



Amid disruption, Rajya Sabha passes Insolvency Bill

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Procurement process has not kept pace with time: General Naravane

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Hendrickx's hat-trick powers Belgium past India in semifinals

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Kohli's India takes on Root's England in five-Test series from today

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**NEARBY**



**Second COVID wave still raging in country: govt.**

NEW DELHI  
 The second wave of COVID-19 is "still raging" in the country, said Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Karnataka, Puducherry and Kerala have registered a rise in the Reproduction Number, which is a cause for concern, he said.

**NORTH & EAST** ▶ PAGE 5

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**OPPORTUNITIES** ▶ PAGE 5

## Not asked to move to Delhi: Yogi

Chief Minister puts to rest speculation over leadership change in Uttar Pradesh

OMAR RASHID  
 NISTULA HEBBAR  
 YARGHESE K. GEORGE  
 LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has put to rest speculation that he was asked to shift to Delhi, and thereby settled the question of leadership, for now, in the State BJP and the government as he heads into the 2022 Assembly election.

Amid questions over his future after the image of the State government received a blow during the questionable handling of the COVID-19 second wave and the difference of opinion over the 'CM face' from some of his own colleagues, Mr. Adityanath met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi in July.

Since then, the top BJP leadership, including Mr. Modi, has publicly praised the Chief Minister and his



**If this kisan andolan was connected to the interests of farmers, then possibly they could have had the support. This is politically motivated. And any such politically motivated campaign will not receive support of people and annadata kisan**

YOGI ADITYANATH  
 UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

work ethic. In an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Adityanath said he was not offered a role in Delhi during his visit there.

"We met over issues related to the State. I met him (Modi) earlier too and frequently seek his advice on governance issues," he said.

Mr. Adityanath also dismissed the electoral challenges posed by his party's social arithmetic by the on-going farmer agitation in western Uttar Pradesh along

with the alliance of the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal. He listed out the schemes implemented by the BJP government for farmers in the past seven years and labelled the farmers' protest as politically motivated. "If this kisan andolan was connected to the interests of farmers, then possibly they could have had the support. This is politically motivated. And any such politically motivated campaign will not receive sup-

port of people and annadata kisan," he said.

He also dismissed the credentials of the Opposition, in particular the BSP, in wooing the dominant Brahmin community. The BSP and the SP have constantly accused the BJP government, headed by Mr. Adityanath, a born-Thakur, of targeting the Brahmins.

"Since when is the BSP a champion of Brahmin samaj (community)? Their old slogans reflect their attitudes," Mr. Adityanath said. "Neither SP or BSP has the right to speak about social cohesion as they have advocated conflict between communities," he said, adding that the two parties were trying to hunt for their lost social base, which has come to the BJP.

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**INTERVIEW ON** ▶ PAGE 9

## Let's unite voice of people, Rahul tells Oppn. leaders

He rides a cycle to Parliament to protest against fuel price rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday gave a call to Opposition leaders to "unite the majority voice of the people of India" that is represented by their parties.

Accompanied by his party colleagues and Opposition leaders, Mr. Gandhi rode a bicycle to Parliament to protest against the rise in the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

Earlier, he hosted a breakfast meet for the leaders of 15 Opposition parties at the Constitution Club, close to Parliament.

"We [the Opposition parties] represent 60% of the people, the majority of the people. When the govern-



**Taking a stand:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi cycling to Parliament on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

ment shuts us up, they are not humiliating us as members of Parliament but the majority voice of the people of India. The single most important thing in my view is: let's unite this voice," he told the Opposition MPs.

"The more this voice unites, the more powerful it

will become, more difficult it will become for the BJP and RSS to suppress this voice," he asserted.

The principles for the foundation of such unity should be worked out now, Mr. Gandhi added.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 8

## At least 3 times 'excess deaths' in Maharashtra

**Low multiple** | Excess deaths were an estimated 2.8 to 4.1 times the COVID-19 toll in Maharashtra during the pandemic period (April 2020 to May 2021)

Period	Excess deaths	Adjusted excess	COVID-19 toll	Multiple	*Adjusted multiple
2021	1,56,556		45,823	3.4	
April 2020-Dec. 2020	1,17,046		49,520	2.4	
April 2020-May 2021	2,73,602	3,10,727	95,343	2.9	4.1
April 2021-May 2021	1,36,465		40,695	3.4	

\*Estimation for 29 districts based on data availability corresponding to CRS 2019

SRINIVASAN RAMANI  
 CHENNAI

The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Maharashtra ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to May 2021) was an estimated 2,12,589, which is 2.8 times the official reported figure of 75,877 COVID-19 deaths for the same period.

The figures were arrived at from data on deaths registered month-wise in the on-

line CRS from January 2018 to May 2021 in Maharashtra and accessed by *The Hindu*. As with the other States, not all excess deaths could be related to COVID-19, but a bulk of them will be, during the pandemic period. The online death registrations data showed a total of 6,67,900 and 6,93,800 deaths in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 8  
**2.8 TO 4.1 TIMES** ▶ PAGE 8

## Over 99% students pass CBSE Class 10 exam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

More than 99% of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students have passed Class 10, according to the results released on Tuesday. Last year, 91.46% passed the exam.

In fact, six States – Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Goa – and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep recorded a



**On cloud nine:** Students celebrating after the announcement of the CBSE Class 10 results in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

100% pass this year.

All Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country also registered 100% pass.

The exam, originally scheduled to be held in May and June, was cancelled due to the second wave of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. The marks were calculated on the basis of internal assessments, including unit tests, mid-terms and pre-board exams, and are not really comparable with the results of previous years. Hence, no toppers have been declared now, as the board decided not to issue any merit list or merit certificates.

**CONTINUED ON** ▶ PAGE 8  
**DELHI, NOIDA AT BOTTOM** ▶ PAGE 2

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 M.D. (Ay) B.H.U.,  
 Gold Medalist

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## Bariatric surgery on two-year-old weighing 45 kg

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A two-year-old girl who weighed 45 kg has undergone successful bariatric surgery and is recovering well, said a private hospital in the city. Normally, a child of that age weighs around 12-15 kg.

The two-year-old had a Body Mass Index of 41.5 – normal BMI is between 23.5 to 25.

“The child was normal at the time of birth and weighed 2.5 kg. However, she started gaining weight rapidly soon after birth and weighed 14 kg at six months. She reached 45 kg at two years and three months,” said Manpreet Sethi, consultant, paediatric endocrinology, at Max Hospital.

He said the child’s condition had worsened to the point where she had trouble breathing and was unable to sleep on her back. She was wheelchair-bound for six months before the surgery.

“We finally decided to go ahead with the bariatric surgery as it seemed the only way to save her life,” Dr. Sethi said, adding that the child is undergoing rehabilitation.

## Kejriwal seeks capital punishment for culprits

Police officers told to appear before DCW

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday condemned the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in the city and demanded capital punishment for the culprits. Besides, he said there is a need to improve the law and order situation in the national capital.

“Going to meet the victim’s family on Wednesday, will do everything possible to help the family in this fight for justice,” Kejriwal tweeted.

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) issued notice to Delhi Police and sought a detailed action taken report in the matter and details of the accused.

“The DCW has instituted an enquiry into the matter of the death of a nine-year-old in Delhi Cant. The commission had received a call on its 181 women helpline number on the night of August 1 regarding the death of the girl. The commission immediately sent a team to the police station and assisted the family in filing an FIR in the matter wherein they alleged that their daughter

had gone out and was brought home dead by a local “pujari” [priest],” a DCW official said.

The women’s panel asked senior police officers to be present before the commission on August 5.

**Cong. expresses concern** Meanwhile, Delhi Congress Chief Ch. Anil Kumar visited the girl’s family on Tuesday morning and alleged that the police made the family wait at the station for several hours and were reluctant to file an FIR for rape and murder. Moreover, they put pressure on them to compromise, but only when Congress workers strongly took up the case that they filed a strong FIR.

Mr. Kumar expressed concern at the rising crimes against women and girls in the Capital and said that the incident has once again exposed the reality that Delhi has become unsafe for women. He also demanded protection for the girl’s family as they face threats from criminals and said that the Delhi Congress’ Legal Cell will provide free legal aid to the family.

# Nangal fumes after ‘rape, murder’ of child

Protests demanding hanging of the accused continue; locals say they don’t want to politicise incident

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Two days after a nine-year-old girl was allegedly cremated against her parents’ consent inside a cremation ground – and a priest and three others were arrested on charges of rape and murder of the girl – protests demanding the hanging of the accused continued in south-west Delhi’s Nangal on Tuesday.

As the road in cantonment area from both sides towards Nangal village was blocked by protesters, the girl’s mother lay semi-conscious while the father sat amid the crowd. Both were clearly overwhelmed by the situation.

Nearby, on a stage, locals kept shouting that “this is not a political incident... we just want justice for our daughter... those who have come here for political gains should refrain from being part of the protest”.

Among the political figures who visited the parents to express solidarity were Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad and his party members.

Recalling the incident, the mother, who is a ragpicker, said that the girl was



Parents of the victim at the protest site in south-west Delhi’s Nangal on Tuesday. ■ HEMANI BHANDARI

dropped at the cremation ground by her father as he went to buy vegetables, and the mother had gone home from nearby mazaar.

“Jaise meri bacchi jalayi hai... vaise hi fansi chahiye unke liye [The way they have burnt my daughter... I want them to hang],” she said.

### Rattled mother

“A person came searching for me and said the priest is calling me. When I reached the cremation ground, he told me that my daughter is dead. I kept asking for proof if she died of electrocution. But he never gave any. There

**The priest told me that I should not call the police because police matters go on for longer periods**

VICTIM’S MOTHER

should not call the police because police matters go on for longer periods,” she said. One of the four accused went on a scooter and brought the father from a nearby market. Both parents reportedly refused to sign any cremation document, and the girl was already being cremated when the father reached the place, the family said.

As the word spread, locals reached the crematorium, broke open the gate, poured water on the body and told the parents that it may be a case of rape after which police were called.

### Police harassment

The father claimed that he was beaten up by the police inside the station on Sunday night. “They said I had taken money,” he said.

“I told the priest that I would have taken my daughter to hospital if she was electrocuted... why did he burn her? He asked me to

come the next day and take her ashes,” the father said. Senior officers of Delhi Police, including Joint Commissioner of Police Jaspal Singh and Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh reached the protest site on Tuesday and tried to defuse the situation. They asked the crowd to submit their grievances in written form so that action can be taken.

Sources said that medical examination of the accused was conducted and it was found that they were not drunk at the time of the incident. No CCTV footage has been found either, they said, although videos of the girl’s remains being pulled out of the pyre have been obtained.

Chandra Shekhar Azad demanded justice for the child. “If our girls here are not safe, then one can only imagine what the situation would be like in villages. I haven’t seen the FIR yet. I want to see it so that I can help the family with legal discourse,” he said.

Sharing a news piece on the incident, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wrote “Dalit ki beti bhi desh ki beti hai [A Dalit’s daughter is also daughter of the country].”

## HC dismisses plea to stop use of EVMs, imposes cost

‘It is akin to a publicity interest litigation’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed, with a cost of ₹10,000, a petition seeking direction to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to stop the use of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) and instead return to ballot paper.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh rejected the petition filed by advocate C.R. Jaya Sukin saying it was akin to a “publicity interest litigation”.

The Bench said the peti-

tion was filed without doing any research on the working of the EVMs and lacked material to justify the plea. It said the EVMs were approved by the ECI and Parliament.

The court pointed out that Mr. Sukin’s plea relied on four documents – one of which was a news item, and the other was his representation on the issue and pleas before the Supreme Court.

The High Court, however, said Mr. Sukin may approach it again after conducting research and making proper averments.

## CBSE Class X results: Delhi, Noida regions get bottom positions

Pass percentage for govt. schools 97.52

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class X results, using a modified assessment policy that took into consideration marks obtained in unit tests, mid-year exams and pre-board exams, were announced on Tuesday.

The pass percentage of Delhi West and Delhi East regions was 98.74 and 97.80 respectively, putting it in the 14th and 15th position out of the 16 regions across the country. The All India pass percentage was 91.46.

Last year also, Delhi West and Delhi East regions were placed in the same positions with a pass percentage of 85.96 and 85.97.

The Noida region placed 13th with 98.78 pass percentage. The CBSE did not issue a merit list for the results this year.

Pass percentage for Delhi government schools for 2021 was 97.52, which is an

improvement from the 82.61 achieved in 2020, said the Delhi government.

In 2019, which was the last time the board exams was not disrupted due to COVID-19, the pass percentage was 71.58.

### 100% pass result

The number of government schools that secured a 100% pass result has gone up from 147 in 2020 to 750 this year, it added. A total of 186 Delhi government school students scored above 95%.

The board has announced the results on the basis of an alternative assessment policy after the exams were cancelled in view of the aggressive second wave of COVID-19.

According to the policy, while 20 marks for each subject were for internal assessment as every year, 80 marks were calculated on basis of the students’ performance in various tests throughout the year.

## Sushil wanted to re-establish supremacy: chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The brawl at the Chhatrasal Stadium that allegedly led to the death of a former junior national wrestling champion was the result of a conspiracy hatched by Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar, who wanted to re-establish his supremacy among younger wrestlers, the Delhi police has said in its chargesheet filed in the murder case.

Sagar and his four friends were allegedly assaulted by Sushil and others at the stadium on the intervening night of May 4 and 5 over a property dispute. Sagar succumbed to injuries later.

The Crime Branch, which is tasked with investigating the case, said Sushil wanted to teach a lesson to Sagar and Sonu and re-establish his supremacy in the stadium through muscle power. It also listed reasons why Sushil and his associates took revenge.

The police investigation established that it was due to the initial reluctance shown by Sagar and Sonu to vacate Sushil’s flat and “murmurs” in the stadium that the Olympic wrestler was scared of the duo and couldn’t withstand them. The chargesheet names 13 accused, including Sushil.

### IN BRIEF

#### HHRC suggests ₹50K for police torture victim

GURUGRAM The Haryana Human Rights Commission has recommended ₹50,000 as compensation to a victim in a case pertaining to torture in police custody three years ago. HHRC Chairperson Justice S.K. Mittal said the state was liable for the torturous acts of its employees and could later recover the amount from the erring officer.

#### PWD to repair major roads after monsoon

NEW DELHI The PWD will carry out complete overhaul of major city roads after the monsoon season gets over, officials said on Tuesday. According to PWD officials, the move is aimed at “improving health” of roads which gets deteriorated during rainy season due to extensive waterlogging and high-intensity rainfall. “Major roads of the city will get a complete overhaul after end of the monsoon season,” PWD Engineer-in-Chief Shashi Kant said.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
**Public Works (East) Division, Pune- 411 001**  
Phone No. 020/26122457  
Web- [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com) & e-mail- [pune.ee@mahapwd.com](mailto:pune.ee@mahapwd.com)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 28 FOR 2021-2022**

The Executive Engineer, Public Works (East) Division Pune-411 001 invites bids for following work from Registered as well as unregistered Contractor, and full filling the qualifying criteria in **B-1 Tender Format** as per Maharashtra Government. Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and public Work Department Matralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Bldg-2. dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

Brief Tender Notice and Other relied information available on following web site.

1. Web- [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com) (Only Tender Notice)
2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in> (Tender Notice and Tender Document) (Any changes in the NIT will be Corrigendum’s published on above website)

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Public Works (East) Division**  
**Pune- 411 001**

DGIPR/2021/2022/1394

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Mandi on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with any Department/Government undertaking as per his/her class of enlistment should be allowed.

**Name of work:-** CAD of LIS Sambal and its adjoining villages in GP Jagar Teshar Sadar Distt Mandi HP (SH- C/O Field Outlets 8 Nos, C/O Chamber for Protection of Hydrants = 51 Nos, C/O Thrust Block and Laying, Jointing and Testing of HDPE pipe of various dia in distribution system).

Estimated Cost :- Rs. 38,40,018/-Only  
Earnest Money :- Rs. 65,500/-Only  
Time Limit :- Six Month.  
Cost of tender document :- Rs. 400/-

The bids are to be submitted online which are to be encrypted and digitally signed by the contractor/firms. The bidders are advised to obtain digital signature certificate (DSC) from the suitable vendors or any authorized agency at the earliest.

**Schedule of tendering:-**

1. Bid Submission start date	03.08.2021 09.00 AM
2. Bid Submission end date	09.08.2021 05.00 PM
3. Opening of Cover-I	10.08.2021 at 11.30AM
4. Opening of Financial bid	Date and place to be notified separately.

**Conditions:-**  
i. The e-tender documents shall be uploaded in two covers :-  
i. Cover-1 shall contain scanned copies of “Eligibility information”.  
ii. Cover-2 shall contain “Financial Bid” on the prescribed form.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Jal Shakti Division, Mandi**  
HP / 2989/20-21 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. I, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Repair and Restoration of various roads under Shimla Division NO.1 (CRF/NDRF for 2021-2022 (SH- Providing and laying G-II, G-III & Bituminous concrete 30mm thick in km. 0/00 to 1/00 km, in Baldian to Dhar Road).	2833870/-	12-08-2021	56700	20-08-2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptender.gov.in](http://www.hptender.gov.in).  
The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer,  
Shimla Division No. 1, HPPWD Shimla-3 H.P.  
On behalf of Government of Himachal Pradesh  
HP / 2977/21-22

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer PMSGSY Division Bandipora**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
NIT NO-08/EE/PMSGSY/Bpr/1e-TENDERING-OF 2021-22 Dated:-26/07/2021

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMSGSY Division Bandipora invite e-tenders on Item Rate Basis for the following works including its maintenance as per PMSGSY / MORTH guidelines from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S.No.	Name of Work with Package No.	Tendered Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs.)			Cost of document (Rs in Lacs.)	Time for completion (Days)	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of Tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of Contractor
		Renewal Part	Maintenance Part	Total					
1.	Renewal cost / Macadamisation and maintenance of road from Abamharal to Bhatol. Package No. JK05-24. Length 7.0 Kms	81.65	8.16	89.81	0.10	90 days	3rd	07-08-2021 At 11:00 AM	“A” Class in PWD or equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website [www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in) from 28-07-2021 (11:30 AM) to 06-08-2021 upto 04:30PM.
2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website [www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in) from 30-07-2021 (10:00 AM) to 06-08-2021 upto 04:30 PM. The bid uploaded on the Website upto due date and time will be opened online on 07-08-2021 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bid as specified, the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The complete bidding process will be online.
4. Cost of Bid Form is Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) per package (non-refundable) only in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Accounts Officer PMSGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @12% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issue of allotment.
5. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 29-07-2021 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Executive Engineer PMSGSY (JKRRDA) Division Bandipora to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
6. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in). The bidder will be required to register in the website which is free of cost. The bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). “Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMSGSY may obtain the same from the website: [www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in](http://www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in).”
7. Bids must be accompanied by cost of document and bid security declaration in the form as specified in the Bidding Document. The Demand Draft on account of cost of bidding document shall be pledged to Accounts Officer PMSGSY Kashmir payable at Srinagar. The bid security declaration should be submitted as per format available in the Standard Bidding Document duly attested by the First Class Magistrate.
8. The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of cost of bidding document, bid security declaration, Bank Credit facility and original copy of affidavits must be delivered in the office of Executive Engineer PMSGSY Division Bandipora on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand delivered which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
9. The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3- Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared as non-responsive.
10. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://www.pmsgsytenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened electronically online on same Web Site at the Office of Executive Engineer PMSGSY Division Bandipora.
11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Note:- The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PMSGSY Division Bandipora

DP/K-5640/21

**Standard Bid Document**  
**SECTION-1**  
**Superintending Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Solan.**  
(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

The Superintending Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, HPPWD Solan on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/item bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jal Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jal Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

Sr. No.	Division	R/D/F	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of completion (Months)	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh)
				Construction cost	Maintenance cost			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	Nalagarh	XXVI	C/o Pacca link road from Behli to Deoli km. 0/0 to 2/0 i/c bridge over Kalyanpur- Deoli khad at RD 1/850 in Nalagarh	283.57	11.38	294.95	12	5.90

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement-07.08.2021
3. Cost of Bids Form -Rs. 5000 per package/job(non-refundable) only in form of Demand Draft in favour of respective Executive Engineers.
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in). The bidder will be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). “Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in NABARD may obtain the same from the website: [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).” Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

\* Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circle HPPWD, Solan, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.
6. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering:-Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering of above mentioned works are as follows:-

Sr.No.	Name of work	Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering.
1	C/o Pacca link road from Behli to Deoli km. 0/0 to 2/0 i/c bridge over Kalyanpur- Deoli khad at RD 1/850 in Nalagarh	16.08.2021 at 10:30 AM

7. The site for the work is available.
8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in). The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:00 A.M Hours on above mentioned date in the office of Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle HPPWD Solan by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
10. All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by Contractor at his own level.
11. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than seventy five(75) days after the deadline date for bid submission.
12. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
13. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders’ responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

(Er. Surinder Pal Jagota)  
Superintending Engineer,  
HPPWD, 3rd Circle Solan  
Tel 01792-220675, Fax 01792-223802  
E-mail hp-sol@nic.in

HP / 3003/21-22 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

**Timings DELHI**

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 04	RISE 05:45	SET 19:10
	RISE 01:42	SET 16:02
THURSDAY, AUG. 05	RISE 05:46	SET 19:10
	RISE 02:27	SET 16:56
FRIDAY, AUG. 06	RISE 05:46	SET 19:09
	RISE 03:18	SET 17:48

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	35	26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	33	27

**Delhi Palam Today**  
33°C Short spell of rain likely at some places with cloudy sky. Moderate winds and warm day would prevail.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
33°C Light rain and thundershower likely at some places with cloudy sky and light winds.

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## Kejriwal inaugurates 'Delhi@2047'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated a platform called 'Delhi@2047' in an attempt to foster partnerships with the private sector (CSR initiatives) and philanthropic organisations and achieve the vision for 'Delhi by 2047'.

Mr. Kejriwal said the government was not approaching the sector hoping it would "just write cheques" but needed their ideas, expertise, participation and partnership to realise the dreams everyone had for Delhi. Mr. Kejriwal spoke at a virtual meeting, which had representatives from various corporate entities.

Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the slogan Delhi@2047 was "hollow and misleading".

# Cabinet approves salary hike for MLAs, sticks to cap set by Centre

BJP claims AAP govt. sought '400% increase', which MHA reduced to around 70%

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Tuesday approved a salary hike for MLAs as per the cap fixed by the Centre.

The city's legislators will now get a salary of ₹30,000, besides other allowances, the government stated. The move comes after the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) "restricted" the Delhi government's proposal to hike legislators' salaries and chose to cap it at ₹30,000.

The said proposal had been pending for the last five months, said the Delhi government. The BJP opposition alleged the proposal was a veiled attempt by the Delhi government to affect a "400% increase" in MLAs' salaries, which had been struck down by the MHA as it was "unjustified".

The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and MLAs/Speaker-Dy Speaker/Chief Whip/Leader



The city's legislators will now get a salary of ₹30,000 per month, besides other allowances. ■ FILE PHOTO

of Opposition of Legislative Assembly of Delhi (Amendment) Bills, 2021, were approved recently, the government stated. The proposal and the draft Bills will be sent for the MHA's approval before being placed in the Delhi Assembly.

### 'Lowest earning MLAs'

As the cost of living in the Capital had risen substantially, the restriction imposed by the Centre had forced Delhi's MLAs to be amongst the lowest earning MLAs in the country, the city government argued.

