



Assam, Meghalaya form regional panels for border settlement  
page 9



Taliban intensify offensive, capture first provincial capital  
page 13



RBI keeps policy rate unchanged for the seventh time in a row  
page 14

Aditi placed second, India women finish fourth; Bajrang to fight for bronze  
page 15



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**NEARBY**  
**Khel Ratna named after Dhyan Chand**  
NEW DELHI  
The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna stands renamed as the "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna". Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter on Friday to announce the change of name in honour of the hockey wizard. "I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will hereby be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award!" read Mr. Modi's tweet.

NEWS PAGE 8

## Post talks, India, China pull back troops from Gogra

Second such disengagement after February

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

India and China have undertaken disengagement from Gogra area of eastern Ladakh following an agreement at the 12th round of Corps Commander talks, the Army said on Friday.

This is the second friction area from which disengagement has been carried out after Pangong Tso in February as part of efforts for overall disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh to end the standoff that



**Moving forward:** Indian and Chinese troops disengaging from the Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh in February. ■ PTI

began in May last year.

"As per the agreement, both sides have ceased forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner. The disengagement process was carried out over August 4 and 5. The troops of both

sides are now in their permanent bases," the Army said. All temporary structures and infrastructure created by both sides have been dismantled and mutually verified, it added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## SC backs Amazon plea against Future-Reliance merger plan

Court upholds the validity of a Singapore-based arbitrator's award

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ruled in favour of e-commerce giant Amazon against the proposed ₹24,713 crore merger deal between Future Retail Limited (FRL) and Reliance Retail.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and B.R. Gai upheld the validity and enforceability of a Singapore-based Emergency Arbitrator (EA) award, which restrained FRL, India's second largest offline retailer, from going ahead with the disputed transaction.

Justice Nariman recorded

### Corporate Fight

Future Retail Limited (FRL) was not allowed to dispose of/divest its retail assets without Amazon's consent or deal with "restricted persons" like Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani (MDA) Group, as per a share subscription agreement among Amazon, Future Coupons Private Limited FCPL and FRL, in August 2019

However, in August 2020, FRL entered into a "transaction" with the MDA Group for amalgamation/complete disposal of its retail assets in the latter's favour, which Amazon objected to

that the Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani (MDA) Group, which owns Reliance Retail, was among the "restricted persons" or "prohibited entities" with whom FRL, Future Coupons Private Limited (which owns 9.82% share-

holding in FRL) and the Biyanis could not "deal". This was according to agreements based on which Amazon would invest money.

Despite this, the court noted that FRL entered into a transaction with the MDA

Group. The deal envisaged "the amalgamation of FRL with the MDA Group, the consequential cessation of FRL as an entity, and complete disposal of its retail assets in favour of the group".

The EA in October 2020, enjoined FRL "from taking any steps to complete the disputed transaction with entities that are part of the MDA Group". The judgment dismissed FRL's argument that the "Emergency Arbitrator is not an arbitral tribunal" under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## CBI, police ignoring judges' complaints: SC

It suggests formation of a special force

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said Central agencies such as the CBI and the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and State police forces chose to ignore complaints from judges about abusive messages and threats even as attacks on the judiciary were on the rise.

The court suggested the formation of a special force to protect judges, especially trial judges who decide criminal cases involving high-profile accused.

"We have seen that in criminal cases involving high-profile people, there is a new trend of maligning judges. There is no freedom for judges to work. The CBI, the police, the IB do not help the judiciary. I am mak-



CJI N.V. Ramana

ing this statement with some sense of responsibility," Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said.

"In several cases across the country involving gangsters and high-profile and powerful accused, they threaten judges, not just physically but also mentally through abusive messages, peeping into judges' online accounts, etc," he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Child has right to use mother's surname: HC

'A father does not own the daughter'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday observed that every child has the right to use his or her mother's surname if he or she wishes to.

Justice Rekha Palli made the observation while hearing a petition by a minor girl's father seeking direction to the authorities to reflect his surname in his daughter's documents and not her mother's.

"A father does not own the daughter to dictate that she should use only his surname. If the minor daughter is happy with her surname, what is your problem?" Justice Palli said, while declining to pass any direction on the father's plea.

Advocate Anuj Kumar Ranjan, appearing for the

man, submitted that his client's daughter is six years old and cannot decide such issues on her own. Mr. Ranjan contended that the child's surname was changed by his client's estranged wife.

### 'Violation of rules'

The lawyer said the surname of the child was changed on the pretext of correction of spelling.

This was in violation of provisions under Section 11 of the Delhi Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, the advocate submitted.

The High Court, however, disposed of the petition with a liberty to the man to approach his daughter's school to show his name as the father.

## ₹37 crore of PF funds illegally withdrawn; four suspended

Fraud detected at regional office in Mumbai

VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

Several crores of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) savings have been drained out through fraudulent withdrawals at a regional office in Mumbai with the connivance of some Employees' Provident Fund Organisa-

tion (EPFO) officials.

By Wednesday, ₹37 crore of such withdrawals, most of which are learnt to have been partial withdrawal claims from EPF, had come to light, as per sources aware of the development.

Four officials have been suspended so far and an audit team of the EPFO has been dispatched to scrutinise transaction records at the regional EPF office in Kandivali.

The EPFO has confirmed that administrative and criminal action has been launched, along with efforts to recover the funds.

A source close to the development said the fraud also involved preparing fake claim requests against EPF accounts where no fresh contributions have been made for a prolonged period.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Opposition leaders attend farmers' stir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Leaders of at least 12 Opposition parties, including former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, on Friday attended the "Kisan Sansad" (farmers' parliament) at Jantar Mantar here to express their solidarity with protesting farmers, who are demanding the repeal of the three farm laws.

DETAILS ON PAGE 8

## Delhi govt. bats for reopening of schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday made a pitch for reopening educational institutions in the Capital at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) to review the COVID-19 situation in the city.

Sources in the Delhi government said that during the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia contended that the closure of schools had led to major loss of learning and it was time to reopen them.

He submitted that out of eight lakh parents who attended parent-teacher meetings, held over two weeks at Delhi government schools, 90% wanted schools to reopen.

The Minister had invited students, parents and teachers to submit suggestions on whether schools should reopen. Sources in the Delhi government said that 33,000 people sent their suggestions out of which 58% want educational institutions to reopen. Out of the people who want reopening of institutions, 68% want schools and 83% want colleges to reopen.

Sources said that it was decided in the DDMA meeting that an SOP should be prepared and given to an expert committee so that schools could reopen. Experts have stressed that schoolteachers and employees should be vaccinated before any reopening.

DU DEFERS DECISION TO BEGIN PHYSICAL CLASSES PAGE 2

## NEXT IAS

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### Mahapanchayat held for aborting construction of Haj House

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Scores of people gathered in Dwarka sector 22, where the government has allotted land for the proposed construction of Haj House, demanding its cancellation. Calling the event a 'Mahapanchayat', protesters chanted slogans during the two-hour agitation.

Ajit Swami, president of All Dwarka Residents' Federation - which along with neighbouring villages and right wing outfits - said the allotment should be cancelled because they don't want the government to spend money only on one religion. "There are so many communities in Dwarka and Muslim population is the least. Why should the government spend crores on building for members of one community? They should build something that can be used by all - like a hospital or a school," he said, adding that the government will spend money on maintaining the place as well "which is not right".

The body had earlier sent a letter to Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal. "There is a strong apprehension that brotherhood, harmony and peace in the society, apart from law and order, will be disturbed if the Haj House is allowed to be constructed in Dwarka," it stated.

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said that an FIR has been registered under relevant Sections as DDMA guidelines on COVID-19 were flouted.

### HC seeks all status reports from police on Tahir's bail plea

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday called for all status reports from Delhi Police related to the bail applications moved by former AAP councillor Tahir Husain - arrested in multiple FIRs arising out of the north-east Delhi riots last year.

Justice Yogesh Khanna, who was hearing four bail applications by Mr. Husain, said that he would hear arguments after the court has received status reports in all cases.

"All status reports should be brought on record. We can have it later," the High Court said while listing the cases for hearing on August 18.

## Kejriwal, Puri flag off services on 'missing link' of Delhi Metro

Mayur Vihar Pocket 1-Trilokpuri Sanjay Lake stretch makes Pink Line longest corridor

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday flagged off metro services on the Mayur Vihar Pocket 1-Trilokpuri-Sanjay Lake stretch of the Pink Line.

With passenger operations commencing on this section, the Pink Line is now 59 km long with the corridor linking the northern and eastern parts of the Capital with markets, transport hubs and hospitals in south and central Delhi.

Mr. Puri said, "The Delhi Metro rail system has delivered a world-class transportation system to our citizens. This expansion has taken place with the least possible disruptions. While the stretch might look small in terms of network length but connectivity will play an extremely crucial link."

With the inauguration of the "missing link," the Pink Line became the Delhi Metro's longest operational corridor.

Under the Phase IV network, the corridor will be



A Metro train passes through Trilokpuri on the Pink Line in the city on Friday. \*R.V. MOORTHY

further extended from Majis Park to Maujpur, making it the longest single metro corridor in the country, at approximately 70 km.

Speaking at the flagging off ceremony, Mr. Kejriwal said, "It is a moment of great delight for all the people of Delhi that this area of the city, where a high volume of population lives, is being connected to the metro."

"Tough period for DMRC" "For the past one and a half years, we are all fighting with the woes of the pandemic. It has been a very tough period for all of us. This period has been espe-

cially tough for the DMRC both financially as well as from the point of view of the new projects that they had undertaken. But the DMRC showed great resilience in facing the COVID-19 crisis, whenever possible, they efficiently handled their projects," said Mr. Kejriwal.

#### Land-related dispute

The Pink Line, which was inaugurated in 2019, failed to become completely operational due to this 290 metre stretch where there was a land-related dispute.

Delhi Metro officials said the train services from Majis Park to Sarai Kale Khan Nizamuddin and Shiv Vihar

to IP Extension stations will be available at a frequency of five minutes and 12 seconds with 43 trains, including standby trains, during peak hours.

"Trains will be run with a temporary speed restriction of 25 kmph between Mayur Vihar Pocket-1 and Trilokpuri-Sanjay Lake stations due to the non-availability of automated signalling system on the stretch, which is still under commissioning. It is expected to get the system commissioned in about the next two months. Thereafter, trains will move with regular speed on this stretch too, eliminating the need for speed restriction," the DMRC said.

Commuters on this line will be able to access transit hubs like Nizamuddin Railway Station, Sarai Kale Khan ISBT, Anand Vihar Railway Station and ISBT and markets like Dilli Haat-INA, Sarojini Nagar and Lajpat Nagar.

The Delhi Metro network now spans across 390 km with 285 stations, including the Noida-Greater Noida Aqua Line and Rapid Metro Gurugram.

## SCERT adopts framework of Deshbhakti Curriculum

Aim is to instil pride for India: Delhi govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The governing council of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) on Friday adopted the framework of the new 'Deshbhakti' curriculum, which the Delhi government is planning to introduce this academic year.

The government said the primary aim of the curriculum is to instil "love and pride" for India, build awareness of one's responsibilities and duties towards the country, and commitment to make sacrifices for India.

The government said the details on the curriculum would be released in a few days. It added that the curriculum is proposed to be transacted through discussions, reflections and activities facilitated by the teachers.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said: "It is imperative that we bridge the gap between values and actions and ensure that constitutional ideals of equality, fraternity and justice are practiced by children in their everyday lives."

During the 2021 Delhi Budget, Mr. Sisodia had announced the introduction of the 'Deshbhakti Curriculum'

to instil the spirit of patriotism and nationhood among every child studying in Delhi government schools.

The government said the Deshbhakti Curriculum Framework was presented by the SCERT Director Rajanish Kumar Singh, based on the recommendations of the Deshbhakti Curriculum Committee along with its aims, objectives and pedagogical process.

Speaking about its connection with the National Education Policy 2020, Chairperson of the Committee Renu Bhatia, Principal, Sarvodaya Kanya Vidhyalaya Moti Bagh, said: "The curriculum aims to develop a deep sense of respect towards the Fundamental Duties and Constitutional values, bonding with one's country, and a conscious awareness of one's roles and responsibilities, as highlighted in the NEP."

The pedagogical discourse of the curriculum has been based on the guiding principles of the National Curriculum Framework 2005, and follows child-centric and critical pedagogies.

It focuses on connecting to children's lives outside of school as well.

## Make sure citizens get 24x7 water supply: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday chaired a review meeting with the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to discuss ongoing projects and actions plans on 24x7 water supply and 100% pipeline network in the city.

The cleaning of Yamuna and 100% sewerage connectivity in Delhi was also discussed during the meeting.

The CM emphasised delivering the actual promises made under the projects. He instructed the officers to make sure that 24x7 water supply actually translates into constant water in the pipelines and not just laying out pipelines for the sake of it.

He further asked the officials to make sure that the 100% sewerage connectivity project is completed within the stipulated timelines.

"The Delhi government will not make any false promises to the people of Delhi. Officers should have a complete understanding of the on-ground reality and what we can deliver," Mr. Kejriwal said.

## 4 persons held for heroin supply across NCR, U.P.

Drugs worth ₹48 cr. recovered from them

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The police arrested four persons for allegedly supplying heroin, said officials on Friday. They recovered heroin worth ₹48 crore in the international market from the accused.

DCP (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said the accused have been identified as Shah Nawaz Hussain (25), resident of Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, Sachin (32) from Delhi, Abdul Razzak (44) and Mohammad Idrish (50) - both residents of Manipur.

A total of 12kg contraband has been recovered from their possession, he said.

"On Thursday, the police got information that Hussain will come to Rajapuri, Delhi in a truck to supply heroin to Sachin. Thereafter, a raid was conducted and the accused were nabbed at around 8.50 a.m.," Mr. Yadav said.

Later, information was received that Razzak and his accomplice would come near Netaji Subhas Marg to supply heroin. The police then nabbed



The accused in police custody. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Razzak and Idrish.

#### Supply in U.P, Delhi-NCR

During interrogation, Hussain told the police that he used to procure heroin from Razzak and delivered it to various contacts in U.P. and across Delhi-NCR. Sachin said he used to procure heroin from Razzak through his carrier Hussain and further supplied it to various drug peddlers in Delhi-NCR.

Razzak said he has established links with drug suppliers in Myanmar and peddlers operating in U.P. and Delhi.

He used to receive huge consignments of crude heroin from Myanmar after which they used to process it to make fine quality heroin, the police added.

## Two held for cheating people on the pretext of food and liquor delivery

Before pandemic, accused used to dupe customers on OLX

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two Mewat-based persons have been arrested for allegedly cheating people on the pretext of delivering liquor and food, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Anto Alphonse said the accused have been identified as Tarif Khan and Taufiq, both residents of Rajasthan's Bharatpur.

#### Cheated of over ₹80K

The police said one Amit Saini complained to them that he was cheated by a person of ₹82,500 in the name of providing food packets.

The complainant was looking for food delivery for a retirement programme in his office when he contacted a number mentioned that he found on Google for home delivery.

"The accused introduced himself as employee of the food joint [a sweet shop] and sent a bar code to the complainant for advance payment. Af-



The accused in custody; the car, which they bought using the cheated amount. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ter scanning the code, the complainant saw that ₹82,500 was deducted from his account in four different transactions," Mr. Alphonse said.

During technical investigation, it was found that money was transferred from a UPI ID into the Bank Accounts of Mewat.

#### Fake mobile numbers

Technical investigation of the mobile phones revealed that fake numbers of Odisha were used in the offence, which was having locations of Mewat, Haryana, Bharatpur Rajasthan and Khamman Telangana. During probe, the ac-

used were nabbed from near Agra when they were driving in a car they had bought using the cheated amount.

The accused told the police that several persons in their village are involved in such crimes. Earlier, they used cheat people on OLX but during the lockdown, they came to know that people are looking for liquor as shops are closed.

Next, he uploaded fake mobile numbers on various websites for home delivery of liquor to cheat people. Accused also disclosed that he has purchased a JCB Machine in Telangana.

## DU defers decision to begin physical classes

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University (DU) on Friday deferred its decision to begin physical classes for science courses following opposition from several quarters.

The university had on Thursday issued a notice stating that classes for postgraduate and undergraduate science courses would begin from August 16.

In the revised notification issued, DU said, "...the instructions issued for the conduct of classes for PG and UG programmes in respect of science courses in the university and its colleges in physical mode with effect from August 16 has been deferred."

#### Rest remains unchanged

The notice added that the other guidelines mentioned in the first notification remained unchanged.

The August 5 dated notification, issued by DU had stated that departments and colleges will be fully functional with immediate effect.

"...It is notified that all colleges, centres and de-

partments shall be fully functional and therefore all teaching and non-teaching staff shall attend the duties at their workplace with immediate effect," it read. It had stated that online teaching and learning activities would continue for all other academic programmes. Following the notification on Thursday, several teachers had raised objections to the same.

#### DUTA on revision

Abha Dev Habib, treasurer of the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), said: "It is good that the university has reviewed its decision because of responses received. The sudden notification regarding classes and lab in the physical mode for science PG and UG courses had resulted in immense panic."

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE, Ground Water Division, Nowshera, Sgr.**  
Gist of e-Tender.  
e-N.I.T. No:- PHE/GWDS/ 28 of 08/2021  
For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system with 60 meters depth from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. No	Name of Work	No. of Hand Pump Wells	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Programme
1	Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells in District Ganderbal.	20 No's	Rs.56.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	CAPEX
2	Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells in District Bandipora.	20 No's	Rs.56.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	CAPEX
3	Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells in District Srinagar.	20 No's	Rs.56.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	CAPEX
4	Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells in District Kupwara.	20 No's	Rs.56.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	CAPEX
5	Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells in District Baramulla.	20 No's	Rs.56.00 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	30 days	Registered for Drilling 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand Pump Wells	CAPEX

Position of AAA: ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL ACCORDED VIDE NO.: PHE/MCN/works/04 OF 07/2021  
DATED: 09-07-2021  
Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	05-08-2021 (02:00 PM)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	05-08-2021 (02:00 PM) to 11-08-2021 (04.30 PM)
3. Period of Submission of bids	05-08-2021 (02:00 PM) to 11-08-2021 (04.30 PM)
4. Date of opening of Tender.	12-08-2021 at (02:00 PM)

5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar/Kashmir-190011  
6. Document Cost: **Non-Refundable** in the shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Sadder Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)  
7. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days  
8. The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)  
9. The bids of only those agencies shall be accepted who possess valid registration certificate of construction of 125mm dia machine drilled Hand pump wells. However due to Pandemic the renewal Registration for 2021-22 is waived off for a period of 6 months from 01-04-2021 to 30-09-2021.  
10. Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish "Bid Security Declaration", format of the declaration is mentioned in the Bid Document

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division,  
Srinagar.  
DIPK- 5984/21

## Man arrested for duping over 60 farmers of ₹3.5 crore

A non-bailable warrant was issued against the accused, who was hiding in Faridabad

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing arrested a 60-year-old man from Faridabad on August 3 for allegedly duping over 60 farmers on the pretext of giving them higher returns, the police said on Friday.

Prem Chand duped around 64 farmers of approximately ₹3.5 crores, they said. These

farmers sold their crops and grains to his shop in Narela market and since he was in debt due to business losses, he started retaining the proceeds of their crops by inducing them with an assurance of higher returns and issued receipts for the same, they said.

But when farmers started asking for their investments, he fled to Faridabad in Haryana.

An enquiry was initiated against Chand based on a complaint filed by a group of farmers.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing) R.K. Singh, said: "Chand had committed the crime in 2017-18. He had assured the farmers that his Narela mandi shop and residence is worth crores of rupees."

"But when the farmers de-

manded their proceeds and investment back, he fled the mandi. Subsequently, the farmers came to know that the shop-contract-residence of Narela mandi was mortgaged. It was auctioned by the bank. During the course of the investigation, a Non-Bailable Warrant was issued against him," he said.

Chand is a graduate from Delhi University, the police said.

## 30 foreign nationals held for illegally staying in India; four FIRs registered

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Thirty foreign nationals have been arrested for illegally staying in India, the police said on Friday. Four FIRs have been filed so far against the landlords for providing accommodation to the accused without valid travel documents, they said.

On Wednesday, a special drive was conducted to verify the foreign-

FIRs against landlords for providing accommodation without valid documents

POLICE

ers staying illegally in outer Delhi's Chander Vihar during which 11 foreign nationals, including 10 from Nigeria and 1 from Ivory Coast, were found living in India without a valid passport

or visa.

DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said: "A case was registered on Thursday under the relevant section of Foreigners Act.

Meanwhile, five foreign nationals staying illegally here were arrested on Thursday during a special drive conducted by them and another 14 foreign nationals were arrested on July 24, he added.



**Timings DELHI**

**SATURDAY, AUG. 07**  
RISE 05:47 SET 19:08  
RISE 04:13 SET 18:35

**SUNDAY, AUG. 08**  
RISE 05:47 SET 19:07  
RISE 05:13 SET 19:19

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

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	37	27
Safdarjung	37	27
Palam	36	28

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C Warm and humid day. Light rain and thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky and gentle winds.

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

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## 44 COVID-19 cases, 5 more deaths in city

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The Capital recorded 44 new COVID-19 cases and five deaths, according to a health bulletin issued by the Delhi government on Friday. The government said that 79,168 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 0.06%. With these additions, the total number of cases since the pandemic began has risen to 14,36,623 and 25,065 deaths.

In the vaccination drive, 90,148 beneficiaries were inoculated, out of which 50,995 received their first dose, according to the bulletin. The govt. has so far managed to vaccinate 1,04,71,730 beneficiaries.

## BJP MP visits family of Dalit girl

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

North West Delhi MP Hansraj Hans on Friday met the family of the nine-year-old Dalit girl who was allegedly subjected to sexual assault before being murdered and cremated in the Old Nangal Rai village near the Delhi Cantonment.

According to party sources, the MP had called Prime Minister Narendra Modi in relation to the incident, following which he was deputed by the Prime Minister to personally visit the family.



BJP workers holding a protest near the Chief Minister's residence in Delhi on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## BJP demands reopening of weekly markets, stages stir

'Compensate traders if they stay shut'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Friday staged a protest near Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence demanding to reopen weekly bazars, failing which the Delhi government should compensate those who were associated with the bazars.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta wondered how there could be no law governing the reopening of liquor stores but not weekly bazars. As many as 2,700 bazars were closed due to the pandemic.

"The pandemic now is largely under control and

# L-G takes stock of city's strategies to curb COVID

CM attends meeting; targeted surveillance, testing planned

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Friday chaired a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to review the COVID-19 situation in Delhi and the city's preparedness for the coming months.

