum. She missed a birdie on the 17th and went back to the fourth position and she had a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th that missed the hole by a whisker and saw her miss out on podium finish by one

"I think I didn't drive the ball very good today and then it's hard to get birdie putts or hit greens when you're not on the fairway. That was the hardest part to make a score today," she said.

Aditi may have missed out on a medal, but had made a strong impact.

The scores: 267: Nelly Korda (USA - 67, 62, 69, 69); **268**: Mone Inami (Jpn – 70, 65, 68, 65); **268:** Lydia Ko (NZ – 70, 67, 66, 65); 269: Aditi Ashok (67,

Golden glory for Brazil again Brazil forward Richarli-

FOOTBALL

REUTERS

Brazil retained its Olympic football title with substitute Malcom scoring an extratime winner in a 2-1 victory over Spain in Saturday's men's gold medal game.

After the game ended 1-1 following normal time, Malcom raced onto a diagonal ball from Antony and got the better of the hesitant Jesus Vallejo before driving the winner into the far corner to clinch gold for Brazil after its Rio 2016 triumph.

son had missed a 39th minute penalty before the South Americans grabbed the lead on the stroke of halftime when a deep Claudinho cross was hooked back across the area by Dani Alves and Cunha brought the ball down to slot home.

Spain threatened little but got on level terms in the 61st minute when substitute Carlos Soler broke down the right and whipped a cross to +the back post where Mikel Ovarzabal connected with a sweet left-foot volley that whistled past Santos.

France regains

handball gold

France won the Olympic

gold medal in men's handball by beating Denmark 25-23 in the final. France

led by six goals before

Denmark came back to

make it a one-goal game

in the final minute.

France got a goal with six seconds left to secure the

France was playing its

fourth straight final after winning in 2008 and 2012

and losing to Denmark in

SILVER

BRONZE

MEDALS RACE

victory.

GOLD

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Match-winner: Malcom celebrates his strike which helped Brazil retain the football crown. • REUTERS

Incredible Sifan Hassan achieves the long-distance double

Ingebrigtsen wins thrilling men's 1500m; USA claims 4x400m relay golds; joy for high jumper Lasitskene

TOKYO TITBITS



Amazing grace: Israel's Linoy Ashram tumbled and leapt with impeccable control to take gold. • AFP

Ashram ends Russian reign with shock rhythmic win Israel's Linoy Ashram claimed a shock victory in the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around final on Saturday, edging out three-time World champion Dina Averina to end two decades of Russian dominance. The 22-year-old Ashram, who clung on despite a mistake in her closing ribbon routine, is the first woman from Israel

Cao Yuan wins China's seventh diving gold China proved its Olympic diving dominance again on

to win an Olympic title.

gold in eight events as Cao Yuan won the individual 10m platform, with teammate Yang Jian scooping the silver. Britain's Tom Daley, who claimed the 10m synchronised last week, took bronze. French spikers taste

maiden success France beat the Russian

Olympic Committee team in

Saturday with its seventh

the men's volleyball final in a sensational five-set match to grab its first Olympic gold medal in the sport. France edged Russians 25-23, 25-17, 21-25, 21-25, 15-12.





Brilliance unleashed: Norway's Jakob Ingebrigtsen came off the final bend to beat World champion Timothy Cheruiyot to the 1500m gold, while Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands delivered a devastating late burst to pull clear of Bahrain's Kalkidan Gezahegne to add the 10,000m to the 5000m. • REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES

I don't think I could have done any better than this," said Hassan. "During the medal ceremony I was thinking: 'It is over. Now you can

In the 10,000m, Hassan clocked 29min 55.32sec for gold, with Bahrain's Kalkidan Gezahegne, also born in Ethiopia, claiming silver in

ter leading for all but two ki-

lometres of the 25-lap race,

28.32sec.

passing long-time leader Timothy Cheruiyot of Kenya, World-record holder Letewho took silver in 3:29.01. senbet Gidey of Ethiopia, af-

tactical performance in the men's 1,500m as Norway's Ingebrigtsen won in an

There was another superb

claimed bronze in 30:01.72.

Olympic record of 3min The 20-year-old added Olympic gold to his European title, easing home after

In the men's and women's 4x400m relays, the United States ended what has been

a difficult campaign at the Olympic Stadium with a pair of golds.

Redemption In the women's high jump,

three-time world champion Mariya Lasitskene finally won her first Olympic title with a best of 2.04m. The 28year-old, who was barred from competing in the 2016 Rio Olympics due to Russia's doping scandal, held off a stiff challenge from Australian Nicola McDermott.

MEDAL EVENTS 13 Gold medals are on offer on

the final day of the Games Athletics: Men's Marathon Basketball: Women Boxing: Women's Light, Men's Light, Women's Middle, Men's

Cycling Track: Men's Keirin, Women's Omnium, Women's Handball: Women

Super Heavy

Rhythmic Gymnastics: Group All-around Vollevball: Women Water Polo: Men

S 38 | 31 | 39 | 33 **| 108** 12 ROC 20 | 26 | 23 20 21 22 Britain Australia 17 7 22 Germany 10 11 16 11 39 Italy 10 10 19 9 | 12 11 France 47. India 1 2 4 7

ROC: Russian Olympic Committee







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