The Delhi government said the salary of Delhi's

MLAs has not increased since 2011. It said it had requested the MHA that salaries of Delhi's MLAs be at par with MLAs of other States "but the Centre refused".

"Delhi government had proposed a salary of ₹54,000, at par with other States. However, the MHA restricted the salary to ₹30,000. Now, the salary plus allowances of Delhi MLAs has been restricted by the MHA to ₹90,000," the government stated, adding:

"Many States provide many other perks and allowances to their MLAs, which the Delhi government does not such as: house rent allo-

wance, office rent and staff expenses, allowance for buying office equipment, vehicle, driver allowance."

BJP MLA Vijender Gupta said the Delhi government had passed a Bill increasing MLAs' salary and other allowances from ₹53,000 to ₹2,10,000 in 2015 and sent the proposal to the Centre for approval. But this was not granted as the Bill was passed in "an unconstitutional manner", he added.

He also said in 2020, the Delhi government sent a new proposal to the MHA in which it once again demanded salary and other allowances to be increased to ₹2,10,000 per month. However, the Centre amended the proposal in January 2021 with an increase in salary and other allowances to ₹90,000 from ₹53,000 and sent it back to the Delhi government.

"The Delhi government's proposal for a 400% hike in salary and other allowances was not justified, therefore, the Central government approved only 70% increase," Mr. Gupta said.

## Nod for policy to promote production of medical oxygen in the Capital

Govt.'s free Wi-Fi scheme to continue

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, on Tuesday approved the Medical Oxygen Production Promotion Policy, 2021.

The policy includes the provision for incentives for medical oxygen production and storage.

"Medical Oxygen Production Promotion Policy 2021 has been approved. It provides several incentives to the private sector to set up oxygen production plants, invest in oxygen tankers, and set up oxygen storage facilities. This will help improve oxygen availability in Delhi, which became a huge bottleneck in handling the last COVID wave," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

### To become self-reliant

The objectives of the policy include making Delhi self-reliant in terms of medical oxygen production and supply. It seeks to do so by increasing the production of oxygen in Delhi through setting up either new manufac-

turing enterprises or expanding the production capacity of existing units.

The objective of the policy is to ensure time-bound fulfilment of the setting up of Liquid Oxygen manufacturing facilities of minimum 50 MT capacity up to a total of 100 MT. It also seeks the setting up of non-captive oxygen generation plants (PSA/Air Separation Unit technology) of minimum 10 MT and maximum 50 MT capacity up to a total of 100 MT, the government said.

### Target of 11,000 hotspots

In another decision, the Cabinet granted approval for the continuation of free Wi-Fi facility in Delhi. Mr. Kejriwal had launched the free Wi-Fi scheme from the ITO bus stop in December 2019.

Initially, the government had targeted the setting up of 11,000 hotspots to provide free Wi-Fi across Delhi.

So far, the government stated, free Wi-Fi hotspots had been installed at 10,561 places: 2,208 hotspots at bus stops and 8,353 at other locations.

## Vaccination picks up pace; 50 new cases

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The number of daily COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the city has increased, the government said on Tuesday.

A total of 91,100 doses of vaccine were administered on Monday, compared to 83,042 doses on Saturday. But it is far less than figures towards the end of June when 1.5-2 lakh people were being vaccinated daily. The vaccine stock of the city will last for four days and there are 4,15,990 doses of Covishield and 3,81,560 doses of Covaxin, as per government data.

Till now, 1,01,98,723 doses of vaccines have been administered in the city.

According to Tuesday's bulletin, the city reported 50 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours, taking the total to 14,36,451. There were four deaths pushing the toll to 25,058. A total of 64,276 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate was 0.08%. Of the total cases, 14,10,874 people have recovered and there are only 519 active cases.

No COVID-19 bulletin was released by the government on Monday.

## Plea seeks door-to-door vaccine campaign

Octogenarian tells High Court senior citizens at high risk

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Union and the Delhi governments to respond to a petition by an octogenarian woman seeking direction to introduce a policy on urgent door-to-door COVID-19 vaccination for high-risk senior

citizens in the Capital.

Dhiraj Aggarwal, 84, who suffers from arthritis, said she could be exposed to COVID-19 if she went to a vaccine centre.

Moreover, she was mostly bed-ridden and unable to go to a centre due to her condition.

"Due to her condition,

she could not get any shot of the COVID-19 vaccine till date," the petition said.

### Next hearing on Sept. 16

A Bench comprising Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh sought a response from the authorities by September 16, the next date of the hearing.

## No oxygen-scarcity death at Jaipur Golden: police

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Police told a court here on Tuesday that the death of 21 COVID-19 patients in Jaipur Golden Hospital in April was not caused due to oxygen shortage, a claim which contradicts the hospital's stand.

In the same status filed by the police before the court, the hospital had said there

**No oxygen was supplied for 30 hours despite several alerts**

**JAIPUR GOLDEN HOSPITAL**

was a link between inadequate oxygen supply and deaths of the patients as no oxygen was supplied to them for 30 hours despite several alerts. Twenty-one in-patients died at the hospital on

the intervening night of April 23-24 allegedly due to lack of oxygen.

"On scrutiny of death summaries of all deceased persons, it revealed that no death of any patient caused due to shortage of oxygen," the police stated in the status report on a plea seeking FIR against the hospital for deaths.

DCP Pranav Tayal told Metropolitan Magistrate Vivek

Beniwal that as the allegations are against doctors and medical staff, the opinion regarding any medical negligence has been sought from Delhi Medical Council.

However, the hospital said: "INOX supplied oxygen 3.8 MT on 22 April at 5:30 pm. There was no refill by INOX at the scheduled time of 5:30 pm on 23 April. This resulted in a crisis situation".

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." - Mark Twain

Education expands. So why does schooling limit? Almost everyone agrees that quality education is about possibilities. About success in real life, unleashing the child's own talents, about excitement in learning new things, about being a good human being and a contributing citizen. And almost everyone talks about it. However, not enough is being done about it. For most children schooling is about being leashed, not unleashed. About fearing failure, not pursuing success. About rote learning, not deep understanding. About routine and boredom, not excitement and fun. About isolation from community, not engagement with it. The Heritage family of experiential schools has chosen the path of educating children as opposed to just schooling them.



# ADMISSIONS OPEN

Academic Session 2022-23 for CBSE and International Programme



**HERITAGE XPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCHOOL**

An Experiential Learning School with CBSE curriculum

Age Criterion for Nursery: 3 years as on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022  
Academic session starts from April, 2022

Admissions open for HXLS Sector 62 Campus: Nursery  
HXLS Golf Course Extension Campus: Nursery, KG, Grades 1 to 3



**HERITAGE INTERNATIONAL XPERIENTIAL SCHOOL**

An Experiential Learning School with International curriculum

Age Criterion for Nursery: 3 years as on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2022  
Academic session starts from July, 2022

Admissions open for Nursery, KG, Grades 1 to 9 and Grade 11

Apply online from 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021. Last date for Nursery application for CBSE and International Programme is 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

To apply for CBSE visit [www.hxls.org](http://www.hxls.org), for International Programme visit [www.hixs.org](http://www.hixs.org). Seats are subject to availability.

**Information Session on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 11am to 12:30pm**  
Register on - <https://bit.ly/heritagesession>



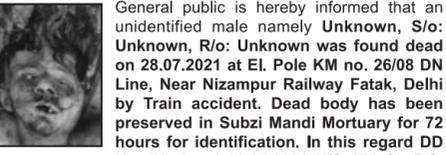
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Sector 62 Campus, Gurugram | [nursery.admission@ggn.hxls.org](mailto:nursery.admission@ggn.hxls.org) | Tel: 0124-2855124/25/26

International Junior Campus: DLF Phase 5, Gurugram | [info@hixs.org](mailto:info@hixs.org) | Tel: 0124-2859200/01

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male named **Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown** was found dead on 28.07.2021 at El. Pole KM no. 26/08 DH Line, Near Nizampur Railway Fatak, Delhi by Train accident. Dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. In this regard DD No. 7A dated 28.07.2021 U/S 174 Cr. P.C. has been lodged at Police Station, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: 35-40 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Injury: Head injury & Body emputed from stomach, Wearing: Black Colour Pant.**

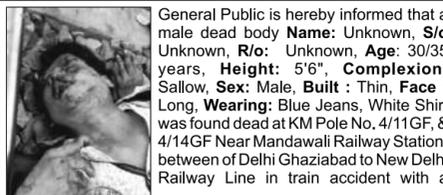
If anyone has any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
Police Station, Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi  
DP/198/RLY/2021(UIDB) Ph: 011-28714802, 8750871308

**THE HINDU**

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**Appeal for Identification**



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/O Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: 30/35 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Sex: Male, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Blue Jeans, White Shirt** was found dead at KM Pole No. 4/11GF, & 4/14GF Near Mandawali Railway Station, between of Delhi Ghaziabad to New Delhi Railway Line in train accident with a damage by face and left hand. In this regard, a DD No. 16A, dated 31.07.2021 has been lodged at PS Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been got preserved at G.T.B. Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
P.S., Anand Vihar Rly. Station, Delhi  
DP/201/RLY/2021 Ph: 011-22145601/02, 8750871314

**Office of Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttarakhand**

Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society, DDMHFV, Uttarakhand Govt. Danda Lakhond, Sahastadhara Road, Dehradun-248001  
Email: info.nhmuk@gmail.com, phone/Fax 0135-2608646  
Bio Identification No. NHMUK/CD/2019-20/03/Dialysis Center/1601 Date: 02.08.2021  
**"e" Procurement Request for Proposal**

1. Name of the Work: Managing Dialysis Centers in 9 Government Hospitals of Uttarakhand.
2. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal: 04.08.2021 from 2:00 PM
3. Last Date and Time for receipt of bids in the portal: 18.08.2021 by 2:00 PM.
4. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid: Mission Director National Health Mission Uttarakhand, Dehradun.
5. Details of Subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website <https://ukenders.gov.in>
6. Portal Registration: The bidder intending to participate in the bid is required to register in the portal using his/her valid personal/official email ID as his/her Login ID and attach his/her valid digital signature certificate (DSC) to his/her unique login ID.

For any other queries the bidders are asked to contact through mail- info.nhmuk@gmail.com/ncduttarakhand@gmail.com  
**Officer in-charge(NCD)**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that a person named **Dheeraj S/O Vishambhar R/O** H.No.195, DDA Flat Karkardooma Delhi has been missing since 26.07.2021 from her house. In the area of PS Anand Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 15A dated 27.07.2021 has been registered at PS, Anand Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:

**Name: Dheeraj, Father's Name: Vishambhar, Age: 21 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Matyale Colour Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans Pant.**

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
**P.S., Anand Vihar, Delhi**  
DP/523/SHD/2021 Ph.: 8595888677, 7065036022

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that one person named **Kuldeep S/O Lt. Rajendra Kumar, R/O** H. No. 16/184, H, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi has been missing since 13.07.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vides DD No. 46-A dated 14.07.2021 has been registered at PS. Prasad

Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under: **Age: 42 yrs., Built: Thin, Height: 5'10", Face: Round, Complexion: Sallow, Wearing: Blue colour T-Shirt, black pant and sleeper in feet.**

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO**  
P.S., Prasad Nagar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25725652  
25751048

**SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN**



General public is hereby informed that this woman named **Pravesh W/o Pintu Kumar R/o** House of Sonu, Gali No. 12, Ajit Vihar, Burari, Delhi **Age: 26 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, wearing black colour suit, white colour salwar and hawai chappal in**

feet, has been missing 15.07.2021 from her house. In this regard DD No. 103-A Dated 20.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Burari, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following.  
**E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>**  
**Fax: 24368639**  
**Tel.: 24368638/24368641**  
**SHO: P.S. Burari, Delhi**  
**Tel. No. 011-27616844**  
DP/1979/N21

**ENTERPRISE CONNECT**

**ES Ranganathan, Director (Marketing), GAIL awarded Communication Leader Award**

Shri E S Ranganathan, Director (Marketing), GAIL received the "Communication Leader Award" at the "Governance Now 8th PSU Awards" for driving various innovative communication programmes for GAIL through digital and other mediums for external and internal stakeholders. The award is a testimony for GAIL's efforts under his leadership in developing effective communication for creating positive business environment among the stakeholders and also to keep the morale of the employees high during the tough pandemic times. Shri Ranganathan was also instrumental in driving various business related communication for Natural Gas advocacy and promoting clean energy & clean environment through GAIL's Hawa Badlo initiative. GAIL also received two more awards in the categories of Communication Outreach and Digital PSU. GAIL has been focusing on enhancing quality of life through clean energy and beyond. GAIL has also been emphasizing on environmental responsibility & spreading awareness about clean air & better environment through GAIL's Hawa Badlo initiative. During the Covid situation GAIL carried forward a number of positive initiatives on digital platforms like "StrongerTogether" accentuating on fighting back the pandemic together for a better future; "WakeUp&SmellTheChange" initiative showcased the positive changes brought in the environment during the lockdown; "SpreadingEnergyOfHappiness" initiative showcased GAIL's efforts towards making a difference with cleaner and efficient natural gas were highlighted. The video testimonials made during this duration highlighted how people have been benefitted by CNG and PNG, Internal employee engagement initiative #HumKadam, #HainTajaiHum & #RukJaanaNahin showcased the resilience of the GAILians.

**NMDC receives 8 awards at the 'Governance Now PSU Awards'**

India's largest iron ore producer, NMDC swept eight awards at the Governance Now 8th PSU Awards Ceremony conducted virtually on July 29, 2021. The Governance Now Awards recognize and celebrate the contribution of PSUs in nation building and their potential to create social and economic value. In the Leadership Category, CMD Shri Sumit Deb was felicitated with the coveted CMD Leadership Award 2021 and in the Organisation Category, NMDC brought home accolades for CSR Commitment, Nation Building, Digital PSU, Research and Innovation, HR Excellence, and Communication Outreach received by Shri PK Satpathy, Director (Production). He thanked the jury members and Dr. Kiran Bedi for recognizing the efforts of NMDC and said, "The wide range of awards received by NMDC are a testimony to its focus on holistic growth. We are constantly reinventing to increase production and productivity." While receiving the award, NMDC Chairman and Managing Director Shri Sumit Deb said, "We are a mining company and operate in the most remote regions of India. Our team has worked tirelessly to engage with the community in Bastar, Chhattisgarh through our CSR initiatives. This engagement has facilitated our operations in these regions and built a relationship that has helped us grow together. He further added that NMDC's resolve to serve the nation even during COVID-19 makes him proud.

**Teerthanker Mahaveer University organises 5th convocation**

Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, organized Convocation 2021 on 31st July 2021. The ceremony was conducted through online & offline mode. The convocation ceremony saw participation from students in huge numbers. The total of 7927 degrees were awarded to students from different disciplines. 525 students from multiple disciplines were awarded ranks, out of which 153 received Gold medals, 179 received silver & 140 bagged bronze. 53 students from Ph.D. programme also were awarded for their efforts. Chancellor Shri Suresh Jain & Group Vice Chairman Shri Manish Jain also congratulated the students for their hard work as they conferred the students with the degrees. Chancellor Shri Suresh Jain, voiced, "It is indeed my privilege to witness the Convocation Ceremony of TMU. The pandemic

brought various challenges with it but with the support of our talented and committed faculty members, technology & parents our students have given exceptional performance." Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raghuvir Singh shared the university progress report from last convocation till now. The vice-chancellor, TMU also conferred the degrees while the Registrar, TMU Dr. Aditya Sharma presented & coordinated the program.

**Shri Pramod Kumar joins as General Manager North Central Railway**

Shri Pramod Kumar, an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (RSEE) has, on Friday, assumed the charge of General Manager of North Central Railway (NCR). Shri. Pramod Kumar is an officer of 1984 exam batch of Indian Engineering Services and has served Indian Railways in various capacities. Having his lien with Central Railway, He started his career as AEE/TD at Agra (during probation) for a short spell. After which he worked in Junior & Senior scale at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. He worked in various disciplines of electrical engineering such as traction distribution, Maintenance & Operations of Locomotives, construction, general services at Jhansi & Jabatpur Divisions of Central Railway. He pioneered in setting up of Electric Loco shed at New Katni Junction. One of his notable contributions was commissioning of first high rise OHE of IR, while working as CPD/RE/Jaipur. Apart from his vast experience in technical issues related to domain knowledge, Shri Kumar has a vast experience in general administration. He has served as Additional Divisional Railway Manager/NWR/ Jaipur, Divisional Railway Manager/NR/Moradabad, Sr. Deputy General Manager, Southern Railway and currently, he was serving as Additional General Manager/SECR / Bilaspur.

**Banaras Locomotive Works builds 100th locomotive "WAG9HC"**

Healthcare workers (Corona Warriors) today launched the 100th locomotive "WAG9HC", equipped with attractive color combinations and flowers, in the dignified presence of the General Manager, Anjali Goyal, in a simple ceremony held at New Loco Test Shop on 31st July, 2021. Corona warriors were duly dedicated to the service of the nation by flagging off. On this occasion, General Manager dedicated the 100th locomotive to the Medical Team for the contribution of Health Care Workers (Corona Warriors) in the relentless fight against Covid-19. Along with this, he also appreciated the efforts of the officers and employees of BLW to continue the production following the Covid protocol. This achievement becomes more praiseworthy as BLW employees were adversely hit by the 2nd wave of COVID wherein almost 25% employees were Corona positive and all the activities were carried out with 50% staff restrictions. It is worth mentioning that this 100th locomotive - 6000 horse power freight electric loco can pull a 6000 ton freight train alone. There will be an energy saving of 15 to 20 percent due to regenerative braking system. Its maximum speed is 100 kilometers per hour. Driver Cab has been made fully air-conditioned for the convenience of the driver. This locomotive was sent to Asansol Electric Loco Shed of Eastern Railway. About 98% indigenous equipment has been used in the manufacture of these engines under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Self-Reliant India Mission. This is helping the MSME and domestic manufacturing sector a lot.

**Punjab & Sind Bank declares robust financial results for the Quarter 1 2021.**

While declaring the Q1 results, Sh. S. Krishnan, MD & CEO informed that during the first quarter of the current FY 2021-22, the Bank has shown robust and resilient performance in almost all the business parameters. The Bank has shown tremendous turnaround by registering Net Profit of Rs.174 Cr as at 30.06.2021 as against Net Loss of Rs.117 Cr as at 30.06.2020. The Bank registered a YoY growth of 13.27% in the Total Business and an increase of Rs.19501 Cr. RAM (Retail, Agriculture and MSME) segment advances shown a growth of 8.08%, 12.27% and 12.87% respectively. Bank has surpassed the regulatory targets of 40% and 18% in Priority Sector & Agriculture Credit respectively. CASA registered

**A Business Initiative**

a growth of 14.29%. Sh. S. Krishnan, MD & CEO, informed that the Bank continued its special focus on NPA Recovery and thus recovered Rs.858 Cr including recovery of Rs.124 Cr in Technically Written-Off (TWO) accounts thus registering a remarkable performance. Even during the pandemic, the Bank has been able to extend uninterrupted services to its esteemed customers beholding the tagline of the Bank i.e. "PSB - Where service is a way of life..." Sh. S. Krishnan, MD & CEO thanked all the valued customers for their continued patronage and support to the Bank during the tough times thus helping Bank to register profit in two successive quarters. Further, he assured that Bank is working with resolute and unwavering commitment & dedication towards its turnaround and to achieve greater milestones during FY 2021-22.

**Banaras Locomotive Works in close coordination with district administration, varanasi to combat third wave**

General Manager Banaras Locomotive Works Anjali Goyal inspected BLW Central Hospital on 29th July 2021. Working of PSA Oxygen Generation Plant with capacity of 610 liters per minute, installed at BLW Central Hospital, was shown. This Oxygen Generation was inaugurated by Hon'ble PM on 15.07.2021. The plant has been set up through Corporate Social Responsibility funds arranged by District Administration. This will help increase Beds with oxygen from 40 to 100 at Central Hospital BLW, adding significantly to COVID preparedness. GM also reviewed the preparations for the special pediatric ward for potential COVID affected children. On advice of the District Authorities, BLW has made arrangements for 18 Oxygen beds, 6 ICU beds, 7 BIPAP machines and 3 High Flow Nasal Cannula for children. Procurement of additional medicines and other necessary equipment required has been done. These facilities are a critical infrastructure given that pediatric population is more than 3600 under BLW hospital care.

**Central Warehousing Corporation organises Regional Manager conclave at New Delhi**

Regional Manager Conclave was held at Corporate Office, New Delhi where Regional Managers of all 14 regions participated on 22nd & 23rd of July, 2021. The conclave was headed by top management of CWC in the chairmanship of Managing Director. First quarter performance review was done and planning for achieving the targets for the year 2021-22 was reviewed. Many Regional Managers shared innovative ideas which they are executing for augmenting the warehousing business in their respective region. The focus was on vision 2024-25 alongwith the asset monetization plan of CWC for inviting maximum private investment in order to infuse efficiency, new technology and effectiveness of the system. The effect undertaken by the Regional Offices while achieving the given targets were well appreciated and it was further directed by the management to follow the same zeal & enthusiasm in the coming next quarters. On this occasion, performance based on implementation of Hindi Rajbhasha in the respective regions RMs were also awarded at the end of the conclave.

**Trident among Top 500 Companies In India as per Dun & Bradstreet**

Dun & Bradstreet, a leading global data, analytics and business decision-making company bestowed this recognition to Trident in its 'India's Top 500 Companies - 2021' publication. Corporates were profiled on the basis of various financial parameters such as total income, profitability, net worth, besides other parameters related to environmental, social and governance compliances. The winners were chosen by an internal team of experts based on selected parameters and score. The publication applauds the company for its strong financial performance, social, corporate governance and good financial health. It recognises that Trident Limited is one of the companies of India which has made a significant contribution to the economy of India. The company is known for being a market leader with manufacturing expertise in high-quality paper, top-of-the-line bath and bed linen and eco-friendly paper with a consumer footprint in nearly 100 countries.

**HC questions SDMC expense**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday remarked that the expenditure incurred by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on paying salaries of employees is abnormally high as compared to its functioning.

The Bench asked whether biometric attendance of staff was linked to their Aadhaar. "You need to see if you are overstaffed," the Bench said. The south municipal body submitted that its monthly expenses include ₹214 crore for salaries and ₹30 crore for pensions.

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**Zonal Manager(UP-Zone)**

**Domestic violence plaint against Yo Yo Honey Singh**

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday issued notice to singer Hirdesh Singh, alias Yo Yo Honey Singh, on a domestic violence complaint filed by his wife. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Singh directed Mr. Singh to respond to the plea filed under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, and posted it for hearing on August 28.

Shalini Talwar, in her plea, accused Mr. Singh of physical, mental, and verbal abuse. She said they had gotten married in 2011, around the time the singer was gaining more popularity. "With the incoming success, Mr. Singh's attitude changed towards Ms. Talwar and he became rude, brash, aggressive, contemptuous, and disrespectful towards her," the plea said. Advocates Sandeep Kapur, Apoorva Pandey and G.G. Kashyap represented Ms. Talwar during the proceeding. Ms. Talwar also accused Mr. Singh of cheating on her, becoming an alcoholic and a drug addict.

**Clear Aravali forest land encroachments by Aug. 23: SC**

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Faridabad Municipal Corporation is expected to complete the removal of unauthorised structures on Aravali forest land in Khori Ganga before August 23 while reiterating that all unauthorised structures, including illegal farmhouses, will face the axe. "If structures are in forest land, they will face action," a Special Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari clarified.