According to sources present at the meeting, after detailed discussions and deliberations with experts, it was decided to undertake aggressive and targeted surveillance and testing in areas, locations and specific activities to ascertain and address any trends of concern.

Friday's meeting came a day after Mr. Bajjal had chaired a similar one with government officials following which Mr. Kejriwal had accused him of holding the meeting "behind the back of the elected government."

According to sources, ex-



Anil Bajjal ■

perts stressed upon continued vigil and caution while appreciating the efforts undertaken to achieve and maintain the current status. They also suggested that all steps relating to preparedness for any probable surge or wave of infections, in terms of hospital infrastructure and oxygen and drugs' availability should be put in place and operationalised by the end of August.

**Advanced sero survey**  
They also suggested the health department that the comfort provided by the cur-

rent controlled situation be utilised for undertaking an advanced sero survey that takes into account extended epidemiological dimensions to identify susceptible pool and augment the genome sequencing efforts with an aim of prioritising vaccination.

The authority also reiterated the need for continuing the test, treat and track strategy, constant vigil and strict enforcement on COVID-appropriate behaviour.

### At loggerheads

Raj Niwas and the Delhi government had found themselves at loggerheads on Wednesday after Mr. Bajjal chaired a meeting to review the COVID-19 situation in the Capital.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had accused Mr. Bajjal of having held a "parallel meeting" with the officials concerned "behind the back" of the elected government and asked the L-G to "respect democracy."

## Tug of war between AAP govt. and BJP may spill beyond vicinity

BJP seeks time from President to discuss functioning of House

**JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI**

The tug of war between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Opposition BJP, so far confined to the Delhi Legislative Assembly, could spill beyond its vicinity over the coming days.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday announced that he would approach the Supreme Court to challenge the BJP-led Centre's alleged bid to make House Committees toothless through the amended GNCTD Act 2021.

BJP sources said senior leaders from the party's State unit were preparing to throw their weight behind the formation of an expert committee to examine the functioning of the Delhi Assembly - especially the alleged stifling of the Opposition's voice in the House by ruling AAP MLAs - and seeking the framing of "lasting solutions" regarding its functioning in future.

The senior leadership of the BJP's State unit has sought time from President

Ram Nath Kovind and is awaiting the conclusion of the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament to call on Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to discuss alleged "irregularities" and "procedural discrepancies" in the functioning of the Delhi Assembly, sources said.

"The Speaker is well within his rights to approach the judiciary on any matter of his choice and so are we; we have sought time from the President and Lok Sabha Speaker to discuss major issues related to the functioning of the Delhi Assembly. No rights of the existing House Committees have been taken away due to the amended GNCTD Act 2021," Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said when asked for comment.

### Done away with norms

"The only rights which are being trampled upon are those of the elected representatives of the people of Delhi whose representatives, that is the MLAs, are

not allowed to raise issues concerning them in the House. This applies as much to ruling AAP MLAs as it does to us," Mr. Bidhuri added.

From not holding a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) prior to a session to not sending Bills scheduled for discussion in the House well in advance to legislators, "significant procedural norms" had been done away with since the AAP government was formed, the LOP alleged.

Opposition MLAs, Mr. Bidhuri further said, were not even allowed to speak or debate issues in the House where a time limit of just 20 minutes had recently been allotted to the LOP to speak. Some Opposition MLAs were told that they would be barred from attending future sessions for a whole year.

"They have snatched the rights of the Opposition to even speak in the House and then claim that their democratic rights have been trampled upon," he added.

## 'New excise policy to take revenue up to ₹10K crore'

Govt. has already earned ₹5,300 cr.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Termining it a "smashing success", the Delhi government on Friday claimed its recently-announced excise policy had broken all estimates and targets of revenue generation from the bidding process and is set to take excise revenue figures up to ₹10,000 crore.

According to the government, it has already earned around ₹5,300 crore in the initial rounds where licenses in 20 zones were awarded. A zone-wise revenue of around ₹265 crore is further expected to be received from the bidding of the remaining 12 zones.

### Ending monopoly

"The Delhi government's new Excise Policy 2021-22 aims at minimising corruption and providing fair competition in liquor trade, as seen in the recent tender bidding process," the government stated.

"Beating all estimates and targets, the 20 zones that have been awarded have already generated around ₹5,300 crore in revenue in the bidding process," it also

stated. According to the government, the tender process forbids a bidder from bidding in more than two zones, which will bring in more players into the market preventing instances of monopoly.

Under the previous excise policy regime, the yearly growth rates in revenue were limited to 5 to 7% but under the new policy a growth of around 35% is expected and is well on track to achieve, the government stated.

Under the previous excise regime, the government said, a total of ₹6,358 crore was collected in the fiscal year 2019-2020 after collection of excise from Indian and foreign liquor, VAT collected from wholesale and retail sales, HCR excise, and retail licensing fees.

Under the new policy in addition to the ₹8,800 crore expected from the auctions, the additional projected revenue after collecting excise, VAT, import fees, CSDN, HCR Licenses, Wholesale Licenses, and HCR VAT will be approximately ₹650 crore, taking the total projected revenue close to ₹9,500 crore.

## Goel to move SC against 'snatching' power

Will challenge only portion of GNCTD Act on powers of House panel: Speaker

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday announced that he would approach the Supreme Court against the BJP-led Centre for allegedly "snatching" the powers of House Committees through the amended GNCTD Act 2021.

A senior Delhi Assembly official said Mr. Goel was scheduled to move the apex court over the issue in his capacity as the Speaker over the coming days after the notification of the Act which gives the Lieutenant Governor more teeth to the city's administration.

"We will approach the Supreme Court on this matter. We will challenge only that portion of the GNCTD Act which is regarding snatching away the powers of the Assembly Committees. We are taking legal opinion on the matter," Mr. Goel said at a



Ram Niwas Goel. ■

media briefing.

The GNCTD Act passed by the Centre on April 27 this year, which the Speaker termed "a black day", was "unconstitutional" as well as in violation of the July 4, 2018, Supreme Court Constitutional Bench judgment.

Mr. Goel said that the Supreme Court had in July this year given a verdict in favour of the Assembly Committee on Peace and Harmony, which is examining the role of social media platform Fa-

cebook in the north-east Delhi riots of February, 2020. Facebook had approached court after the Assembly Committee had summoned its executives in connection with the probe.

"This verdict came after Centre's notification of the GNCTD (Amendment) Act 2021. In the order the court had clearly said that the Assembly and its committees have the power to conduct inquiries and issue summons in this connection," the Speaker said.

Mr. Goel also criticised L-G's alleged directives to government officials to not provide answers to questions on reserved subjects that include land, police and public order. On March 29, 2018, the Speaker said, the L-G wrote to the then Law Secretary who in turn wrote to the Assembly that questions on any reserved subject will not be accepted.

"This was unconstitutional. We know that the House cannot make laws on reserved subjects; but from 1993 to 2018, the Assembly held discussions on such subjects. There are 34 questions which were asked by MLAs on reserved subjects but their answers were never provided," Mr. Goel said.

Two such questions on matters related to services and police were asked by legislators Somnath Bharti and Bandana Kumari in the recently-concluded monsoon session but answers were not provided and this matter, Mr. Goel said, will be sent to the Privilege Committee of the Assembly. He added that the Assembly will make "the act of not answering such questions" as the base and approach of the top court against those provisions of the GNCTD Act which "curtailed" the powers of the Assembly panels.

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visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**"Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for Hazardous Waste at Bawana, Delhi by M/s Tamil Nadu Waste Management Limited" – Regarding Membership / Registration .**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India vide G.S.R. 395(E), dated 04.04.2016, published in the Gazette of India, Ext., Pt. II, S.3(i) dated 04.04.2016, has notified the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 [HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016] for the management of Hazardous and Other Wastes as specified in the Schedules to these Rules.

• **Responsibilities of the Occupier for management of Hazardous and Other Wastes are mentioned at Rule 4 of the said HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016 including following :**

- The occupier shall be responsible for safe and environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.
- The hazardous and other wastes generated in the establishment of an occupier shall be sent or sold to an authorized actual user or shall be disposed of in an authorized disposal facility.
- The hazardous and other wastes shall be transported from an occupier's establishment to an authorised actual user or to an authorised disposal facility in accordance with the provisions of these rules.
- The occupier who intends to get its hazardous and other wastes treated and disposed of by the operator of treatment, storage and disposal facility shall give to the operator of that facility, such specific information as may be needed for safe storage and disposal.

• As per the provisions under **Rule 6** of the said HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016, every occupier of the facility who is engaged in handling, generation, collection, storage, packaging, transportation, use, treatment, processing, recycling, recovery, pre-processing, co-processing, utilisation, offering for sale, transfer or disposal of the hazardous and other wastes is required to make an **Application in Form 1 for obtaining Authorisation from Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC)**.

• As per the provisions under **Rule 16** of the said HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016, "the State Government, Occupier, Operator of a Facility or any Association of Occupiers shall individually or jointly or severally be responsible for identification of sites for establishing the facility for treatment, storage and disposal of the hazardous and other waste in the State.

• In compliance of said HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016, the Delhi Government through Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) awarded the work of development of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) for Hazardous Waste at Bawana, Delhi to M/s Tamil Nadu Waste Management Limited (M/s TNWML). In this regard Concession Agreement was signed by DSIIDC and M/s TNWML on 18.12.2019.

• MoEF&CC has given the Environmental Clearance on 23.11.2020 and DPCC has granted Consent to Establish under the Air & Water Acts on 31.12.2020 in respect of said TSDF for Hazardous Waste at Bawana, Delhi.

• **M/s TNWML is developing the TSDF for Hazardous Waste adjacent to Waste to Energy Plant and Pragati Power Plant at Bawana, Delhi.** Secured Landfill (SLF) [For Safe Disposal of Landfillable Hazardous Waste generated from the Industries / Units, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and other Sources in NCT of Delhi] and related units have been constructed and expected to be commissioned soon. Whole TSDF for Hazardous Waste including Incinerator is expected to be commissioned by December, 2021.

**By way of this Public Notice, All the Occupiers of Hazardous Waste generating Industries / Units, CETP Societies/ Operators of CETPs & other Establishments / Organisations etc. in NCT of Delhi generating Hazardous Waste and covered under the said HOWM&TBM Rules, 2016 are hereby advised to take membership / get registered with the said TSDF for Hazardous Waste at Bawana, Delhi at the earliest by 31.08.2021. Following are the Contact Details of the concerned person for taking membership / registration with TSDF for Hazardous Waste:**

- Name of Operator of TSDF :** M/s Tamil Nadu Waste Management Limited, Adjacent to Waste to Energy for Hazardous Waste : Plant and Pragati Power Plant, Bawana, Delhi - 110039
- Name of Contact Person :** Mr. Nitesh Kumar, Designation : Manager
- Contact Phone Nos :** Mobile : 8005939581 Email : delhitnwml.tsdf@ramky.com

**Member Secretary  
Delhi Pollution Control Committee**



# Rajasthan seeks compensation for farmers from PM scheme

Excessive rain has damaged crops in several districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan has sought compensation for the farmers affected by excessive rain from the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana after a survey of the damaged crops. According to a preliminary survey of the Agriculture Department, the crops in an area measuring 3.69 lakh hectares have been affected.

Agriculture Minister Lalchand Kataria said here on Friday that soyabean and urad in Kota, Baran and Bundi districts and bajra and urad in Sawai Madhopur district had suffered more damage in comparison with other areas in the State.

The affected farmers should get the relief from the Prime Minister's scheme, he said. Other districts affected by the excessive monsoon



A flooded cowshed at a village in the Shekhawati region of the State after heavy rain. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

rains are Jaipur, Sikar, Nagaur, Karauli, Jhalawar, Alwar, Tonk and Bharatpur.

## 'Process initiated'

Mr. Kataria said he had instructed the officials to initiate the process for getting compensation to the affected cultivators as per rules under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

The Minister said no eligible farmer would be deprived of the crop insurance compensation. The Prime Minister's scheme provides insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops because of natural calamities and diseases.

# ED conducts raids in fake COVID testing case during Kumbh Mela

The agency has initiated money laundering probe on the basis of an FIR by police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has conducted searches at multiple locations in connection with fake entries of COVID testing during the Kumbh Mela in Uttarakhand's Haridwar earlier this year.

The agency searched the office premises of Novus Path Labs, DNA Labs, Max Corporate Services, Dr. Lal Chandani Labs Private Limited and Nalwa Laboratories Private Limited.

The residential premises of their directors were also searched in Dehradun, Haridwar, Delhi, Noida and Hisar.

The ED has initiated money laundering investigation on the basis of a First Infor-



Devotees at Har Ki Pauri during Kumbh Mela in Haridwar. ■ PTI

mation Report registered by Uttarakhand police.

"During the money laundering investigation, it was revealed that the said laboratories were given the contract by the Uttarakhand government for conducting Rapid Antigen Test/RT-PCR

"An amount of ₹3.40 crore has already been received by them from the Uttarakhand government as part payment," said the ED.

The accused made multiple entries against mobile numbers and addresses to inflate the data. The tests were shown to have been conducted on persons who had never visited the Kumbh Mela.

## Positivity rate

"Due to false negative testing by these labs, positivity rate of Haridwar at that time was shown at 0.18% against the actual 5.3%," the ED said.

During the ongoing searches, the agency has so far seized bogus bills, laptops, mobile phones and property documents, apart from cash.

# Tripura CM escapes road mishap; 3 held

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb escaped from an 'accident' after he jumped off the road to save himself from a speeding vehicle near his official residence here last night. The police have arrested three youths on charges of attempt to murder, rash driving and criminal negligence.

The incident occurred at 10.30 p.m. when Mr. Deb accompanied by his personal security officers was returning home from his routine walk. The speeding vehicle almost touched him before he jumped off a side of the road outside Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Deb was unhurt and safe, but a PSO sustained minor injuries, a police officer said on Friday.

# U.P. police's standards 'falling': High Court

Court's observation came while hearing senior journalist Vineet Narain's plea

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has expressed annoyance at the "falling standards" in the Uttar Pradesh police department, particularly among senior officers.

The court made the remark while hearing a petition filed by senior journalist Vineet Narain. He and two others were recently booked for 'levelling baseless allegations'

against senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Champat Rai and his brothers of grabbing land from a *gaushala* in Bij-nor. Mr. Rai is the general secretary of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, entrusted with the task of building a Ram mandir in Ayodhya.

Police had said the three were charged with hurting the sentiments of crores of people of a community, with

fake documents, house trespass and forgery.

## Protection from arrest

The court recently granted Mr. Narain protection from arrest. On July 28, it directed the Bijnor Superintendent of Police (SP) to file a counter affidavit to disclose whether any offence under the sections mentioned in the FIR was made out or not. On August 5, it noted that a notar-

ised affidavit of the SP, alleging it to be a counter-affidavit, without disclosing the name of the deponent and without any swearing clause, "in a most careless manner," was filed.

This "prima facie indicates falling standards in the police department, particularly among its higher officers," said a Division Bench of Justices Surya Prakash Kesarwani and Piyush Agrawal.

# Chandigarh Cong leader quits party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Senior Congress leader from Chandigarh Pardeep Chhabra, who has been at loggerheads with the party's city unit president and has also attacked senior leader Pawan Kumar Bansal, on Friday resigned from the party's primary membership.

Mr. Chhabra's move comes a day after the Congress' city unit served him a notice over his 'anti-party' activities. "Today, I resign from the primary membership of @INC India," he tweeted.

Mr. Chhabra was the Congress' city unit president till February this year. He was replaced by Subhash Chawla.

"An upright man shall never tolerate indignation & lies. Knowing when to walk away is #Wisdom, being able to is #Courage, Walking away with your head held high is #Dignity..." Mr. Chhabra wrote on Twitter.

In the past few weeks, Mr. Chhabra had been attacking Mr. Chawla. He also attacked former Union Minister and ex-MP Pawan Kumar Bansal alleging he treated him as a "puppet".

In his resignation letter addressed to Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Chhabra said he was resigning from all posts and primary membership of the party.

# Slogans like 'BJMool' created confusion, says CPI(M) note

'It did not benefit the party in West Bengal Assembly poll'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), in an internal party note, has said slogans such as "BJMool" describing the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) as two sides of the same coin have created confusion among the people and did not work for the party in the recent West Bengal Assembly elections.

"The understanding of the CPI(M) is that the BJP is not like any other political party, since the BJP is governed by fascist RSS. This is party's understanding. But during the election some confusion was created that BJP and the TMC were alike. Slogans like BJPmool and calling BJP and TMC two sides of the same coin gave rise to confusion," an internal note circulated by the party earlier this month said.

The document says the internal assessment of the party is "the BJP and the TMC are never the same. But something that needs to be kept in mind is that from the very start of Trinamool, its registration and the symbol, everything has been done as per instructions of the RSS. One of the characteristics of the BJP is that the party which takes its support it wants to gobble it. In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the contest between the two parties is not fixed,"

the statement said.

During the run-up to the 2021 Assembly polls in West Bengal, not only the senior CPI(M) leadership was heard raising slogans like BJMool during the Assembly polls but described the political contest between the BJP and the TMC as "shadow boxing".

## Ideological question

The note titled "Circumstances during elections and our work" tries to resolve the ideological question which not only the CPI(M) but most of the Left parties in the State are grappling with - who is their bigger enemy in West Bengal, the BJP or the TMC. Political observers feel that several years after the former Chief Minister and veteran communist leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee gave the slogan "BJP Hatao Desh Bachao, TMC hatao Rajya Bachao [Defeat BJP to save country, Remove TMC to save State]", the party has not been able to give a new clear message to its supporters.

It has taken two humiliating defeats for the CPI(M) to address the question who their bigger political opponent in the State is. In 2019, the CPI(M)-led Left Front failed to win a single seat of the 42 Lok Sabha seats and in the 2021 Assembly polls also, it failed to win a single Assembly seat.

Many psephologists and

political leaders believe that committed cadres of the Left voted for the TMC to keep the BJP out of power in the State. The 2021 Assembly polls saw a complete decimation of the Left Front with its vote share plunging to a meagre 4.73% and the Left failing to elect any member to the Assembly almost after five decades.

The issue was also discussed by the party leaders in Kolkata on Thursday, the occasion of 133th birth anniversary of Muzaffar Ahmad, one of the pioneering figures of the communist movement in the country. Senior CPI(M) leaders, including State Secretary Surjya Kanta Mishra and Polit Bureau member Md. Salim argued that slogans such as 'BJMool' were never meant to give the impression that the BJP and the TMC were the same.

## 'Congshal' terminology

Mr. Salim referred to a terminology "Congshal" used by the Left parties in the 1970s to refer to the Congress and Naxals, who were political opponents of the Left parties.

"Did we not refer to the Congress and the Naxals as Congshal in 1970s? But did it mean they were one? They are two different parties," Mr. Salim said. He argued that such coupling meant that the two political forces complement each other and serve each other's purpose.

# Leopard kills girl in Shimla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

A five-year-old girl died in a leopard attack in Shimla city, a senior forest official said on Friday.

The girl had been taken away by the leopard from outside her home near a construction site in Kanlog locality.

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### BIRTH CENTENARY

**BIRTH CENTENARY**  
S.C.Gopala Iyengar (1921-2021)



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geeyes34@hotmail.com

### DEATH



**Shri. V. KASIVISWESWARAN**  
(1964 - 2021)

Passed away on 04.08.2021.  
S/o. Late Shri.  
K. Vaidyanathan &  
Smt. Parvatham.  
Grandson of Shri RSAC Kasi  
Iyer, Kallidai Kurichi,  
SIL of Late Shri. S.V. Mony &  
Smt. Shankari Mony.  
Deeply Mourned by  
Wife Shubha Kasi,  
Daughters Vidya and  
Sandhya Kasi,  
Sisters, sister-in-law, and  
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220 kv G/S/S Dhanaula to 68kv G/S/S Badrukhan. For detailed NIT & Tender  
specifications please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 06/08/2021  
from 5.00 PM onwards.  
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at  
<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
C - 291/21 DPRPB 76155/12/388/2021/6560

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 40 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has been found dead at Under Flyover Hanuman Mandir Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 5A, dated: 31.07.2021 at PS Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 40 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Dark Green colour Shirt and blue colour jeans. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
SHO  
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011- 23968730, 23967889  
DP/1393/N/2021

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 35 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown has been found dead since 21.07.2021 at 4:38 PM. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No: 49A, dated: 29.07.2021 at PS Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 35 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt and brown pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Ashok Nagar, Delhi.  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
SHO  
P.S. Ashok Nagar, Delhi.  
Ph. No. 011- 22610839, 22610954  
DP/640/ED/2021

## SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Rajesh Kumar, S/o Shri Ram Karan, R/o H.No. 1-10/T-12, Gali No. 22, Sanjay Park, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi, Age 28 years, Height 5'6", Complexion Fair, Face Round, Built Thin, Wearing White colour checkdar shirt, blue colour pant and white colour shoes in feet is missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS Patel Nagar, Delhi since 14.07.21 at 10:30 am. In this regard a vide DD No. 43-A dated 25.07.21 has been lodged at PS Patel Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following.  
E-mail ID:[cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
SHO  
PS : Patel Nagar, Delhi  
Tel: 011-23014046, 23015218  
Ph.: 011-25872637, 8750870434  
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## Government of Jharkhand

Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs  
Ground Floor, Engineers Hostel, HEC, Sector - III  
Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand

Letter no: kha.Up.Ni.01(vividh)-119/2021 - 1107 Date - 05-08-2021

### Corrigendum Notice

With reference to tender number 977 date 13-07-2021 and advertisement under "PR 249504 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (20-21)" for "Expression of Interest for selection of agency to provide the services of Reverse e-Auction Platform".

The last date for submission of bid is hereby extended to 16.08.2021

Sd/-  
Dilip Tirkey  
Director  
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs

PR 250916 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(21-22)D

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR  
(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id:[xennmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xennmhchdk@yahoo.in))

### Gist of e-tender (Short-term)

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/90/e-tendering Dated:-04.08.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works

Name of Garden	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	TS No.	Time of completion (in Days)	Position of funds	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Providing and Fitting of Electrical Panel(s) Comprising of Busbar, MCCBs along with Changeover at various Hospitals of Kashmir valley	15.00	1000	70 of 08/21	05	Available	SHS/NHMJ&K/PS/6247-56 Dt.-05.07.21

1. **Downloading of Bids:-** The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from 04.08.2021 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 04.08.2021 (18.00 hrs).

2. **Uploading:-** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 04.08.2021 (18.00 hrs) to 09.08.2021 (14:00hrs) in two (02) covers.