The court asked the municipal authorities to file a status report by August 25 on the demolition.

The court-ordered demolition covers about 10,000 unauthorised residential constructions encroaching into the forest land.

The court also asked the State of Haryana to expedite and finalise the rehabilitation policy for residents, preferably before the next date of court hearing.

**Now, Gurugram to demolish all illegal buildings on PLPA land**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

In view of the Supreme Court direction in a case pertaining to Khori Basti this past month, the Gurugram district administration has decided to identify illegal structures on land notified under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900 and remove them.

Around 6,800 hectares of land in the district across 33 revenues estates is notified under the PLPA.

The Faridabad district administration too had on July 28 said all illegal structures, including farmhouses and educational institutes, on the land notified under the PLPA would be demolished to clear encroachment on forest land. The Faridabad district has around 130 illegal structures spread across 500 acres of notified land.

The Supreme Court had, in a matter pertaining to Khori Basti demolition, observed on July 23 that "the direction to remove all unauthorised structures standing on forest land applies to 'all' unauthorised structures". Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Yash Garg has ordered a survey of the land notified under PLPA.

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**Karnataka HC notice to Yediyurappa, son**

**BENGALURU**  
The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday ordered issue of notice to former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, his son B.Y. Vijayendra, and others on a petition questioning the order of a special court declining to order an investigation against them for want of sanction for prosecution on a complaint of alleged receipt of bribe.

**Chandy, others acquitted in metro protest case**

**KOCHI**  
UDF leaders, including former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who took out a mass protest metro travel on June 20, 2017, the next day of launching the service in Kochi, were acquitted by a trial court here on Tuesday.

# CBI arrests key witness in Viveka murder case

Sunil Yadav and family had reportedly gone underground

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KADAPA**

In a major breakthrough in the sensational former Member of Parliament Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case, the Central Bureau of Investigation apprehended an important witness, Sunil Yadav, in Goa on Monday night.

Mr. Yadav, who is learnt to have had a long-term association with the Viveka family, was grilled a number of times by the CBI team that had camped in Kadapa district for over a month. After this, he had approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court and sought protection from arrest by the CBI. The CBI also filed a counter in the High Court stating that the investigation was progressing in tune with the norms, and



Sunil Yadav

held that the petitioner was trying to mislead the officials. The CBI also reportedly submitted to the court that there was enough evidence against Mr. Yadav.

After moving court, Mr. Yadav and his family members reportedly went underground and remained inaccessible to the police.

Vivekananda Reddy, paternal uncle of Chief Minis-

ter Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was found dead in the bathroom of his Pulivendula house on March 15, 2019, just ahead of the general elections. Though initially believed to be death caused by heart attack, the police later recognised it as a case of murder.

There was little breakthrough over the years in spite of a lot of action by the CBI. The probe picked up momentum over the last few weeks after the officials started questioning Mr. Reddy's former driver Dastagiri.

Police produced Mr. Yadav and his family members in a local court in Goa and obtained a transit warrant to bring them to Kadapa. He is expected to be produced in a Kadapa court on Wednesday.

# No Tipu Sultan statue in A.P.'s Proddatur

No more statues, say authorities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KADAPA**

With the Kadapa district administration deciding not to allow the installation of any more statues, the furore over the move to build a statue of Tipu Sultan in Proddatur is expected to die down.

It all started with the Proddatur YSRCP MLA Rachamalla Sivaprasad Reddy volunteering to install a statue of Tipu Sultan on a main road junction and even performing 'Bhumi Puja' for the same, allegedly without getting a nod from the district statues committee.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leadership, led by Somu Veerajulu and S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, visited Kadapa and submitted representations to officials against the move, describing it as "unconstitutional" and "an attempt to appease the minorities". Welcoming the

government's decision, the BJP on Tuesday demanded Mr. Reddy's arrest for "going against the Constitution".

Meanwhile, Minority Hakkula Parirakshana Samithi State president Farooq Shibli has accused the YSRCP government of playing with public sentiments. "Muslims never asked for a Tipu Sultan statue. It was the MLA who insisted on installing a statue, but the U-turn is indicative of tacit support to the BJP's divide-and-rule politics," he said.

Mr. Shibli took exception to the way "the government had taken refuge in the Supreme Court's directive to avoid installing the statue". "There are several statues in Proddatur town, including five of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy alone. How are they not in violation of the SC's guidelines?" he asked.

**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	24	32.4	25.4	Kozhikode	3	31.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	0.7	31.5	25.7	Kurnool	2	34	23.8
Aizawl	161.7	26.2	19.0	Lucknow	33.0	26.3	
Allahabad	33.0	26.2		Madurai	40.2	25.6	
Bangaluru	29.3	20.0		Mangaluru	13.1	28.6	23.0
Bhopal	31.7	25.6		Mumbai	6	30.4	24.8
Bhubaneswar	31.7	25.6		Mysuru	29.0	21.0	
Chandigarh	72.2	31.7	27.9	New Delhi	34.8	25.8	
Chennai	32.5	28.3		Patna	34.2	26.6	
Coimbatore	32.5	22.7		Port Blair	18	29.9	24.1
Dehradun	0.2	31.7	25.3	Puducherry	36.8	25.4	
Gangtok	1	22.7	17.8	Pune	0.2	29.7	21.7
Goa	14	30.7	24.2	Raipur	30.5	23.5	
Guwahati	0.6	35.4	26.1	Ranchi	29.6	23.1	
Hubballi	27.0	21.0		Shillong	0.7	24.5	18.6
Hyderabad	31.5	22.7		Shimla	2	24.7	20.1
Imphal	21	29.3	22.6	Srinagar	31.3	19.4	
Jaipur	80	30.0	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	2	32.1	24.5
Kochi	33	30.6	24.0	Tiruchi	37.0	26.6	
Kohima	3	26.6	18.8	Vijayawada	36.0	27.0	
Kolkata	0.6	32.7	26.7	Visakhapatnam	37.6	27.8	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	14	20	76	91	■
Bangaluru	7	54	59	26	88	■
Chennai	8	16	64	33	39	■
Delhi	28	41	80	71	141	■
Hyderabad	2	72	20	14	33	■
Kolkata	13	30	55	95	79	■
Lucknow	6	46	57	31	52	■
Mumbai	28	10	63	105	105	■
Pune	33	14	47	83	74	■
Visakhapatnam	3	38	38	38	38	■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** 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.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** 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 premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Webinar on investment industry offers career guidance to young professionals

It was jointly organised by BusinessLine and CFA Institute

**STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI**

A webinar, jointly organised by BusinessLine and the CFA Institute, on 'Career Insights: Gaining an edge in the post-COVID Investment Industry' on August 1 saw several students and young professionals participate and interact with industry experts.

Vidhu Shekhar, country head - India, CFA Institute; Nisha Awasthi, managing director and head of HR, BlackRock India; Saurabh Mukherjee, founder & CIO, Marcellus Investment Managers; and Vaibhav Jain, head, Strategic Partnerships

& Sales, WealthDesk, spoke as a part of the panel discussion moderated by Parvatha Vardhini C., BusinessLine's Chief of Research Bureau.

The interaction answered several questions pertaining to qualifications and skill sets required to get a break in investment management, the impact of technology on the profession, the current opportunities and the future of the industry.

Ms. Awasthi said that as young professionals entering the industry, they should give themselves enough time and show commitment to go deeper and stronger in a particular field of business

that leveraged their strength. Stating that the focus should be on skill building, Mr. Mukherjee said that one needed to get out of the mindset of earning more and more degrees and professional qualifications to showcase expertise.

Mr. Shekhar said that investment management had become a lucrative career option for young professionals, as increasing income levels and booming markets were drawing more investors to financial assets. Mr. Jain highlighted the importance of risk management skills for those in the industry.

# Hyderabad encounter: SC gives six more months to probe panel

Four men, accused of gang-rape, were killed on Dec. 6, 2019

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave the Justice V.S. Sirpurkar Commission another six months to complete the probe ordered by it into the death of four men, accused of gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian, in an alleged encounter with the Hyderabad police on December 6, 2019.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, however, asked the Commission's lawyer, advocate K. Parameshwar, why it needed so much time to complete the inquiry.

In July last year, the Commission had taken a similar extension of six months. A second extension was given in January last.

Mr. Parameshwar cited delays caused by the pandemic and a new list of another 130 witnesses.

The Commission had said that despite the pandemic restrictions they received a whopping 1,365 affidavits from the Hyderabad police officers allegedly involved and the families of the accused. It had also collected the reports of the National Human Rights Commission, the Special Investigation

Team, post-mortem reports, etc., in the case.

The four accused - Mohammed Arif, Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu, Jollu Shiva and Jollu Naveen - were taken to the scene of the crime around 60 km from Hyderabad in the early hours of December 6 for a reconstruction of the crime scene. The Telangana government has stuck to its version that the accused men surprised their police escort there, grabbed their guns and tried to kill the policemen. The posse retaliated and the four were killed in the cross-firing.

# 'Second wave still raging in country'

Ten districts in Kerala are showing a worrying trend, says Lav Aggarwal

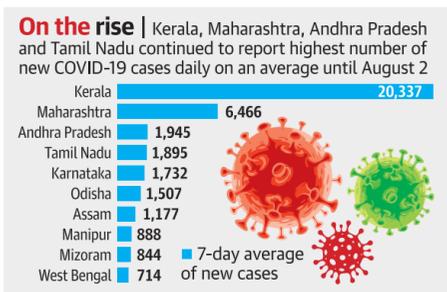
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is "still raging" in the country, Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry, said on Tuesday.

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Karnataka, Puducherry and Kerala have registered a rise in the Reproduction Number (R), which was a cause for concern, he said at a press conference here.

Reproduction Number is the average number of new infections generated by one infected individual during the entire infectious period. R>1 denotes a spreading infection. The R for India is 1.2.

"If it has gone over 1, it shows it is a significant problem and some States have registered an increasing trend of over 1," Mr. Aggarwal said. Only Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are showing a declining trend and in States such as Bengal, Nagaland, Haryana, Goa, Delhi and Jharkhand, the R



factor is at 1.

The Ministry said 44 districts had reported a high case positivity and 18 districts had shown an increasing new cases trend in the past four weeks. "Currently, we have Kerala (10 districts), Manipur (9), Mizoram (6), Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya (4 each), among others that remain a cause for concern."

"Also 49.85% of the total cases in the last week were reported from Kerala. Malappuram, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kasargod, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad and Idukki

districts in Kerala are showing a worrying trend," he said.

An overall declining trend had been observed across India in weekly positivity since the week ending May 10. "Weekly positivity has been less than 2% for the first time in the past 3 months," he said.

**'Far from over'**

The pandemic was far from over and globally, too, there was a rise in cases, NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul said. The Delta variant was a dominant problem. "COVID-appropriate beha-

viour and vaccination are vital and we urge the vulnerable population to avail themselves of the vaccination facility as soon as possible. This definitely contributes to the reduction of severity and mortality," he said.

He said the government is in talks with Moderna and Pfizer for bringing in more vaccines, and India was all set to enhance its production capacity by next month. Work is in progress in terms of bringing in COVID-19 vaccination for children also. "While work on ensuring increased vaccine capacity is underway, data have shown that India has to adopt a cautious approach to the virus which doesn't seem to have tired. Though overall we have registered a reduced positivity trend, there are districts which continue to be a cause for concern. Now States like Himachal, where case positivity was steady or declining, are showing districts with high positivity. This clearly indicates that we cannot let our guard down."

# Now, SAD-BSP alliance promises free power

'400 units free for all households'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH**

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday said if the SAD-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) alliance assumes power in the State, free power up to 400 units per month will be given to all households, besides 75% jobs would be reserved for people of Punjab in the private sector.

Announcing a thirteen-point charter of initiatives which the SAD-BSP alliance

will implement if it forms the next government in the State, Mr. Badal said a grant of ₹2,000 per month will be given to all women heads of 'blue card' holder families. Also, ₹10 per litre reduction in price of diesel for agriculture consumers will be provided.

Provision of power at ₹5 per unit for industry and an interest free loan of ₹10 lakh for students will be kept, the Akali Dal chief said.

# Bandh observed over slow pace of Naga peace process

Parts of Manipur, Nagaland affected

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI**

Parts of Manipur and Nagaland shut down on Tuesday to protest against the lack of progress in the Naga peace process.

The Isak Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN (I-M) had called the 12-hour shutdown on the sixth anniversary of the signing of the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015. Most shops and

commercial establishments were closed across 'Nagalim', a term for Naga-inhabited areas across the north-east.

**NNPG areas ignore call**  
According to reports, the shutdown had minimal effect in Zunheboto and Mon districts. These districts are dominated by communities that comprise the bulk of the members of the rival Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs).

# Karnataka Cong. chief meets Gehlot

Visit comes amid speculation about Cabinet expansion

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT JAIPUR**

Less than 24 hours after an unannounced visit of senior Congress leader Kumari Selja to Jaipur, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar also met Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot here on Tuesday.

Mr. Shivakumar's visit is perceived as yet another attempt by the party leadership to tackle Mr. Gehlot's unrelenting attitude to a Ca-

binet reshuffle.

Mr. Shivakumar, who landed at Sanganer airport here on Tuesday afternoon, was driven straight to the Chief Minister's official residence in Civil Lines. He left for New Delhi after meeting Mr. Gehlot for nearly an hour.

Mr. Shivakumar is the fourth Congress leader to visit Rajasthan in the last one week amid speculation about a Cabinet expansion and reshuffle, in which the MLAs

loyal to former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot are seeking a bigger representation. AICC general secretaries Ajay Maken and K.C. Venugopal and Haryana Congress chief Ms. Selja have visited Jaipur and met Mr. Gehlot over the last couple of weeks.

However, Mr. Shivakumar told reporters at the airport that this was his personal visit to the State Capital and it had "no political agenda".

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## Circumscription

Circular on using past protest record to deny jobs, passports risks further alienation in J&K

Police verification and security clearances for passport or government job applicants are a matter of routine in most parts of the country. In Kashmir, where the police have now issued a circular aimed at gathering details and denying security clearance to those involved in throwing stones and joining street protests in the past, the exercise may not be out of the ordinary, but it could result in serious prejudice to the aspirations of many young men and women. The circular, which asks CID Special Branch field units to ensure that any subject's involvement in law-and-order incidents and related crimes be specifically looked into, and also to collect digital evidence from the records of police and security forces, suggests that the administration is quite serious about preventing those with a likely link to protests in the past from either entering government service or travelling abroad. Reports suggest that the official list of street protesters swelled between 2008 and 2017 to include nearly 20,000 people. On the face of it, the decision to subject applicants for passports and jobs to scrutiny is not illegal. Under Section 6(2) of the Passports Act, 1967, passports can be denied to applicants for various reasons, including their likelihood of engaging in activities prejudicial to the country's sovereignty and integrity, or detrimental to its security. Further, those convicted in the preceding five years, or against whom proceedings are pending before any criminal court, are also candidates for refusal. There is legal recourse for those affected, as the Act allows them to approach the trial court for a 'No Objection' certificate to get a passport.

In the backdrop of the Union government's outreach to revive political activity preparatory to elections, it is quite incongruous that such a far-reaching measure that would dampen the hopes and aspirations of thousands of people is being pursued. The Government's position is that the alteration of the status of J&K in August 2019 has ushered in a new era of development and prosperity, and that it is time to strengthen grassroots democracy. It was as a part of this process that Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited leaders of the Union Territory's political parties in June for a discussion. Despite their obvious disappointment that the restoration of statehood is likely to be considered only after polls to the Legislative Assembly, the parley did create some cautious optimism about a fresh political process. Were the administration to pursue this circular zealously, there is a danger that it may revive the sort of alienation among the youth that led to the stone-pelting incidents in 2008 and 2010, and the wave of disaffection following the killing of militant leader Burhan Wani. When all efforts should be directed towards building on current gains, nothing ought to be done to make those still harbouring, for whatever reason, a sense of betrayal feel that some fresh collective punishment is in the offing.

## Time and patience

India seems ready for England in cricket's longest format after extended waiting period

Just as Indian hockey's Olympic tryst draws rightful attention in Tokyo, Virat Kohli's men will don whites and play their Test series in England. The first Test commencing at Nottingham's Trent Bridge on Wednesday will kick-start a five-match joust stretching all the way to September 14. Due to bio-bubble protocols and the World Test Championship final that India lost to New Zealand at Southampton on June 23, Kohli and company have been in England since June first week. Perhaps, this is the longest an Indian squad has stayed overseas prior to an opening Test and there was adequate time to get acclimatised. After the contest involving New Zealand, the players took a break, savoured the countryside, Euro and Wimbledon, and added zest to their Instagram accounts. They then reverted to the bubble and had a warm-up fixture against a County Select XI. Meanwhile, Rishabh Pant recovered from COVID-19, an injured Shubman Gill returned home, and Mayank Agarwal suffered a concussion and was ruled out of the first Test. Even so, India is seemingly in a better head-space, an important attribute while countering England in its backyard. Ever since its maiden tour of England in 1932, India has won only three series – 1971, 1986 and 2007 – at the Old Blighty. Having ambushed Australia, India wants to replicate that feat in cricket's birthplace.

With its whimsical skies torn between the sun and feathery rain, and pitches favouring the sultans of pace, England is a hard testing ground. A cautionary fact is that India lost all its three previous tours during 2011, 2014 and 2018. It would be interesting to see who walks out along with Rohit Sharma as his fellow-opener. K.L. Rahul has a chance while Cheteshwar Pujara, Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane would constitute the middle-order. Hanuma Vihari is part of the mix with Pant lending match-altering flair. A pace-attack headlined by Jasprit Bumrah along with R. Ashwin lending his spin, augurs well and seemingly India have the right men. Yet, there are worry-lines. By their exalted standards, Kohli, Pujara and Rahane have had a lean patch, and Bumrah was not on fire against New Zealand. However, the team-management sees this as an aberration. Facing off against India, England has skipper Joe Root and the pace-combine of James Anderson and Stuart Broad to fall back upon. But there is no Jofra Archer and the exit of all-rounder Ben Stokes citing mental issues and the need for rest, is a blow to the host. Exactly 50 years after registering its maiden series victory in England, India is back for another tilt. With just the walking-wounded and its bench-strength, India stunned Australia. Kohli is banking on that memory to turn the tide.

# Poverty in India is on the rise again

In the absence of CES data, the Periodic Labour Force Survey shows a rise in the absolute number of the poor



SANTOSH MEHROTRA &  
JAJATI KESHARI PARIDA

India has not released its Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) data since 2011-12. Normally a CES is conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO) every five years. But the CES of 2017-18 (already conducted a year late) was not made public by the Government of India. Now, we hear that a new CES is likely to be conducted in 2021-22, the data from which will probably not be available before end-2022.

Meanwhile, we know that the economy has been slowing for nine quarters prior to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Unemployment had reached a 45-year high in 2017-18, as revealed by NSO's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

**Sufficient to estimate change** India's labour force surveys, including the five-yearly Employment-Unemployment Rounds from 1973-4 to 2011-12, have also collected consumption expenditure of households. The PLFS has maintained that tradition. While the PLFS's questions on consumption expenditure are not as detailed as those of the CES, they are sufficient for us to estimate changes in consumption on a consistent basis across time. It enables any careful researcher to estimate the incidence of poverty (i.e., the share in the total population of those below the poverty line), as well as the total number of persons below poverty. That is exactly what we do in the table.

There is a clear trajectory of the incidence of poverty falling from 1973 to 2012. In fact, since India

began collecting data on poverty, the incidence of poverty has always fallen, consistently. It was 54.9% in 1973-4; 44.5% in 1983-84; 36% in 1993-94 and 27.5% in 2004-05. This was in accordance with the Lakdawala poverty line (which was lower than the Tendulkar poverty line), named after a distinguished economist, then a member of the Planning Commission.

### Methodology

In 2011, it was decided in the Planning Commission, that the national poverty line will be raised in accordance with the recommendations of an expert group chaired by the late Suresh Tendulkar (then professor of Economics at the Delhi School of Economics). That is the poverty line we use in estimating poverty in the table. As it happens, this poverty line was comparable at the time to the international poverty line (estimated by the World Bank), of \$1.09 (now raised to \$1.90 to account for inflation) person per day.

Based on the Tendulkar poverty line, the poverty estimates for 2004-05 and 2011-12 are to be found in the Planning Commission's own estimates using the CES of those years. Hence, we have extended the 2011-12 poverty line for each State and used the consumption expenditure reported by the PLFS to estimate a consistent poverty head count ratio (i.e., incidence of poverty in the population) as well as the absolute number of the poor. We feel confident about using the PLFS, because in the absence of CES data, the PLFS can be used to estimate the incidence of poverty. It also collects the household monthly per capita consumption expenditure data based on the Mixed Recall Period methodology. Similar to the CES, the PLFS (PLFS annual report, 2019-20, page 6) also asks the household questions about expenses on health, clothing and

## Relative and absolute poverty rose after 2012

Tracking poverty in India from 2005 to 2020

Incidence of Poverty	As per NSS CES data		As per PLFS data	
	2004-05	2011-12	2019-20	
Poverty Head Count Ratio (%)	Rural	41.8	25.7	30.5
	Urban	25.7	13.7	15.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>25.9</b>
Number of poor (Million)	Rural	325.8	216.7	270
	Urban	81.4	53.1	71
	<b>Total</b>	<b>407.2</b>	<b>269.8</b>	<b>348</b>
Tendulkar Poverty Line (MPCE in ₹) All India	Rural	₹446.68	₹816	₹1,217.96
	Urban	₹578.8	₹1,000	₹1,467

bedding, education, footwear and consumer durables for a 365 day recall period – prior to the day of the survey; but for non-durable consumption goods/services – including expenses on food, housing and conveyance, etc. – its question expects a recall period of 30 days prior to the day of survey. We naturally updated the Tendulkar poverty line, using the Consumer Price Index for each State to 2019-20, to arrive at the estimate for the last year before COVID-19.

### An urban and rural rise

What is stunning is that for the first time in India's history of estimating poverty, there is a rise in the incidence of poverty since 2011-12. The important point is that this is consistent with the NSO's CES data for 2017-18 that was leaked data. The leaked data showed that rural consumption between 2012 and 2018 had fallen by 8%, while urban consumption had risen by barely 2%. Since the majority of India's population (certainly over 65%) is rural, poverty in India is also predominantly rural. Remarkably, by 2019-20, poverty had increased significantly in both the rural and urban areas, but much more so in rural areas (from 25% to 30%). It is also for the first time since

the estimation of poverty began in India on a consistent basis, that the absolute number of poor has risen: from 217 million in 2012 to 270 million in 2019-20 in rural areas; and from 53 million to 71 million in the urban areas; or a total increase of the absolute poor of about 70 million.

It is important here to recall two facts: between 1973 and 1993, the absolute number of poor had remained constant (at about 320 million poor), despite a significant increase in India's total population. Between 1993 and 2004, the absolute number of poor fell by a marginal number (18 million) from 320 million to 302 million, during a period when the GDP growth rate had picked up after the economic reforms.

It is for the first time in India's history since the CES began that we have seen an increase in the absolute numbers of the poor, between 2012-13 and 2019-20. The second fact is that for the first time ever, between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the number of the poor fell, and that too by a staggering 133 million, or by over 19 million per year. This was accounted for by what has come to be called India's 'dream run' of growth: over 2004 and 2014, the GDP growth

rate had averaged 8% per annum – a 10-year run that was not sustained thereafter. By contrast, not only has the incidence of poverty increased since then, but the absolute increase in poverty is totally unprecedented.

### The contributory factors

The reasons for increased poverty since 2013 are not far to seek. While the economy maintained some growth momentum till 2015, the monumental blunder of demonetisation followed by a poorly planned and hurriedly introduced Goods and Services Tax, both delivered body blows to the unorganised sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The economic slowdown followed. None of the four engines of growth was firing after that. Private investment fell from 31% inherited by the new government, to 28% of GDP by 2019-20. Public expenditure was constrained by a silent fiscal crisis. Exports, which had never fallen in absolute dollar terms for a quarter century since 1991 actually fell below the 2013-14 level (\$315 billion) for five years. Consumption stagnated and household savings rates fell. Joblessness increased to a 45-year high by 2017-18 (by the usual status), and youth (15-29 years of age) saw unemployment triple from 6% to 18% between 2012 and 2018. Real wages did not increase for casual or regular workers over the same period, hardly surprising when job seekers were increasing but jobs were not at anywhere close to that rate. Hence, consumer expenditure fell, and poverty increased.

Poverty is expected to rise further during the COVID-19 pandemic after the economy has contracted.

*Santosh Mehrotra has recently edited 'Reviving Jobs: An Agenda for Growth, 2020'. Jajati Keshari Parida is Assistant Professor of Economics at the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda*

# Getting back in business in the Indo-Pacific

The choreographed visits of three senior U.S. officials are a part of the Biden administration's deliberate strategic refocus



RAJIV BHATIA

United States President Joe Biden executed a bold diplomatic outreach to the Indo-Pacific region last month through carefully choreographed visits of his three top officials – Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman, Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken. This is part of a deliberate strategic refocus, away from the 20 years of Afghanistan and Iraq and towards maritime Asia, where COVID-19, climate change and China are the compelling challenges.

Assessing what the three American dignitaries sought and actually achieved is instructive in order to appreciate the impressive sweep of diplomacy and military strength of the world's top power, the United States. Their discussions would surely mould the geopolitical equations in the region.

### In East Asia and Oman

Ms. Sherman's visit (July 19-27) was probably the most complex since it covered not only Japan, South Korea and Mongolia but also China. Throughout her trip, she reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to working with allies and partners for the promotion of peace and prosperity and upholding a 'rules-based order', the code word criti-

cal of China's behaviour. Her discussions with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mori Takeo, covered not only the present state of the Japan-U.S. alliance but also other issues including Myanmar and COVID-19. In addition, she participated in a trilateral meeting involving Japan and South Korea, perhaps in a bid to smoothen tensions afflicting the two east Asian neighbours.

By visiting Ulaanbaatar, Ms. Sherman became the highest U.S. dignitary to visit Mongolia since 2016. Despite its close relationship with Beijing, Mongolia looks for devices to assert its independence. So, the opportunity to discuss its needs and concerns with the new administration was valuable. In Tianjin, China, she held discussions with Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng, her counterpart, and was also received by Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Her main mission was to convey that the U.S. welcomed competition but did not seek confrontation with China. She also discussed forthrightly the dismal human rights situation in Xinjiang and logistics for a possible Biden-Xi Jinping meeting at the G20 summit in Rome in October.

### Southeast Asian dynamics

The visit by Mr. Austin (July 23-30) covering three important ASEAN member-states – Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines – turned out to be the most productive in that it reiterated the necessity for a U.S. military presence in the region. As the Pentagon chief, Mr. Austin is heard with attention, particularly when he speaks with the



candour of a veteran general. "Beijing's claim to the vast majority of the South China Sea has no basis in international law," he aptly asserted, while delivering the Fulbright Lecture on July 27 (<https://bit.ly/3CkTeMT>). He listed China's other objectionable actions, including "aggression against India". And then he sent out the key signal to Beijing: "We will not flinch when our interests are threatened. Yet we do not seek confrontation."

This seems to have resonated, as Mr. Austin's discussions with leaders of the three countries went off exceptionally well. In a joint statement, Singapore and the U.S. agreed that America's presence in the region is "vital for its peace, prosperity and stability". The U.S. side appreciated Singapore's logistical support to U.S. military aircraft and vessels (<https://bit.ly/3xmjPW7>), while Singapore benefits from the arrangement of an air force fighter training detachment hosted in Guam as well as new training facilities inside the U.S. Singapore could modulate its current inclination to move closer to China.

Mr. Austin encouraged Vietnam to develop closer defence cooperation with the U.S. A new memo-

randum of understanding was signed to resolve the war legacy issues by creating a database to accelerate the search for those still missing in action (MIA). Mr. Austin's visits to Singapore and Vietnam will be followed shortly by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris. The Philippines leg produced a notable result as Manila agreed to full restoration of the Visiting Forces Agreement which provides the legal foundation for the U.S. military presence in that country.

### In South Asia and Kuwait

Mr. Blinken's trip to Delhi and Kuwait (July 26-29; <https://bit.ly/3yq8Yvt>) drew attention for its positive outcomes. The India visit was more in the nature of a consultative, confirmatory dialogue rather than one that results in signing of new agreements. His discussions with the Prime Minister, the National Security Adviser and the External Affairs Minister brought out clearly that the areas of convergence between the two nations are expanding and the areas of divergence are shrinking. His repeated observation that the friendship with India is one of the closest that the U.S. has, was music to Indian ears.

On Afghanistan, the proximity of perceptions was emphasised, although this did not conceal the differences in their perspectives. On the Indo-Pacific, however, the convergence was clear, with the two Foreign Ministers agreeing to cooperate on a range of geopolitical and geo-economic issues without uttering the "C" word even once in their smoothly-managed

joint press conference. By clarifying that the Quad was not "a military alliance", Mr. Blinken spoke the truth, tipping his hat to India's strategic autonomy. He defined the Quad as four like-minded countries "coming together to work collectively ... on regional challenges, while reinforcing international rules and values".

### The takeaways

Together, what do the three visits signal? First, that America's China policy and the Rest of the Indo-Pacific policy will run in tandem, with inner consistency ensured by Mr. Biden. Second, Washington maintains a tough attitude towards Beijing, but it desires to keep the doors open for dialogue. The relationship with China is marked by three characteristics – adversarial, competitive and cooperative – and is likely to stay that way. Third, the U.S. is willing to resist and counter China firmly, but with the full engagement of and contribution by the like-minded states of the region. Therefore, Mr. Austin's exposition of "integrated deterrence", defined as "using every military and non-military tool in our toolbox, in lock-step with our allies and partners...", assumes significance.

In short, the U.S. is back and is willing to lead – but the region will have to seriously step up too and participate actively to maintain peace and prosperity. Asia can ill-afford to be a reticent bystander.

*Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former Ambassador to Myanmar*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### 'Unconstitutional' laws

It is deplorable that the law enforcement agencies themselves have been transgressing the constitutional provisions by registering cases under 'non-existing' Sections (Page 1, "SC questions States on cases under 66A", August 3). Under these circumstances, what can the ordinary citizen do except wait for years on end for his case to come up for hearing? It is a mystery how courts are sending the accused to remand under these Sections without initial enquiry, and also without observing whether the Sections invoked exist

in the Statute book or not. Technology can be fruitfully utilised to ensure that cases are not registered under Sections repealed by Parliament or declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of India. All police stations may be computerised, including the registration of cases. A software programme may be developed, loaded with all the existing Sections of the law, with a provision not to accept registration of cases under Sections not provided in the system. All police stations in each State should be connected to a central server and the software should be updated

as and when a law is enacted, a Section is modified/repealed by Parliament or a Section is declared unconstitutional by the Court.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,  
Hyderabad

### Parliament disrupted

The disruptions to the Rajya Sabha for the tenth consecutive day show that the ruling dispensation is no different from previous regimes in taking a confrontationalist approach towards the Opposition, hiding behind adjournments and running away from its responsibility in taking up issues that the

Members of House want the Government to discuss (Inside pages, "In RS, Oppn. raises Pegasus, farm bills", August 3). As the Lower House is running on tax-payers' money, the onus is on those who run the country to see to it that it transacts business, runs smoothly and does not fritter away public money in this manner. One wonders why the Prime Minister who is an orator and talks on a myriad issues in his 'Mann ki baat' radio broadcast, is now silent on Pegasus and the controversial farm laws. This does not bode well for an elected government that

is supposed to be answerable not only to the people of this country but also to the elected representatives.

PRABHU RAJ R.,  
Bengaluru

### Dispute resolution

The erstwhile Mizo hills district of Assam became the Mizoram Union Territory, and after a few years, it became a full-fledged State. Old revenue maps of Assam showing district boundaries as well as other revenue records of Assam, should be consulted to resolve the present day Assam-Mizoram boundary

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dispute. It is very unfortunate that the police and the people of both States were embroiled in a dispute. I served as a General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) Officer during 1973-77 on a major section of the Silchar-Aizawl road, that is from Bhaga Bazaar (in Assam) right up to Kawnpui (beyond Kolasi in Mizoram). The inter-State border was considered to be where the hill section starts (near about Vairengte village). It was absolutely peaceful then.

G. GOPALA KRISHNA MOORTHY,  
Chennai

# Providing horizontal quota: the Bihar way

The case for reservations for women and transgender persons in State jobs and higher education



ADITI PRIYA & TEJAS HARAD

The Bihar government recently announced 33% horizontal reservation for women in State engineering and medical colleges. While reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) is referred to as vertical reservation, horizontal reservation refers to the equal opportunity provided to other categories of beneficiaries, such as women, veterans, the transgender community, and individuals with disabilities, cutting through the vertical categories.

Bihar at present has 60% reservation in the State higher educational institutions along the six vertical categories (SCs, STs, EWS and so on). The newly announced reservation for women in engineering and medical seats will not be in addition to this; it will instead be distributed across all the vertical categories, including the non-reserved 40% seats open to all. For example, if an engineering college has 100 reserved seats for STs, 33 of those seats will have to be filled with ST women. Article 15(3) of the Constitution allows governments to make special provisions for women and children.

**Dropping out of the workforce**  
This initiative should be welcomed and adopted across sectors, departments, and States given that India's female labour force participation (FLFP) rate is consistently declining and is worryingly low. World Bank data show that the FLFP came down to 21% in 2019 from 31.79% in 2005.

As per the Bihar Economic Survey 2019-20, the State's FLFP rate was abysmal compared to the all-India average. Only 6.4% and 3.9% women were employed in the urban and rural areas of Bihar compared to the all-India figures of 20.4% and 24.6% respectively. The FLFP rate needs to be treated cautiously though as it doesn't take into account unpaid work (majorly performed by women) or the role played by social barriers like caste in blocking employment opportunities for women like owning



"While the Bihar government has taken some laudable steps for the empowerment of women, the low female literacy rate and female labour force participation rate are of concern." Girls in Patna on their way to government school. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

a shop.

Patriarchal control of women and systemic gender discrimination cannot be defeated by government intervention alone; State welfare schemes can go a long way in challenging them. The Bihar government needs to work towards reducing the female and male school dropout rate and ensure quality education at the primary and secondary level. In addition, initiatives like reservation of seats, when implemented properly, could become an important driver for improving the FLFP.

### Improving representation

In the last three decades, Bihar has implemented various initiatives to empower women and improve their representation in various fields. When Lalu Prasad was the Chief Minister in 1992, Bihar had announced two consecutive days of menstrual leave for women employees in government services. In 2006, under Nitish Kumar, Bihar became the first State to reserve 50% seats for women in Panchayati Raj institutions even though the 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution, which came into force in 1993, mandated only one-third seats for them. This

was later imitated by several other States such as Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Chhattisgarh.

In 2013, the Bihar government made a provision for 50% reservation for women in cooperative societies and reserved 35% seats for them in police recruitment. The second initiative led to a swift jump in the number of women officers in the police department to 25.3% in 2020, more than double the national average of 10.3%, from 3.3% in 2015. In 2016, the government extended the 35% reservation for women to all government jobs in Bihar for which direct recruitment is made.

In 2006, a scheme called the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana was launched for Class 9 and 10 girl students. This was India's first scaled up conditional cash transfer programme for secondary education of girls. The enrolment of girl students went up after this scheme. The Bihar government also provides ₹50,000 in installments to girl students to support their studies and other needs till graduation under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Uththan Yojana. This is an incentive-based scheme to encourage girls to complete educa-

tion and delay marriage. According to the National Family Health Survey-5, the State's literacy rate among girl children rose to 61.1% in 2019-20 from 56.9% in 2015-16.

### More jobs for women

While the Bihar government has taken some laudable steps for the empowerment of women, the low female literacy rate and FLFP rate are of concern. One of the important factors for the low FLFP rate is the lack of employment opportunities for women after matriculation and graduation. The India Human Development Survey-II found that women with low levels of education and from rural areas are relatively more active in the labour market compared to women with middle or high school education. Therefore, the Bihar government needs to ensure that women don't fall out of the labour market as they become more educationally qualified.

One way this can be done is by filling up pending vacancies in the health sector, police force, teaching and other government departments as at least 35% of these posts will go to women. The government should also do away with hiring workers on contract and make all the current contractual workers permanent.

Evidence points out that increasing women's participation in the workforce to the level of men boosts the economy. In light of this, it is important for the government to make more and more jobs available for women. The Bihar government should also extend the engineering and medical quota for women to all institutions of higher education, including private colleges and universities. Further, the quota allotted to them can be increased to 40-45%, if not 50%, and the category can be renamed as 'women and transgender persons'. Other State governments and the Union government should follow the Bihar government's lead and introduce horizontal quota for women (and in addition, for transgender persons) in higher educational institutions as well as State employment as these measures will go a long way in reducing gender disparity in the country.

Aditi Priya is a Senior Research Associate at LEAD at Krea University and is also with the Bahujan Economists group; Tejas Harad is a social and political commentator

# The problems of prediction

Why most COVID-19 forecasting has gone wrong



ATANU BISWAS

As the pandemic broke, in a *Harvard Business Review* article of April 2020, Julie Shah, an AI researcher and a roboticist at MIT, and Neel Shah, a physician at a major hospital and a public health researcher at Harvard, perceived that this would be our most meaningful Big Data and analytics challenge yet. "We have the people. We have the data. We have the computational force. We need to deploy them now," they wrote. In terms of the volume of data, COVID-19 is something like Alibaba's cave. Many data scientists, statisticians, computer analysts, and epidemiologists got engaged in the fashionable exercise of predicting the trajectories of the number of cases and deaths, different waves of the pandemic and their peaks. Many of the predictions were contradictory in nature and were proved to be misleading eventually, although they were mostly done by academics of reputed universities and institutes. But why did such predictions fail?

### A dubious track record

In a paper in the *International Journal of Forecasting* in August 2020, John P.A. Ioannidis, Sally Cripps, and Martin A. Tanner recalled that epidemic forecasting has a dubious track record. The failures became more prominent with COVID-19. They pointed out several important causes of the failure of such forecasting: poor data input, wrong modelling assumptions, high sensitivity of estimates, lack of incorporation of epidemiological features, poor past evidence on effects of available interventions, lack of transparency, errors, lack of determinacy, looking at only one or a few dimensions of the problem at hand, lack of expertise in crucial disciplines, selective reporting, etc.

The models used in most COVID-19 predictions were simple statistical models like regression or time series models, or standard epidemiological models such as SIR, SEIR, or their simple variants. These are well-studied and are also included in standard software packages. Thus, most COVID-19 data analysts didn't do much beyond feeding the classified data on daily cases and deaths into the computer. Software immediately provided forecasts along with fancy graphs.

Each of these models depends on some underlying assumptions on the nature of the disease and the behaviour of the concerned community. The dynamics of a new and unknown disease, however, maybe far more

complicated and unpredictable. And if the assumptions are not satisfied in reality, the predictions might become weird. The nature of COVID-19 was unknown from the beginning. Even now, there are many unknowns concerning the disease. New variants of the virus, effectiveness and coverage of the vaccines, etc. play important roles. So, which of the existing models is really 'suitable' for predicting COVID-19? It's difficult to answer.

### Quality of data

Although waves of data are available, official death tolls from COVID-19 are likely to be a "significant undercount", the World Health Organization (WHO) said in May, estimating that the true figure of direct and indirect deaths in many countries "would truly be two to three times higher". The WHO estimated double the reported COVID-19 deaths in the European region, having relatively reliable reporting systems, during 2020. An unknown but huge number of asymptomatic cases, inadequate and inefficient testing facilities, overwhelmed hospital infrastructure, social stigma, etc. may be some of the reasons. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. even issued an official warning about the quality of data: "Counting exact numbers of COVID-19 cases is not possible because COVID-19 can cause mild illness, symptoms might not appear immediately, there are delays in reporting and testing, not everyone who is infected gets tested or seeks medical care, and there are differences in how completely states and territories report their cases." CDC even uses an 'ensemble' forecast which combines many independently developed forecasts into one to improve prediction.

Thus, almost everywhere, the reality of COVID-19 predictions is restricted to forecasting official figures based on official data, using some possible wrong model. The dimensions of errors are unknown both in the model and data. Policymakers may still need some such predictions to plan for healthcare infrastructure. But it's unclear why many academics, who should understand that they're engaged in useless exercises, are busy in the prediction business. The horror or false sense of security caused through these wrong predictions is undesirable.

In their 2020 paper, Ioannidis, Cripps, and Tanner opined that some, but not all, of the problems of epidemiological forecasting can be fixed. Careful modelling of predictive distributions rather than focusing on point estimates, considering multiple dimensions of impact, and continuously reappraising models based on their validated performance may help.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

# A confident exit from Afghanistan

It is the U.S.'s belief that the Taliban won't harm its interests that has propelled its exit

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

Contrary to popular belief, the U.S. is not getting out of Afghanistan a defeated nation. It stayed there as long as it needed to, as President Joe Biden stated, achieving its objective "to degrade the terrorist threat to keep Afghanistan from becoming a base from which attacks could be continued against the United States."

The U.S.'s exit from Afghanistan represents a fundamental shift in its strategic objectives. As Vanda Felbab-Brown observes in her blog dated April 15, 2021 in *Brookings Institution*, the U.S.'s decision is the right one. It is time for it to move on and focus on more important strategic priorities such as "threats from China, an aggressive Russia, North Korea, and Iran - as well as zoonotic pandemics".



### Stopping spread of communism

By exiting Afghanistan, the U.S. has left the problem of containing what remains of the Taliban's brand of Islamic fundamentalism to its concerned neighbours. The most aggrieved by this exit will be the Afghans who, after enduring 20 years of conflict, were looking forward to better times, but are instead being abandoned by the U.S. This is what happened to the South Vietnamese when the U.S. withdrew from the Vietnam war in 1973. The U.S.'s seemingly messy exit then concealed a victory against global communism that two shrewd and ruthless men - President Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger - conjured in just under four years between 1969 and 1973.

At the start of the big U.S. engagement in Vietnam following the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution passed by the U.S. Congress in August 1964, which authorised the President to deploy armed forces in Southeast Asia, there was a real fear among Americans that revolutionary communism, spearheaded by the Soviet Union and China, would take over one country after another in Asia and that Vietnam

would be one more country to fall if not checked.

Fortunately for Nixon, soon after becoming the American President in 1969, the ideological differences between the Soviet Union and China came out in the open and led to a border dispute. It is here that Nixon saw his chance to drive them further apart by reaching out to China through Romania and Pakistan.

In her 2005 paper, 'Nixon, Kissinger, and the "Soviet Card" in the U.S. Opening to China, 1971-1974', Evelyn Goh, citing declassified documents, wrote about how the U.S. Secretary of State and National Security Adviser, Henry Kissinger, in his first secret trip to Beijing in July 1971, assured Premier Zhou Enlai that the U.S. government "would gradually withdraw U.S. troops as the war in Vietnam ended and as relations with China improved". The paper was published in the official journal of Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, *Diplomatic History*.

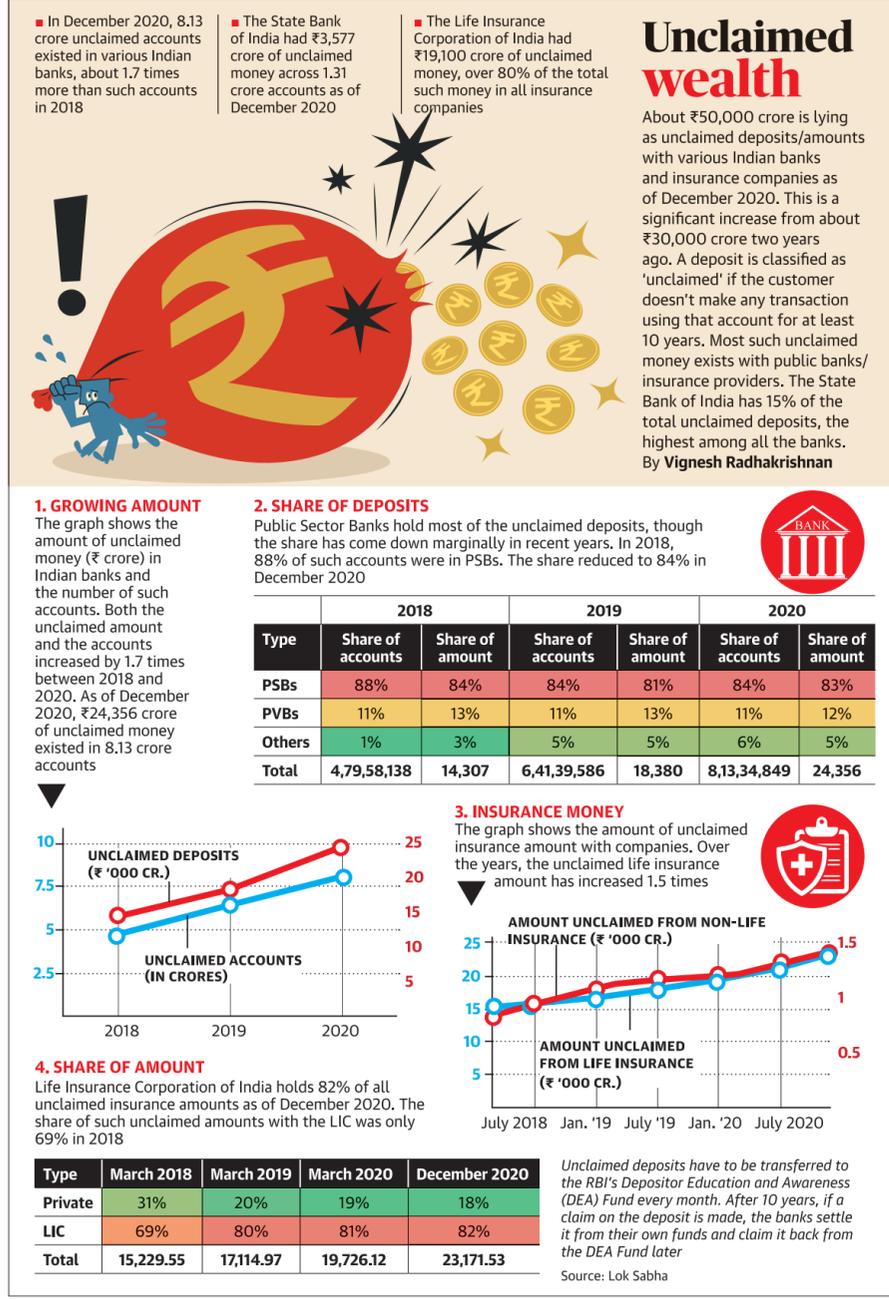
Following up on Kissinger's secret visit to China, Nixon went there in 1972 on his much publicised 'the week that changed the world' tour paving the way for a 'safe' U.S. exit from Vietnam in 1973. This was no small victory for Nixon. With China almost wholly on his side, the U.S.'s principal enemy, the Soviet Union, stood alone. This practically eliminated American fears of communism overrunning the world.