3. **Opening of Bids :-** The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 09.08.2021 at 16.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar  
DIPK-5961/21

## Rail Land Development Authority

(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways Government of India)  
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II DMRC Building,  
Almeri Gate, Delhi-110002, Phone: + 91-11-23232854, Fax: +91-11-23232835

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Last Date & Time of Submission of RFP Documents: 03.09.2021 upto 15:00 hrs.

(1) For complete details, visit website [www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA](http://www.tenderwizard.in/RLDA).

(2) Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would be hosted on above mentioned websites only and will not be published in newspapers.

(RFP Notice No. RLDA/RFP/CT-35 of 2021) AM/ Tender (Mob: 87505 54811)





## Rewind to fast forward

Delayed reset on retrospective tax is only the first step to regaining investor confidence

A tortuous taxation tale that began with global telecom major Vodafone's \$11 billion entry into India, is nearing its climax 14 years on, with the company having frozen fresh investments for a few years and its Indian operations now on the brink of collapse. On Thursday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced tax law changes to scrap the retrospective provisions brought in by the late Pranab Mukherjee in the Union Budget 2012-13. I-T demands have been made in 17 cases, including from Vodafone and Cairn, using those retro-active clauses in the I-T law. That this government took so long to undo Mr. Mukherjee's gambit after losing a tax pursuit against Vodafone is disappointing. Even before 2014, the BJP had called the retrospective provisions 'tax terrorism'. Yet, it did not walk the talk despite a resounding parliamentary majority, while promising global investors that it does not approve of such measures. Whether this was a result of political dithering, bureaucratic bungling or ill-informed legal advice, the 'sore point for potential investors' remained on the statute. This should now lead to a formal burial of a matter that has cost India dear.

In Cairn's case, the tax department began action in January 2014, but the assessment orders were passed, and its shares sold off to recover 'retrospective' tax dues under this regime's watch, pending international arbitration. By December 2020, the Vodafone and Cairn arbitration cases had been lost and investors hoped the Government would abide by the legal process and close this sordid chapter. Instead, appeals were filed, with the Government asserting as recently as May that it will 'vigorously defend' its sovereign right to tax and had 'never agreed to arbitrate a national tax dispute'. On Friday, Ms. Sitharaman said the Government was waiting for those cases to 'reach their logical conclusion'; now that they have, the BJP is fulfilling its commitment that it does not believe in retrospective taxation. If that were indeed the case, the Government could have introduced these changes in the Budget instead of wasting more legal resources on filing appeals. It is quite clear the U-turn has been prompted by Cairn Energy's relentless pursuit to enforce the arbitration award. That it has sought to get Air India labelled as the Government's 'alter ego', creating fresh doubts for the airline's potential buyers, and a French court has permitted it to freeze Indian assets in Paris, must be significant triggers. Whether Cairn will back down from those claims or forfeit the interest and damages, as offered by the Government to close the chapter, will likely depend on its institutional shareholders. Irrespective of the outcome, global capital is unlikely to immediately forget the 'ad-hoc' approach to this critical policy issue and rush in. Be it fluctuating trade tariffs or shifting GST rates and rules, India needs to demonstrate greater clarity and consistency in policy across the board to fix its broken credibility.

## It's hockey

As the men's and the women's teams excel at the Olympics, hockey is again looking ahead

A splendid fortnight in Tokyo has steered Indian hockey back to the limelight tinged with an Olympic halo. Before this, for years the sport, much akin to the West Indies in cricket, had only the good-old-days cliché to fall back upon. Champions of the distant past but plagued by middling results, was the standard template. There was the odd flicker and the nostalgically inclined with their fond remembrance of legends such as Dhyan Chand, Mohammed Shahid and Dhanraj Pillay, would hope for a sunrise. It often proved to be a mirage while cricket, football, tennis and Formula One lured the fans. That India had to wait for 41 years for its next Olympic hockey medal tells a long tale of diminishing hope. Thankfully an upward graph has been finally etched due to the grit and skill-sets of Manpreet Singh's men, who despite an early 1-7 loss to Australia held their own and winged into the semifinals where they ran into eventual champion Belgium. The soul-numbing defeat was quickly cast aside and India prospered to wrest the bronze with a 5-4 triumph against Germany during Thursday's third-place play-off. Mentored by coach Graham Reid, India had turned a corner and hockey was the flavour of the season. The ancient game which melded magical wrists, sprinting feet, sticks and a speeding ball, has seemingly reclaimed its Indian heart.

If men as diverse as Manpreet and goal-keeper P.R. Sreejesh showed that India was at home in modern hockey, their female counterparts showed they are equal to the very best. Rani Rampal's unit had a dream run but a bronze was missed by a whisker. It is one of the greatest fourth-place results in Indian sporting history and on a par with where Milkha Singh and P.T. Usha finished in their respective 400m and 400m hurdles finals during the 1960 Rome and 1984 Los Angeles Games. If the men revived an old romance with hockey, the women stole hearts with a riveting performance. A semifinal berth followed by a 3-4 loss to Great Britain during Friday's third-place play-off, left the nation with a lump in its throat as the women gave it their all on the ground. Rani, goal-keeper Savita Punia, Salima Tete and other stars showed that India has its heroes on either side of the gender-divide. To battle past stereotypes, misogyny, poverty and casteist boundaries, demands a bigger heart. The women's hockey team had it in abundance and credit is also due to coach Sjoerd Marijne, who ended his tenure on a high. The effort put in by SAI and the sponsorship from the Odisha Government, played a big part too. Indian hockey has found its feet and this is a redemption song of the finest kind.

# India's schoolchildren need their childhood back

The country needs to stop asking whether schools are safe and start acknowledging that in-person school is essential



DHARNI MATHUR & TANYA AGGARWAL

The economy is open. Malls, bars, restaurants, and some offices are open, but schools have been closed for 16 months and counting. They have sporadically opened for the higher grade students, and the Board examinations have been a key discussion point. There is indeed some basis to the old joke that Indian parents have a razor-sharp focus on academics and want their children to be a doctor or an engineer. This focus is not entirely misplaced, for academic results in the higher grades are important to determine colleges and professions, and for many Indians, a chance at a better life.

### The wide-ranging impact

However, let us not forget our youngest children. Six year olds who have spent more time outside the classroom than inside. Five year olds who have never been inside school nor ever met their teachers or classmates. Let us not lose sight of the importance of education in the younger years as well as the overall purpose of education. In-person school education teaches children to share, wait for their turn, negotiate, and compromise; by depriving them of social contact, we are depriving them of essential learning and development. For children from economically weak backgrounds, schools are a key source of nutrition. For some, schools serve as safe spaces from the chaos of their homes. For many children, partic-

ularly those who do not have educated parents or cannot afford home tutors, the denial of education results in learning losses and, ultimately, denial of a chance to earn a livelihood. For parents, school closures have added to childcare and teaching duties. Household incomes are reducing amidst rising inflation as parents, mainly mothers, have quit their jobs.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently stated that "once India starts considering, it will be wise to open primary schools first and then secondary schools. Also, we have to ensure that all support staff, whether it be school bus drivers, teachers and other staff in the school, need to be vaccinated" (<https://bit.ly/3AhqX7T>). Researchers do agree, however, that children are at low risk of developing severe COVID-19 compared to adults.

### Expert opinion

In June 2021, commenting on the World Health Organization-All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) serosurvey, AIIMS Director, Dr. Randeep Guleria said, "This study also looked at sero-surveillance among children. In the less than 18 years of age group, it was found that more than 50 per cent of children and in some areas, more than 80 per cent of children from both urban and rural areas had antibodies. This means they were already infected and developed antibodies." The ICMR recently released results of the Fourth National Sero-Prevalence Survey which showed that more than half of the children (6-17 years) were seropositive and sero-prevalence was similar in rural and urban areas. Given the above, it is possible to think about starting schools in areas where the community level of infection is



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low. A one-size-fits-all approach across India will not work. This means that in some States such as Kerala or Maharashtra, where COVID-19 cases could be surging again, students should stay home, while their counterparts in other States where positivity rates are lower, can start going to school.

There are a host of recommendations on how to open schools safely, including by the World Bank, SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai and the Lancet COVID-19 Commission India Task Force (<https://bit.ly/37o7Ekl>). Schools cannot be opened overnight. There is a large amount of preparation required, and the longer we wait to begin planning, the longer it will take to implement.

As immediate measures, governments should: call for lists of school staff and procure full vaccination for them. Scientists should confirm if the gap between doses can be made shorter akin to health-care workers; engage relevant experts to undertake public campaigns to make school staff and parents aware of the low risk of transmission in schools and low severity in children, urge them to understand the science and encourage them to commit to a social contract to be ever-vigilant and keep a sick or exposed child home; issue guidance for staggered re-opening of primary schools - e.g., 50% attendance or

smaller groups of students on alternate days or weeks; upgrade school infrastructure to facilitate a hybrid system of learning where parents who do not wish to send their children to school have the choice to continue with online learning; train school teachers in hybrid learning; formulate and issue guidance on COVID-19 protocols to be adopted by schools - distancing to the extent possible, outdoor classes weather-permitting, masking, hand hygiene, and proper ventilation (scientists have indicated that even the humble pedestal fan can do wonders for ventilation); finalise logistics such as packed meals and transport; and ensure availability of medical consultation so that staff and parents need not scramble for assistance.

Other required long-term measures, which will also require funding, time, and effort, include greater investment in health-care facilities, particularly paediatric facilities, and implementation of systems to track local level of infections.

### Managing the risks

As parents, we must recognise the costs of isolation and online learning for our young children. We cannot wait for children to get vaccinated because this may take years. According to a media report, Britain has said that "it has decided against giving mass COVID-19 vaccinations to all children and they would only be offered in certain situations such as when young people have underlying health conditions". We cannot expect schools to provide a 100% guarantee that our children will be safe. Nothing is risk-free; risk must be managed with mitigation strategies. Instead, we must build mutual trust among governments, schools, and citizens. Each of us

must implement and adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols recommended by scientists. Each of us must be vigilant and responsible, ensure all adults in our households are fully vaccinated and ensure children stay home if sick or exposed. Until a greater proportion of the population is vaccinated, we should endeavour to curtail unnecessary travel or exposure because we know from serosurveys that adults are bringing infections home.

Parents' groups on social media are abuzz with requests for 'pods' of students and home tutors. Education, like oxygen and medicines during the second novel coronavirus wave, is becoming the responsibility but also a privilege of private citizens. We cannot let *status quo* continue any longer - we need to stop asking whether schools are safe and start acknowledging that in-person school is essential. Extensive literature based on studies on transmission in schools is clear - children are not super-spreaders, schools are not hotspots or driving viral spread. For young children, even a few hours of interaction per week with their teachers and other children would be an excellent starting point. As Robert Jenkins, Global Director of Education for UNICEF, said, "There are many countries in which parents can go out and have a nice steak dinner, but their seven-year-old is not going to school. That's a problem (<https://go.nature.com/3rVrzND>). We need to come together to fix that problem and give our young children their childhood back."

Dharni Mathur, a parent, is a New Delhi-based lawyer. Tanya Aggarwal, a parent too, is also a New Delhi-based lawyer. They are alumnae of the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and Harvard Law School

# South Asia's emerging digital transformation

There is evidence that the region's post-pandemic adoption to digital life will shape its future prosperity



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

COVID-19 has forced South Asia to take a quantum leap in digitalisation. The shift to remote work and education has propelled an unprecedented spike in Internet penetration, with even smaller nations such as Nepal recording almost an 11% increase in broadband Internet users. For a region with threadbare public health infrastructure, the digitisation of health-care services was a watershed moment, providing novel solutions to the public health crises.

In India, COVID-19 accelerated the launch of the National Digital Health Mission, enhancing the accessibility and the efficiency of health-care services by creating a unique health ID for every citizen. The pandemic-induced suspension of bricks-and-mortar businesses spurred South Asia's embrace of e-commerce, boosted by digital payment systems. Bangladesh alone witnessed an increase of 70-80% in online sales in 2020, generating \$708.46 million in revenues (<https://bit.ly/3CpG79>)

### The yawning divide

As one of the world's poorest regions, a wide digital divide persists in access and affordability, between and within the countries of South Asia. Despite having the world's second largest online market, 50% of India's population are without Internet with 59% for Ban-

gladesh and 65% for Pakistan (<https://bit.ly/3iJtUOQ>).

With monetary and health assistance schemes distributed online, 51% of South Asian women were excluded from social protection measures during the pandemic (<https://bit.ly/3xoe7ml>). Children too were at the receiving end, with 88% lacking access to Internet-powered home schooling (<https://uni.cf/2TYn5cp>). This disruption could permanently put children out of school, place girls at risk of early marriage, and push poor children into child labour costing economies billions of dollars in future earnings.

Businesses too have paid a heavy price for the gap in digital solutions, whereby many South Asian firms failing to embrace e-commerce or other cloud-based technologies to survive the financial chaos of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The region recorded a 64% decline in sales, with small and women-led firms faring the worst (<https://bit.ly/3IE2HbR>). With COVID-19 transforming work life, the acute skills gap among youth will continue, creating unemployment.

### Digital inevitability, dividend

Digital transformation is a global imperative with adoption of advanced technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, the Internet of things, Big Data, etc., key to success. From banking to manufacturing and retail, the role of digital technology is too important to be overlooked as countries embrace the digital revolution to drive their development agenda.

At the forefront of Asian digitalisation are countries such as Singa-



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pore, Japan, and South Korea recognised as global technological hubs. Owing to increased smartphone and Internet penetration, coupled with the availability of trusted digital payment platforms, China's e-commerce industry is said to reach \$3 trillion in 2024 (<https://bit.ly/37qTjW>). The digital boom in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) economies is pushing a "common market" initiative, fostering regional economic integration and enhancing global competitiveness.

South Asia has also made significant strides in the adoption of digital technologies. The Digital Bangladesh Vision 2021 envisages transforming Bangladesh into a prosperous, digital society, whereas India's biometric identification systems intend to improve the efficiency of welfare programmes through digital innovation. However, the region still has a long way to go.

E-commerce could drive the post-pandemic growth in South Asia, providing new business opportunities and access to larger markets. In India, e-commerce could create a million jobs by 2030 and be worth \$200 billion by 2026. Fintech could drive significant growth and reduce poverty by building financial inclusion. For

instance, Pakistan's digital financial sector could boost GDP by 7%, if faster payment gateway, lower costs and fast track licensing are put in place. A timely, inclusive, and sustainable digital transformation can not only bolster productivity and growth but also serve as a panacea for some of the region's socio-economic divides.

### A checklist for change

To reap the dividends of digital transformation, South Asia needs to address legal, regulatory and policy gaps as well as boost digital skills. A robust digital infrastructure is a *sine qua non* and there exists a huge financing gap. India alone needs an annual investment of \$35 billion to be in the top five global digital economy and public-private partnership needs to be leveraged for the region's digital infrastructure financing.

Regulatory roadblocks need to be addressed as e-commerce regulations are weak in South Asia. For the sector to drive growth, issues such as customer protection, digital and market access regulation, etc. need to be addressed. There would be no digital revolution without universal digital literacy. Governments and businesses need to come together to revamp the education system to meet the demand for digital skills and online platforms. The crossflow of data and personal information calls for stringent cybersecurity measures as many have experienced painful lessons in data privacy during the pandemic.

In South Asia, only a third of the inter-regional trade potential has been exploited, losing out on \$23 billion in revenues (<https://bit.ly/37ohgr>). By addressing is-

suues such as regulatory barriers on currency flows inhibiting online payment to transport-related constraints for cross-border e-commerce activities, South Asia can emulate the European Union's Digital Single Market Proposal.

During the pandemic, South Asian nations joined hands to collectively battle the crises by contributing towards a COVID-19 emergency fund, exchanging data and information on health surveillance, sharing research findings, and developing an online learning platform for health workers. If the eight nations (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) can start walking the talk, partnership for a successful digital revolution is plausible. It will need vision, wisdom, and commitment at the highest level of the region's political leadership.

### Collaboration needed

COVID-19 has rendered old ways of operating redundant. Concerted collaboration at all levels is needed to push South Asia out of stagnancy and towards a digital future of shared prosperity. The right concoction of regulatory and physical infrastructure, skill sets and regional cooperation can lead towards a digital utopia whereas, the lack of which can breed a dystopian tomorrow. Adequate support is needed for those who risk falling through the net of digital progress. A shared "digital vision" could place the region on the right track towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Syed Munir Khasru is Chairman of the international think tank, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

## 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.

### Court on Pegasus

The Centre could be in for a shock now after remaining unmoved despite disruptions in both Houses of Parliament over the Pegasus snooping issue. That the top court has made it clear "the truth has to come out" is a wake-up call (Page 1, August 6). Pegasus is a case in point for executive inactions.

PRABHU RAJ,  
Bengaluru

### Language and learning

The implicit assumption of the writer (Editorial page, "A language ladder for an education roadblock", August 5) seems to be that

the mother tongue is invariably the dominant language of the State. The 'actual' mother tongue may be very different from the State language even if they hail from that State. In Karnataka, for instance, there are people whose mother tongue is Telugu, Tamil, Konkani, Marathi or Tulu, etc. For these people, the political achievement of teaching in the 'mother tongue', which in their case is Kannada, would be more a bane than a boon. The writer mentions studies that prove that teaching in the mother tongue is beneficial, but

how many of those studies were conducted for professional courses in a diverse India? Of course teaching in the mother tongue is beneficial at the primary level, but it definitely is not so at the professional level. Also, are we asking if our respective mother tongues have expanded to accommodate the needs of today's professional education? One wonders what the mother tongue equivalent would be for basic terms such as 'electromagnetic induction' or 'reverse osmosis'.

SURAJ D. NAYAK,  
Bengaluru

### Hockey diary

Finally, the monkey is off the back of the Indian men's hockey team (Page 1, "India defeats Germany to win bronze in men's hockey" and 'Sport' page, both August 6). The colour of the medal does not matter much. The spirited triumph is the pride and joy of all Indians. The country owes a debt of gratitude to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for sponsoring our hockey teams.

C.G. KURIKOSSE,  
Malippara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ Medal or no medal, the Indian women's hockey team

gave us a superb display of skills and tricks at Tokyo. But the girls need to be reminded that it is not over. They will bounce back. They have also won a million hearts.

P. VASUDEVA RAO,  
Secunderabad

■ The teams have to be nurtured. I remember reading a news item years ago about our cricket and hockey teams being in Srinagar for their matches. While the cricket players were put up in a star hotel, the hockey players were lodged in a dormitory. One does not know the remuneration of our hockey players.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



We need to take the premier game back to its past glory.

N.C. RAMASUBBU,  
Coimbatore

■ Considering the fact that India had won back in 1980, there were much less expectations this time. The underdog label weighed favourably on the Indian men's team's ultimate performance. India's resurgence to retrieve the glorious olden days is not far away. The women's team must be motivated even more.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai



# The complex story of rising cases in Kerala

Malappuram, the most densely populated district of Kerala, epitomises the challenges the State faces in controlling the rising number of COVID-19 infections. **Abdul Latheef Naha** and **C. Maya** explain how the State, which seemed to have a grip on the pandemic, has been faltering

“Two people have died. Please come and pack the bodies,” a nurse tells the cleaning staff who are on a break. Within a few minutes, cleaning assistants Asokan M. and Dileep Kumar and a few others begin to prepare the bodies. It is August 3 and two elderly men have succumbed to COVID-19 at the Government Medical College Hospital in Manjeri. The relatives of the dead request the staff to dress the bodies in new clothes one last time. The hospital staff, witness to four-five deaths every day on average since April, are used to the routine. They clean the bodies and pack them in specially designated body bags.

The Manjeri Medical College is the biggest referral hospital for COVID-19 in Malappuram, the most densely populated district in Kerala (1,265 persons per square kilometre). It has 344 beds dedicated to COVID-19 cases and 203 beds dedicated to non-COVID-19 cases. The second wave may be on the wane in most places in India, but here things are hectic. The hospital staff are under great pressure. No one here contests the fact that the Medical College Hospital, which admits only C-category patients (those whose recovery is impossible without proper medical intervention), is not adequately equipped to treat the many patients coming from a district of 48 lakh people. Malappuram is currently the worst-hit district in the State, reporting the maximum number of daily new cases (3,645 new cases on August 5). While many are wondering why Kerala, which seemed to have a grip of the pandemic at one point, seems to be floundering now, Malappuram is often cited as a case in point.

## Chinks in Kerala's armour

Until a while ago, Kerala seemed like it had an exceptional pandemic story to narrate to the world, but today, the chinks in its armour are beginning to show. The State has seen a steady rise in cases since the second week of July. Over the past eight days, Kerala has recorded 20,000-22,000 new cases daily. Between July 29 and August 4, it recorded nearly 1.45 lakh new cases and 754 deaths and accounted for 43% of the nation's active case pool.

Following the first wave, Kerala's epidemic curve plateaued out but never hit the baseline as rallies were held before the Assembly elections and people gathered in large numbers everywhere. In January-February this year, it reported 1,500-3,000 cases daily, accounting for 45%-50% of India's active case load.

Then the Delta variant struck. By the second week of April, when the second wave was ferociously sweeping across the nation, cases began to go up in Kerala. By mid-May, the State was in the grip of a crisis, reporting over 42,000-44,000 cases daily. When a total 15-day lockdown was imposed, the case graph again hit a plateau and 10,000-15,000 new cases were reported daily. This, however, was in stark contrast to other States where new cases and hospitalisations began to slide rapidly.