### Drawing parallels

Something similar has happened in Afghanistan. With the kind of surveillance that the U.S. and its allies are able to mount on countries and individuals today, it is unlikely that the Taliban will, even if they wrest control of Afghanistan, be in a position to nurture another terrorist like Osama Bin Laden, as they have been accused of doing. It is this confidence, not frustration, that has enabled Mr. Biden to announce American military disengagement in Afghanistan.

Uday Balakrishnan teaches at IISc, Bengaluru; Views are personal

## DATA POINT



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1971

### No assurance on Mujib's life: Yahya

The President of Pakistan, Gen. Yahya Khan, has refused to give an assurance that the Awami League leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, would not be executed after he has been tried by a military court for "high treason" [New Delhi, August 3]. He told the *Teheran daily, Kyhan International*, in an interview last week that Mr. Rehman "would be court-martialled and I cannot say whether or not he would be alive when the (National) Assembly meets." Mr. Amir Taheri, who interviewed Gen. Yahya Khan in Rawalpindi, had asked him whether Sheikh Mujib would be "tried and possibly executed before the National Assembly is convened." Although Gen. Yahya Khan would not give any exact date for the trial, Mr. Rehman would be tried before October, according to the time-table set for the implementation of the proposed constitutional measures in Pakistan. Gen. Yahya Khan only said: "The matter is in the hands of military justice." He hoped that there would be a civilian government in Pakistan before the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy, falling in October, "and in any case before the end of the current year."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1921

### Lanchashire's protest

London, August 1: The Committee of Leading Manufacturers which has been formed to protest against the increased import duties on cotton goods into India, has sent letters to Members of Parliament, urging them to use their influence to secure full and immediate opportunity for an examination in Parliament of all the facts of the case. The signatories state that Indian markets in normal times have taken forty per cent of whole of Britain's cotton exports but it will be impossible to preserve more than a fraction of this great business, under the oppression of these duties. With regard to the statement that the decision of these financial questions lies with India alone, the signatories declare, that constitutionally Mr. Montagu is responsible first and last and Mr. Montagu is answerable to Parliament with regard to the statement that the reforms established India as a Democratic Self-Governing country. The Signatories declare that the electors have no initiative in financial matters. Out of a population of some 250,000,000 only 900,000 are entitled to vote and at the last election only 197, 518 votes were recorded.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Not asked to move to Delhi: Yogi Adityanath

The BJP currently has two allies in U.P. – the OBC-based Apna Dal and the Nishad Party. While Apna Dal chief Anupriya Patel was recently appeased with a berth in the Union Council of Ministers, Nishad Party president Sanjay Nishad has felt disgruntled and occasionally issued dissenting statements.

With all eyes set on a possible Cabinet expansion or reshuffle in the State before the election, Mr. Adityanath claimed that there was no

problem with the allies. "Issuing statements and the reality are different. Every political party has a right to run their campaign. How can we stop that? But our allies are working together with us," he said.

Since 2017, there has been a change in perception about U.P. and this along with the development work and "effective situation" of law and order would be the issues on which the BJP would seek votes in 2022, he said.

## Let's unite voice of people, Rahul tells Oppn. leaders

Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi called the meet "historic" and claimed that it was "a trailer for 2024 [Lok Sabha polls]".

He said, "This shows you the new resolve, new direction, new momentum and a new determination and grit... We will proceed unitedly without fear and deterrence. Be it Pegasus, the terrible price rise, the farmers' issue or any number of governance issues."

He, however, played down a question on who would be the face of the "united Opposition" by terming it "irrelevant" at this point in time.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's Kanimozhi, Nationalist Congress Party's Supriya Sule and Praful Patel, Trinamool Congress's Saugato Roy, Kalyan Banerjee and Mahua Moitra, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi, Samajwadi Par-

ty's Ram Gopal Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal's Manoj Jha were among those present.

The Bahujan Samaj Party was a notable absentee.

### A subtle message?

The Congress is clearly sending a subtle message that it continues to occupy the pole position when it comes to taking on the Narendra Modi government.

Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter, "Neither our faces are important nor our names. What is essential is that we are the people's representatives. Behind every face lies crores of faces who are troubled by price rise and inflation. Are these the 'acche din' [good days]."

After the monsoon session of Parliament got under way on July 19, the Congress has once again strongly raised the issue of repeated hikes in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

## More than 99% students pass CBSE Class 10 exam

However, the number of high scorers has increased, with almost 2.6 lakh students (12%) scoring above 90%.

Out of the 20.97 lakh students, for whom results have been declared, 20.77 lakh have passed, resulting in a 99.04 pass percentage.

The results are still being processed for 16,639 students.

Examinations will be held separately for 36,841 private candidates, as well as students who are not satisfied

with the results they have been assigned under the assessment policy using internal assessments.

Students can download their results and academic documents, including mark sheets, passing, migration and skills certificates, through the academic repository of the CBSE, Parinam Manjusha, which is integrated with DigiLocker. This year, for the first time, the CBSE is also giving such digital access to schools and to foreign students.

## At least 3 times 'excess deaths' in Maharashtra

These figures correspond to 63.9% and 66.6% of the numbers released by the CRS' annual report on vital statistics in 2019. Six districts – Pune, Satara, Sangli, Yavatmal, Sindhudurg and Gondiya – with a combined officially re-

corded COVID-19 toll of 21,110 deaths between April 2020 and May 2021, were not considered for this analysis as the month-wise CRS registration data accessed was inconsistent between 2018 and 2019 for them.

# Excess deaths in 29 Maharashtra districts could be 2.8 to 4.1 times official COVID-19 toll

Excess deaths lower in urban districts; Mumbai's only 2.54 times COVID-19 toll

SRINIVASAN RAMANI  
CHENNAI

A district-wise look at excess deaths registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Maharashtra ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit (adjusted figures for districts with inconsistent data) showed that their multiples over the COVID-19 toll were fairly low in urban (2.54) as compared to semi-urban (4.02), semi-rural (4.61) and rural districts (4.63).

Mumbai (37,260), Thane (33,944), Nashik (30,563) and Nagpur (25,664) had the highest number of estimated excess deaths (adjusted for data coverage), but Mumbai's excess deaths were only 2.54 times the official COVID-19 toll. On the other hand, the rural districts of Dhule (20.14), Hingoli (11)

and Buldana (10.2) had the highest excess deaths' multiple.

### Conservative estimate

Considering only close to 60% of deaths were available in the online data for the baseline years 2018 and 2019 for calculating excess deaths, the estimate of 2,12,589 is a conservative one. Deaths registered for districts such as Mumbai, Thane, Akola, Amravati and Nandurbar were more than 90% of those recorded in the annual report, while those for Ratnagiri, Raigarh, Kolhapur, Hingoli, Buldana and Washim were less than 40%.

If the excess deaths calculated were adjusted based on the percentage availability of data for 2018 and 2019 (by dividing them by the average of

## Average of 7 minutes spent on each Bill

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

Twelve Bills were passed in the first 10 days of the monsoon session, with an average of seven minutes spent on each Bill.

All the Bills were passed amid din, with neither the comments from the Minister or clarifications sought by members audible to others. All the Bills were passed by voice vote. The Opposition said division asked by them on important Bills were ignored by the Chair in both Houses of Parliament.

A tweet detailing the speed of passing these Bills by Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien has created a huge uproar. The BJP has demanded an apology from him. Mr. O'Brien gave a detailed chart of the Bills passed up to July 30. He said, "In the first 10 days, Modi-Shah rushed through and passed 12 Bills at an average time of UNDER SEVEN MINUTES per Bill. Passing legislation or making *papri chaat!*"

Even on Tuesday, the Bills were hurried through. In the Lok Sabha, the Essential Defence Services Bill, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MP Danish Ali said, "In the first 10 days, Modi-Shah rushed through and passed 12 Bills at an average time of UNDER SEVEN MINUTES per Bill. Passing legislation or making *papri chaat!*"

Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter, "Neither our faces are important nor our names. What is essential is that we are the people's representatives. Behind every face lies crores of faces who are troubled by price rise and inflation. Are these the 'acche din' [good days]."

After the monsoon session of Parliament got under way on July 19, the Congress has once again strongly raised the issue of repeated hikes in prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

# Amid din, Rajya Sabha clears Insolvency Bill

It will lead to loot of public money, says Binoy Viswam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2021 moved by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by a voice vote.

The Bill was passed in 40 minutes, with five Speakers supporting it and two Opposition members – CPI(M)'s John Brittas and CPI's Binoy Viswam – opposing it.

It was supported by Vijaysai Reddy of the YSR Congress, the Biju Janata Dal's (BJD) Amar Patnaik, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi's (TRS) Banda Prakash, the Telugu Desam Party's (TDP) Ravindra Kumar and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (AIADMK) M. Thambidurai.

The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha last week.

Neither the speeches by the members nor the statement made by Ms. Sitharaman was clearly audible due to protests from the Opposi-



Chaos continues: Parliamentarians in the Rajya Sabha during the monsoon session in New Delhi on Tuesday. •PTI

tion parties. "You may have a disagreement, you may protest. However, to disrupt a member who is speaking and surround him in a threatening fashion is absolutely unacceptable," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The Left members utilised the opportunity to speak on the Bill to raise the Pegasus issue. Mr. Brittas said democracy was being systematically attacked.

"This Bill is to destroy the economy of this country. Already this government has

destroyed democracy here."

Mr. Viswam said the Bill would lead to the loot of public money, which would be utilised to buy the Pegasus spyware.

### Two adjournments

Earlier in the day, the House proceedings were adjourned twice because of Opposition protests.

The first adjournment came within nine minutes of convening of the House at 11 a.m. and the second one at 12.40 p.m.

## Lok Sabha passes two key Bills without debate

They were passed by voice vote

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed two key Bills without a debate, as the House once again witnessed protests by the Opposition over the Pegasus snooping controversy and farmers' issues.

The Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 and The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 were passed separately by voice vote before the House was adjourned for the day as Opposition continued with their sloganeering.

When the proceedings started at 11 a.m., Speaker Om Birla pointed out that important issues related to the farmers were being discussed and urged the protesting members to go back to their seats.

Question Hour went on for nearly 40 minutes. Expressing his displeasure at the members "insulting" parliamentary traditions, Mr. Birla then adjourned the House until noon.

The House was adjourned one more time when it reassembled at

noon as members did not heed the request of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) member Bhartruhari Mahtab, who was in the Chair.

As the House reconvened at 2 p.m., Mr. Birla asked Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt to move the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021, which seeks to prohibit any agitation and strike by anyone engaged in essential defence services.

Once the Defence Services Bill was passed, the House was adjourned until 4 p.m.

On reconvening, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2021 for passage. The Bill seeks to abolish tribunals or authorities under various laws by amending the Cinematograph Act, 1952; the Copyrights Act, 1957; the Customs Act, 1962; the Patents Act, 1970; the Airport Authority of India Act, 1994; the Trade Marks Act, 1999; and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act.

## No bifurcation plan for T.N. or other States: govt.

'No proposal under consideration'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that no proposal for the bifurcation of any State, including Tamil Nadu, was currently under consideration.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MPs T.R. Paariendhar and S. Ramalingam had asked the Ministry whether the Union government had any proposal to bifurcate any State in the country, including Tamil Nadu.

They also asked whether the Ministry had received such a demand from any in-

dividual or organisation.

### 'Wide ramifications'

A written response from Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated, "Demands and representations are received from time to time from various individuals and organisations for creation of new States. Creation of a new State has wide ramifications and direct bearing on the federal polity of our country. The government moves on the matter of formation of new States after taking into consideration all relevant factors. Presently, no such proposal is under consideration."

## Work out an amicable solution, urges Naidu

RS Chairman meets Ministers, Kharge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With continued protests disrupting the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has urged both the Union government and the Opposition to collectively resolve the stalemate.

According to sources, Mr. Naidu held a meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Leader of the House Piyush Goyal on Monday evening.

Mr. Naidu also discussed the issue with the Leader of

the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, in Parliament on Tuesday after the House was adjourned for the first time since after 11 a.m. The source said Mr. Naidu has urged both the Opposition and the government to sit together and work out an amicable solution.

A Cabinet Minister speaking off the record said all attempts at reaching out to the Opposition parties had failed. "They are not clear on what they want. The Opposition is just a group of disparate leaders who don't know how to go about working a solution," he said.

## 'Oppn.'s action an insult to Constitution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said at a BJP parliamentary party meeting that the Centre was ready for debate, but the Opposition's conduct in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament was an insult to the Constitution, according to those who attended the meeting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Mr. Modi reiterated that the government was ready to discuss. "We have been saying, and the Prime Minister also said today, that we are ready for discussion."

# Assertive Nitish seeks to paper over JD(U) faultlines

The BJP's move to induct only R.C.P. Singh into the Union Cabinet has upset the power dynamics in the party

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who this week joined the Opposition in demanding a probe into the Pegasus snooping row and a caste-based census in the State, has appeared combative against the BJP, an alliance partner at the Centre and in the State.

While Mr. Kumar's demands have led to raised eyebrows and some consternation in the BJP, political observers trace the change to recent developments in his party, the Janata Dal (United). They point out that soon after his former party president and close aide,

R.C.P. Singh, took oath as the Minister of Steel after the reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers, Mr. Kumar replaced Mr. Singh from the party post and started making statements on issues challenging the Centre.

Political sources in Bihar

### NEWS ANALYSIS

said Mr. R.C.P. Singh took oath as Minister without the approval of his party leader, Mr. Kumar, who had insisted on his earlier demand for two or more Cabinet berths at the Centre. In May 2019, Mr. Kumar had refused to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet, stating



Nitish Kumar

that his party wanted to have "proportional representation, instead of a symbolic one".

In the Cabinet reshuffle this year again, Mr. Kumar wanted at least two of his close aides – Mr. R.C.P. Singh and Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias

Lalan Singh – included in the Cabinet, said party sources. But only Mr. R.C.P. Singh was offered a berth and he readily accepted the offer, which apparently did not go down well with Mr. Kumar.

"R.C.P. Singh is the party's national president and it is his decision to join the Cabinet. In 2019, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was party president and it was his decision at that time not to join the Union Cabinet," said Mr. Lalan Singh, who is the party's MP from Munger. Soon after the Cabinet reshuffle, he replaced Mr. R.C.P. Singh as the party's national president.

Earlier, from 2005 to

2009, Mr. Lalan Singh, who comes from the upper caste Bhumihar community, was party president and his bitter relations with Mr. R.C.P. Singh was an open secret in the State's political corridors. Both leaders command considerable support within the JD(U). Apparently, Mr. Kumar moved quickly to replace Mr. R.C.P. Singh as party chief to nip dissent within the party.

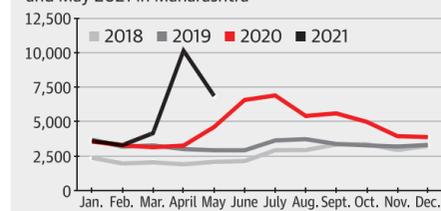
"Mr. Kumar, in fact, did this to do a balancing act to ward off any intra-party rivalries as it was common knowledge that Lalan Singh, too, wanted to become Minister at the Centre. But, in a masterstroke, the BJP deci-

ated Mr. Kumar, its alliance partner, by inducting only R.C.P. Singh. This apparently hurt Mr. Kumar, who, of late, has started taking a stand on issues in tune with the Opposition's voice," a senior Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and an old associate of Mr. Kumar told *The Hindu*.

"The BJP might have made R.C.P. Singh a Minister in the Cabinet at the Centre to embarrass Nitish Kumar. So, he, of late, has been in a combative mood against the BJP," a senior JD(U) leader said.

"The BJP might have some unexpected and sudden plan with R.C.P. Singh in Bihar," Ajay Kumar, a political analyst, added.

**Excess deaths** | The chart depicts the number of deaths registered every month between January 2018 and May 2021 in Maharashtra



the percentage availability for these years) and re-calculated for the State (without the six omitted districts), the estimate increased to 3,10,727 deaths corresponding to a multiple of 4.1 over the official death toll of 75,877.

In sum, the estimated excess deaths in the pandemic period for 29 districts in Maharashtra could be in a range of 2.8 to 4.1 times the official COVID-19 death toll in

the State. The overall COVID-19 death toll for all 35 districts as of May 31, 2021 was 95,344, which has since increased to 1,32,948 as of August 1.

Similar to what was observed in other States, the excess deaths multiple (unadjusted) was 2.4 times between April and December 2020, and this went up to 3.42 times in 2021. This was largely due to a spurt in mortality in the month of April

2021, when a high of 1,17,723 deaths were registered online. Unlike other States, deaths peaked in April rather than in May 2021 for Maharashtra, indicating the fact that the second wave raged early in the State.

That Maharashtra was the epicentre of the second wave, largely characterised by the spread of the highly infectious Delta variant of the novel coronavirus, according to an INSACOG report in May 2021, is also borne out by the fact that deaths in April and May 2021 were three times the average number of deaths registered in these months in 2018 and 2019 (the pre-pandemic period). Only Haryana (2.65 times) came close as the multiple was higher than M.P. and Punjab (1.97 times), Himachal Pradesh (1.8), Karnataka (1.69), Tamil Nadu (1.65), West Bengal (1.51), Kerala (1.21), among States that

*The Hindu* has analysed so far.

The excess deaths' multiple over COVID-19 death toll between 2.8 to 4.1 times for the State (without six districts in the analysis) is comparable to those for southern States such as Karnataka (4.3), Tamil Nadu (6.4 adjusted to 4.4 if CRS COVID-19 tally is considered), besides the northern State of Punjab (3.3), but is lower than that for Madhya Pradesh (23.8) and Andhra Pradesh (17.9), West Bengal (11.1 without five districts) and Haryana (7.3) if the same baseline is considered (deaths registered in 2018 and 2019). Only Himachal Pradesh (1.9) and Kerala (0.42 based on the reconciled COVID-19 tally) had much lower multiples.

The total number of excess deaths for these States (using the same baseline) for the period April 2020 to May 2021 was 12,21,049, which is

6.27 times the official COVID-19 tally for the same period (1,94,818 deaths). Note, we took the higher end multiple of 4.1 for Maharashtra here.

Murad Banaji, a mathematician who has been tracking COVID-19 numbers and has analysed excess deaths for Mumbai, told *The Hindu*, "The data confirms that Maharashtra has been hit badly by the pandemic. But there are no major surprises. The scale of excess mortality is roughly as expected from the level of spread of the virus and COVID-19 fatality rates. And this is precisely the story coming out of civil registration data from many other States too."

"The data suggests that differences between States' official COVID-19 death counts often reflect better or worse surveillance as much as the epidemic itself. In fact, Maharashtra has probably

tracked its COVID-19 deaths better than many States. Although excess deaths could be three to four times the recorded COVID-19 deaths, this is much better than the national average. Interestingly, district-level data shows that there are no major differences in rural and urban death surveillance," he added.

Pradeep Awate, Maharashtra's State Surveillance Officer, said Maharashtra has always followed the principle of transparency in case of collecting data regarding COVID-19 deaths. "If we underestimate or hide the real numbers, we will fail to prepare for and counter the pandemic," said Dr. Awate, while speaking to *The Hindu*.

(Data compiled and aggregated by Pratap Vardhan. With inputs from Alok Deshpande in Mumbai. Graphics support by Vignesh Radhakrishnan)

INTERVIEW | YOGI ADITYANATH

# 'If anyone has broken the law, my govt. has come down heavily on them'

Our work is to govern and provide welfare goods to everyone without any discrimination and to get everyone treated equal before law, says Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

OMAR RASHID  
NISTULA HEBBAR  
VARGHESE K. GEORGE

As Uttar Pradesh heads to an Assembly election in 2022, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath details his government's achievements in social welfare as well as improved law and order, insisting that controversial laws were necessary for good governance. Excerpts:

What are the achievements that you want to mark out as we near the end of your term?

■ Today Uttar Pradesh is among the States aspiring to reach high levels of development. Otherwise one would hear only of riots, law and order problems, corruption – the perception was such that no good person wanted to come here. Under earlier governments, there was no coordination between the Centre and the State over welfare programmes, especially after 2014. The Swachh Bharat Mission saw only 44 lakh toilets being built in its first 2.5 years; in the next 1.5 years, we built 2.61 crore toilets. The result was that we found in 38 *janpads*, there was a dip in the incidence of encephalitis.

What you call law and order

involved encounters, that have led to communities such as Brahmins and Muslims feeling targeted... Also, the indiscriminate use of laws that have led to incarceration of journalists like Siddique Kappan...

■ First of all let's differentiate between all the things you have just said. State police have taken steps according to the law to establish order. The Deputy Superintendent of Police who died in Kanpur, was he not a Brahmin? The other policemen in that team in Kanpur who were killed, do they not have children who grieve for their fathers? Justice has to be equal for all and we cannot look at it in the prism of caste, community. When we are in government, we must be ready to do justice for the law abiding citizen. We haven't imposed

NSA in wrong cases, and we have provided the basis why we have done so in certain cases, both in the courts and in the advisory boards. In most cases, these have been upheld.

And you made contentious laws like the one on attachment of property in case of damage to public property... These have been challenged for violation of fundamental rights...

■ Every person has the right to go to court, I cannot stop them. The thinking behind these acts, however, has been justified, that there should be rule of law and it is important that every citizen respects the law. In the name of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) when there was a conspiracy to riot in the State, we had to bring the ordinance on property damage and take action.

But this is seen as a heavy-handed approach to law and order and to deal with protests...

■ Our work is to govern and provide welfare goods to ev-



OMAR RASHID

Neither SP or BSP has the right to speak about social cohesion as they have advocated conflict between communities

ryone without any discrimination and to get everyone treated equal before the law. If anyone has broken the law, then the government has come down heavily on them, and the common man has seen action against law breakers. Under the Gangsters Act, we have confiscated property up to ₹1,600 crore of big mafia members. This is necessary to rein in those who think they can break the law with impunity.

The world saw the spectre of floating corpses in river Ganga...

hospitals did not have beds and there was no oxygen available...

■ One should not exaggerate something unless they have authentic information. From day 1, I have been involved with the COVID management. On a normal day, in a 500-bed hospital, the persons getting oxygen would be barely 10-12. In the second wave, the spread was so sudden, that a situation of panic was created. In many places, people reserved beds for themselves in hospitals, making their staff occupy the beds. Those people who created panic are no less responsible.

But your own MLAs raised an alarm...

■ When you create a panic situation among the public, and the public starts making noise, these people (MLAs) are under compulsion to speak in the same tone. The fact is that patients from one half of Delhi were in hospitals here (in Uttar Pradesh). The oxygen of Uttar Pradesh in G.B. Nagar and Ghaziabad was diverted to Delhi on the

During the second wave, we witnessed the days when

direction of the Delhi High Court. Even then we did not deny them. The Central government provided us oxygen from other places.

Were you offered a position in Delhi when you met Prime Minister Modi recently?

■ No, I was not. We met over issues related to the State. I met him earlier too and frequently seek his advice on governance issues.

The BSP is telling Brahmins that you are against them...

■ Since when is the BSP a champion of Brahmins? Their old slogans reflect their attitudes. Neither SP or BSP has the right to speak about social cohesion as they have advocated conflict between communities. They are trying to hunt for their lost social base, which has come to the BJP.

The protesting farmers in west Uttar Pradesh might be threatening your Hindu unity plank...

■ The work done by the Cen-

tral government led by Modi ji in the last seven years for farmers was not been done after Independence. Be it crop insurance, irrigation works, real Minimum Support Price or the Kisan Samman Nidhi.

Before 2017, there was no procurement in Uttar Pradesh. From 2007-2017, sugarcane payouts were only ₹95,000 crore. After our government came, we have made payments of ₹1.4 lakh crore. It was this *kisan andolan* was connected to the interests of farmers, then possibly they could have had the support. This is a politically motivated campaign that will not succeed. In the recent panchayat elections, barring Baghat, the BJP won all seats in west Uttar Pradesh.

Are you primarily religious or political?

■ The first part of my personality is *dharma*, which for me is not worship and rituals but also a duty. It inspires me to work in the interest of the country and society. (For full interview, visit <https://bit.ly/YogiAdityanathInterview>)

## Govt. issues instructions for I-Day

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday issued instructions to the States and Union Territories for following necessary preventive measures while organising the Independence Day celebrations on August 15 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It would be appropriate that the theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is suitably

spread and publicised amongst the masses through various activities/messages in the functions and on social media during Independence Day celebrations," said the Ministry letter to the authorities concerned.

**'Follow measures'**  
The Ministry said the Independence Day would be celebrated in a manner befitting the occasion, but it was

imperative to follow measures like social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitisation, protecting vulnerable persons and adhering to the Health Ministry's guidelines.

All programmes should be organised in a way that large congregations were avoided and technology was used in the best possible manner. The events could be webcast, it said.

## Army chief stresses need for revolution in bureaucratic affairs

Procurement process has not kept pace with the requirements of time, he says during a webinar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Manoj Naravane on Tuesday said the procurement process had not kept pace with the requirements of the time. Procedural lacunae had crept into the acquisition process due to the "overbearing nature of our rules

and regulations leading a zero error syndrome", he noted and stressed the need for a "revolution in bureaucratic affairs".

"The needs of information era warfare cannot be hamstrung by the procedures of the industrial age. The need of the hour is to see a metamorphosis here too, perhaps

even doing away with the LI [lowest bidder] vendor altogether. For real transformation to take place, we require a revolution in bureaucratic affairs," he stated during a webinar by the United Service Institution of India.

The Army had brought about major structural changes by aligning both the

revenue and capital routes of procurement under the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Capability Development and Sustenance), he asserted.

The Shimla-based Army Training Command had restructured the training curriculum of various courses. They were working towards

domain specialisation in niche areas. "There is focus on providing cross-domain exposure and multi-skilling for optimal employment," he pointed out.

Gen. Naravane also highlighted the need to concurrently develop the multi-domain competencies for effective integration.



On alert: J&K police personnel heading to an encounter site in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Pakistani militant killed in Bandipora encounter

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

A Pakistani militant was killed, and two people, including a policeman, were injured in two separate militancy incidents in Kashmir on Tuesday.

"Foreign Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist Babar Ali, who escaped from the Shokbaba encounter on 24 July, was killed in an encounter at the Chandaji forest area of Bandipora on Tuesday," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Ali, according to the police, was a part of a group of militants that infiltrated from the Gurez Sector of Bandipora recently. Its three members were killed on July 24. Sharik Altaf, who exfiltrated in 2018, was among them. "Ali, who managed to

escape from the encounter site, was continuously tracked. A joint operation was launched by the police, 26 Assam Rifles and the CRPF on Tuesday to neutralise him," Mr. Kumar said. "Ali was a resident of Ugada district of Punjab in Pakistan," he added.

The police said incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK-rifle, two magazines and 40 AK-rounds, were recovered from the encounter site.

Two persons, including a policeman, were injured when militants attacked a police patrol in the Khanyar area of Srinagar. "The policeman has bullet injuries in the stomach and was shifted to a hospital," the police said.

## Editors Guild moves SC for probe into snooping

'Press freedom must be safeguarded'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Editors Guild of India on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking a special investigation team (SIT) probe into the Pegasus government's role in the Pegasus snooping row. It has stated that the "indiscriminate use" of top-end surveillance technology against journalists destroys free speech and "poisons the heart of democracy".

The Guild pointed out that freedom of the Press is a hard-won right essential to democracy.

"Freedom of the Press relies on non-interference by the government and its agencies in the reporting of journalists, including their ability to securely and confidentially speaking with sources, investigate abuse of power and corruption, expose governmental incompetence, and speak with those in the Opposition," the petition, filed through advocate Lzafeer Ahamed B.F., said.

The petition follows the one filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, challenging the government to come clean about the Pegasus allegations. Ra-

jya Sabha member John Brittas and Supreme Court lawyer M.L. Sharma have separately moved the court. Journalists Paranjay Guha Thakurta, SNM Abdi, Prem Shankar Jha, Rupesh Kumar Singh and Ipsa Shakti, reported to be victims of Pegasus surveillance, had also moved the court, saying they were subjected to "deeply intrusive surveillance". A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, is scheduled to hear the Pegasus row petitions on August 5.

On Tuesday, the Guild said a court-monitored probe should look into "every aspect of the use of Pegasus by the government against Indian citizens, especially journalists".

Questions and attempts to garner the truth from the government have reached a dead-end. In fact, the government had "stonewalled" efforts to seek accountability, the petition said. The government had "deliberately avoided" public debate on the issue. It had only provided some "obfuscated answers" to straight questions about its alleged role in the snooping, it added.

## Governor's pardon power overrides 433A: SC

It is applicable even if prisoner has not undergone 14 years of imprisonment

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including those on death row, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.

In fact, the Governor's power to pardon overrides a provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure – Section 433A – which mandates that a prisoner's sentence can be remitted only after 14 years of jail, a Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and A.S. Bopan-

na observed in a judgment. "Section 433A of the Code cannot and does not in any way affect the constitutional power conferred on the President/Governor to grant pardon under Articles 72 or 161 of the Constitution... If the prisoner has not undergone 14 years or more of actual imprisonment, the Governor has a power to grant pardon... de hors the restrictions imposed under Section 433A... Such power is in exercise of the power of the sovereign, though the Governor is bound to act on the aid

and advice of the State Government," the court observed.

In fact, the court noted that the sovereign power of a Governor to pardon a prisoner under Article 161 is actually exercised by the State government and not the Governor on his own.

"The advice of the appropriate government binds the Head of the State," Justice Gupta observed in the judgment which referred to the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench judgment in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination

case on the power of remission.

"The action of commutation and release can thus be pursuant to a governmental decision and the order may be issued even without the Governor's approval. However, under the Rules of Business and as a matter of constitutional courtesy, it may seek approval of the Governor, if such release is under Article 161 of the Constitution," the court noted.

The Bench was considering the feasibility of remission policies in Haryana.

**JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
(TW Wing)  
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003  
PHONE: (0291) 2742336 FAX: (0291) 2745259

**SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for "Supply and replacement work of GIS based 11 KV Breaker at various 33/11 KV Sub Station under Assistant Engineer (HTM-I), City Circle, Jodhpur on turn key basis." (UBN No JVV2122WS0800201)

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at [www.eneryg.rajasthan.gov.in/dvnl](http://www.eneryg.rajasthan.gov.in/dvnl) and also at [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in). The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)

Note - Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /information regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in), [sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) and [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/dvnl](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/dvnl)

Raj.Sanwad/C21/4248 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)  
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

**TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)**  
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)  
Block No.16, 4th Floor, Udyog Bhavan, Sector-11  
Gandhinagar-382011  
Phone: +91-79-23977200, 23977231, 23220002.  
Fax: 91-79-23977201  
Website: <http://www.gujaratourism.com/> latest from [gujarat/tenders](http://gujarat/tenders)

**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Agencies for the "Selection of Public Relations & Social Media Agency". The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents in the Tender document published on the website: <https://www.aprocure.com/> and <https://www.gujaratourism.com/>. The last date for submission of the Financial Bid is 25/08/2021 upto 3:00 pm. and Technical Bid is 27/08/2021 upto 3:00 pm. The Financial Bid shall be uploaded in n-procure website only.

Managing Director

**VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED**  
(A Government of Karnataka e-Procurement)  
Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.04, Hosur  
Ph/Fax No: 08199-230018 e.mail I.D: [euubpdvn4@gmail.com](mailto:euubpdvn4@gmail.com)  
No: EE/UBP/VJNL/DIV-04/DRIP/TD-09/2021-22/425  
Date: 28/07/2021

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)**

(Only through E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)

Percentage tender through e-portal in two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 4 Hosur on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd. from the eligible contractors who fulfills the pre-qualification conditions for the mentioned below work "Restoration of Cavin action occurred in Janakal Tunnel exit side from Ch. 60920 mts to Ch. 61080 mts under Chitradurga Branch Canal (indent No. 1711)"

The Contractors can access and download the completed bid documents through e-procurement website [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from 31.07.2021. Details such as Amount put to tender/qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours up to 16.08.2021 up to 3.00 PM. Pre bid meeting will be held on 05/08/2021 on O/o Chief Engineer, VJNL, UBP Zone, Chitradurga at 11.30 AM. The date of submission for completed tenders is 16/08/2021 up to 4.00 PM. The tenders will be opened on 17/06/2021 at 4.30 PM at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.04, Hosur through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/328/2021-22 Sd/- Executive Engineer

**The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
Technical Services Centre,  
A-1, Industrial Estate, Aligarh-202001, U.P.  
Ph.: 6290392624, 9999489636. Email: [ntsecallg@nsic.co.in](mailto:ntsecallg@nsic.co.in)

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) invites sealed offers through Tender under two Bid system from eligible bidders for Supply and Installation of machineries like Single Spindle Automatic Lathe (Traub Machine), Hydraulic Band Saw Machine, Hydraulic Shearing Machine, Hydraulic Press Brake, Tool & Accessories and Furniture & Fixtures for their Aligarh Technical Centre. Last date of submission of Tenders is 23.08.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs.

For details, please visit NSIC's website:  
<https://www.nsic.co.in/tender/Current-Tenders.aspx>  
<https://www.eprocure.gov.in>  
General Manager (Centre Head – Aligarh)

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

Tender No: E/Re T No.16 to 22/2021-22/SE/Q, Providing FHTCs at Pavithreshwaram, Karavallur, Edamulakkal, Thekkumbhagam, Sasthamcotta, Chadayamangalam & Mynagappally, construction of OHSR/SLR at Pavithreshwaram, supplying and laying 15mm/200mm DI pumping main, distribution network, supply and installation of bulk water meter/pump sets in different grama panchayaths EMD : Rs. 200000 to 500000. Tender fee: Rs.15000+2700, 10000+1800 (18% GST- It will be paid by the contractor on reverse charge basis while filing his returns). Last Date for submitting Tender : 27-08-2021, 02:00pm. Phone : 0474 2745293. Superintending Engineer Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) PH Circle, Kollam [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) KWA-JB-GL-6-291-2021-22

**"SCHEDULED BANK"**  
**The H.P. State Cooperative Bank Ltd.**  
Head Office: The Mall Shimla-171001

**Notice**  
Request for Proposal (RFP)  
Bids are invited for providing Technical Support for "BancMate core Banking Software" of the Bank, from eligible bidders, as per RFP document available on Bank's website [www.hpscb.com](http://www.hpscb.com). Eligible and interested entities may visit the Bank's website for complete details. Last date of submission of proposals is 23.08.2021.  
General Manager

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)  
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No. KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK\_INDENT 11266/CALL-2 Dated: 03.08.2021

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited through Gok e-portal: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> for the work of Belt vulcanizing and Repairs of Conveyor Belts of various grades and sizes at coal handling plant Unt 1, 2 & 3 for a period of one year. Amount put to Tender: Rs. 1.86,86,464/-. EMD: Nil. Pre Bid Meeting: 06.08.2021 from 11:00Hrs. Last date for submission of Bids: 10.08.2021 upto 17:00Hrs. and Opening of technical bid: 12.08.2021 at 10:00Hrs. For further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-I, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini - 583152, Ballari District, Mobile Number: +91 94482 90777.

**Mangaluru City Corporation**  
ADDRESS: Post Box No:756, Lalbagh Mangaluru-575003, Dakshina Kannada  
Phone: Office:0824-2220313-318, Fax:0824-2220310  
Email: [commissioner.mcc@gmail.com](mailto:commissioner.mcc@gmail.com) Website: [www.mangaluru.city.mrc.gov.in](http://www.mangaluru.city.mrc.gov.in)  
No MCC/HS/CR-57/2020-21/G1 Date: 02-08-2021

**CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Mangaluru City Corporation invited tender for "REMEDIATION OF LEGACY WASTE THROUGH BIO-MINING. MATERIAL RECOVERY. REJECTS DISPOSAL & LAND RECLAMATION AT LANDFILL SITE - PACHANADY - MANGALURU ". The tender notification dated 07.07.2021 was published in the News Paper as on 08.07.2021. Since there are some changes in the tender notification please go through the corrigendum. Last date for submission of Tender (As per Earlier paper Notification): 09.08.2021, Postponed last Date for Submission: 04.09.2021 at 17:00 hours, For more Details : Visit e-portal site or contact Environment Engineer, MCC, Mangaluru during office hours or over phone 0824-2220313-18  
Sd/- Commissioner, Mangaluru City Corporation



# Raisi inaugurated as President of Iran

He says he will seek to 'lift oppressive sanctions, but won't tie Iran's well-being to the will of foreigners'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN

Ebrahim Raisi was on Tuesday inaugurated as President of Iran, a country whose hopes of shaking off a dire economic crisis hinge on reviving a nuclear deal with world powers.

"Following the people's choice, I task the wise, indefatigable, experienced and popular Hojatoleslam Ebrahim Raisi as President of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wrote in a decree read out by his chief of staff.

Mr. Raisi, a conservative, replaces moderate President Hassan Rouhani, whose landmark achievement was the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and six major powers.

From the outset, Mr. Raisi will have to tackle negotiations aimed at reviving the



**New role:** Ebrahim Raisi, right, getting the endorsement decree for his presidency from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran. ■AP

nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew imposing sweeping sanctions.

The 60-year-old also faces the United States, Britain and Israel's warnings to Iran over a deadly tanker attack last week for which Tehran denies responsibility.

Mr. Raisi, in his inauguration speech, said the new government would seek to lift

"oppressive" U.S. sanctions, but would "not tie the nation's standard of living to the will of foreigners".

"We believe the people's economic position is unfavourable both because of the hostility of our enemies and because of the shortcomings and problems inside the country," he said.

In his response, Mr. Kha-

menei acknowledged Iran suffered from "many shortcomings and problems", but quickly added: "The country's capabilities are even more numerous. Fixing economic problems takes time and cannot be done overnight."

## Rights record

Mr. Raisi won a presidential election in June in which more than half the electorate stayed away after many heavyweights were barred from standing. A former judiciary chief, he has been criticised by the West for his human rights record.

Tuesday's ceremony marked Mr. Raisi's formal accession to office. He will next be sworn in before Parliament on Thursday when he is to submit his proposed government line-up.

Mr. Raisi's presidency will consolidate power in the

hands of conservatives following their 2020 parliamentary election victory, marked by the disqualification of thousands of reformist or moderate candidates.

The 2015 nuclear deal saw Iran accept curbs on its nuclear capabilities in return for an easing of sanctions. But then U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord three years later and ramped up sanctions again, prompting Tehran to pull back from most of its nuclear commitments.

Mr. Trump's successor Joe Biden has signalled his readiness to return to the deal and engaged in indirect negotiations with Iran alongside formal talks with the accord's remaining parties - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. The U.S. sanctions have choked Iran and its vital oil exports.

# Army urges Afghans to evacuate city

As fighting rages in Lashkar Gah, UN says at least 40 civilians killed in 24 hours

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KANDAHAR

Residents were urged on Tuesday to evacuate a besieged Afghan city as the Army prepared a major offensive against Taliban insurgents after three days of heavy fighting.

The Taliban have seized control of much of rural Afghanistan since foreign forces began the last stage of their withdrawal in May, but are now focused on capturing provincial capitals, where they are meeting stiffer resistance.

Fighting is raging for Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand province, with the United Nations saying at least 40 civilians were killed in the last 24 hours.



**Battle continues:** Afghan security personnel patrolling a deserted street in Lashkar Gah on Tuesday. ■AP

General Sami Sadat, commander of the 215 Maiwand Afghan Army Corps, told residents to get out as soon as they could. "Please leave as soon as possible so that we can start our operation," he said in a message to the city

of 2,00,000 delivered via the media.

"Fighting was intense this morning," said Sefatullah, director of Sukon radio.

He said U.S. and Afghan Air Force planes had pounded Taliban positions, and

that fighting was ongoing near the city's prison and a building housing the headquarters of police and intelligence agencies.

In recent days, the U.S. military has intensified air strikes in a bid to stem Taliban advances.

"The Taliban are everywhere in the city, you can see them on motorcycles in the streets. They are arresting or shooting people who have smartphones," a resident of Lashkar Gah said.

"The Taliban are in people's houses and the government is bombing them. About 20 houses in my neighbourhood have been bombed, they are fighting street-to-street battles," he said.

# Minister targeted in Kabul attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KABUL

A powerful explosion rocked an upscale Kabul neighbourhood on Tuesday in an attack that apparently targeted the country's acting Defence Minister. At least 10 people were wounded, a health official said. Several smaller explosions, as well as small arms fire, could be heard.

Interior Ministry spokesman Mirwais Stanekzai said the blast happened in the posh Sherpur neighbourhood in the green zone.

Mr. Stanekzai said it appeared the guesthouse of acting Defence Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi was targeted in the attack.

# New York Governor sexually harassed multiple women: A-G

'Cuomo's office a toxic workplace that enabled harassment'

REUTERS  
NEW YORK

A five-month investigation has found that New York Governor Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women in violation of federal and state law, creating a "climate of fear" within his office, State Attorney General Letitia James said on Tuesday.

The independent inquiry showed that Mr. Cuomo engaged in unwanted groping, kissing and hugging, and made inappropriate comments, Ms. James told a press briefing, adding that the Democratic Governor's office had become a "toxic workplace" that enabled "harassment to occur".

The findings, detailed in a scathing 168-page report, could deal a devastating blow to Mr. Cuomo's political future and hinder his administration, although the probe was civil in nature and will not directly lead to criminal charges against him.

"Specifically, the investigation found that Governor



Andrew Cuomo

Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed current and former New York State employees by engaging in unwelcome and non-consensual touching and making numerous offensive comments," said Ms. James, a Democrat.

There was no immediate comment from the Governor's office. Mr. Cuomo, 63, has denied wrongdoing.

There was also no immediate comment from Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the Democratic-controlled New York Assembly, who had authorised an impeachment investigation into Mr. Cuomo. Mr. Heastie has previously said that lawmakers

would incorporate Ms. James' findings into their impeachment probe.

Investigators spoke to 179 people, including complainants and current and former members of the executive chamber, Ms. James said. She said the probe resulted in a "deeply disturbing yet clear picture" of what she called a "climate of fear", in which Mr. Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women, many of them young.

Ms. James launched her investigation into the allegations after receiving a formal request from Mr. Cuomo's office on March 1 to do so as the number of publicly reported allegations mounted.

The report shows that investigators did not find Mr. Cuomo's explanations about his encounters to be credible. It said Mr. Cuomo's "blanket denials and lack of recollection as to specific incidents stood in stark contrast to the strength, specificity, and corroboration of the complainants' recollections".

# Officer dead, suspect killed in violence outside Pentagon

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

An officer died after being stabbed on Tuesday during a burst of violence at a transit station outside the Pentagon, and a suspect was shot by law enforcement officers and died at the scene, officials said.

The Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. military, was temporarily placed on lockdown after gunshots were fired on Tuesday morning near the entrance of the

building, a Pentagon police officer who was stabbed later died, according to officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

More details about the violence were expected at a Pentagon news conference. The connection between the shooting and the stabbing of the officer was not immediately clear.

The incident occurred on a Metro bus platform that is part of the Pentagon Transit Center and just steps away

from the military headquarters, according to the Pentagon Protection Force Protection Agency.

## 'Multiple gunshots'

An Associated Press reporter near the building heard multiple gunshots, then a pause, then at least one additional shot. Another AP journalist heard police yelling "shooter." A Pentagon announcement said the facility was on lockdown due to "police activity."

# Israeli SC offers compromise to avoid Palestinian evictions

Families reject proposal granting them 'protected' status

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court has floated compromises that would block the evictions of dozens of Palestinians in the east Jerusalem town of Sheikh Jarrah, where attempts by Jewish settlers to expel them from their homes sparked an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants in May.

The cases examined on Monday involve four Palestinian families, numbering a total of about 70 people.

The settlers have been waging a decades-long campaign to evict the families from densely populated Palestinian neighbourhoods just outside the walls of the Old City, in one of the most sensitive parts of east Jerusalem.

The settlers say the homes are built on land that was owned by



**In limbo:** Palestinian residents of Sheikh Jarrah during the court hearing on Monday. ■REUTERS

Jews prior to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Israeli law allows Jews to reclaim such property, a right denied to Palestinians who lost lands and homes in the same conflict. The Palestinians say they have owned the properties for decades.

During Monday's hearing, the Supreme Court proposed a pair of compromises, according to Ir

Amim, a human rights group that supports the Palestinians and which sat in on the hearing.

It said the first proposal offered the residents "protected" status, meaning they would be protected from eviction for years in exchange for recognising the settlers' ownership over the land. This offer would allow the four families the right to pass down their properties for two generations.

But after the four families rejected the proposition, the court proposed an alternative settlement where the four families would receive protected status while instead acknowledging that Israel once registered the properties with previous Jewish owners, according to Ir Amim.

It said the settlers rejected that proposal, while the families asked for more time to consider it.

## ELSEWHERE



**Missing Belarus dissident found dead in Ukraine**

KIEV  
Belarusian dissident Vitaly Shishov, 26, was on Tuesday found hanging in a park in Ukraine, with police opening a murder probe and supporters accusing the regime of Alexander Lukashenko of killing the activist. ■AFP

## China's Wuhan to test 'all residents' for COVID-19

WUHAN  
Authorities in Wuhan on Tuesday said they would test its entire population of 11 million for COVID-19 after the central Chinese city where the coronavirus emerged, reported its first local infections in more than a year. Major cities have enforced lockdown measures. ■AFP

# Indian student's death is homicide, suspect held: China

Bihar's Aman Nagsen was studying in Tianjin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BEIJING

The death of a 20-year-old Indian student in China's Tianjin city was a homicide and a foreigner has been arrested in connection with the murder, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said here on Tuesday.

The suspect's nationality has not been disclosed, officials said.

Aman Nagsen, who hailed from Bihar's Gaya, was a student of Business Administration at the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. He was found dead on July 29.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a written response to PTI, said that around 8 p.m., Tianjin police received a call that an "Indian student was lying on the floor of the dormitory with no sign of life".

"The initial investigation of the public security organ found it to be a case of homicide and the suspect is another foreign student of the university. Compulsory measures

have been taken on the suspect and the case is still under further investigation.

"Relevant Chinese competent authorities have notified the Indian Embassy in Beijing of the situation of the case on July 30 and 31 respectively and maintained communication with the Embassy," it said.

The Chinese side will handle the case in accordance with law and offer assistance in follow-up matters, it said, adding that an autopsy was conducted on Tuesday.

The issuance of the death certificate is expected to take a few days as it is a case of homicide, the officials said.