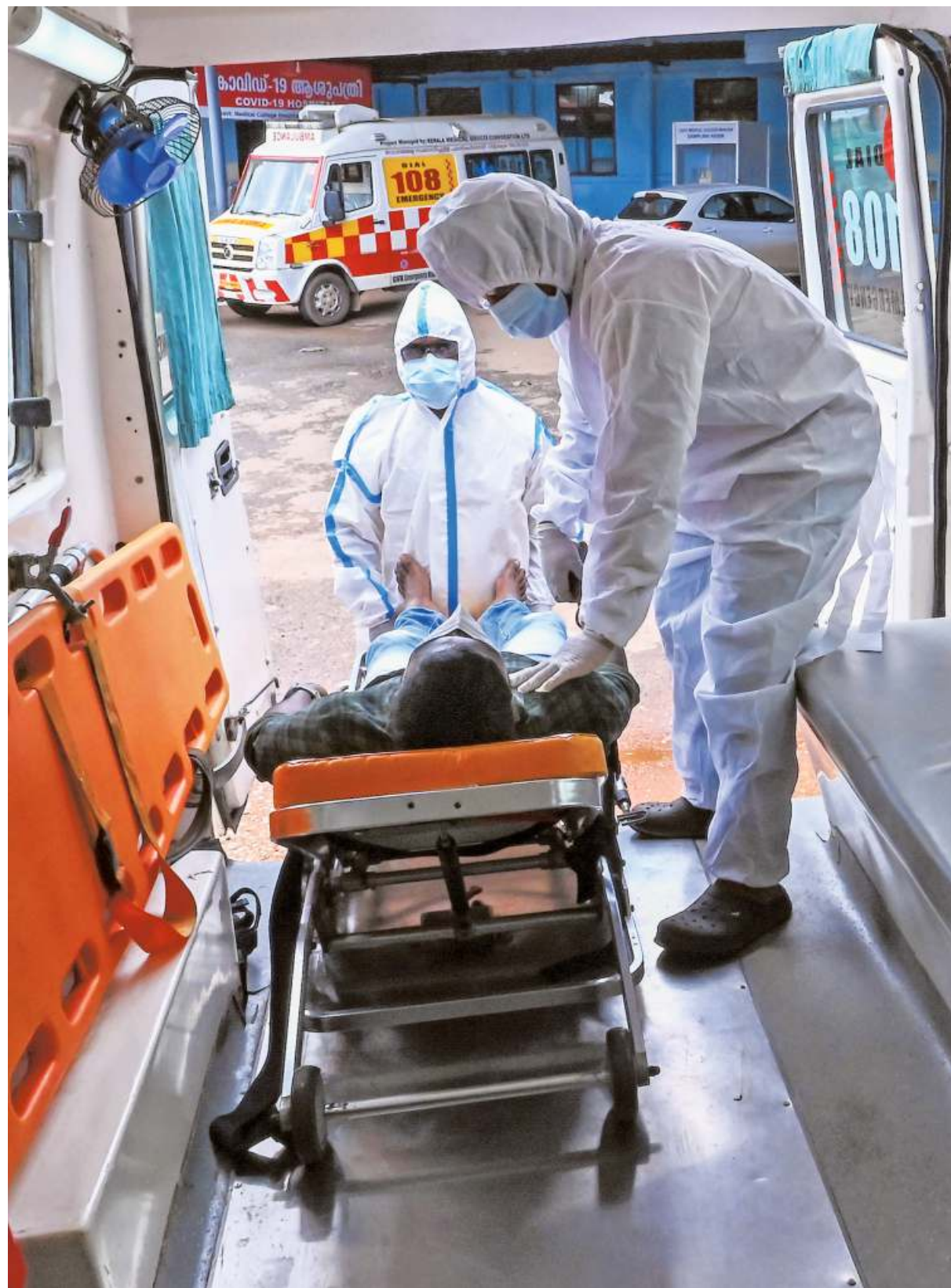
Public health experts in the State say that the second wave began a month later in Kerala than the rest of the country. Kerala's strategy, they say, has been to spread out the curve, keep a tight hold on disease transmission, and restrict activities, so that the virus doesn't go on a rampage and overwhelm the health system. The strategy worked well because even at the peak of the second wave, intensive care unit (ICU) occupancy in the State was just 67%.

However, Kerala is now being forced to take a re-look at its containment strategies and the socio-economic aspects of the pandemic, which are threatening to overshadow its successes. It is also being compelled to re-examine the quality of care delivered. While it encouraged home care and isolation for patients who had mild COVID-19, it is doubtful whether the health workers were properly trained to diligently follow up with the patients because the ill began to reach hospitals at a later stage of the disease - after hypoxia had set in - and many could not be saved.

## High pressure, few precautions

One COVID-19 patient reached the Manjeri Medical College every 10-15 minutes on August 2. Most of them were in the age group of 50-70 years. All of them had been referred to the Medical College by other COVID-19 hospitals in the district through the COVID-19 war room. Although there are 5,093 beds earmarked for COVID-19 treatment across the district in seven government hospitals, 69 private hospitals, 12 second line treatment centres, and 10 first line treatment centres, the 547 beds at Manjeri Medical College remain crucial in the fight against COVID-19.

“The signs are ominous, yet people are oblivious to the dangers of COVID-19,” says Hari Prasad, an ambulance driver who has brought an 85-year-old woman from the Government Taluk Hospital, Tirurangadi, 30 km away from Manjeri. Two volunteers of a community youth organisation come forward to help the woman get on a stretcher. As



An emergency medical technician helps an ambulance driver take out a COVID-19 patient from an ambulance at Government Medical College, Manjeri. (Below): Health staff attend to a patient in a COVID-19 ICU ward at Manjeri. • SAKHEER HUSSAIN



pressure is so high that precautions often go for a toss in the COVID-19 zone. Shareef says the hospital is facing space constraints and staff shortage. But the hospital has more than tripled the number of ventilators and vastly enhanced its oxygen capacity since it reported its first COVID-19 case on March 16, 2020. The number of non-invasive ventilators (NIVs) has gone up from 21 to 73, including 10 portable and four neonatal ventilators. There is centralised oxygen supply in all the wards following the setting up of a liquid oxygen plant. An oxygen generator is also ready at the hospital. “This was done in recent months,” says Lal. Signs of a third wave are clear and present, she says.

## A poorly performing district

Malappuram breathed easy during the first wave of the pandemic as many patients did not require NIV support. But during the second wave, it fell miserably short of NIVs. Manjeri Medical College witnessed 15 deaths on a single day, May 27, during the peak of the second wave. Nearly 10 were on account of oxygen failure. This happened despite Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's assurance that Kerala had adequate oxygen supply. The government joined hands with philanthropists and enhanced the facilities. Although the hospitals in the district have 162 ventilators today, sev-

eral of them are not working.

According to the Kerala Government Medical Officers' Association (KGMOA), the district lacks sufficient health staff and infrastructure. Population-wise, Malappuram is five times the size of Wayanad and four times the size of Pathanamthitta. When the State has an average of one hospital bed for 879 people, the bed ratio in Malappuram is 1:1,643. Malappuram's lone Government Medical College with 547 beds is spread across 23 acres, while the Government Medical College in Alappuzha, a district with only half of Malappuram's population, is spread across 145 acres and has more than 1,100 beds. A KGMOA study before the COVID-19 outbreak found that Malappuram was responsible for one-fifth of the State's infant mortality and one-fourth of maternal mortality. Government hospital facility for delivery is available only for 16.64% of pregnant women in Malappuram. Prior to COVID-19, the district had stood behind others in immunisation and topped in dengue deaths, lifestyle diseases and road accidents.

The strain posed on the health staff in Malappuram district is much higher than what their counterparts in other districts face. If a junior public health nurse serves 5,000 people in other parts of Kerala, she serves 15,000 people in Malappuram. If there is a public



**Pandemic fatigue has affected everyone and communities and health workers need more support and incentives from the government.**

**RAKHAL GAITONDE**  
Public health expert

health centre (PHC) for every 39,000 people elsewhere in the State, in Malappuram there is one PHC for every 53,500 people. If there is a community health centre for every 1.4 lakh people elsewhere in Kerala, in Malappuram there is one for every 2.4 lakh people.

Because the General Hospital was upgraded to a Medical College eight years ago, Malappuram lost super-specialty wings such as cardiology, nephrology, urology, and neurology. It also lost the General Hospital and the Woman and Children Hospital.

A week ago, a Central team led by P. Raveendran from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited the district. Blaming the district officials for the shortcomings, Raveendran's team suggested tighter measures for Malappuram to address the pandemic. District Medical Officer Sakeena K. says that despite the constraints, they were able to restrict COVID-19 deaths to well below 1%. The number of COVID-19 deaths reported in Malappuram is 1,638. “This number against a population of 48 lakh is only 0.03%. In fact, that tells us how hard the medical team in the district fought COVID-19,” Sakeena says.

Measures taken by Sakeena and her team, such as traveller surveillance, contact tracing, telemedicine facilities, the triage system at the block level, and prevention of cluster formations won the State's approval in the initial phase of the pandemic. Now the team is setting up 326 additional oxygen beds at seven government hospitals in the district and strengthening the paediatric wards in anticipation of a third wave.

## Vaccination on the rise

In spite of the initial reluctance of the people towards COVID-19 vaccines, the district is now witnessing a heavy rush for inoculation. According to health officials, it was the second wave that changed the people's mindset towards vaccines. While 39% of the population have taken at least one dose of a vaccine, 16% have been given two doses.

However, the district with 106 civic bodies, including 12 municipalities, finds it tough to plan any massive vaccination campaign because the vaccines allocated for Malappuram are distributed through 116 health centres.

The State seems to be doing very well on the vaccination front with 42.81% having received the first dose and 17.86% both the doses. In the 45-plus age group, 83% have been administered the first dose while 43% have received both the doses. The current predicament of rising cases in the State should be weighed against the unique situation created by the circulation of the Delta variant, which has been leading to re-infections as well as breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated individuals, says a public health professional. “It is high time the State paid attention to the disaggregated data of new infections because the proportion of re-infections and breakthrough infections among new cases will help the State identify pockets where active transmission is on. The false sense of security among vaccinated individuals might keep the Delta transmission chains alive for a long time as it is now established (by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) that vaccinated persons have viral loads similar to that of unvaccinated persons, which helps them transmit the infection easily,” a senior public health professional says.

The State has the lowest seroprevalence rate in India. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research's fourth round of seroprevalence study in

June, only about 44% of the State's 3.5 crore population had developed antibodies to the virus. Since mid-May, the Delta virus variant has been driving up cases, causing a prolonged epidemic.

People's behaviour in Malappuram has always been a subject of criticism. When shops opened, crowds thronged the stores. Marriages took place and the police turned a blind eye to the numbers attending the wedding celebrations. Traffic jams were common in several of Malappuram's towns during the lockdown. “Usually it takes 38 minutes for us to cover 46 km to reach Kozhikode Medical College from Manjeri Medical College. But there were days when it took nearly one and half hours on emergency trips during the lockdown,” says Pavin A.R., an ambulance driver.

Rakhal Gaitonde, public health expert and Professor, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, says, “It is ironic that while the government was clamping down on public life and movement, the business community and markets as part of its containment measures, congregations and celebrations were going on uninterrupted in private spaces, potentially sustaining disease transmission.”

## Pandemic fatigue

But while this is just disease epidemiology that one cannot alter, a team from the National Centre for Disease Control has come down heavily on the State for its failure to implement home isolation and care effectively, for poor and inadequate contact tracing and containment measures, and for a low proportion of RT-PCR tests, which it says have led to the current surge in infections. Kerala's testing levels have been consistent throughout the pandemic. Tests were increased when the second wave hit - an average of 1.5 lakh tests were done daily - but a large proportion of them were Rapid Antigen Tests. While officials refused to comment on this, health officials admit that the diligence and thoroughness with which the State used to do contact tracing, isolation and follow-up is no longer possible. The same goes for home care and follow-up too, which has been faltering. With patients coming to hospital at a later stage of the disease, mortality is going up.

“Earlier, health workers were supported by the local bodies, volunteer groups, police and teachers. One and a half years later, we are on our own. We are acutely short-staffed, overworked and tired. The same group is being roped in for all COVID-19-related activities: from testing to vaccination, apart from immunisation and vector control,” a field worker says.

“Pandemic fatigue has affected everyone and communities and health workers need more support and incentives from the government. Districts need to be supported with strategies that have a more local context,” says Gaitonde. Mortality reduction is another area where public health experts feel that the State can do more. There were wide fluctuations in the mortality rate, from 0.2% to 1.2%, between April and July, 2021, and also between districts.

Health Minister Veena George said in the Assembly this week that disease severity seemed to have reduced due to rising vaccination numbers. Even when cases were rising, hospitalisation and ICU occupancy seemed to remain stable, she said. The re-infection rate has come down but breakthrough infections are now being reported, she said.

On Thursday, the government announced in the Assembly that it was replacing its Test Positivity Rate (TPR)-based containment strategy, which it had been following for the past six weeks, with a micro-containment strategy wherein only specific localities - wards in rural areas and streets in urban areas - will be under lockdown, depending on the number of new infections in a locality. The TPR-based strategy had been widely criticised as unscientific and counter-productive because TPR can be easily manipulated. TPR is the proportion of positive cases from the total tests done and therefore, large-scale testing amongst people who are unlikely to be infected can artificially bring down the TPR. But the government had refused to listen to the criticism.

With the lockdown affecting the livelihood and freedom of people, it became important for the local bodies to reduce the TPR so they could maintain their political image and local popularity. A high TPR and a lockdown was projected as being a measure of their inefficiency. Thus, all local bodies were competing with each other to reduce the TPR somehow by herding in everyone to test, rather than testing appropriate groups. This had seriously affected actual disease containment.

Clearly, Kerala is facing its toughest challenge yet. If, till now, it was a struggle to save lives, a rising case graph and pandemic fatigue is forcing the government to gear up to the bigger challenge of striking a balance between saving lives and protecting livelihoods.



FROM PAGE ONE

## SC backs Amazon against Future-Reliance merger

Senior advocate Harish Salve had argued that the EA, which functions under the Arbitration Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, is "a foreigner to the Indian Arbitration Act". He contended that Amazon, represented by senior advocate Gopal Subramaniam, by urging to enforce the EA award, was trying to "fit a square peg in a round hole".

Mr. Subramaniam, on the other hand, had argued that the EA award can never be characterised as a nullity and ignored. It must be obeyed, he had contended. Justice Nariman upheld the validity of the EA award. The judgment laid down that the award is "exactly like an order of an arbitral tribunal" contemplated under Section 17 of the 1996 Act. Hence, an award by the EA was like an order under Section 17(1) (interim measures ordered by an arbitral tribunal) of the Act.

Besides, Justice Nariman observed that a party (FRL) "cannot be heard to say, after it participates in an Emergency Award proceeding, that it will not be bound by an Emergency Arbitrator's ruling".

## Post talks, India, China pull back troops from Gogra

This agreement ensures that the LAC in this area would be strictly observed and respected by both sides, and that there was no unilateral change in status quo, the Army said. With this development, the focus of further talks would be on disengagement at PP15 in Hot Springs, according to a defence official. Some pro-

gress had been made but some issues remain, he said. On the 12th round of Corps Commander talks that went on for nine hours, the Army said the two sides had a "candid and in-depth exchange of views on resolution of the remaining areas" related to disengagement along the LAC in the western sector.

Justice Nariman ordered. The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day in the first half of the sitting itself and at the end of a third week of protests by Opposition MPs on the Pegasus snooping issue and the three contentious farm laws, but managed to pass the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2021, without debate or discussion.

The House was adjourned a few minutes after it was convened, with Speaker Om Birla urging the protesting members to participate in the Question Hour. But continuing protests saw the House being adjourned till 12 noon. When it reconvened, Rajendra Agarwal, as presiding officer, asked the protesters to participate in discussions on the two Bills listed.

Leader of the Congress legislature party in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, spoke before both the Bills were passed, urging the government to "give up" its "obduracy" in not considering the demands of the Opposition.

To this, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said it was the Opposition that was blocking discussions, including the one proposed by Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) MP N.K. Premachandran on the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the midst of it, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman moved the Taxation Laws

(Amendment) Bill for consideration and passing. It had been introduced in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Making a short statement before the Bill was put to vote, Ms. Sitharaman said

these actions to bring a law scrapping the retrospective tax. The Bill was passed by voice vote and without debate.

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He said this would help in the emotional integration of the people of Ladakh, Leh and Kargil with the rest of the country.

The university, to be named Sindh University, would have a 110-acre campus.

Again, this Bill was passed in the din with no discussion.

The House was adjourned for the day after the passage of the two Bills.

# Amid adjournments, Lok Sabha passes two Bills

House was adjourned for the day in the first half of the sitting itself

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

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In session: A view of the Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

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## Khel Ratna named after Dhyan Chand

Prime Minister took to Twitter to announce change

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna stands renamed as the "Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to Twitter on Friday to announce the change of name in honour of the hockey wizard. "I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will here be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award!" read Mr. Modi's tweet.

The announcement came a day after the men's hockey team ended a 41-year wait for an Olympic medal by taking the third spot, and on a

day when the women's team finished fourth after some heart-winning performances, including a stunning victory over Australia.

**Greatest hockey player** Dhyan Chand, a three-time Olympic gold medallist, is considered India's greatest hockey player. His birthday, on August 29, marks the National Sports Day, when the National Sports Awards are presented each year.

Though Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala welcomed the move to rename the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awards in memory of the legendary hockey player, he accused the Prime Minister of "petty politics" and challenged the Union government to rename stadia that have been named after BJP politicians, including the Narendra

Modi stadium in Gujarat and the Arun Jaitley stadium in Delhi.

"Modiji should have not used his myopic political motives to drag a celebrated player like Major Dhyan Chand. Rajiv Gandhiji doesn't need any awards for recognition. He is known for his sacrifice and the ideas that helped India transform into the 21st century," Mr. Surjewala said.

He said from now on, various stadia should be named after celebrated players like P.T. Usha, Milkha Singh, Mary Kom, Sachin Tendulkar, Pulella Gopichand, Sania Mirza and Leander Paes, among others. He also accused the government of reducing the



## Chidambaram welcomes amendment to tax laws

But Tewari's tweet exposes fault lines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Friday welcomed the Union government's move to amend the taxation laws and nullify the provisions for retrospective taxation.

However, Congress Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari's tweet on the issue exposed the fault lines within the party.

**'Put an end'**

"On the withdrawal of the Retrospective Tax (Vodafone), I am glad that we have put an end to an issue that has been troubling us for 8 years," Mr. Chidambaram tweeted moments after the Lok Sabha passed the Bill with a voice vote.

On Thursday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

introduced the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which would allow the government to drop any tax demands made on any transaction before May 2012 or return any tax already collected, but without any interest payments.

Taking to Twitter, Mr. Tewari said, "Because NDA/BJP made a complete hash of defending its case qua @CairnEnergy in arbitral tribunal does not mean you give up sovereign right to Tax retrospectively."

The retrospective clause was brought in by the late Pranab Mukherjee as the Finance Minister after the Supreme Court, in an order, held that Vodafone could not be taxed for a 2007 transaction involving its acquisition of 67% stake in Hutchinson Whampoa for \$11 billion.

INTERVIEW | DOLA SEN

## 'Trinamool Congress MPs being singled out for suspension'

Suspending MPs to push through Bills is a pattern with this govt., says Sen

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Trinamool Congress MP Dola Sen, one of the loudest protesters in the Rajya Sabha and among the seven lawmakers suspended from the current monsoon session, says her party MPs are being singled out though members from other parties were also shouting slogans and had torn papers.

So far, seven Trinamool MPs have been suspended in the monsoon session of Parliament. Do you believe that the party is being singled out for disciplinary action?

It is clear that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scared of our Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. It is not as if Trinamool Congress MPs were standing alone in the well. MPs from the Congress, the

Left parties, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were also in the well, but no one else was suspended except for us. In fact, the Congress and the AAP MPs tore papers too, but no action was taken against them. On Wednesday, when six of us were suspended, like the other days, most of the Opposition members were holding posters. But Trinamool was singled out. We

## Oppn. leaders attend farmers' stir

They listened to farmer leaders at Jantar Mantar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Leaders of at least 12 Opposition parties, including former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, on Friday attended the "Kisan Sansad" (farmers' parliament) at Jantar Mantar here to express their solidarity with protesting farmers, who are demanding the repeal of the three farm laws.

Organising themselves at Parliament House, Opposition leaders moved to Jantar Mantar, the venue of the protests against the farm laws by leaders of farmers' organisations, who had been given permission by the Delhi police to do so.

Since July 22, these farmer leaders have been protesting close to Parliament to mark over seven months of farm-



In solidarity: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with other leaders at Jantar Mantar on Friday. •SANDEEP SAXENA

ers' protests at Delhi's border points against the laws.

The leaders left Parliament at 12.30 p.m. in a bus to reach Jantar Mantar. However, none of the political leaders either gave a speech or sat on the dais. Instead, they were part of the audience and listened to the leaders of various farmers' organisations.

"Today, all the Opposition parties decided to support the farmers and demand the

withdrawal of the three farm laws. We want to give our entire support to all the farmers," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons.

"It will not work with a discussion on the farm laws. These black laws will have to be withdrawn," he responded, when pointed out that the government was willing to talk with farmers over the provisions of the laws.

Alleging that the government was not allowing the

the Bill was a clarificatory amendment. The 2012 Finance Act provision that amended the Income Tax Act, making offshore transactions involving Indian assets (including those set up prior to the law being enacted) liable for tax in India, was considered "bad in law" as far as the BJP was concerned.

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had set up a high-level committee after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government came to power in 2014 to look into the issue, as the BJP, and later the government, did not support retrospective taxation. The Act had been caught up in litigation in courts in India and abroad, and the government was waiting for the conclusion of

these actions to bring a law scrapping the retrospective tax. The Bill was passed by voice vote and without debate.

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nor confirmed purchasing the software.

Mr. Viswam said, "I had asked three questions to the Ministry of External Affairs - the number of MoUs the government has entered into with foreign companies, the details sector-wise; (b) whether any of these MoUs with foreign companies has been in order to curb terror activities through cybersecurity, the details of the same; and (c) whether the government has entered into an MoU with NSO Group in order to curb terror activities through cybersecurity across the nation, if so, provide details thereof."

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## CBI, police ignoring judges' complaints: SC

"We are very sorry to say that the CBI did nothing about complaints made to it... There is still no change in its attitude," CJI N.V. Ramana said.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, who was asked to assist the court, related an incident of a magistrate who was threatened on the eve of taking up a case against some gangsters.

"His daughter's life was threatened. So, given a choice between his daughter's life and doing justice, he adjourned the case... Judges as a class are more vulnerable, say, than bureaucrats," Mr. Venugopal said.

The court asked whether Jharkhand had "washed its hands of" any responsibility of investigating the daylight murder of judge Uttam Anand by transferring the case to the CBI. It said the death was a result of the

State government's "negligence" to protect its judges.

The CJI said the State government chose to ignore threats to judges like Mr. Anand, who was working in Dhanbad district, where the powerful coal mafia reigns.

The court pooh-poohed Jharkhand's claim that it had built boundary walls around judges' colonies. "And you think boundary walls will keep away hardened criminals?" Justice Surya Kant asked Jharkhand Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan.

Mr. Venugopal said the frequent attack on judges highlighted the need for the formation of a special body to protect the judiciary and ascertain the danger to them.

On Judge Anand's death, the court directed the CBI to be represented on Monday. "We want to hear the CBI," the Chief Justice said.

who drive the policy, so let them answer our questions.

In the din, the government is managing to clear crucial Bills without recording any objection from the Opposition. Aren't you, in a way, helping the government?

■ This is a pattern with the government. In September 2020, too, I was suspended similarly when the government bulldozed through the three farm laws. They denied us a division on the Bills. They refused to hear our objections... The BJP is shameless, they passed 30 Bills and then they themselves curtailed the session... This time around, too, on an average, only seven minutes are spent on each Bill.

■ We have clearly said three issues need to be discussed threadbare - Pegasus cyber-attack, repeal of the three farm Acts and frequent fuel price hikes. Now, with due respect, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is not the policymaker for this government. It is the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah

■ It is the PM and the Home Minister who drive the policy, so let them answer our questions

■ It is unfortunate that the Leader of the House, Piyush Goyal, stood on the floor of the Parliament and lied. Mr. Goyal claimed that the Rajya Sabha chamber was closed down for sanitation, which is absolutely incorrect. The MPs were still walking in and out of the chamber. Out of the six Trinamool MPs who were suspended, four of us are ladies. We were carrying bags, which we had left be-

hind our seats. After we were informed about our suspension, we stood outside the door of the Rajya Sabha chamber and continued with our protest. At 3:30 p.m., the House adjourned for the day, which means our suspension for

the day, too, ended. When we returned to the chamber to pick our bags, a male security official stopped us from entering. Why is Mr. Goyal lying to cover up a mistake committed by a marshal?

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# Assam, Meghalaya to form regional panels

Will approach the issues phase-wise, says Meghalaya CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Assam and Meghalaya governments on Friday decided to start settling the "less complicated" areas of the dispute along the 884.9 km border between them before moving on to the more complicated ones. They also decided to form three regional committees each to first get the views of the people living in the disputed areas and prepare a recommendation within 30 days for a decision at the level of the Chief Ministers.

The decisions were taken at a meeting between Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma in Guwahati.

"Today's [Friday's] meeting was a follow-up of the July 23 meeting we had in [Meghalaya capital] Shillong. We agreed that the disputes have carried on for far too long and things need to be settled amicably and res-



**Hot tip:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma is felicitated by his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma. ■ ANI

pectfully," Mr. Sangma said after the meeting.

"We agreed that some areas of differences are less complicated, some are more complicated and the rest very complicated. We decided to approach the issues phase-wise and start with six of the 12 disputed areas that are less complicated," he said.

These areas are Upper Tarabari, Gazang Reserve Forest, Hahim, Boklapara, Khanapara-Pilangkata and Ratacherra involving West

Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi and East Jaintia Hills districts of Meghalaya, and Kamrup, Kamrup (Metropolitan) and Cachar districts of Assam.

The more complicated areas of dispute are Langpoh, Borduar, Nongwah, Matamur, Deshmoreah Block I and Block II, and Khanduli.

"The Meghalaya government gave a presentation with their perspective on the issues during the July 23 meeting. Today, we presented our point of view," Dr. Sarma said.

# 'Iran, India can play a useful role'

Jaishankar discusses Afghanistan situation with Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Iran would welcome an Indian role in stabilising Afghanistan, said Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi, during a meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Tehran, where the Minister attended Mr. Raisi's swearing-in ceremony.

Mr. Jaishankar will meet Qatar's special envoy on Afghanistan on Saturday, adding to a series of meetings on the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan.

"Iran and India can play a constructive and useful role in ensuring security in the region, especially Afghanistan, and Tehran welcomes New Delhi's role in establishment of security in Afghanistan," a statement from the Iranian President's office said after the meeting on Friday. "The fate of Afghanistan must be decided by the Afghans themselves, and we believe that if the Americans do not sabotage the situation, this issue will be resolved quickly," Dr. Raisi said.

Mr. Jaishankar's Tehran



**Bilateral ties:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at a meeting with President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran. ■ PTI

visit comes on the back of a number of engagements with Iran in an effort to improve flagging bilateral ties as well as to find a common course on Afghanistan. Mr. Jaishankar visited Tehran last on July 7, and met Foreign Minister Javad Zarif at the same time as a Taliban delegation was in the city, also to hold consultations with Mr. Zarif. On July 21, Iran's official agency IRNA reported that the two Ministers spoke on the telephone to discuss the rapid developments in Afghanistan, where the U.S troops were completing their pullout amidst a rapid escalation in violence by

the Taliban forces who are attacking different cities, including Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, Herat and Kunduz.

**Envoy's visit**  
Meanwhile, Qatari special envoy for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution Mutlaq Bin Majed Al-Qahtani arrived in Delhi on a two-day visit on Friday, and met the Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) official in charge of Pakistan-Afghanistan-India Joint Secretary J.P. Singh. In June last, it was Mr. Qahtani who had given the first official confirmation that Indian officials were in talks with Taliban represen-

tatives based in Doha. Subsequently, the MEA confirmed that India is engaging "various stakeholders" in Afghanistan, and government sources said they had made contact with some Taliban factions.

While the meetings are likely to focus on the reconciliation process in Doha, where the Intra-Afghan dialogue has hit an impasse, New Delhi is also expected to point out that despite being regional powers, neither India nor Iran had been included yet in the meetings of the "Troika Plus" grouping of U.S.-Russia-China and Pakistan, due to be held in Doha on August 11. Both India and Iran have stressed on the "legitimacy" of the democratically-elected Ghani government in Afghanistan.

According to the Iranian President's office, Mr. Jaishankar said that the current level of relations "is not favourable, and we are determined to establish long-term cooperation in the interests of our nations, given the serious will of the Iranian side."

# ISIS module case: 1 more suspect held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested one more person for his alleged links with an Islamic State-inspired module.

The accused has been identified as Zufri Jawhar Damudi, a resident of Bhatkal in Karnataka.

Earlier this week, the agency had arrested four persons associated with the module from Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir. They were identified as Obaid Hamid, a resident of Srinagar; Muzammil Hassan Bhat, a resident of Bandipora; Ammar Abdul Rahman from Mangalore and Shankar Venkatesh Perumal alias Ali Muaviya, a resident of Bengaluru.

The NIA has accused them of their role in raising funds, radicalising and motivating more people to join ISIS. In March, the agency had arrested the module's alleged head, Mohammed Ameen (Malappuram), along with Mushab Anuvvar (Kannur), and Rahees Rashid (Kollam).

# Two militants killed in Rajouri encounter

The slain ultras are believed to have crossed into J&K from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir last month



**Terror trail:** Security personnel on a patrol after a brief encounter with militants in the Thanamandi area of Rajouri district on Friday. ■ PTI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAMMU

Two unidentified militants have been killed in an operation by security forces in the Pir Panjal valley's Rajouri district on Friday.

"A joint operation was launched on Thursday night in a forest area of Thanamandi, Rajouri. It was launched after the inputs were established by the police. In the firefight, two terrorists have been neutralised so far," officials said.

The operation was on to trace any other militants hiding in the area, they added.

The police said they were keeping a tab on the movement of militants for around 20 days.

Preliminary reports suggested that the militants may

have crossed into J&K from Pakistan occupied Kashmir last month. Rajouri is a frontier district and is close to the Line of Control.

The identity and the affiliation of the slain militants could not be established immediately.

## Ammunition seized

In a separate incident, Security forces recovered two pistols and ammunition in Sarthian village of Samba district along the International Border on Friday.

The arms and ammunition, recovered around 7:30 a.m. from a bag, were suspected to be airdropped by a drone, officials said. "An investigation is on to trace the trail of weapons," a police officer said.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Twitter informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that it had appointed a permanent Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), a Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and a Nodal Contact Person in compliance with the new Information Technology (IT) Rules.

Justice Rekha Palli, however, asked Twitter to put this development on record by filing a proper affidavit. The court posted the case for hearing on August 10.

Senior advocate Sajjan Poovayya represented Twitter.

In previous hearings, the court had expressed reservations over Twitter changing the status of the CCO ap-



to do. If you want to [comply with the rules], do it wholeheartedly".

Additional Solicitor-General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Centre, had said Twitter was acting in "abject non-compliance of the rules" as the CCO cannot be a contingent worker.

Earlier, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had stated that despite three months time granted to all Significant Social Media Intermediaries (SSMIs) to comply with the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2021, Twitter has failed to fully comply with the same. It had said that Twitter failed to comply with India's law regarding tech companies rendering services as 'intermediaries'.

pointment from "interim" to "contingent" in its affidavit.

Justice Palli had said the rules mandated the appointment of a senior employee as CCO, but Twitter, according to its affidavit, has appointed a "contingent worker" through a third party contractor.

The court had remarked, "I don't know what you want

# IAF chief flies on Israeli F-15 fighter

Bhadauria takes part in bilateral talks



**Taking flight:** Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria flying with the Commander of the Israeli Air Force on Friday. ■ ANI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) RKS Bhadauria on Friday flew a sortie on an Israeli F-15 fighter jet along with the Commander of the Israeli Air Force, the IAF said.

"As part of the visit, the Chief of Air Staff (CAS) and Maj. Gen. Amikam Norkin, Commander, Israeli Air Force, visited the "Yad Vashem" and paid homage at the memorial.

During the visit from August 3 to 6, ACM Bhadauria and Maj. Gen. Norkin held wide-ranging discussions on all bilateral Air Force interactions, the IAF said. He was given an overview of the Israeli Air Force's operational environment, it stated.

The visit of the CAS to Israel marks a milestone in the ties between the two Air Forces with both sides reaffirming a shared vision of enhanced bilateral engagements, the IAF said.

# ED summons Mehbooba Mufti's mother

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday summoned the mother of former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti in a money laundering case, a day after Ms. Mufti observed August 5, 2019 as "black day".

Gulshan Nazir, wife of late Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has been asked to present herself before the ED office in Srinagar on August 8, in connection with a case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002. "It is no coincidence that my aged grandmother receives ED summons every time the PDP registers a protest against the government's iron-hand approach towards J&K and its people... The last time she got a notice was when PDP decided to boycott the delimitation commission meeting," Mehbooba's daughter Iltija Mufti told *The Hindu*.

# CBI books former top official of U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has booked the then Special Secretary in the Uttar Pradesh government, Prabhunath, and unknown officials of the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) for allegedly extending undue favours to some undeserving candidates in the Additional Private Secretary Examination-2010.

Mr. Prabhunath was the Controller of Examination, according to the First Information Report.

The CBI had initiated a preliminary enquiry into the allegation in February 2019. It is alleged that Mr. Prabhunath and other officials accepted representations of some candidates even after the last date and some candidates were allowed to change their computer certificates.

The agency has also alleged recklessness in the

evaluation and scrutiny of answer sheets.

According to the probe agency, some unknown Commission officials were involved at various stages of the examination and evaluation process from 2010 to 2017 and that experts were not involved, due to which several deserving candidates were left out. In some cases, computer certificates of the candidates were found to be forged, but they were declared qualified.

**Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited**  
"SARAS SANKUL", J.L.N. MARG, JAIPUR-302017, Tele-Fax: 0141-2702135  
E-mail: dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in, Website: www.sarasankulfd.rajasthan.gov.in  
No. RCDP/FA/DPM/7106-XV/2021 Dated: 05.08.2021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Single Stage two-envelope unconditional Technical and Financial e-tenders/Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited, from experienced manufacturers having manufacturing facilities situated in Rajasthan and its adjoining states only, for service contract of conversion of surplus milk into Aq-mark Ghee and ISI mark SMP & WMP to be supplied by your milk unions. Brief particulars of the procurement are given below:

Approximate Value of Services	Last time and date for receiving Bids	Period of the Contract	Validity of Bidding	Price of Bidding Document	Bid Security
Rupees 03.00 Crore	Upto 3.00 PM of 06/09/2021	12 Months	120 Days	Rs. 1200	Bid Security Declaration as per format (on Rs. 50/- Non-Judicial stamp Paper Duly Notarized of)

The Complete Bidding Document can be obtained from our website www.sarasankulfd.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Bid will be submitted on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (UBN : CDF2122SLOB00487) General Manager (DPM & Proj.)  
Sarasankulfd@rajasthan.gov.in

**GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
BUILDINGS AND ROADS ( NORTH ) DIVISION  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

No.175/PW/BRN/DB/D3/1-39/2021-22 Puducherry, the 05.08.2021

**PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER**  
e-Tender No.01 & 02/PW/EE/BRN/2021-22

On behalf of the President of India, e-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for the works of "Improvements in RC-4 Valudavour road and Ramanathapuram hospital road" for a cost put to tender of Rs.6,31,91,813/- (Inclusive of GST) and "Improvements to the 4 Nos. of roads in Madagadipet Section Puducherry" for cost put to tender of Rs.2,49,42,485/- (Inclusive of GST) For further details please refer to the website <https://pudutenders.gov.in>.

(i) Availability of NIT from 10.00 AM on 07.08.2021 to 04.00 P.M. on 24.08.2021 and closing time for submission of e-tender at 4.00 PM on the same day of last date of availability of NIT.

(ii) Pre-Bid meeting to be held on 14.08.2021 at 11.00 A.M. in the Chief Engineer's Chamber.

(iii) Date & Time of Opening of tender 25.08.2021 10.30 A.M.

No. 102/DIP/AD(Press)/2021-2022 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE  
No. AD/OE/GL-72/15(Pl.V)/1863  
Dtd. 05.08.2021

Name of the work: "Watch & ward of Port properties at different sites of PPT round the clock for a period of one year". Estimated cost put to tender ₹1,72,69,245/-. The last date & time of submission of bid is 20.08.2021 upto 1700 Hrs. For details please refer our website: [www.paradipport.gov.in/](http://www.paradipport.gov.in/) <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Asst. Secretary (Admn.) PPT/PR/81/2021-22, Dt.06.08.2021

**INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**  
P.B. 8005, C.V.Raman Avenue, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru - 560 080  
Date: 04.08.2021

The Indian Academy of Sciences is a professional autonomous body under the aegis of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. The Academy seeks to appoint an Assistant Coordinator (Programmes) on contract basis for a period of one year. The incumbent is expected to assist implementation of various programmes and activities of the Academy, with special emphasis on implementation of SEP initiatives. For eligibility, monthly remuneration etc., please visit [https://www.ias.ac.in/About\\_IASC/Positions\\_Available/](https://www.ias.ac.in/About_IASC/Positions_Available/). Last date for receipt of application in the prescribed format is 20 August 2021. Executive Secretary

**INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU)**  
(A Central University under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)  
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

The following programmes are offered at IMU for the Academic Year 2021-22

Under-Graduate	Post-Graduate
B.Tech (Marine Engineering)	MBA (Port & Shipping Management)
B.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)	MBA (International Transportation & Logistics Management)
B.Sc (Nautical Science)	M.Tech (Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering)
BBA (Logistics, Retailing and E-Commerce)	M.Tech (Dredging & Harbour Engineering)
DNS (Diploma in Nautical Science)	M.Tech (Marine Engineering & Management)

**PG Diploma**  
Post Graduate Diploma in Marine Engineering

For more details, please visit IMU Website [www.imu.edu.in](http://www.imu.edu.in)

**Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. 28 / 2021-22

01. Name of the Work	1 No. of work
02. Estimated Cost	470.00 lakhs
03. Period of Completion	11 (Eleven) Months
04. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 AM of 09.08.2021 to 5.00 PM of 30.08.2021
05. Last Date /Time for receipt of bids in the Portal.	5.00 P.M. of 30.08.2021
06. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	Superintending Engineer, P.H Division, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal in the Website (<http://tendersorissa.gov.in>)  
Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Bhubaneswar.

C-706: OIPR-13021/11/00112122

**ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
NOTICE  
No. 5265/PSC dt. 06.08.21  
1R-7-2020-21, DR-V

**Corrigendum to Advertisement No. 10 of 2021-22 for recruitment to the post of Professors in different State Public Universities**

The link for registration / re-registration and payment of examination fee is revised and shall be available from 14.08.2021 till 13.09.2021 (Note - 21.09.2021 is the last date for submission of Registered Online Application) for recruitment to the posts of Professors in different State Public Universities.

All other terms & conditions of the said advertisement remained unchanged. The concerned candidates are advised to visit the website of the Commission at [www.opsc.gov.in](http://www.opsc.gov.in).

Additional Secretary  
OIPR-12002/11/005212122



# SC asks govt. if it wants tribunals closed

Chief Justice of India reads out in open court details of over 200 vacancies

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Central government point-blank to come clean on whether it intends to “close” tribunals across the country by not filling up vacancies that have been pending for years.

“The question here is whether you really want these tribunals to continue or do you intend to close them... Is it that the bureaucracy does not want these tribunals?” Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Justice Surya Kant, on the Bench, pointed out that with tribunals defunct and High Courts having no jurisdiction over the areas of law wielded by tribunals, litigants have nowhere to go for justice.

Chief Justice Ramana read out in open court the details of over 240 vacancies in key tribunals, making them redundant in their slow death. The court said certain tribunals do not even have presiding officers. Recommendations of names by the selection committees led by sitting Supreme Court judges to fill up the vacancies have been largely ignored by the government.

The CJI, accompanied by Justice Surya Kant, read out the exact vacancies in each tribunal, including the National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Central Administrative Tribunal, only to name a few.

The Solicitor General said he “genuinely shared the Lordships’ concerns”. He assured the court that he would inform the govern-



## A closer look at long list

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The tribunals’ vacancies list produced by Chief Justice Ramana revealed, among others, that Debt Recovery Tribunals across the country have 15 vacancies of Chairpersons.

Other tribunals without Chairpersons are the

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, the Telecom Disputes and Settlement Appellate Tribunal, and the Appellate Tribunal for Forfeited Property. The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has 25 vacancies for judicial members and 27 for technical members.

ment. Justice Kant observed, “If you don’t want these tribunals, allow us to restore their jurisdictions to the High Courts. On the other hand, if you want these tribunals to continue, fill up the vacancies... You can’t take away the right of the people to access justice”.

Chief Justice Ramana said the situation revealed a “very sorry state of affairs”. Mr. Mehta agreed, saying “something needs to be done

speedily”. Justice Kant said, “Wherever selection committees, presided over by sitting Supreme Court judges, have recommended names, can’t you make those appointments?”

Mr. Mehta submitted that appointments may have been held up due to litigation in the Supreme Court.

Justice Kant said the litigation was about the tenure of the members of the tribunals. The government could

have gone ahead with the appointments regardless of the litigation and later fixed the tenure subject to the final outcome of the litigation.

The Supreme Court issued notice to the Centre and the GST Council in a PIL plea filed by advocate Amit Sahni seeking the constitution of national and regional GST tribunals.

The court has listed the case for hearing on August 16.

# ‘Nearly 58 lakh vaccine doses administered in last 24 hours’

2.3 crore unutilised doses available with States/UTs: govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Nearly 58 lakh COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the last 24 hours, with more than 2.3 crore balance and unutilised doses still available with the States and Union Territories, and private hospitals, to be administered, noted a Health Ministry press release issued on Friday.

Speaking on the vaccination drive across the South-east Asia region, Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, World Health Organization (WHO), said countries across the region were making unprecedented efforts to reach more and more people with life-saving COVID-19 vaccines, demonstrating their commitment to containing the pandemic at the earliest. “We must continue these and also, stringently implement public health and social measures,” she said.

More than half a billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the WHO South-East Asia Region, with more vaccine doses becoming available and countries scaling up efforts to rapidly expand coverage amid a recurrent surge in cases, noted a release issued by the WHO. “Vaccines are an important tool in our fight against the pandemic as they are effective, even against Variants of Concern



Taking the shot: A woman being vaccinated against COVID-19 during a drive in Delhi on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## J&J seeks emergency use nod for its single-dose jab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Global healthcare company Johnson & Johnson has confirmed that it has applied for emergency use authorisation (EUA) of its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine in India.

The company in a statement released on Friday said that on August

5, Johnson & Johnson Pvt. Ltd applied for the EUA.

“This is an important milestone that paves the way to bringing our single-dose COVID-19 vaccine to the people of India, and the rest of the world, through a collaboration with Biological E. Limited,” the company said.

[VOC], in preventing severe disease, hospitalisation and death,” Dr. Singh said.

As of August 6, 618.5 million doses have been administered. As many as 146 million people have received two vaccine doses and are fully vaccinated.

The maximum – 489 million doses – have been admi-

nistered in India, which reached 8.6 million people on Day 1 of its reinigorated campaign in June, the release said. “With more doses available in recent weeks through COVAX, all possible efforts need to be made to expand COVID-19 vaccination coverage even further,” Dr. Singh said.

# Plea seeks contempt action against PM

Lawyer moves SC against Asthana’s appointment

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lawyer Manohar Lal Sharma has moved the Supreme Court seeking contempt action against the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the appointment



Rakesh Asthana

of Rakesh Asthana as Delhi Police Commissioner.

Mr. Sharma accused them

of “wilful denial” of a Supreme Court judgment of July 2018, which had directed the State governments to send to the Union Public Service Commission the names of the probables three months before the incumbent Director General of Police were to retire.

The Supreme Court, in March 2019, had further clarified that only officers with a minimum residual tenure of

six months should be considered for DGP postings.

The lawyer said Mr. Asthana had only very few days left to retire.

He contended that the Prime Minister is the head of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The decision to appoint Mr. Asthana was jointly taken with the Home Minister. So they were liable for contempt, the plea said.

## PAC to tour Kargil, Leh and Srinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee, headed by Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, is going on a four-day tour of Srinagar, Kargil, Leh and Drass on August 14.

The committee visit is in connection with a 2019 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on “high altitude clothing, equipment, ration and housing” for the Army personnel.

The CAG report had pointed out delays in the procurement of high altitude clothing and equipment items of up to four years, leading to acute shortage of essential clothing and equipment.

It further noted that there was a critical shortage of snow goggles ranging from 62% to 98%. “The troops were not issued ‘multi-purpose boots’ from November 2015 to September 2016 and had to resort to recycling of available boots,” the report said.

# Railways to ensure calls on landline phones are attended

The CIC had directed Railway Board to look into the matter

S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Ministry of Railways has directed General Managers of all Zonal Railways, Production Units and other establishments across the country to update the online telephone directory regularly and make sure that calls made to landline numbers are attended properly.

The advisory issued a couple of days ago follows an order of the Central Information Commission directing the Railway Board that landline numbers provided in the public domain should be attended properly.

The case arises out of a petition filed by Anil Kumar Jain, who wrote to the Director (Telecom), Ministry of Railways, seeking to know under the Right to Information Act whether the Closed User Group (CUG) bills of mobile phone numbers used by the Chairman, Railway Board; Personal Assistant (PA) to the Minister for Rail-



Railway zones and other units will update the online telephone directory.

ways; PA to the Minister of State for Railways; Member, Traffic; Director, Coaching; and others, were paid from the public account, and also called for details of the numbers.

### CUG bills

Responding to his plea, the Public Information Officer, Railway Board, replied that CUG bills were being paid from the public account of the Ministry of Railways.

He said that Section 4(1) (b)(ix) of the Act required every public authority to publish a directory of its officers and employees.

In compliance with this provision, the Ministry had displayed contact details of the Chairman, Railway Board, and others, on the online telephone directory at <http://dir.railnet.gov.in>.