Nagsen was one of the few Indian students who remained in China through the coronavirus pandemic while most of the 23,000 Indian students, who left for home, were stuck in India, unable to return due to Beijing's reluctance to lift visa restrictions.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ**  
(Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030

NIRD&PR an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, proposes to engage the following project positions in DDU-GKY for RSETI-ERP Development Project, for a period of one year on contractual basis -

1. Web Application Developer - 2 positions
2. DB Developer - 2 positions

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria, Remuneration and submission of online application, please visit: <http://career.nirdpr.in/>  
Last date for submission of online application is 25-08-2021  
Advt. No. 14/2021  
(No.NIRDPR/DDU-GKY/MIS/RSETI-ERP/134/2020-21) Assistant Registrar (E)

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
GREATER CHENNAI POLICE**

**TENDER NOTICE**  
No.NP/13789/2021 Date : 03-08-2021  
e-tenders are invited for the following work in Two Cover System

Project	EMD Amount INR
Selection of Project Management Consultant for providing Comprehensive Architectural, Engineering and Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction of the Command-and-Control Centre Building at the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Greater Chennai Police.	1.5 Lakh

Tender publishing date and time: 04-08-2021 at 03.30 p.m.  
Tender last date and time of submission: 26-08-2021 up to 04.00 p.m.  
Bid document will be available in website: <https://tntenders.gov.in>  
Tender open date and time: 26-08-2021 at 04.30 p.m.

**DY. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, HQRS, GREATER CHENNAI POLICE (TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY)**  
DIPR/2293/Tender/2021

**Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited**  
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001  
Tel.:(0674) 2380660; Website: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in); Email: [logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in)

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
Bid Reference No.:OSMCL/2021-22/COVID/28

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of COVID-19 Item (Inj. Casirivimab 120mg/ml and Imdevimab 120mg/ml) as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	03/08/2021, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 04/08/2021, 11 AM 13/08/2021, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	13/08/2021 11:30 AM
4.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in) and <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
**Managing Director, OSMCL Ltd., Odisha**  
OIPR-10112/11/0041/2122

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

"e-tender is invited for entrusting the work of Packing & Shipping of Calendars and Diaries-2022. For Tender Notice & Details - e-tender log on the website <http://www.tirumala.org> and <http://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in>. For further details contact: 0877-2264209, Cell No.9963955585, email:swpttd@gmail.com.

Roc.No.PR/13933/Adv.No.118/PRO/2021/Date:03-08-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Ministry of Culture Government of India  
Constitution of India, Article 51 A (i) To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture  
विद्यया ऽर्था वाञ्छन्ते विद्यायाः  
VEDA NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**  
Janpath Building, Janpath Road, New Delhi - 110001  
(An autonomous Trust under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India)

**ENGAGEMENT OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS**

IGNCA intends to engage 09 (nine) positions of Regional Directors, for its Regional Centres at Varanasi, Guwahati, Bengaluru, Panaji (Goa), Vadodara, Puducherry, Ranchi, Thirissur and Jammu/Srinagar on short - term contract/ deputation basis.

Application form and full details are available at IGNCA's website [www.ignca.gov.in](http://www.ignca.gov.in).

**Director (Admn)**

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: HYDERABAD - 500 082. Off. PABX:040-23396000

**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

The TSTRANSOCO invites bids through TENDERS on e-procurement platform for the following works: Name of the works: 1. Specification No.TST-CONST-e-05/2021-22/CE (Construction), Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of following works on turnkey basis (i) 132KV DC/SC line from existing 132/11KV Kothakota LIS to proposed RTSS Wanaparthy for a length of about 10.35KM in Mahabubnagar dist (ii) 1No.132KV bay at existing 132/11KV Kothakota LIS for 132KV RTSS Wanaparthy (iii) 1No.132KV metering bay at proposed 132 KV RTSS Wanaparthy in Mahabubnagar district on turnkey basis, 2. Spec.No.TST-CONST-e-06/2021-22: Supply and Erection of (i) 132KV DC line (71.30 km) on 220KV DC towers with Single Moose Conductor from proposed 220/132KV SS Inravally (Uthoor) to 132/33KV SS Asifabad with 2 Nos 132KV bays at Asifabad SS, 3. Spec.No.TST-CONST-e-07/2021-22: Supply and Erection of 132/33KV SS at Pasra with 2x10/16 MVA PTRS in Mulugu District. NOTE: - Further details can be seen @ <http://www.aprocurement.telangana.gov.in>, PHONE NO. 040-23396000, Extn: 3356, 3351, 3643,3508, 3572/FAX NO. 040-23336171. Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>

FAX:040-23336171 Ro No : 18/21 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION

**M.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.**  
Jehangirabad, Bhopal

**INVITATION NOTICE FOR ONLINE E-TENDER OFFER FOR SALE OF URAD WHOLE (BLACK GRAM WHOLE URAD) PROCURED AT SUPPORT PRICE IN KHARIF SEASON 2018**

In the Kharif season 2018-19, the procurement of Urad whole (Black Gram Whole Urad) was done by M.P. State Cooperative Marketing Federation and M.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited in different districts on support price in the state. The procured urad whole quantity 576955 quintal is stored in godowns run by SWC, CWC, M.P. Marked in different districts. Lot wise online offers are invited through e-tendering from the interested buyers for sale of stored urad whole.

View of Tender Document on M.P. MARKFED's website [www.mpmarkedf.mp.gov.in](http://www.mpmarkedf.mp.gov.in). Available for read only. This tender document can be downloaded and purchased online from <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>.

M.P. Madhyam/101499/2021 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

## MARKET WATCH

	03-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,823	1.65
US Dollar	74.28	0.08
Gold	46,891	-0.06
Brent oil	72.09	-0.93

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	705.05	13.05
Asian Paints	3027.00	52.95
Axis Bank	3828.50	17.45
Bajaj Auto	3828.20	-13.35
Bajaj Finserv	14295.00	169.85
Bajaj Finance	6331.90	131.40
Bharti Airtel	580.20	15.05
BPL	463.40	5.60
Britannia Ind	3573.20	68.55
Cipla	928.15	7.10
Coal India	144.25	0.35
Divis Lab	5006.85	77.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4721.70	20.15
Eicher Motors	2649.30	46.70
Grasim Ind	1592.40	0.75
HCL Tech	1039.45	4.05
HDFC	2554.65	92.60
HDFC Bank	1434.70	12.05
HDFC Life	673.80	3.45
Hero MotoCorp	2819.10	36.90
Hindalco	448.80	3.00
Hind Unilever	2386.55	54.05
ICICI Bank	690.40	9.00
IndusInd Bank	1022.05	34.05
Infosys	1655.20	23.65
IndianOilCorp	106.15	0.65
ITC	209.90	2.60
JSW Steel	740.30	-6.40
Kotak Bank	1685.65	20.55
L&T	1634.35	20.40
M&M	770.85	13.15
Maruti Suzuki	7199.40	122.45
Nestle India Ltd.	18284.10	569.45
NTPC	117.65	-0.10
ONGC	117.90	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	174.45	3.45
Reliance Ind	2087.75	15.25
SBI Life	1131.70	24.50
State Bank	446.50	11.60
Shree Cement	29203.50	-90.75
Sun Pharma	794.80	19.80
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	767.65	8.10
Tata Motors	303.70	6.85
Tata Steel	1407.20	-2.85
TCS	3284.90	65.50
Tech Mahindra	1226.25	15.55
Titan	1840.20	68.65
UltraTech Cement	7843.25	201.20
UPL	790.55	-0.50
Wipro	599.40	7.15

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.08	74.40
Euro	88.07	88.48
British Pound	103.22	103.67
Japanese Yen (100)	67.83	68.15
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.51
Swiss Franc	82.03	82.43
Singapore Dollar	54.85	55.09
Canadian Dollar	59.25	59.51
Malaysian Ringgit	17.55	17.63

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## 'Payments banks can act as investment bankers'

**NEW DELHI**  
To provide easy access to investors to participate in public and rights issues by using various payment avenues, markets regulator SEBI allowed payments banks to carry out activities of investment bankers. Non scheduled payments banks, that have prior RBI nod, can act as a banker to an issue, SEBI said in a circular. PTI

## Withdraw anti-dumping duty on viscose: DGTR

**COIMBATORE**  
The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has suggested the withdrawal of anti-dumping levy on viscose staple fibre originating in or exported from Indonesia or China and imported by India. 'The authority considers it appropriate to recommend withdrawal of anti-dumping duty' on viscose fibre import from Indonesia or China, it said in a notification.

## SPORT

## Stars like Ben Stokes keep mental health issues in the forefront



## BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

It is possible that the most far-reaching result at the Tokyo Olympics might have been achieved by gymnast Simone Biles. After all the celebrations are done, and the national reveries completed, one fact will remain: a top athlete, the face of the Olympics, pulled out from the early competition citing mental issues.

One whispers this quietly during the Olympics: sport is not just about taking part, it is about winning. And the pressures are enormous. Living up to expectations can be draining.

## Insolvency code has strayed from intent: Parliament panel

Committee seeks IBC review; flags low recovery rates, delays, vacancies in NCLTs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Parliament's Standing Committee on Finance has sought a review of the design and implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) as it has deviated from the original intent and questioned the low recovery rates, long delays in the resolution process and the high number of vacancies in the National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs).

The panel, chaired by the BJP's Jayant Sinha, stressed that the low recovery rates under the IBC 'with haircuts as much as 95% and the delay in resolution process with more than 71% cases pending with NCLT for more



**Guiding principle:** The panel suggests a benchmark for the quantum of 'haircuts' to be taken by creditors. ■ R. V. MOORTHY

than 180 days, clearly point towards a deviation from the original objectives of the Code'. In a report tabled on Tuesday on the 'Implementation of IBC - pitfalls and solutions', the Committee noted that the Code had un-

dergone six amendments since its introduction in 2016, but the operationalisation of these changes 'may have altered or even digressed from the basic design of the statute'. Calling for a thorough evaluation of

the extent of fulfilment of the Code's original aims, the panel said the fundamental aim of the statute was to secure creditor rights so as to reduce borrowing costs with the reduction of risks. It also suggested a benchmark be put in place for the quantum of "haircuts" to be taken by creditors. It expressed apprehensions over fresh graduates appointed as Resolution Professionals (RPs).

Disciplinary action had been taken in the case of 123 RPs out of 203 inspections conducted so far, it pointed out. It said it was concerned over the NCLT functioning without a President, and 34 members short of its sanctioned strength of 62.

## No error of judgment in HFC deal: PNB MD

'SAT' order to set future course of action'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Asserting that there was no error of judgment with regard to the fund-infusion decision of PNB Housing Finance Company (PNB HFC), Punjab National Bank MD S. S. Mallikarjuna said the future course of action would depend on SAT's order.

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), after hearing all parties related to PNB Housing Finance-Carlyle deal, has reserved its orders. PNB currently holds a 32.6% stake in PNB HFC.

Under the deal announced on May 31, the U.S.-based Carlyle, alongside other investors, is slated to infuse ₹4,000 crore



capital into PNB HFC through the issue of preference shares and warrants.

However, the deal has come under the scanner of capital markets regulator SEBI. The firm was told to carry out the share-valuation process as per legal provisions. PNB HFC contended it had followed SEBI norms in deciding the issue price at ₹390 apiece.

## PepsiCo to sell juice brands in North America

REUTERS

PepsiCo Inc unveiled a \$3.3 billion sale of its Tropicana and other juice brands in North America to French private equity firm PAI Partners on Tuesday, as it looks to simplify its product range and move away from high-sugar drinks.

The company, which bought the orange juice maker in 1998 for roughly \$3.3 billion and U.S.-based Naked Juice for \$150 million, will keep a 39% stake in the new JV and have exclusive U.S. distribution rights for the brands. The sale will give PepsiCo funds to develop its portfolio of health-focused snacks and zero-calorie beverages, CEO Ramon Laguarta said.

## Bharti Q1 revenue climbs 15% as data, subscriber additions buoy

Telco adds 46.1 million 4G customers, ARPU rises to ₹146

REUTERS  
BENGALURU

Telecom services major Bharti Airtel Ltd. posted a 15% rise in first-quarter revenue on Tuesday, helped by higher data usage during COVID-19 restrictions and by subscriber additions.

The company reported a consolidated revenue of ₹268.54 billion for the quarter ended June 30, compared with ₹232.90 billion a year earlier.

## Adds 4G users

Bharti said the number of 4G customers increased by 46.1 million from a year earlier, reaching 184.4 million users.



The telecom industry, now dominated by Reliance Jio and with some major players like Bharti battling a court case over dues owed to the government, has benefited from increased data

usage during the COVID-19 pandemic due to remote-working trends.

Bharti's quarterly mobile average revenue per user (ARPU), a key metric for telecom companies, increased to ₹146, from ₹138 a year earlier. In the previous quarter, ARPU was ₹145.

## Turns a profit

Net profit came in at ₹2.84 billion, compared with a loss of ₹159.33 billion in the year-earlier quarter, when it accounted for exceptional charges of ₹117.46 billion including provisions for licence fee and spectrum usage charges.

## BoI PAT down 15% on higher provisioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Bank of India (BoI) on Tuesday reported its first-quarter net profit declined 14.7% to ₹720 crore from ₹844 crore in the year-earlier period due to higher provisioning for bad loans and less net interest income (NII).

NII declined 9.67% to ₹3,145 crore.

Net non-performing assets (NPA) decreased 6.4% to ₹12,424 crore, while gross NPA was down 3.02% to ₹56,042 crore.

Total provisioning for the quarter was ₹2,086 crore, a 4.26% increase. Out of this, provisioning for NPA was ₹873 crore, up 13.9%.

Provision Coverage Ratio (PCR) at 86.17% improved by 130 bps y-o-y, the bank said in a filing.

## 'Asset quality pressure to persist for NBFCs'

'Collection efficiency hit, rising now'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The pressure on quality of assets for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) would persist in the near term and the risk to this sector would remain elevated due to the impact of the COVID-19 second wave, ICRA said in a report.

Stating that large housing finance companies had seen relatively limited impact on collection efficiency (CE) during the second wave, the ratings agency said other NBFCs with exposure to the likes of vehicle finance, business loans and microfinance saw CE decline 20-25% in May 2021 vis-a-vis the average Q4 FY21, when lockdowns imposed by various States were stringent and widespread. The CE improved marginally (rising



3-5%) in June compared with May, with States relaxing restrictions, it added.

"Headline asset quality numbers for June 2021 would be significantly elevated vis-a-vis March 2021, but the same is expected to subside over a couple of quarters if the CE continue to trend upwards," said A.M. Karthik, V-P, Financial Sector Ratings. With credit costs expected to remain elevated in FY22, earnings may stay subdued, it said.

## 'Roll out flexible fuel vehicles in a year's time'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari urged automakers to roll out flex-fuel vehicles capable of running on 100% ethanol in the Indian market within a year's time.

Flexible fuel vehicles are designed to run on petrol or petrol-ethanol blends. India plans to achieve 20% ethanol blending by 2025.

He also appealed to all private vehicle makers to compulsorily provide a minimum of six airbags in all vehicles in the interest of passenger safety.

CEOs from the Society of India Automobile Manufacturers have, however, reiterated demand for deferment of fuel efficiency and second stage of Bharat Stage VI emission norms.

## IOB Q1 net more than doubles to ₹327 crore

PSB's total income shrinks to ₹5,155 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank's (IOB) standalone net profit for Q1 FY22 has more than doubled to ₹327 crore on account of an increase in other income and cash recovery.

"We have been doing well in all the key parameters for the last few quarters," said P. P. Sengupta, MD & CEO.

## Seeks to exit PCA

"We have written to the RBI requesting us to take us out of Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)," he added.

Going forward, IOB will be focusing on recovery, low-cost deposits and less capital-consuming advances. For FY22, it has targeted to recover ₹4,500 crore. In Q1, cash recovery stood at ₹1,100 crore against the tar-



get of ₹860 crore.

During Q1, total income contracted by ₹79 crore to ₹5,155 crore and interest income by ₹239 crore to ₹4,063 crore.

Net interest margin dropped to 2.34% (2.36%). Gross deposits rose to ₹2,42,941 crore (₹2,25,546 crore) and gross advances to ₹1,38,944 crore (₹1,31,565 crore). Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to 11.48% from 13.90% and net NPAs to 3.15% from 5.10%.

## Floor prices for data are critical: COAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Industry association COAI on Tuesday contended that fixing floor prices was 'absolutely critical' and the need of the hour, given the 'major financial stress' in the telecom industry.

The association said floor prices needed to be fixed for data only for an interim period, say two years, and that voice calls could be excluded. "Telcos have incurred losses because of the downward pricing trend of data tariffs... revenue generation is now essential," S.P. Kochhar, director-general of Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI), said in a statement.

## City firm bags ₹350-cr. order from Maldives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Chennai-based Indira Group of Companies has drawn up plans to enter the Maldives, Mauritius and African markets as part of its expansion programme.

"We are in the process of bagging orders close to ₹1,000 crore this calendar year," said Bhupesh Nagarajan, chairman and founder. Two projects of more than ₹800 crore are to be executed in Maldives over the next two years, he added. "The first in the line of ₹350 crore was bagged by our joint venture firm (Ashoka Buildcon Ltd.) ABL-Indira Projects to design and construct police stations, accommodations and custody facilities in Maldives for its police service," Mr. Nagarajan said.

generational change in Indian cricket. That would be an astonishing slide for a team good enough to simultaneously field two international teams recently. But stranger things have happened.

In sport, no team can complain they were unable to field their best team. You pick the best available under the circumstances and take on the best available of the opposition.

While Biles at the Olympics, and Stokes among others in cricket focus attention on an issue that is little understood, does the fact that they are among the top stars give them the confidence to withdraw from competition?

Will a younger player or one less certain of his place in the side think differently? It does not matter. The stars keep the issue in the forefront, and that's what is important.



Ben Stokes. ■ FILE PHOTO

cricket has seen India lose the first Test of a series and with that the advantage, specially abroad. They did recover after losing the opener to England in the last series, but that was at home.

Kohli is not a captain who thinks in terms of evolving through a series, of starting slowly and building up to a climax. He is likely to throw everything into every match, a tactic that could

backfire. He hates to play for a draw, but might be forced to if things go wrong very quickly.

Only five captains have led their country in more Tests than Kohli, but his percentage of draws is the lowest among the top six (16% of 61 Tests). Even Ricky Ponting had a marginally higher percentage.

India's bowling is less worrying, and the choices are wider. Still, the batting beyond No. 7 has not clicked as well as they were expected to after Australia. England, playing at home, and with a larger pool of players available immediately, start off with the advantage.

## Much at stake

After the showing post-36 all out in Australia, miracles are expected from India. If they lose overall by the kind of margins they have in recent years, this could see a

# India's golden dreams shattered

Puts up a gallant fight before losing 2-5 to Belgium, meets Germany in bronze medal match



SHYAM VASUDEVAN  
TOKYO

India's quest for an Olympics gold medal in men's hockey after Moscow 1980 ended after it lost to Belgium in the semifinal clash on Tuesday. Belgium's 5-2 win, however, masked how competitive the game was.

Alexander Hendrickx took his tournament tally to 14 goals as he struck a hat-trick for the World champion and Rio 2016 silver medallist Belgium.

## Early strike

The Belgians got off to a screamer as Loick Luybaert scored with only 70 seconds played. The second-minute goal was the fastest India had conceded this campaign.

However, Graham Reid's team made a comeback as Harmanpreet Singh struck in



What went wrong? The Indian players are despondent after their semifinal loss to Belgium. ■PTI

the seventh minute. The goal, his fifth in Tokyo, came off India's first penalty corner.

A minute later, Mandeep Singh put India 2-1 ahead. Controlling Amit Rohidas' pass and spinning around his marker, he sounded the boards with a tomahawk hit.

Rohidas, the busiest man on the pitch, tracked back in

time minutes later to intercept a Thomas Briels pass to Cedric Charlier, who was left unmarked in the circle.

India looked good in the scorching conditions before Hendrickx turned on the heat. He scored the equaliser in the 19th minute – a goal that came after Belgium dictated play early in the second quarter and had won three

back-to-back penalty corners.

Despite the high stakes, the players did not lose their cool. Charlier and Varun Kumar collided during a tackle, but shook hands and continued.

The Indians saw more of the ball in the opening half (54%), had more circle penetrations (12), and did well to

restrict the free-scoring Belgians.

They took the fight to Belgium and created multiple scoring opportunities, but were unable to convert.

Things unravelled in an engrossing final quarter, fuelled by skipper Manpreet Singh's green card in the 48th minute.

Belgium won three successive penalty corners and Hendrickx came back to haunt the Indian defence as he scored with a drag-flick in the 49th minute.

The 27-year-old completed a hat-trick, his third of the competition, four minutes later as he converted a penalty stroke.

With options and time running out, the Indian camp decided to gamble. Goalkeeper Sreejesh made way for an outfield player. However, it did not change the course of the game as John-John Dohmen scored in the 60th minute to round off a thumping win.

Belgium will take on Australia, a 3-1 winner over Germany in the other semifinal. The Indians will play the Germans in the bronze medal match on Thursday.

# History beckons Lovlina

Beating Surmeneli will assure the Indian of a silver

## BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI

In her bid to become the first Indian boxer to reach an Olympics title clash, Lovlina Borgohain will face World champion Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey in a women's 69kg semifinal bout on Wednesday.

Two inches taller than Busenaz, Lovlina will be pumped up to create another upset after getting past Worlds medallist German Nadine Apetz and former World champion Nien-Chin Chen of Chinese Taipei to as-



Lovlina Borgohain. ■REUTERS

sure India of another medal at the Games.

The two 23-year-old boxers have never met before. While two-time Worlds

bronze medallist Lovlina has 14 wins and nine losses in her career, Busenaz has a superior record of 25 wins and six defeats.

"I have a few days, I will see her videos and figure out what to do with her," said Lovlina, who approached her match against Chen without any strategy and tasted success, after winning her quarterfinal bout.

In case Lovlina manages a win, she will ensure a medal of better colour than that of Vijender Singh and M.C. Mary Kom, who won bronze medals in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics respectively.

## INDIANS IN ACTION

**Athletics: Men's javelin: Qualification - Group A:** Neeraj Chopra, 5.35 a.m.; **Qualification - Group B:** Shivpal Singh, 7.05 a.m.

**Boxing: Women's welterweight (semifinals):** Lovlina Borgohain vs Busenaz Surmeneli (Tur), 11 a.m.

**Golf: Women's individual (round 1):** Aditi Ashok (5.55 a.m.), Diksha Dagar (7.35 a.m.).

**Hockey: Women (semifinals):** vs Argentina, 3.30 p.m.

**Wrestling (from 8 a.m.): Men's 1/8 final: Freestyle 57kg:** Ravi Kumar Dahiya vs Oscar Tigreros (Col); **Freestyle 86kg:** Deepak Punia vs Ekere-keme Agiomor (Ngr).

**Women's 1/8 final: Freestyle 57kg:** Anshu Malik vs Iryna Kurachkina (Ukr).

## MEDAL EVENTS

**17 Gold medals are on offer at the Games on Wednesday**

**Artistic swimming:** Duet

**Athletics:** Men's 200m, Men's 800m, Men's Hammer Throw, Women's 3000m Steeplechase, Women's 400m Hurdles

**Boxing:** Men's Light Heavy

**Cycling Track:** Men's Team Pursuit

**Equestrian:** Jumping Individual

**Marathon Swimming:** Women's 10km

**Sailing:** Men's & Women's Two Person Dinghy - 470

**Skateboarding:** Women's Park

**Weightlifting:** Men's +109kg

**Wrestling:** Men's Greco-Roman 67kg, Men's Greco-Roman 87kg, Women's Freestyle 62kg

# Warholm smashes 400mH World record

Wlodarczyk does the 'trick; Thompson-Herah repeats sprint double; Indians flop



History-makers: Karsten Warholm stormed past Rai Benjamin and the rest of the field to take the 400m hurdles gold with a record time, while Anita Wlodarczyk hurled the hammer the longest to continue her reign since London 2012. ■GETTY IMAGES

## ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN

He had broken Kevin Young's 29-year-old world record last month and everybody expected Karsten Warholm to repeat it at the Tokyo Olympics.