### Appeal filed

However, not satisfied with the reply, Mr. Jain filed an appeal saying that he was not provided with complete information and the updated online telephone directory only displayed landline numbers and not the CUG numbers.

The Central Information Commission noted that an appropriate reply had been provided to the petitioner and advised the Railways to make sure that the landline telephone numbers in the public domain were attended to properly.

## Mayawati for OBC census

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati has demanded that a caste census for the other backward castes be done. On Thursday, she said the BSP had always raised the demand. If the Central Government takes a “positive step” in this regard, the BSP would support the move in and outside Parliament, she said.

# Celebrations begin to mark 150 years of iconic artist Abanindranath Tagore

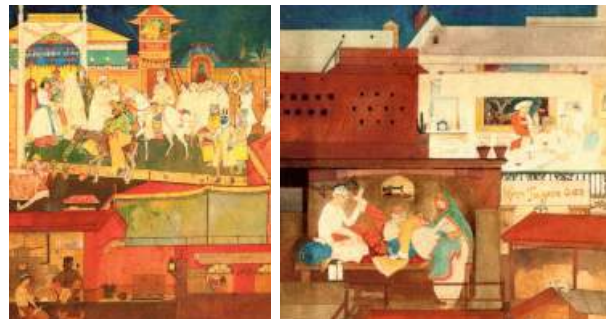
‘His unique interpretation of swadeshi themes created a new awakening’

BISHWANATH GHOSH  
KOLKATA

Year-long celebrations marking 150 years of Abanindranath Tagore will kick off on Saturday, with a host of online workshops and talks paying tributes to the leading light of the Bengal School of Art.

Abanindranath, a nephew of Rabindranath Tagore and a decade younger to the poet, helped shape modern Indian art and was the creator of the iconic ‘Bharat Mata’ painting. The celebration, titled *Abanindranath at 150: Bichitra Revisited*, is being organised jointly by Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, and DAG.

This collaboration, according to the organisers, is in the spirit of experimentation and exchange that took place at Abanindranath’s Bichitra Studio at Jorasanko (the ancestral home of the Tagore family in Kolkata). The iconic south verandah of Jorasanko was established as



Fine art: Scenes from the Arabian Nights painted by Abanindranath Tagore. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a studio and laboratory by the artist and his brothers Gaganendranath and Samarendranth and it hosted art classes, plays, performances, *addas*, and magic shows.

“Abanindranath Tagore was arguably the first major exponent of an artistic idiom that sought to modernise the Mughal and the Rajput styles in order to counter the influence of Western models of art under the colonial regime. His unique interpretation of swadeshi themes created a new awakening

and heralded a revival of Indian art,” Jayanta Sengupta, secretary and curator of Victoria Memorial Hall, told *The Hindu*.

Victoria Memorial Hall is the custodian of the Rabindra Bharati Society collection, the single-largest collection of works by the artist. For DAG, the artist is central to its exhibition on the National Art Treasure artists at the Drishyakala Art Museum in Delhi as well as the foundation of the galleries on the Bengal School of Art at

Ghare Baire, Kolkata. Sumona Chakravarty of DAG said: “Abanindranath’s work is timeless, we continue to be amazed and delighted by it. He witnessed an important point in the nation’s history when there were questions around the identity of India, and he responded by creating a new language for art that was so wide-ranging and diverse that even today it is a powerful reminder of the syncretic tradition we have inherited and need to safeguard.”

On Saturday, four events will be held – over Zoom – through the day with special workshops for children, performative dialogues, and conversations. These events also mark the launch of a year-long celebration of the artist through digital projects, films, performances and workshops by contemporary artists who are re-engaging with his oeuvre and the spirit of the Bichitra Studio.

TH **CROSSWORD** + 13320 Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjptn> SCAN TO PLAY

(set by Incognito)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9			
10			11				
12			13				
15		16	17			18	
19						20	
21	22		23	24		25	
				26			
27						28	
29				30			

- 15 Cheers a small English county (5)
  - 17 Passionately and excitedly yells about a sun exploding (9)
  - 19 Aiding rat moving and going away from the centre (9)
  - 20 Pashtun editor, in hiding, calibrated instrument (5)
  - 21 The Sultan of Swat and excited Hubert followed sailor (4,4)
  - 23 State where one day international was followed by Shah, reportedly (6)
  - 27 20 consuming both egg and good tailless chicken separately made things harder (9)
  - 28 Pulls doctor a general surgeon – initially (5)
  - 29 Questioning creature scattered ten pins around hospital (6)
  - 30 Medicinal plant got by lover with ecstasy, in the de-addiction forum (4,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Khilafat warriors have an order (5)
  - 2 Showed around Delaware with proof (9)
  - 3 Crazy math: See it as second half of 8, when split vertically (5)
  - 4 Clean West Indian record played back (4)
  - 6 Running dress displays a type of card kept under the railway path (5,4)
  - 7 Leader emerging when Ben-Hur’s confused after losing first battle (5)
  - 8 Crucifix seen with a squint (5-4)
  - 9 Cloak and dagger business requiring sixth sense with backing of the top guy over time (9)
  - 14 Santa is going around hugging saint and helper (9)
  - 15 Deliveries include scrapped bad garden fixtures (9)
  - 16 Hear! See! Ragamuffin is a creature found in the sea (3,6)
  - 18 Large and special cloak for a type of painting (9)
  - 22 Bulbs without boron fixed at hotel turn red (5)
  - 24 Avoid an old vehicle manufacturer (5)
  - 25 Lost when ship is not in port (2,3)
  - 26 Lodhi returned after leaving hotel, and got a statue (4)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13319

D	B	B	A	B	M	F	
M	I	N	E	A	L	P	H
V	R	T	R	R	N	A	
T	A	B	L	E	T	O	V
I	E	P	A	R			
S	C	E	N	A	R	I	O
O	E	S	T				
A	V	A	R	I	C	E	
G	N	O	M	A	L	U	R
O	U	G	R	A	W	S	A
A	K	E	S	O	F	A	R
B	I	K	E	S	O	F	A
N	R	S	E	T	R	N	

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

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

## FAITH

### Karma phala data

In the Devi Bhagavata Purana, Vyasa further explains about the workings of karma to Janamejaya, and says that none but the omniscient Lord can officiate as a judge in the lives of all mortal beings as He is the sole ‘karma phala data’. It is shown that the prime effect of karma is janma by which the jiva exhausts past karma, and since karma is not easily exhausted, the jiva is born repeatedly in samsara, pointed out Sri K. Srinivasan in a discourse.

Sometimes a single birth or many births would be needed to exhaust even a single karma, for it depends on the type of karma and the corresponding fruits. Also, it is not that karma phala is experienced in accordance to the chronological order in which the karmas are done and these experiences may pertain to this world or to other lokas also. Some are born rich while some are poor; while some are born with congenital defects, and so on. One may have a sound mind, intellect and well-functioning sense organs but yet cannot know what karma is responsible for his present state. These disparities are all owing to the jiva’s past karma about which only God is aware. Based on all these factors God decides the kind of birth for every jiva.

Even at the laukika level, the judge dealing with offence and punishment is bound with a certain amount of freedom and responsibility. He does not allot punishment purely on the basis of the code of laws. He evaluates the crime and the offender from various angles. Is it a first time offence? What was the motive? Does the person need time for reforming? At the spiritual level, God, as the ‘karma phala data’ for all mortals, meticulously allots the reward and punishment for each one’s merits without prejudice in this never ending cycle of samsara.





## Instapick

**World Elephant Day:** Some heartwarming stories have begun trickling in. This week, Rivaldo, the wild tusker in captivity in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, was finally freed. Also, authorities at Kerala's Konni Elephant Camp have proposed taking the jumbos for short trips into the forest to cope with Covid-stress. And Stand Up 4 Elephants in Nepal will livestream (10.45 am onwards) on August 12.



## Talking point

**India at Olympics 2021:** After a 41-year gap, the Indian men's hockey team has secured a bronze with a thrilling 5-4 win against Germany. Meanwhile, in the new sports making its debut this year, Carissa Moore (US) and Italo Ferreira (Brazil) claimed the first Olympic golds in surfing, and Spanish teen Alberto Gines Lopez bagged the gold in sport climbing.

## Pick of the week

Events, workshops and launches you just can't miss



### The new face of Bvlgari

Italian luxury house Bvlgari has roped in actor **Priyanka Chopra Jonas** as their brand ambassador. In her efforts to amplify the brand's vision, the activist-author says her focus is particularly on 'themes of women empowerment, diversity and inclusion'. Elsewhere, online networking community Fuzia is all set to host **The Fuzia Creative Summit 2021**. Comprising art workshops and discussions, the three-day event brings together journalists and industry leaders. August 18-20 on fuzia.com



### Journey of the Amul girl

Bengaluru's **Museum of Art and Photography's** lineup for this week includes a session with the makers of the iconic Amul girl advertisements. Rahul da Cunha, Manish Jhaveri and Jayant Rane will share the journey of the Amul campaign, and their creative process. August 7 at 6 pm. map-india.org Streaming service Gaana and audiobook portal Pratilipi have joined hands to produce **three audio shows**. Penned by women writers, the stories, including *Behad*, have been read by over 15,000 visitors on the Pratilipi app. pratilipi.com



### Luxury escapes

Luxury resorts operator Soneva is pulling out all the stops over the next two months at its resorts at Maldives and Thailand. Its **Soneva Stars calendar** features Béatriz Gonzales of Paris' Neva Cuisine (at Soneva Fushi and Soneva Jani from August 15 to 30), and fitness coach Johnny Owen (at Soneva Jani until October 15). soneva.com. Closer home, Six Senses Hotels Resorts Spas is opening at **Fort Barwara, a restored 14th-century fort in Rajasthan** this September. The complex has two palaces and two temples. sixsenses.com



### On the rug route

Handmade carpet maker Obeteetee has teamed up with designer duo **Shantanu & Nikhil** for their fourth 'Proud to be Indian' series. The limited-edition collection with victory flag patterns features the sub-themes of Independence, Regimental Regalia and The India-Proud Story. obeteetee.com. Bengaluru-based **Carpet Kingdom** has a new collection, **Fleurs c'estes**, featuring floral patterns in wool and silk, in mid-tones and pastels. Stores in Bengaluru and Chennai; carpetkingdom.in.



### Deep dive into NFTs

Learn the basics of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) from virtual artist **Cyber Shakti, Nikhil** for their fourth 'Proud to be Indian' series. The workshop will cover NFT marketplaces, new opportunities and more. August 11 on Zoom. facebook.com/WildCity. **Naveen Kishore**, artist and founder of Kolkata-based publishing house, Seagull Books, is showcasing two photograph series, *Performing the Goddess* and *The Green Room of the Goddess*, in Mumbai. Until August 14. chatterjeeandlal.com



### Raakhi prep

Fashion jewellery label Topsyfly has a **Rakshabandhan bracelet collection** that is a mix of the traditional and contemporary. There are enamel rakhis with the words "Bro" and "Sis" inscribed, crystal encrusted ones, and personalised ones with initials, names, or even a photograph. At tipsyfly.com; ₹599 upward. The **House of Badnore** is also offering rakhis, with evil eyes, with Shiva symbols, and with rudraksh and vegan leather. At houseofbadnore.com; ₹650 upward.



### Adidas x Arsenal

Ahead of the Premier League season, sporting brand adidas and professional football club Arsenal have unveiled their new **home kit for 2021/22**. The collection features T-shirts with a collegiate navy branding, white shorts, socks, and a women's shirt. shop.adidas.co.in. At **Language Shoes**, a new collection of leather moccasins and ballerinas have been launched for women. Available in soft-hued shades of peach and powder blue, as well as a dark black. ₹3,990 onwards on languageshoes.com

# YARN IT! My Olympic Gold

Division of labour and *dosa* feasts — how to share the spirit of the legendary games

JANE DE SUZA

Thousands of cheers over thousands of years echoed through the Panathenaic stadium as I pumped my fist in victory on the medal podium, the sun glinting off my gold. Merely visiting the first stadium of the 'modern' Olympics in 1896 had me seeing stars (even without a knock from a shot put) — especially since my personal best in weightlifting was hoisting a wriggling 6 kg baby.

The Olympics, of course, had flagged off centuries earlier. Men chased one another around a track,

togas flapping, in the 8th century BC. The Stade (the run to you and me) remained the only event for years until they gave in to the call to arms, along with legs. New sports included Pankration, which is the sort of brawl you'd now see in country liquor bars — boxing, wrestling and falling flat on one's face. Even newer sports were added to reflect the times. The Tokyo Olympics introduced four. In homes across the world, kids sprawl before TVs, watching other kids do things their mums warned them not to, spine-curling twists upside down on skateboards. 'Stop wasting your time

and switch channels to the Olympics!' shouts an irate parent. They are. Skateboarding and surfing were legit adds this year. Ah, the pressure of the board exams! Ask 13-year-old Momiji Nishiya who won the gold.

Women first participated at the 1900 Olympics in Paris. In the early days, no woman could step on the track, and married women couldn't even watch — what with those flapping togas! (The Greeks actually wore palliums, but flapping palliums isn't quite kosher). Look at what we're doing now,

however. From Mirabai Chanu and Rani Rampal whose stories of grit and passion are making a billion eyes tear up, to Valerie Adams who won the bronze 17 years after she'd first won an Olympic medal, and held up a picture of her two kids who she'd had in between. I've been posting pics of my two kids, too. (As I said, I have all the makings of an Olympian).

Alongside the gut-wrenching victories are other stories that we won't forget. Siblings Hidumi and Uta Abe winning their judo competitions on the same day (parents

worldwide, learn! Don't stop your kids from pulp-ing each other over one Lego block). Tajay Gayle, the long jump champ who twisted his knee, but continued to finish, through the pain. The one that had our hearts was Qatar's Barshim who, having worked all his life towards this point, opted to share his gold with Italy's Tamberi. Inspired, women are insisting their men do the dishes and the cooking. After all, the men are glued to the Olympics all day. Surely they've learnt to share the metal?

Nothing comes near the exhilaration and crashes of sports, and some moments will seep into our vocabularies. The 11-year-old will ask for a sixth *dosa*, claiming he's 'going for gold'.

Where Jane De Suza, the author of *Happily Never After*, talks about the week's quirks, quacks and hacks

# A zero-waste gown made with Tencel

Sanah Sharma Mehra, the Red Carpet Green Dress Design Contest's first winner from India, on creating an outfit that has multiple possibilities

(Clockwise from below) An outfit from Mehra's collection, Suzy Amis, and Mehra

NIDHI ADLAKHA

Chennai-based Sanah Sharma Mehra, 28, has just bagged the Red Carpet Green Dress (RCGD) award for 2020. The zero-waste gown designed with Tencel (a sustainable rayon fabric made from wood pulp), a first for Mehra, has been made keeping circularity in mind. "More research-based, innovation-driven fashion brands can collectively change the narrative for the better," believes Mehra.

Conceived of by actor Suzy Amis Cameron during the press tour for husband James Cameron's film *Avatar* over a decade ago, RCGD 'challenges designers to create an Oscar-worthy dress made entirely of sustainable materials'. The contest guidelines reflect this: using certified eco-friendly, organic and/or recycled materials is mandatory, as is adopting initiatives to reduce textile waste.

In addition to a cash prize and mentoring, winners will 'see their designs worn by contest ambassadors'.

The Pearl Academy graduate, who developed Planar Flux — a sustainable cutting technique that halves the amount of material used — back in 2015, says the idea to apply for the contest came about thanks to influencer Kestrel Jenkins' podcast, *Conscious Chatter*. After she was interviewed by Jenkins last year, Mehra had listened to an episode featuring RCGD's CEO, Samata Pattinson. Curiosity piqued, the designer (who runs her own label, sanahsharma.com) researched the organisation and submitted her application for their Design Contest in July 2020.

Excerpts from an interview:

### How long did the ideation and making process take?

■ This gown is special because of the design process behind it. Usually designers make a sketch of a finished product and work backwards, but my approach is different. I like to design the patterns, and then watch a silhouette develop. There's a lot of risk involved because one can't really predict the appearance of the end product right at the beginning.



### How is this outfit different from your earlier designs?

■ The gown uses a special cutting technique of its own that amalgamates a concept in physics with garment making. It's zero-waste and also has embellishments that are representative of the story behind the design. Additionally, it was designed with circularity in mind. So, later in the life of the gown, it can easily be converted into handbags, table linen, perhaps another dress too.

### You're said to have an 'academic approach' to fashion.

■ While researching, I was shocked to learn that we were making clothes the same way we did in the Middle Ages. The average cutting waste is about 15%. I wanted to change that and created my own cutting technique. I was inspired by

renowned pattern cutter Julian Roberts [of the Royal College of Art, UK] and reached out to him to know if my methods had a place in the world, and he began mentoring me virtually.

I also engage with students at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Iowa State University (USA), through workshops and guest lectures on experimental pattern cutting.

### What are you working on now?

■ We retail on digital marketplaces like Etsy, and our gender-neutral pret collection [to be launched this Diwali] is going to feature Oeko-Tex certified and GRS certified fabrics in very transitional silhouettes. We're also working on a line made entirely with recycled handloom fabrics in easy, comfortable silhouettes [a September launch].

The unveiling of the winning looks will take place at this year's Red Carpet Green Dress event in Los Angeles in September. Read the full story on [weekend.thehindu.com](https://weekend.thehindu.com)



# Breaking tradition this Onam

Sreejith Jeevan has *kasavu* saris with nautical stripes and in orange (you read that right!)

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

For Sreejith Jeevan, this Onam is about relevance. About weaves that are traditional yet contemporary enough to be used beyond the festival that falls on August 21.

So while his new range features Kerala's signature ivory gold *kasavu* saris, they come with contemporary tweaking. "It's not a mood board driven line. Rather, it uses the age-old techniques such as plain weave, *kattikara* and extra weft patterning, but combined with different layouts," says the founder-designer of Kochi-based brand Rouka. "Some saris are reversible. Others come in pastel palettes. We've also added modern stripes to the traditional vocabulary — such as nautical stripes. In fact, one of the saris just has straight lines across the warp," he says.

With the last year spotlighting sustainability more than ever, Jeevan says they have been looking at how to get "more wears" from a single design. One of the experiments created along with his cluster of weavers at Chendamangalam in Ernakulam and Kuthampully near Palakkad is the *mundum neriyathum* (the traditional two-piece set).



"In ours, the *neriyathu* [the upper part] can also be used as a *dupatta*. So customers can buy it as a 'separate' and team it with something they already own."

The colour palettes are innovative, too. A gorgeous series of pastel oranges is finding fans. As is a bold red in *kasavu*. "Onam has broken out of its traditional connotations. Now there's events with just friends, or with younger cousins, or at work. So people want to have different versions of the *kasavu* for every context." And Rouka is delivering.

The saris are priced between ₹2,800 and ₹10,500, on [shoprouka.com](https://shoprouka.com)



Back to **roots**

We use a story format with a youthful visual language to take the audience on a journey of making of the clothes, starting from sensitising them about the weavers and their communities. Our shoots also make people understand that investing in handloom is supporting the craft.

**KEDAR MADDALA**  
WHOSE PUDUCHERRY-BASED WUNDERHAUS USES LOCALLY-PRODUCED SHORT-STAPLE COTTON WOVEN BY CLUSTERS IN MADURAI AND KURINJIPADI

Creating **producer** clusters

For hundreds of years, Indian fabrics have been draped unstitched as saris, dhotis or scarves. It is not built to make structured garments, but that does not mean it cannot be done. Khadi Gramodyog is doing some interesting work. But such initiatives are being done in isolation. It is important that we safeguard against exploitation, and dilution of age-old techniques. We as a brand are working directly with 400 artisans and very few middlemen. We are in the process of preparing a producer cluster in Kutch where 300 of our dyers, weavers, etc, will work together and be co-owners of the company. But just having one or two such set-ups will not work. We need to replicate these models across the country for it to make a difference. Design education also needs to be reinvented.



**HIMANSHU SHANI**, WHO WITH HIS PARTNER MIA MORIKAWA AT 11.11/ELEVEN.ELEVEN WANTS HIS CUSTOMERS TO KNOW THE MAKERS BEHIND EVERY PRODUCT AND IS USING NFC (NEAR FIELD COMMUNICATION) TECHNOLOGY.



**SREEJITH JEEVAN**, FOUNDER-DESIGNER, ROUKA, A DISTINCTIVE INDEPENDENT FASHION LABEL FROM KOCHI

Change the **context**

It is a design challenge, where we have to see what we can make for which market. Bringing in modern tweaks is a good idea. Like our *mundum neriyathum* – where the *neriyathu* can also be used as a *dupatta* – or the *kasavu sari* in pastel shades. Handloom can make a lot of sense by changing the context. Indu Menon is doing this with Kara Weaves. By reimagining the *thorthu* [thin cotton towel] as cocktail napkins, aprons, bathrobes, resort wear and beach cover-ups, it's become more valuable. It's also more sustainable for the weaver because they get another market.

While recent experiments with drapes is helping the handloom cause, designers and industry experts weigh in on what is needed to attract a wider audience

**National Handloom Day:**Calling **Young** shoppers

PANKAJA SRINIVASAN

Last year saw the government scrapping the Handloom Land Handicrafts Boards ahead of National Handloom Day. Then came the usual hashtag-studded selfies from celebrities and politicians indicating that handloom had finally gone mainstream. But has it really? Have we given the power back to our weavers?

2021 is seeing everyone from high-end designers to craft-led NGOs putting the spotlight on the faces behind our many weaves. Ramesh Menon of Kerala's Save The Loom is working on a scholarship programme for artisan families alongside a live museum that will bring visitors face-to-face with artisans. Designer Rahul Mishra, who recently had his fourth showing at the Paris Haute Couture Week, is working with Save The Loom on a pilot project to help

Fashion is **handloom's** hope

**RAHUL MISHRA**, A PARIS HAUTE COUTURE WEEK REGULAR, WHOSE COLLABORATION WITH SAVE THE LOOM LAUNCHES TODAY



It is a misconception that tailoring doesn't work with handloom. Take my debut collection in 2006, when I used cotton handloom (excess stock of the Kerala handloom fabric) as part of my diploma project... it was all tailored. Fashion has been the enemy to the craft, but is also its hope. Handloom is a local industry and therefore the solutions are available locally, be it in Kerala's Chendamangalam town or Telangana's Pochampally. This season, I worked on a pilot project with Save the Loom (the nonprofit community group) to prove that weaving must be a full-time job. The idea that starts in my studio in Delhi is implemented at the local level in Chendamangalam. We will train tailors there on everything from pattern cutting to even marketing and social media. (Mishra spent several months in Kerala for his college project back in 2006, and with this Save The Loom initiative, the designer comes full circle.)

There must be **adaptability**

**KSHITIJ JALORI**, A DESIGNER KNOWN FOR HIS CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE ON TRADITIONAL TEXTILES

We have to accept that true handloom will always be expensive and almost impossible to scale up to an extent that it becomes 'affordable for all'. But there must be adaptability. I have many clients who understand Indian culture and ethos. So, if they cannot wear a kurta/pyjama, I sometimes make trench coats in Banarasi brocade for them, so that they can still sport Indian fabrics and craftsmanship and feel closer to their roots. There needs to be more awareness in people at large about the Indian traditions of weaving, dyeing, printing. If designers work directly with the artisans without a middleman, it would help enormously in keeping the handloom tradition viable and alive.



**SHIVANGINI PARIHAR** WHO WITH HER PARTNER, REKHA DATLA, AT MODERN LIFESTYLE BRAND, SUMMER HOUSE, FIND INSPIRATION IN INDIAN HANDCRAFT TECHNIQUES

Every state in the country has a weaving tradition. It just needs to be showcased properly and converted into silhouettes that young people will be drawn to. There are such beautiful fabrics available to us. Sadly the display is drab. After all, what is a Zara without its display, or any other popular brand for that matter? I believe the young generation is a very kind generation and they will be happy to wear handlooms if that can bring about change.

Begin with **the** textile people

Most of our weaving traditions – and therefore the techniques, looms and yarns used – were intended for draped rather than cut and stitched wearing styles. The fabric therefore often doesn't fall well when tailored in western styles. It bags and pulls, and the seams give way because it is fine and loosely woven. We need textile people to work on the construction of the fabric and develop varieties that work appropriately before we let the fashion designers loose!

Focus on **display**FOOD SPOT  
The **TASTE** and **SMELL** of *gondhoraj lebu*

RAHUL VERMA

The *gondhoraj lebu* is an incredible lemon. Add a bit of its fragrant juice – or even the leaves – to your dal or your fish curry, and the dish will taste like heaven. My in-laws had a fruit-laden plant in their garden, and we used the lemon and its juice for a host of dishes.

But I'd never had *gondhoraj lebu* in mutton curry, and was absolutely floored when I did, some days ago. The dish, sent over by my brother-in-law, had been prepared and delivered by Sanhita Sensarma, a corporate lawyer who is now rustling up all kinds of exotic dishes. The *gondhoraj* mutton had the most sublime aroma of the lime, and the eggs and potatoes in the meat curry made it a memorable dish indeed.

The pandemic has introduced us to a range of home chefs – from those offering basic food to restaurant-style dishes. Sanhita's food stands out because it is, in a word, different. Just like I had never had *gondhoraj* mutton curry earlier, I had not eaten Jaffna meat curry either.

She sent us this dark curry prepared with 15 roasted ground spices and roasted red rice. It had a lingering taste of coconut, cardamom and cinnamon. We also had



Pork Ularthiyathu  
■ SRISHTI SENSARMA

her Wattala black pork curry – succulent fatty pieces of pork in a peppery and tart gravy. We enjoyed it all immensely.

Last week, I asked for two dishes – pork Ularthiyathu and Kundapur seafood ghee roast. The pork, lined with fat, truly melted in the mouth. The meat was cooked *sous vide* (vacuum packed), then cooked in a water bath for several hours at a low temperature with spices, and then slow pan roasted with coconut pieces and shallots.

I enjoyed the Bunt prawn and squid dish, too, though I was initially taken aback by the oil. But then this was ghee roast, and the dish had been cooked in Udipi ghee, known for its fragrance. The

ghee did give it a gentle kick, while the Byadgi chillies of Karnataka added to its sharp taste, as did the crunchy cashew nuts the dish had been topped with.

Sanhita, who has been studying food for over 23 years, says food obsession is a gene she's inherited. Her mother, she jokes, holds a PhD in Fish Physiology, while her daughter is set to do her MA in food studies at NYU. Sanhita tells me that she picked up the skill watching her mother in the kitchen.

Every Wednesday, she publishes on Instagram (@gustoby-sanhita; WhatsApp: 9810427956) her new delivery menu for the weekend ahead. All non-veg dishes cost ₹750 and vegetarian dishes are priced at ₹550. A portion is enough for two.

She usually doesn't repeat her dishes, but clients often ask for traditional Bengali sweets seldom found in sweet shops. Her menu in recent times included *gosht kala bhuna*, pulled pork crepes, *khow suey*, a vegetarian platter for Rath Yatra, dal Moradabadi, and *kechki maacher jhal chorchori* – sprats cooked with brinjals, spring onions, garlic greens, green chilies, and coriander roots.

How did she get the *gondhoraj* flavour in the mutton curry? She put some zest into the mutton marinade, leaves in the curry, and then finally a dash of lemon juice when it was done.

She adds a Bengali version of the phrase *bon appetit* with the food she delivers: *Kobji dubiye hok*, or let's indulge.

The writer is a seasoned food critic



Artist duo Thukral and Tagra bring pop colours and their interpretation of time zones and travel to the first Indian-designed Rado watch

**Squaring the circle**

■ AATISH NATH

The watch face has always been where heritage brands tout their credentials. Pilot watches have bold, easy to see displays while diving watches have chronographs and timers to ensure dives are timed precisely.

Jiten Thukral and Sumir Tagra's design for Rado, True Square 'Over the Abyss', eschews all of that. Instead, the dial showcases firework-like hands – 18 spokes for the hour hand and 19 for the minutes. Taken together, the 37 spokes represent the number of time zones in the world, and, according to the New Delhi-based artists, is a way to depict human interconnectedness. "Com-

munities cannot operate in isolation, and we empathise with this valuable insight. We wanted to connect the wearer with others," says Tagra. A goal that takes on new urgency in the throes of a global pandemic.

**Tech to last**

The watch has been in the works for two years and, in the meantime, the world changed. "This comes at a time when we are all experiencing isolation, and a representation of the reunions with loved ones that we all fervently hope may soon be possible." As the ability to move about became constrained, the duo embodied time zones, travel and migration in an object. The unique world-timer in-

spired display superimposes local time over the different time zones.

Before the pandemic, Thukral and Tagra – who work with a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, video, and performance – had made a trip to Lengnau, Switzerland, to the Rado atelier. "It's quite high tech, as one can imagine. Each material is tested to last for life. So the inks [and everything we used] had to be durable enough to be approved by the Rado standard," says Tagra. For 'Over the Abyss', that meant achieving a new matte blue colour for the monobloc ceramic case and using cutting-edge robotics and nanotechnology to apply the vivid pink and blue gradient paint on to the delicate multi-spoke arms.

**Time as a teacher**

The first Indians to design a timepiece for the Master of Materials, as the Swiss watchmaker has anointed itself, the artists are aware that their watch is an emissary for the country's art and design sector. "We are Indians and have been working over two decades to develop ideas and narratives about stories that are deeply rooted in our country. There is a gap that needs to be filled about educating people on design in India."

So, while the watch is rooted in Rado's material innovation and capabilities – an in-house R763 automatic movement, with an 80-hour power reserve – it features the artists' visual trademarks, like their use of pop colours. They've also incorporated a digital painting on the titanium ca-

seback – an artwork from their ongoing *Dominus Aeries* series of paintings.

Their own definition and relationship with time is interesting to note. During the virtual press conference, when asked about their work and inspiration, Tagra said, "The time owns the idea, we are only the hands that make it happen." And when I pressed further, he explained, "Time is extremely powerful. There can be many ways to define it. For us, it is a measure, but also a teacher. It heals and it hurts at the same time. Whichever way one wants to see it, like a beating heart-beat, or melting ice, it stays as a marker of our lives."

*True Square Over the Abyss* is priced at ₹2,15,000 and is available at select Rado stores.





# Taliban capture first provincial capital

Insurgents also claim responsibility for killing the government's media department head

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

The Taliban have captured their first provincial capital since launching an offensive to coincide with the departure of foreign troops, a senior official confirmed on Friday, a significant psychological blow to a government desperately defending a string of cities against the insurgents.

"The city of Zaranj, provincial capital of Nimroz, has fallen to the Taliban," Roh Gul Khairzad, the Deputy Governor, said.

She said the city — in southwest Afghanistan near the Iranian border — had fallen "without a fight", and social media showed clips of insurgents roaming the streets, being cheered by residents.

The veracity of the videos could not immediately be confirmed.

The fall of Zaranj comes the same day the Taliban claimed responsibility for killing the head of the Afghan government's media information department.

The insurgents warned just days earlier they would target senior administration figures in retaliation for increased air strikes.

The assassination of Dawa Khan Menapal, one of the go-



**Crime scene:** An Afghan policeman inspecting the car in which Dawa Khan Menapal was shot dead in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Friday. ■ AP

vernment's leading voices, followed another bloody day of fighting as the war increasingly spills into Kabul.

The news from southwestern Afghanistan also comes as the UN Security Council meets in New York to discuss the conflict.

### 'Cowardly act'

"Unfortunately, the savage terrorists have committed a cowardly act once again and martyred a patriotic Afghan," Interior Ministry spokesman Mirwais Stanikzai said of the death of Menapal.

Menapal was popular in Kabul's tight-knit media community, and known for pillorying the Taliban on social media — even jokingly at times. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the death, with spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid sending a message to media saying "he was killed in a special attack carried out by mujahideen".

The murder comes after the militants warned on Wednesday of more attacks targeting Afghan government leaders.

The day before, Defence

Minister Bismillah Mohammadi escaped an assassination attempt in a bomb-and-gun attack.

The Afghan and U.S. militaries have stepped up air strikes in their fight against the insurgents in a string of cities, and the Taliban said Tuesday's Kabul raid was their response.

Fighting in Afghanistan's long-running conflict has intensified since May, when foreign forces began the final stage of a withdrawal due to be completed later this month.

## Gurdwara flag removed in Afghanistan

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

India on Friday condemned the act of desecration of a historic Sikh place of worship in Pakтия province in Afghanistan by Taliban militants.

The condemnation came after the Taliban dislodged the Sikh religious flag of Thala Shri Guru Nanak Sahib Gurdwara of Chamkani. The Taliban elements forced the gatekeeper to remove the Nishan Sahib flag from its rightful place and tied it to a tree.

"We condemn this act and reiterate India's firm belief that Afghanistan's future must be one where interest of all sections of Afghan society, including minorities and women, are protected," said an official source.

The Gurdwara of Chamkani is a historic place of worship and is looked after by local Sikhs and Hindus of Chamkani.

# Biden govt. non-committal on support for India's UNSC bid

Administration says it does not support expansion of veto

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

While the U.S. has in the past backed India's bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the Biden administration has continued to remain non-committal on the issue.

"Well, we value working with India at the United Nations, including in the context this month of the Security Council. We believe that a reformed Security Council that is representative, that is effective, and that is relevant is in the best interest of the United States and all of the UN member states. And we look forward to the opportunity to working very closely with India in the context of the Security Council in the coming weeks," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said in response to a question on the U.S. position.

The Obama and Trump administrations had supported a permanent seat for India on the Security Council.

Mr. Price said the U.S. offered qualified support for building a consensus for en-



**Making no promises:** U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price speaking in Washington. ■ FILE PHOTO

largement of the UNSC — in terms of permanent and non-permanent members. However, the U.S. would not support an expansion of the veto — given to the P-5, the current five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the U.K and the U.S.

"Well, we support building a consensus for modest enlargement of the Security Council for both permanent and non-permanent members, provided it does not diminish its effectiveness or its efficacy and does not alter or expand the veto," he said.

At her Senate confirmation in January, the U.S.'s U.N Ambassador, Linda Thomas

Greenfield, had also refrained from saying the U.S. supported India and other members of the G4 (Japan, Germany and Brazil) for a permanent UNSC seat, citing regional disagreements on who should get the seat.

Ms. Thomas-Greenfield was possibly alluding to the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group — Pakistan, South Korea, Italy and Argentina — which opposes the G4 plan. China also opposes the bids of India and Japan.

India is currently (in 2021 and 2022) a non-permanent member of the UNSC and is president for the month of August.

# India, Sri Lanka and Maldives to collaborate on security

India's Deputy NSA attended meeting hosted by Sri Lanka

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have agreed to work on "four pillars" of security cooperation, covering areas of marine security, human trafficking, counter-terrorism, and cyber security, in a recent virtual meeting of top security officials of the three countries.

The Deputy National Security Adviser-level meeting was hosted online by Sri Lanka on Wednesday, and chaired by General LHSC Silva, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of Army of Sri Lanka. Pankaj Saran, Deputy National Security Adviser of India, and Aishath Nooshin Waheed, Secretary, National Security Adviser's Office of the Maldivian President participated.



Pankaj Saran

Region after a gap of six years.

Following up on that, the Deputy NSA-level meeting this week identified "four pillars" of cooperation in Marine Safety and Security, Terrorism and Radicalisation, Trafficking and Organised Crime, and Cyber security, a press release from the Indian High Commission here said on Friday, adding "specific proposals" for cooperation in each area, including joint exercises and training were discussed.

The Colombo Security Conclave among the three neighbouring countries seeks to "further promote" maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, and was initiated by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2011, when he was Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, according to a media release from the Sri Lankan Army.

The initiative, grounded

in military and security collaboration, assumes significance in the region, in the wake of the current geostrategic dynamic that India shares with Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Earlier this year, India aired security concerns over China being awarded development projects in an island off Sri Lanka's northern province, close to India's southern border.

### Engagement with Quad

On the other hand, the Maldives' engagement with members of the India-United States-Japan-Australia grouping, known as the 'Quad', has been growing over the last year, especially in the area of defence cooperation. The Ibrahim Mohamed Solih government signed a "Framework for a Defence and Security Relationship" agreement with the United States last year, an initiative that India welcomed.

In November 2020, the Maldives received a Japanese grant of \$7.6 million for the Maldivian Coast Guard and a Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center. Meanwhile, Male's foreign policy choices are increasingly being challenged by sections, mostly opposition groups, wary of "Indian boots on the ground".

# Terrorist safe havens must be dismantled immediately: India

'UNSC must decide on actions to ensure Afghan peace'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Asserting that "the future of Afghanistan cannot be its past," India on Friday said terrorist safe havens in the region must be dismantled immediately and terrorist supply chains disrupted, stressing that it is time for the UN Security Council to decide on actions to ensure immediate cessation of violence in the country.

"As a neighbour of Af-

ghanistan, the current situation prevailing in the country is of great concern to us. The violence shows no sign of abating," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T.S. Tirumurti said at a Security Council meeting on Afghanistan. The Council, under the current Presidency of India, held a meeting to discuss the situation in Afghanistan amid increasing military offensives by the Taliban as the U.S. forces with-

drew from the country.

President of the Security Council, Mr. Tirumurti, making a statement in his national capacity, said the international community cannot afford to set the clock back. "It needs to be ensured that Afghanistan's neighbours and the region are not threatened by terrorism, separatism and extremism. There needs to be zero tolerance for terrorism in all its forms," he said.

# Hezbollah retaliates, fires rockets at Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIRUT

The militant Hezbollah group fired a barrage of rockets at Israel on Friday, and Israel hit back with artillery in a significant escalation between the two sides.

It was the third day of attacks along the volatile border with Lebanon, a major Middle East flashpoint where tensions between Israel and Iran, which backs Hezbollah, occasionally play out. But comments by Israeli officials and Hezbollah's actions suggested the

two were seeking to avoid a major conflict at this time.

**Israel prepared for war**  
Israel said it fired back after 19 rockets were launched from Lebanon, and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett swiftly convened a meeting with the country's top defense officials. No casualties were reported.

"We do not wish to escalate to a full war, yet of course we are very prepared for that," said Lt. Col. Amnon Shefler, spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces.

## IN BRIEF



### UN warns of growing hunger in Myanmar

The United Nations on Friday said it urgently needed funds to feed people in Myanmar amid fears that 6.2 million could be plunged into hunger by October. The UN World Food Programme said it was 70% short of the \$86 million needed over the next six months. AFP

### CNN fires 3 for coming to work unvaccinated

Three employees at CNN have been fired for violating the network's coronavirus policy by coming to the office unvaccinated, according to U.S. media reports. The network had been relying on an honour system that required workers to be jabbed but did not demand proof. AFP

# Nigeria bombs bandit camp, kills 78: military

They had recently stepped up attacks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ABUJA

Nigerian forces have killed 78 gunmen, known locally as bandits, during military operations including air strikes in northwestern Zamfara State, the Air Force said in a statement.

Heavily-armed bandits have wracked northwest and central Nigeria for years, but the groups have recently stepped up attacks on schools, kidnapping hundreds of students for ransom and prompting a military response.

"On 2 August 2021, Nigerian Air Force... locked on armed bandits on bikes moving into Kwambana Forest Reserves (in Zamfara State)... over 78 bandits were neutralised, and their camps destroyed," Air Force spokesman Edward Gab-

wet said in the statement late on Thursday.

The bandits were tracked to "extensive and well concealed camps with numerous huts" that were destroyed by the Air Force "in liaison with ground troops forming blocking forces around the targeted areas of the forest", it added. It said surviving bandits escaped and abandoned the camp.

The Nigerian military first deployed to the area in 2016 and a peace deal with bandits was signed in 2019 but attacks have continued. Violence linked to these groups is just one of the challenges facing President Muhammadu Buhari's security forces, who are also battling a more than decade-long jihadist insurgency in the northeast and separatist agitation in the southeast.

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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212213 002380	Sodium Soap (Imported) required for Deinking Plant - QTY 360 MT	21.08.2021

Detailed Terms & condition, Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites : [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)  
DIPR/2337/Tender/2021 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI**  
MARKETING DEPARTMENT Roc.No.M2-34022(31)/156/2021 Dated:05-08-2021

**e-Tender-cum-Reverse Auctioning / Reverse Tendering Notice**  
e-tenders are invited for procurement of "3.12,000 Kgs of Cashew Splits 'S' grade for a period of four months" by the Marketing Department, T.T.D., Tirupati through online e-Tender-cum-Reverse Auctioning / Reverse Tendering process. For tender notice and tender details log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in>. Click on current tenders and select "more" and "Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams-Marketing". For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax.No.0877-2264554.

Sl. No.	Name of the Item	E.M.D. Rs.	Tender Period	Date of Tender	
				Technical Bid	Reverse Auction/Reverse Tendering
1	3.12,000 Kgs. of Cashew Splits 'S' Grade	Rs.55,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs only) (to be uploaded online)	Four Months	24-08-2021 (02.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m.)	25-08-2021 (02.00 p.m. to 05.00 p.m.)

Roc.No.PR4/13933/Adv.No.123/PRO/2021/Dated:06-08-2021 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER**  
**ABRIDGED NIT**  
The Ch. Mpl. Engineer (SWM), KMC invites e-Tender for the work (Submission of Tender online).  
**Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) No : KMC/SWM/RFP/MRF/IV/21-22**  
Scheme/Work(s) : "Source Segregation, Collection of Dry Waste and Setting Up of Material Recovery Facility including Operation and Maintenance for the Kolkata City". Last date and time of bid submission : 10.09.2021 upto 1.00 p.m. The document for Request for Proposal (RFP) and other details are available on and from 09.08.2021(04.00 p.m.) from the website <https://wbntenders.gov.in> and [www.kmcgov.in](http://www.kmcgov.in)  
309 / 21-22

**KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)  
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Please refer this office tender notification No.:KPCL/2021-22/PS/WORK\_INDENT11362, Dated: 06.07.2021 published in this daily on 15.07.2021 for the work of "Routine / Periodical / Breakdown maintenance, Overhauling and Tube Failure Works of Units 1 to 8 Boilers of RTPS (7x210MW + 1 x 250MW) and its Auxiliaries for a period of Two Years." The following modifications are incorporated in the tender. The last date for submission of the completed bids (2 parts) is extended upto: **16.08.2021, 16.00hrs.** Opening of Technical bids (Part1): **18.08.2021 @16.30 Hrs.** Opening of Financial bids (Part2):**19.08.2021 @16.30 Hrs.** All other terms and conditions remains unaltered. Further details can be had from the **Superintending Engineer [MM-1], RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile No.: 9481764616.**

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E-mail: [eesdw4.dib@nic.in](mailto:eesdw4.dib@nic.in)

**PRESS Tender Notice - N.J.T. No. 05 (2021-22)/EE (SDW)-IV**

S. No.	Description of work	Date of Uploading on E-Procurement solution/Tender ID	Estimated cost/Earnest Money	Tender Fee	Date of Opening of Tender
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Sludge Management Plant including O&M for 15 years at Kondli STP	05-08-2021 2021_DJB_206640_1	72,00,000.00 EMD is exempted as per present Govt. norms. However, bidder has to fill Annexure-I in lieu of the EMD exemption Tender fee	Rs. 1500/-	10-09-2021 at 03.30 PM

For further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Adv. No. J.S.V. 258 (2021-22) (R.K. Kaushik)  
Executive Engineer (SDW)-IV

**Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited**  
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)  
"Samparka Soudha", No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road,  
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Tele Fax: 080-22024000  
E-mail: [cekrdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cekrdcl@gmail.com) Website: [www.krdcl.in](http://www.krdcl.in)

**No. KRDC/IFB/2021-22/05** **Date: 06-08-2021**

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(on e-procurement basis)

1. Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDC) invites offer from agencies having experience in respect of following work as per the requirement of Bangalore City Traffic Police on item rate tender basis in two cover system as detailed below :

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender in Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit through e-portal & remaining in the form EMD Declaration in Rs.	Period of Completion (including monsoon)
1.	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and maintenance of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD) Camera to Bengaluru City Traffic Police under B-TRAC/Road Safety Authority And Traffic Management Project in Bengaluru City bearing Tender Number KRDC/2021-22/BT/WORK_INDENT369	18,42,19,000.00	18,42,190/- through e-portal & Rs. 17,42,190/- through EMD form Declaration)	06 Months

2. Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through e-procurement portal only.

3. The calendar of events for various activities are as follows:  
a. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **23-08-2021 at 11.30 Hrs** in the KRDC Board Room, Bengaluru at the above address. The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail : [cekrdcl@gmail.com](mailto:cekrdcl@gmail.com)  
b. The last date and time for submission of Bids is **07-09-2021 up to 17:30 Hrs.**  
c. Date and time of opening of Technical Bids is **09-09-2021 at 11:00 Hrs.**  
\* Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal website.