But none was ready for such an awesome performance. The Norwegian 400m hurdler, who had clocked 46.70s last month, became the first man to go under 46s for a sparkling gold which came at a stunning 45.96s in a breathtaking final.

Apart from a brief phase early on the home straight where he came under a bit of pressure from American Rai

Benjamin, son of former West Indian fast bowler Winston Benjamin, it was all Warholm as the Norwegian produced a near-perfect show.

Benjamin also went below the previous WR with his 46.17s for silver, while four others bettered national records.

Incidentally, Warholm, the 2013 octathlon champion at the under-18 Worlds, was a multi-eventer and was doing the decathlon till 2015 before moving to the hurdles seriously.

**Duplantis soars high** Meanwhile Sweden's Armand Duplantis attempted to raise his World record by a centimetre to 6.19m, after

taking gold with 6.02m, but narrowly missed it.

And then, Poland's Anita Wlodarczyk made history while winning the hammer throw (78.48m), becoming the first woman athlete to win three Olympic golds in the same discipline, a feat that had eluded Jamaican sprinter Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Croatian discus thrower Sandra Perkovic.

Jamaican Elaine Thompson-Herah, the fastest woman in Tokyo, completed the double-double by taking the 200m gold in 21.53s to repeat her gold show in Rio.

American Athing Mu and Britain's Keely Hodgkinson, both juniors, made it an impressive 1-2 in the women's 800m while German Malaika

Mihambo pipped American Brittney Reese with a last-round 7m for the women's long jump title.

## Way below their best

A day after discus thrower Kamalpreet sent the country on a bit of a high, Indians were back on familiar territory with discus thrower Annu Rani and shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor posting poor marks in the qualification round.

Annu, the 2019 Worlds finalist and a consistent 60m-plus thrower, was last overall with just 54.04m while Toor-disappointed with 19.99m, his lone legal effort and finished 13th in his group and 24th overall. Only 12 made the final in throws.

# Sonam exits in opening round

## WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI

Sonam Malik, the youngest Indian wrestler in the fray, crashed out in the first round of the women's 62kg category at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.

Sonam lost to Bolortuya Khurelkhuu 2-2 on criteria as the Mongolian equalised with a takedown in the last

minute. The 19-year-old Indian gave a good account of herself against the Asian championships silver medalist, pushing her out of the ring to take a 1-0 lead in the first period.

Sonam doubled her lead, driving Bolortuya out early in the second period.

The Indian thwarted at least four attempts of leg attack from the Mongolian but paid the price for her defensive approach.

Bolortuya attacked Sonam's right leg to bring about the crucial takedown with just 30 seconds left on the clock.

Sonam's chances of making it to the repechage round ended when the Mongolian was outclassed by 2018 World champion and 2019 Worlds silver medallist Taybe Mustafa Yusein of Bulgaria in the quarterfinals.

# Sindhu dedicates medal to fans

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

World champion P.V. Sindhu dedicated her Tokyo Olympics bronze to her supporters and those who have played a part in her journey so far.

After being felicitated by the Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, who described Sindhu as "one of the greatest Olympians India has produced," she said, "In Tokyo, I could not see many spectators, fans but I am sure, billions of people from India have shown their love, support and put in all the efforts and blessings. So I dedicate (this medal) to all of them. I can't thank you all enough for your support and encouragement. "My parents are here and



Honouring an achiever: Sindhu is felicitated by Union Ministers Anurag Thakur and Nirmala Sitharaman. ■PTI

I would like to thank them for their efforts and sacrifices that got me here. Especially my coach Park Taesang, with whom I have been working for more than a year now. I think his hard work and dedication got us to where we wanted our

dreams to come true. And it was his blessing."

Thakur, in the presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, presented Sindhu with a golden salver. Another golden salver was presented to her Korean coach Park.

# India cricketers hooked to the Olympic Games

AMOL KARHADKAR

Just like the rest of the world, India's cricketers in England have been hooked to the Olympics during their preparatory phase in England. According to captain Virat Kohli, the entire squad has been watching the quadrennial extravaganza together.

"We have all been keenly following it. In Durham [last week] at breakfast, we had big screens and televisions which were always running all the Olympic events," Kohli said.

"Especially our athletes, when they were perform-



Kohli. ■GETTY IMAGES

ing, we were all keenly watching. The whole country and all of us are super proud of our medal winners and also the people who have gone far into the competition, who might have not won medals, but who have competed and given their best."

# PM to invite contingent to Red Fort on Aug 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will invite India's Olympic contingent to the Red Fort as special guests on August 15 when he will deliver his eighth straight inde-

pendence day speech.

Official sources said Modi will also invite them to his residence for interaction.

India has been represented by a 228-strong contingent, including over 120 athletes, at the Olympics.

# Durant leads USA into the last four

## BASKETBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

The United States kept its basketball gold medal dreams on track on Tuesday by sweeping past World champion Spain 95-81 and into the semifinals, while Olympic debutant Slovenia crushed Germany to set up a last-four clash with France.

Sharp-shooting Brooklyn

Nets star Kevin Durant poured in 29 points and four assists for the Americans while Boston's Jayson Tatum chipped in with 13, nullifying Ricky Rubio's dazzling 38-point spree for Spain.

## Big win

The three-time defending champion will next face Patty Mills' Australia, which convincingly beat Argentina 97-59, for a place in Saturday's final.

Slovenia progressed on the back of 27 points from Zoran Dragic and another 20 from Dallas Mavericks star Luka Doncic in the 94-70 rout of Germany.

France who edged Italy 84-75 in a nail-biter, with Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert drilling 22 points and fellow NBA mainstay Evan Fournier getting 21.

# Biles caps return with beam bronze

## GYMNASTICS

REUTERS  
TOKYO

Simone Biles made a fearless return to competition on Tuesday, capping a tumultuous Tokyo Games with a bronze medal on the balance beam and then using the Olympic stage to remind everyone that athletes are human beings.

"People have to realise that at the end of the day we're humans, we're not just entertainment. There are things going on behind the scenes that people have no idea about."

Two-time parallel bars



Back in action: Biles, who skipped some events for mental health reasons, signed off with a bronze on the beam. ■AP

world champion Zou Jingyuan secured gold for China on the apparatus for the third time in four Games. Ja-

pan also finished on a golden high with all-around champion Daiki Hashimoto winning the horizontal bar.

## GOLD MEDAL WINNERS ON TUESDAY



Sprinter supreme: Elaine Thompson-Herah reprised her Rio feat by adding the 200m to the 100m title. ■REUTERS

**Zou Jingyuan (Chn):** Artistic Gymnastics: Men's Parallel Bars; **Daiki Hashimoto (Jpn):** Artistic Gymnastics: Men's Horizontal Bar; **Guan Chenchen (Chn):** Artistic Gymnastics: Women's Balance Beam

**Karsten Warholm (Nor):** Athletics: Men's 400m Hurdles; **Armand Duplantis (Swe):** Athletics: Men's Pole Vault; **Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jam):** Athletics: Women's 200m; **Athing Mu (USA):** Athletics: Women's 800m

**Malaika Mihambo (Ger):** Athletics: Women's Long Jump; **Anita Wlodarczyk (Pol):** Athletics: Women's Hammer Throw

**Roniel Iglesias (Cub):** Boxing: Men's Welter; **Sena Irie (Jpn):** Boxing: Women's Feather

**Balint Kopasz (Hun):** Canoe Sprint: Men's Kayak Single 1000m; **Serguey Torres & Fernando Jorge (Cub):** Canoe Sprint: Men's Canoe Double

**1000m**

**Lisa Carrington (NZ):** Canoe Sprint: Women's Kayak Single 200m; **Lisa Carrington & Caitlin Regal (NZ):** Canoe Sprint: Women's Kayak Double 500m

**Netherlands:** Cycling Track: Men's Team Sprint; **Germany:** Cycling Track: Women's Team Pursuit

**Xie Siyi (Chn):** Diving: Men's 3m Springboard

**Martine Graef & Kahena Kunze (Bra):** Sailing: Women's Skiff 49er; **Great Britain:** Sailing: Men's One Person Dinghy (Heavyweight); **Italy:** Sailing: Men's Multihull-Nacra 17 Foiling

**Akbar Djuraev (Uzb):** Weightlifting: Men's 109kg; **Tamas Lorincz (Hun):** Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 77kg; **Musa Evloev (ROC):** Wrestling: Men's Greco-Roman 97kg; **Tamrya Mensah-Stock (USA):** Wrestling: Women's Freestyle 68kg.

## INDIAN ODYSSEY

**Athletics: Men: Shot put (Qualification - Group A):** 13. Tajinderpal Singh Toor, Did Not Qualify (DNQ) for final.

**Women: Javelin (Qualification - Group A):** 14. Annu Rani, DNQ for final.

**Hockey: Men (semifinals):** lost to Belgium 2-5.

**Wrestling: Women's freestyle 62kg (1/8 final):** Sonam Malik lost to Bolortuya Khurelkhuu (Mgl).

## MEDALS RACE

Country	G	S	B	T
China	32	21	16	69
USA	24	27	21	72
Japan	19	6	11	36
Australia	14	4	15	33
ROC	13	21	18	52
Great Britain	13	17	13	43
Germany	8	8	14	30
France	6	10	8	24
Netherlands	6	7	7	20
Korea	6	4	9	19
<b>64. India</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

ROC: Russian Olympic Committee

## TOKYO TITBITS

**Asensio puts Spain into the final against Brazil** Real Madrid's Marco Asensio struck an extra-time winner as Spain ended Japan's hopes of Olympic gold in men's football with a 1-0 win, setting up a meeting with Brazil in Saturday's final. The defending champion Brazil reached the final beating Mexico 4-1 on penalties after the game ended goalless after extra-time.

**Carrington completes kayak singles hat-trick** New Zealand's Lisa Carrington set an Olympic best to seal her third successive Games gold medal in women's kayak single 200 metres, before partnering Caitlin Regal to win the kayak double 500m title.

Carrington, who also won in London 2012 and Rio 2016, came into the final of her specialist event having already bettered her own Games best from five years ago.

**Xie Siyi dives into the record books** With a series of near-perfect twists, rolls, tucks and pointed toes, China's Xie Siyi claimed yet another men's 3 metre springboard gold medal for his country. With this, Xie becomes the first male diver in 20 years to win both individual and synchronised 3m springboard at the same Games.

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# Focus on Kohli's playing XI as India braces up for acid test

A test of the skipper's strategic acumen; Root's England looks a more settled side with home advantage to bolster the edge

## INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOTTINGHAM

The toughest four months of Virat Kohli's eventful leadership career start here on Wednesday when his strategic acumen will be tested while selecting a perfect Indian combination to take on a good England side in the first Test of a five-match series.

Kohli will have to think overtime about the balance of his squad with a long tail, often bushy with runs, and just two openers - Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul.

### Logical choice

Rahul, with 2000-plus Test runs, looks a logical choice to partner Kohli.

Bengal's Abhimanyu Easwaran had last played a First Class game in March 2020 and, that too, after enduring a horrendous season. Will the team risk him? It would be a huge call.

That brings into the equation Hanuma Vihari, the team's 'all-purpose player', who had once faced the new ball in Australia.

His handy off-spin, along with that of automatic choice R. Ashwin, could also pave the way for Shardul Thakur's entry as the bowling all-rounder

in place of an experienced Ravindra Jadeja.

Mohammed Shami is a wily customer and Ishant Sharma still possesses a big heart but they are ageing. Jasprit Bumrah, since his lower-back stress fracture in 2019, is hardly the Test bowler one has come to know but his success in the last series may ensure a start for him.

But where does it leave India's fastest and most in-form bowler Mohammed Siraj, whose raw pace ousted a concussed Agarwal from this Test match?

Kohli's team selections in England last time left a lot to be desired as Kuldeep Yadav was picked to play on a Lord's green top where he looked like a lamb for slaughter. Similarly baffling was his decision to ignore a pacer in overcast conditions in his bid to shore up the batting with Jadeja's presence even though he had to be under-bowled.

### Adequate preparation

Rahul's hundred in the last First Class game and adequate preparation time would keep him in good head space.

Kohli was a part of the 2014 team when it lost 1-3 and the then vice-captain had a torrid time with the bat. He came back deter-

mined in 2018, scored truckloads of runs but a poor team choice at Lord's and one bad batting session in Southampton meant that under him, India lost 1-4.

The Indian captain would walk out with his band of men against a side that has two artists of red Dukes at work in James Anderson and Stuart Broad.

The veterans will be complemented by one of the world's fastest bowlers in Mark Wood and a smart apprentice in Ollie Robinson.

### The teams (from):

**India:** Virat Kohli (Capt.), Ajinkya Rahane (Vice-capt.), Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wk), R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Umesh Yadav, K.L. Rahul, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), and Abhimanyu Easwaran.

**England:** Joe Root (Capt.), James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Dom Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Haseeb Hameed, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Dom Sibley and Mark Wood.

**Umpires:** Michael Gough & Richard Kettleborough; TV umpire: Richard Illingworth; Match Referee: Chris Broad.

Match Starts at 3:30 p.m. (IST).

## Pataudi Trophy up for grabs

India will be keen to regain the Pataudi Trophy it last won in 2007 under Dravid's stewardship as it takes on England in a five-Test series



The trophy, instituted in 2007 to commemorate 75 years of England-India Tests, is given to the winner of the series between the two in England

H2h in England  
Tests 62  
India 7  
England 34  
Drawn 21

### PATAUDI TROPHY

Year	Winner	Result
2007	India	1-0 (3)
2011	England	4-0 (4)
2014	England	3-1 (5)
2018	England	4-1 (5)

Tests	India	England	Drawn
17	3	11	3

### India's victories

2007	India won by seven wickets, Nottingham
2014	India won by 95 runs, Lord's
2018	India won by 203 runs, Nottingham

### TOP PERFORMERS

#### INDIA

##### MOST RUNS

	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s
M.S. Dhoni	12	23	2	778	92	37.04	8/0

##### MOST WICKETS

	M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	SR	5W/10W
Ishant Sharma	12	19	43	7/74	33.90	61.3	2/0

#### ENGLAND

##### MOST RUNS

	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s
Alastair Cook	17	28	1	1196	294	44.29	5/2

##### MOST WICKETS

	M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	SR	5W/10W
James Anderson	17	34	84	5/20	23.66	49.7	4/0

### The schedule

August 4-8: Nottingham; August 12-16: Lord's; August 25-29: Leeds; September 2-6: The Oval; September 10-14: Manchester. All matches start at 3:30 p.m. IST

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

\* There will also be another trophy awarded for the series win

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD



### CAPTAINCY RECORD

INDIA	M	W	L	D
Rahul Dravid (2007)	3	1	0	2
M.S. Dhoni (2011 & 14)	9	1	7	1
Virat Kohli (2018)	5	1	4	0

### ENGLAND

	M	W	L	D
Michael Vaughan (2007)	3	0	1	2
Andrew Strauss (2011)	4	4	0	0
Alastair Cook (2014)	5	3	1	1
Joe Root (2018)	5	4	1	0

### INDIA VS ENGLAND IN TESTS AT NOTTINGHAM

Played	India	England	Drawn
7	2	2	3

Form Guide (last five matches, latest game first)

India ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

England ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## 'A player of Pujara's calibre should be left alone'

Captain Kohli terms criticism of the No. 3 batsman 'unnecessary'

AMOL KARHADKAR

Despite extending the suspense over Rohit Sharma's opening partner to the morning of the series-opener, captain Virat Kohli stressed that, after spending two months in England, India is ready to roar in the five-Test series, which starts on Wednesday.

### Better prepared

"We are definitely much better prepared than in the past. The [COVID] situation has allowed us to get acclimatised and get used to the weather first, because it can change drastically quite quickly here," Kohli said from Nottingham on Tuesday.

"At the same time, playing under different changes in conditions - in terms of the weather, whether it is overcast or sunny, how the pitch behaves, how the ball travels, how much it swings in the air - all those things are going to add to our experience, which the team already possesses a



Well left! Pujara is not worried about what is being said about him, says Kohli • AFP

lot of, having played in England before."

In addition to the challenge of filling the opener's slot, India also enters the series with a potential void created by the absence of a pace-bowling all-rounder.

With Hardik Pandya sidelined from Test cricket due to a chronic back injury - he had an excellent outing in 2018 - the only option India has is Shardul Thakur.

"He is already a multi-di-

mensional cricketer and it is all about gaining more and more confidence with performances like Brisbane. Someone like him always brings a lot of balance," Kohli said.

### Shardul a huge prospect

"Shardul is a huge prospect for us and one who is going to be very important for us not just in this series but going forward."

Ever since the conclusion of the WTC final, there have

been suggestions in some quarters that Cheteshwar Pujara no longer enjoys the team management's confidence. Kohli, however, dismissed the idea that there were doubts over Pujara's ability.

"A player of his calibre should be left alone and the responsibility is with the individual to figure out what are the drawbacks in his game that he needs to work on," Kohli said. "I can from the outside say that the criticism is unnecessary, but I know for a fact that Pujara does not care. Criticism is only as relevant as you want it to be."

Despite the absence of Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes, veteran pacers James Anderson and Stuart Broad will pose severe challenges for India's batsmen.

Kohli dead-batted a specific query about his plans to tackle Anderson with: "I'll just bat."

India will be hoping he does just that for the next six weeks.

## Bangladesh beats Australia, goes 1-0 up

### AUS IN BANGLADESH

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DHAKA

Spinner Nasum Ahmed claimed four wickets as Bangladesh beat Australia by 23 runs in the opening Twenty20 International on Tuesday.

Nasum, a left-arm spinner, returned career-best figures of four for 19 to help

dismiss Australia for 108 while chasing a target of 132 as Bangladesh took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series in Dhaka.

It was Bangladesh's first ever T20 win over Australia, whose four wins over The Tigers came in T20 World Cups.

This is the first bilateral series between the two sides.

The second T20 is on Wednesday at the same venue.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 131 for seven in 20 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 36, Starc 2/33, Hazlewood 3/24) bt Australia 108 in 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 45, Nasum 4/19, Mustafizur 2/16, Shoriful 2/19).

**Toss:** Australia.

**MoM:** Nasum.

Bangladesh won by 23 runs and leads five-match series 1-0.

## 'There could be others like Stokes'

AMOL KARHADKAR

India captain Virat Kohli has said there could be more cricketers like Ben Stokes who would opt for a break from the sport.

"Like he [Stokes] has taken a break, there could be more players in the future, at some stage or the other, who could get fatigued by bubble life. For us, this break was very important and with regard to the preparation for this series, we realise how important the break was," Kohli said on Tuesday.

India cricketers were given a three-week break after the World Test Championship final before they reassembled on July 15 to kick-start the preparation for the five-Test series.

"These breaks are very important, for me to refresh. In any case, captaincy and shouldering a team's responsibility can be stressful. To add to that if you are confined in a bubble for a long time, things get even more difficult.

### Breaks important

"These periodic breaks are very important. Because if your players don't survive to play, then maintaining the quality of cricket will get difficult," Kohli said.

"We are going into the series fresh and with an exciting mindset. We are optimistic that now we can give our best efforts over five Tests."

## TV PICKS

**England vs India:** 1st Test, day 1, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3:30 p.m.  
**TNPL 2021:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7:30 p.m.  
**Tokyo 2020:** Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 3 a.m. onwards (Thursday)

## Sumit Nagal bows out

SPORTS BUREAU  
LIBEREC (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Maximilian Marterer of Germany beat Sumit Nagal 6-4, 6-3 in the first round of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament here.

**Other result: \$15,000 ITF women, Cairo: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Aline Thommen (Sui) & Ashmitha Easwararathi bt Farah Khalil & Zeina Shaaban (Egy) 4-6, 7-5, [10-6].

## Adhiban falls short of quarterfinals

### CHESS

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

B. Adhiban's defeats in the last three rounds cost him a place in the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament on Monday.

Adhiban, who won the first two rounds to move to the eighth place and enjoyed a half-point lead over Jorden

## Makhija tops air rifle selection trials

### SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Paarth Makhija beat the reigning World Junior champion Hriday Hazarika by 1.4 point to top the men's air rifle event in the shooting National selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range.

The 19-year-old Hazarika, however, topped the junior section beating the Youth Olympics silver medalist Shahu Tushar Mane by 0.5 point.

Nisha Kanwar topped in the women's air rifle event, beating Meghana Sajjanar by 0.3 point. Shreya Agarwal did very well to score 631.6 in the qualification stage.

Anish Bhanwala and Rhythm Sangwan topped in

the men's and women's section of rapid fire pistol.

The trials scores, along with the scores of the last national championship, will form the basis of selection of the Indian team for the 14th Asian Air Gun championship to be staged in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, apart from the Junior World Championship to be held in Lima Peru, in September.

The shooters who competed in the Tokyo Olympics will also be eligible for selection. They have been exempted from the trials, and their scores in the last two World Cups in Delhi and Osaka, apart from the European Championship and the Olympics will be considered for selection.

**The results: 10m air rifle: Men:**

1. Paarth Makhija 253.6 (630.4); 2. Hriday Hazarika 252.2 (629.8); 3. Shahu Tushar Mane 231.2 (627.8). **Juniors:** 1. Hriday Hazarika 251.5 (629.8); 2. Shahu Tushar Mane 251.0 (627.8); 3. Paarth Makhija 229.1 (630.4). **Youth:** 1. Keval Prajapati 249.6 (624.2); 2. Rudranksh Patil 249.5 (625.9); 3. Yash Vardhan 227.9 (625.0). **Women:** 1. Nisha Kanwar 251.2 (627.7); 2. Meghana Sajjanar 250.9 (627.5); 3. Nupur Patil 229.2 (625.6). **Juniors:** 1. Atmika Gupta 250.7 (626.9); 2. Mehuli Ghosh 250.6 (624.6); 3. Manini Kaushik 229.6 (624.1). **Youth:** 1. Ramita 251.0 (624.4); 2. Khyati Chaudhary 248.1 (625.7); 3. Yana Rathore 227.8 (620.2).

**25m rapid fire pistol: Men:** 1. Anish Bhanwala 581; 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 579; 3. Adarsh Singh 579. **Women:** 1. Rhythm Sangwan 552; 2. Simranpreet Kaur Bar 546; 3. Tejaswani 542.

Tari (Nor) bt Humpy. **Standings (after 15 rounds):** 1. So (11), 2-4. Aronian, Firouzja, Hikaru Nakamura (USA) (10.5 each), 5. Artemiev (9.5), 6-7. Le Quang Liem (Vie), Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) (9 each), 8. van Foreest (8.5), 9-10. Adhiban, Iturrizaga (7 each), 11. Tari, 12. Harikrishna (6), 13. Anton (5.5), 14. Wenjun (5), 15. Abhimanyu (2.5), 16. Humpy (2).

**Quarterfinal line-up:** So-Foreest; Nakamura-Artemiev; Firouzja-Quang Liem; Aronian-Mamedyarov.

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