**Sd/- Chief Engineer**  
**KRDCL, Bengaluru**

DIPR/Bengaluru/R.O.No.1078/2021-22

**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing (6 Feet) | Maintain Hand Hygiene



MARKET WATCH

	06-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,278	-0.39
US Dollar	74.15	0.03
Gold	46,570	-0.72
Brent oil	70.57	-1.13

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	710.70	17.15
Asian Paints	2966.45	-21.95
Axis Bank	740.85	-8.45
Bajaj Auto	3847.85	-29.15
Bajaj Finserv	14005.65	10.75
Bajaj Finance	6224.30	-23.95
Bharti Airtel	607.90	9.20
BPL	455.60	2.10
Britannia Ind	3604.00	-7.15
Cipla	911.30	-34.10
Coal India	146.10	0.65
Divis Lab	4916.00	-7.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4786.30	4.00
Eicher Motors	2747.35	15.20
Grasim Ind	1531.00	-6.40
HCL Tech	10499.95	-11.20
HDFC	2628.10	-33.60
HDFC Bank	1492.65	7.80
HDFC Life	673.40	3.90
Hero MotoCorp	2833.80	15.00
Hindalco	442.15	-0.95
Hind Unilever	2371.50	13.80
ICICI Bank	697.65	-4.80
IndusInd Bank	1029.50	31.80
Infosys	1650.20	-3.35
IndianOilCorp	105.90	1.95
ITC	214.25	-1.00
JSW Steel	757.35	-5.90
Kotak Bank	1777.20	5.45
L&T	1610.35	-17.05
M&M	758.25	-1.10
Maruti Suzuki	7100.80	73.25
Nestle India Ltd.	18020.65	-188.10
NTPC	117.65	1.15
ONGC	116.65	-0.20
PowerGrid Corp	175.00	-0.20
Reliance Ind	2089.05	-45.20
SBI Life	1150.70	15.95
State Bank	435.65	-6.20
Shree Cement	28386.60	-580.05
Sun Pharma	785.20	-0.95
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd.	781.35	13.00
Tata Motors	300.05	0.35
Tata Steel	1428.85	-17.75
TCS	3309.80	25.85
Tech Mahindra	1264.60	16.40
Titan	1787.75	-11.55
UltraTech Cement	7527.65	-131.35
UPL	777.30	0.05
Wipro	598.00	-2.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.96	74.28
Euro	87.33	87.71
British Pound	102.90	103.35
Japanese Yen (100)	67.33	67.64
Chinese Yuan	11.43	11.48
Swiss Franc	81.44	81.80
Singapore Dollar	54.73	54.97
Canadian Dollar	59.12	59.37
Malaysian Ringgit	17.52	17.61

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Bajaj rolls out dual-tone Dominar 250 bike

MUMBAI Bajaj Auto unveiled the dual-tone edition of Dominar 250 motorcycle, starting at ₹1,54,176. Bajaj said that there had been no change in prices and that product specifications remained the same, adding, "this makes it one of the most desirable touring bikes in India."

Sundaram Finance cuts deposit interest rates

CHENNAI Sundaram Finance cut interest rates on fresh deposits and renewals with effect from August 8. The rates are 5.5% p.a. compared with 5.75% for 12-month deposits, 5.65% (6%) for 24 months and 5.8% (6.25%) for 36 months. Senior citizens would get additional 0.5% interest across these tenors.

# RBI holds rates, MPC splits on stance

One member votes against staying 'accommodative' for as long as necessary to support growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Friday voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 4% as part of the RBI's sustained effort to help the economy recover from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.

One member, however, voted against the MPC's majority decision to retain the 'accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis', while ensuring that 'inflation remains within the target going forward', Governor Shaktikanta Das said in a statement.

The central bank retained its projection for real GDP growth in the current fiscal year at 9.5% as it pegged Q1 growth at 21.4% followed by



Red flag: The MPC raised its forecast for retail inflation for the year to 5.7%, from the 5.1% it had projected in June. \*AFP

7.3% in Q2, 6.3% in Q3 and 6.1% in Q4.

The MPC, however, raised its forecast for retail inflation for the year to 5.7%, from the 5.1% pace it had projected in June as the faster-than-expected CPI inflation readings in the first quarter and continuing price pressures forced

it to recalibrate projections for the next three quarters: "5.9% in Q2; 5.3% in Q3; and 5.8% in Q4 of 2021-22, with risks broadly balanced".

"Going forward, the revival of south-west monsoon and the pick-up in kharif sowing, buffered by adequate food stocks should help

to control cereal price pressures," the MPC said in its statement.

"Input prices are rising across manufacturing and services sectors, but weak demand and efforts towards cost cutting are tempering the pass-through to output prices. With crude oil prices at elevated levels, a calibrated reduction of the indirect tax component of pump prices by the Centre and States can help to substantially lessen cost pressures," it added, reiterating an exhortation it has been repeatedly making to the governments.

"We are in a much better position than at the time of the MPC's meeting in June 2021," Mr. Das said, announcing the policy decision. "As the second wave of the pandemic ebbs, contain-

ment eases and we slowly build back, vaccine manufacturing and administration are steadily rising.

"Yet the need of the hour is not to drop our guard and to remain vigilant against any possibility of a third wave, especially in the background of rising infections in certain parts of the country," he added.

'Conditions still weak'

Mr. Das said the outlook for aggregate demand was improving, but the underlying conditions were still weak.

"Aggregate supply is also lagging below pre-pandemic levels. While several steps have been taken to ease supply constraints, more needs to be done to restore supply-demand balance in a number of sectors of the economy," he stressed.

# 'IBC better than earlier debt recovery methods'

Process needs tweaks, govt. on it: Das

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said recoveries under the IBC process had been 'far greater' than via other debt resolution mechanisms. His comments come in the wake of criticism that banks were taking steep haircuts in large Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) cases.

"The total recovery in the Lok Adalat regime was about 5%," Mr. Das said in a post-policy media interaction. "Under the Debt Recovery Tribunal framework it was 6%. Under the SARFAESI Act, recovery was 20%," he said. "Under the IBC, it is 39-40%... Till the onset of the pandemic, the recovery was 45%. It is only



Shaktikanta Das

during the pandemic year that the recovery has slightly come down," he stressed.

However, there was room to improve. "The implementation of IBC, of course, requires [changes], the time taken needs to be reviewed and the government has undertaken further legislative actions to streamline the process and rationalise the system," he added.

# M&M profit surges to ₹934 cr. on higher sales, cost control

Frist-quarter revenue more than doubles to ₹11,763 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) reported first quarter standalone net profit surged to ₹934 crore (before exceptional items) from ₹39 crore in the year-earlier period on higher sales and cost control. Revenue more than doubled to ₹11,763 crore.

Consolidated net profit, which stood at ₹424 crore, was impacted by NPA provisioning of ₹2,517 crore at Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd. (MMFSL). Consolidated revenue jumped 60% to ₹19,172 crore.

Total vehicles sales almost trebled to 85,858 units



while tractor sales rose 52% to 99,127. "Continued focus on cost optimisation and operating leverage helped maintain margins," the company said in a statement. It said farm business delivered 'excellent performance with the highest-ever first-quarter PBIT and ROCE.'

"Our focus on operational

efficiency and financial discipline gives us the confidence that our core performance will continue," said Anish Shah, MD and CEO.

"Our farm business delivered yet another exemplary quarter result, while our auto business showed demand recovery, he added.

"Our growth gems [unlisted business units with high potential] are seeing good momentum and we will continue our stringent focus on fiscal discipline."

ED Rajesh Jejurikar, however, said commodity inflation and semiconductor-supply issues remained matters of concern.

# Future Retail dives, RIL falls after SC ruling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Shares of Future Retail Ltd. tumbled almost 10% on Friday after the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the U.S.-based e-commerce giant Amazon by holding that the Singapore Emergency Arbitrator's award, restraining the ₹24,731-crore merger deal of FRL with Reliance Retail, was valid and enforceable under Indian laws.

Following this, the stock went into a tailspin and tumbled 9.94% to its lower circuit of ₹52.55 on the BSE. Other Future group stocks also slid sharply.

Shares of Reliance Industries fell 2.07% to close at ₹2,089.05.

# Hindalco turns a profit of ₹2,787 cr., Novelis aids India business helps in turnaround

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries Ltd. reported a first-quarter consolidated net profit of ₹2,787 crore driven by strong performance at Novelis and India business, supported by favorable macros, strategic product mix and stability in operations.

Revenue rises 64%

The company had reported a loss of ₹709 crore in the year-earlier period. The firm's revenue from operations rose by almost 64% to ₹41,358 crore.

Novelis reported an all-time high quarterly adjusted EBITDA of \$555 million, up 119% YoY, as a result of



Satish Pai

upswing in demand for innovative and sustainable aluminium products and "an outstanding operational performance," it said.

"This quarter, we delivered record-breaking financial results despite the impact of the COVID-19 second wave," said Satish Pai, managing director.

# 'Digital cash model likely by end of year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank expects to come out with a model for operations of fiat digital currencies (DC) by the end of the year, Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar said.

He reiterated that the RBI is internally evaluating the possibility of introducing a fiat digital currency, going into a slew of aspects like its scope, technology, distribution mechanism and validation mechanism.

"It will be difficult to pin a date on it (introducing DC). We should be able to come out with a model in the near future, probably by the end of this year," Sankar told reporters at a press conference.

# Rane Holdings turns Q1 profit of ₹20.74 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Rane Holdings Ltd. has turned a consolidated net profit of ₹20.74 crore for first quarter ended June. It recorded a net loss of ₹84 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations almost trebled to ₹521 crore. The results include an exceptional item of ₹28 crore pertaining to a certain economic relief provided by the U.S. government to step-down subsidiary U.S. Rane Light Metal Castings Inc., it said in a statement.

"Demand environment in India looks encouraging for the upcoming quarter," said L. Ganesh, CMD.

# SEBI tells AMCs to invest in schemes based on risk

Amends rules to ensure 'skin in the game'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator SEBI has amended mutual fund rules, requiring fund houses to invest in their own schemes depending on the risk level to ensure 'skin in the game'.

The current rule requires an investment of 1% of the amount raised in a New Fund Offer (NFO) or an amount of ₹50 lakh, whichever is less.

In a notification, SEBI said asset management companies (AMCs) will have to invest in their own schemes based on risk level. "The asset management company shall invest such amounts in such schemes of



the mutual fund, based on the risks associated with the schemes, as may be specified by the Board from time to time," SEBI said. However, the regulator did not quantify the minimum amount. According to market experts, fund houses will have to invest more in riskier schemes like equity funds compared with less risky offers like debt funds.

# CUB Q1 net profit rises 12% to ₹173 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

City Union Bank Ltd. has reported a 12% increase in standalone net profit to ₹173 crore for the first quarter of FY22.

Net interest income rose 2% to ₹448 crore, while net interest margin stood at 3.86%. Total income declined by 1.4% to ₹1,193 crore, interest income contracted by 5% to ₹997 crore and non-interest income rose 22% to ₹196 crore, the lender said in a statement.

Gross NPAs rose to 5.59% from 3.9% and net NPAs to 3.49% from 2.11%. Provisions rose to ₹170 crore from ₹157 crore and the provisions coverage ratio stood at 63%.

# U.S. job growth solid in July; unemployment falls

'Hiring surges on pent-up demand'

REUTERS WASHINGTON

U.S. job growth rose solidly in July amid demand for workers in the labour-intensive services industry, suggesting the economy maintained its strong momentum at the start of the second half.

Non-farm payrolls rose by 9,43,000 jobs last month after rising 9,38,000 in June, the Labor Department said in its closely watched employment report on Friday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls increasing by 8,70,000 jobs.

Job gains were, however, flattered by shifts in seasonal employment at schools caused by the pandemic. Es-



timates ranged from as low as 3.5 lakh to as high 1.6 million. Unemployment rate fell to 5.4% from 5.9%.

"Labour-market conditions appear to be healthy at the start of third quarter as labour-intensive service businesses continue to hire given strong pent-up demand," said Sam Bullard, senior economist, at Wells Fargo in Charlotte.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BANGALORE

Strides Pharma Science Ltd. (Strides) on Friday said its wholly owned subsidiaries had entered into definitive agreements with subsidiaries of Endo International plc (Endo) to acquire its manufacturing facility at Chestnut Ridge, New York, for \$24 million.

The new portfolio has 20 commercial products and a basket of dormant abbreviated new drug applications (ANDAs), the company said.

The transaction, which is expected to close in CY2021, would be financed by a combination of internal accruals and debt financing.

# SPORT

# Rahul, Jadeja and tailenders give India a 95-run lead

The opener makes 84 and the all-rounder 56; Robinson scalps five; Anderson goes past Kumble

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NOTTINGHAM

K.L. Rahul kept England at bay before India's tail hit out as the tourists took command on the third day of the first Test at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Opening batsman Rahul, in his first match at this level for nearly two years, top-scored with 84 as India made 278 in reply to England's 183 — a lead of 95 runs.

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's typically dashing 56 featured eight fours and a six and there was more pain for England when tailender Jasprit Bumrah made a Test-best 28.

Ollie Robinson, playing just his second Test after being suspended following the re-emergence of racist



Style and substance: Rahul led India's revival with a composed knock. \*GETTY IMAGES

tweets on his England debut against New Zealand at Lord's on June, finished with five for 85 in 26.5 overs.

James Anderson's figures of four for 54 in 23 overs took him to 621 Test wickets and past the legendary India

spinner Anil Kumble (619). Only the retired spinners — Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Australia's

Shane Warne (708) — are ahead of him in the all-time list. England, which did not help its cause by dropping Rahul on 52 and 78, was 25 for no loss in its second innings when a heavy downpour ended play for the day.

In the morning, Rishabh Pant hit Robinson for six before the seamer had his revenge when the wicketkeeper mistimed a drive straight to short cover as India slipped to 145 for five.

However, Rahul and Jadeja took the visitors to 191 for five at lunch.

Fortunately for England, Rahul's composed 214-ball innings ended when he nicked Anderson to Jos Buttler, ending a stand of 60 with Jadeja. Jadeja hoisted Anderson for a six over square-leg and celebrated an 81-ball fifty with his familiar 'sword' twirl of the bat.



Sharing the spoils: Robinson and Anderson took nine wickets between them. \*GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 183.

India — 1st innings: Rohit Sharma c Curran b Robinson 36 (107b, 6x4), K.L. Rahul c Buttler b Anderson 84 (214b, 12x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Buttler b Anderson 4 (16b), Virat Kohli c Buttler b Anderson 0 (1b), Ajinkya Rahane run out 5 (5b), Rishabh Pant c Barstow b Robinson 25 (20b, 3x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Broad b Robinson 56 (86b, 8x4, 1x6), Shardul Thakur c Root b Ander-

son 0 (6b), Mohammad Shami b Robinson 13 (20b), Jasprit Bumrah c Broad b Robinson 28 (34b, 3x4, 1x6), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 7 (8b, 1x4); Extras (b-6, lb-6, nb-8): 20; Total (in 84.5 overs): 278.

Fall of wickets: 1-97 (Rohit, 37.3 overs), 2-104 (Pujara, 40.2), 3-104 (Kohli, 40.3), 4-112 (Rahane, 43.2), 5-145 (Pant, 49.6), 6-205 (Rahul, 68.5), 7-205 (Shardul, 70.5), 8-232 (Jadeja, 74.6), 9-245 (Shami, 80.3).

England bowling: Anderson 23-8-54-4, Broad 20-3-70-0, Robinson 26.5-6-85-5, Curran 15-2-57-0.

England — 2nd innings: Rory Burns (batting) 11 (38b, 2x4), Dom Sibley (batting) 9 (33b, 2x4); Extras (w-1, nb-4): 5; Total (for no loss in 11.1 overs): 25.

India bowling: Bumrah 3-0-6-0, Siraj 5.1-2-10-0, Shami 3-1-9-0.



# India's history-making women fall agonisingly short

Great Britain takes bronze, bringing to an end a remarkable campaign by Rani's team; the Dutch beat Argentina for gold



SHYAM VASUDEVAN  
TOKYO

It was heartbreak for the Indian women as they lost 3-4 to defending champion Great Britain in the bronze medal match at the Tokyo Olympics on Friday.

It was a cagey affair to begin with, but Great Britain — which had beaten India 4-1 in the pool stage — soon looked threatening.

## Testing the defence

Lily Owsley made a dizzying run down the right and won a penalty corner off Navjot Kaur in the ninth minute, and the Indian defence was tested again in the 11th. Goalkeeper Savita Punia denied Ellie Rayer and Sarah Jones from close range.

The second quarter witnessed a flurry of goals, with Britain storming ahead in the 16th minute. Rayer's cross into the circle hit Deep Grace Ekka's stick and went in. India's first shot at goal, an attempt by Lalremsiami in the 19th minute, was easily saved by goalkeeper Madie Hinch. Nisha picked up a green card three minutes later



Heartbreak: The Indian players are inconsolable after losing the match despite putting up a fantastic fight. •PTI

and the Brits made the most of their numerical advantage, doubling the lead in the 24th minute. Shona McCallin fed the ball to Sarah Robertson, who scored with an exquisite reverse-

stick finish. The Indians reacted right away, as Gurjit Kaur slammed home a penalty corner in the 25th minute. Spurred on by the goal, Salima Tete made a mesmerising run the next minute

and won another penalty corner. It was almost a replay of the earlier goal as Gurjit again nestled the ball into the far-bottom corner. India went ahead in the 29th minute through a goal-

mouth scramble. Shushila Chanu's cross deflected off Sharmila Devi's stick and fell to Navneet Kaur. Navneet attempted a flick but missed it completely and the British defence uncharacteristically

## HOCKEY

froze. Vandana pounced on the loose ball and caressed it home to give India a 3-2 lead.

Great Britain captain Hollie Pearne-Webb restored parity in the 36th minute. India 'keeper Savita produced a great save to deny Isabelle Petter. However, Sarah Jones chased the rebound and crossed it back to Petter, who padded it for Pearne-Webb to finish with a fierce strike.

## Renewed vigour

Britain started the fourth quarter with renewed vigour, winning successive penalty corners and scoring off the fourth.

Grace Balsdon scored what proved the match-winner, her drag-flick beating Savita. Britain defended doggedly to prevent yet another Indian comeback.

India had started with three straight losses in the pool stage but displayed character and guts to stun Australia in the quarterfinals.

The Indian women may have lost out on a medal but won a billion hearts, having reached their first-ever Olympic semifinal. They had finished last (12th) in Rio.

The Netherlands defeated Argentina 3-1 to claim the gold medal. Caia van Maasakker scored two goals for the Dutch, who had won the silver in 2016.

# Marijne leaves with his head held high

Y.B. SARANGI

After his final assignment with the Indian women's hockey team, chief coach Sjoerd Marijne was proud of the fourth-place finish in the Tokyo Olympics, and hoped that they would inspire a fresh generation of players in the country.

Marijne backed the Indian team after its defeat to Great Britain in the bronze medal match on Friday.

"We did not win a medal but we achieved something bigger to make the country proud," said Marijne at a virtual press conference.

Marijne highlighted the fact that the side believed in its ability and earned a creditable finish despite its low ranking (10th) ahead of the Olympics.

"We are among the best four and everybody is taking us seriously. That's a big

step." The Dutchman, who had taken over as the coach in February 2017, revealed that the Olympics bronze medal contest was his last match with the women's side and said more exposure, like the Hockey India League and Pro League, would help the team grow.

"I don't have any plans because this was my last match with the women. It's up to (analytical coach) Janneke (Schoopman) now."

Marijne said the girls were emotional after the defeat.

"They are still emotional. They wanted to win. Only when they arrive in India will they see it's not so bad. It will take time.

"Every girl has a story and every story is amazing. The country I come from, the Netherlands, we don't have these kinds of stories. These stories inspire the new generation."



Team spirit: Coach Marijne highlighted the fact that the side believed in its ability and earned a creditable finish. •PTI

## INDIAN ODYSSEY

**Athletics: Men: 4x400m relay (round 1, heat 2):** 4. Muhammed Anas, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv, and Amoj Jacob (DNQ for final); **50km race walk (final):** Gurpreet Singh (DNF).

**Women: 20km race walk (final):** 17. Priyanka Goswami, 32. Bhawna Jat.

**Golf: Women's individual (round 3):** 2. Aditi Ashok, T-51. Diksha Dagar.

**Hockey: Women (bronze medal match):** lost to Great Britain 3-4.

**Wrestling: Men: Freestyle 65kg: Semifinals:** Bajrang Punia lost to Haji Aliyev (Aze), to fight for bronze; **1/4 final:** bt Morteza Ghiasi (IRI); **1/8 final:** bt Ernazar Akmatiev (Kgz).

**Women: Freestyle 50kg: 1/8 final:** Seema Bisla lost to Sarra Hamdi (Tun).

## INDIANS IN ACTION

**Athletics: Men's javelin (final, 4.30 p.m.):** Neeraj Chopra.

**Golf: Women's individual (fourth and final round):** Diksha Dagar (4.15 a.m.), Aditi Ashok (4.45 a.m.).

**Wrestling: Men's freestyle 65kg (bronze medal match):** Bajrang Punia vs TBD, 3.55 p.m.

# Consistent Aditi stays second, eyes a medal

Nelly Korda keeps lead; four share third spot; Diksha moves up two spots to T-51

## GOLF

RAKESH RAO

Aditi Ashok overcame a mid-round crisis to stay in the hunt for a surprise medal, holding on to the second spot after three rounds of the Olympics golf competition in Tokyo on Friday.

After rounds of 67 and 66, Aditi fought back from bogeys before and after the turn to card a 68 — a three-round aggregate of 12-under 201.

Aditi is three strokes behind the leader — USA's Nelly Korda (198) — and two ahead of the quartet comprising New Zealand's Lydia Ko, Australia's Hannah Green, Denmark's Emily Kristine Pedersen and Japan's Mone Inami.

Meanwhile, Diksha Dagar carded a second straight 72 and moved up two places to tied 51st with 220.

Korda, who shot an Olympic course record of 62 in the second round despite a dou-

ble-bogey on the final hole, found pars on the last 10 holes for a 69.

## Great touch

Aditi looked in great touch as she birdied the fourth, sixth and seventh holes. But a dropped stroke on the ninth pulled her down.

After another bogey on the 11th, Aditi steadied herself with three successive pars. Birdies on the next two par-4s — 15th and 17th — ensured she remained second after 54 holes.

"I think a lot will happen on the final day. Although it's just one round, it feels long mentally, so definitely staying patient and hoping we have good weather. Hope I play well on Saturday," said Aditi.

Talking about the pressure that accompanies the front-runners after 54 holes, Aditi said, "For sure (there will be pressure), but I'm not thinking about it that much."



Cool customer: Aditi did not let a mid-round crisis shake her resolve. •AFP

## MEDAL EVENTS

**34 Gold medals are on offer on the penultimate day of the Games on Saturday**

**Artistic Swimming:** Team

**Athletics:** Men's 1500m, Men's Javelin, Men's 4x400m Relay, Women's 10,000m, Women's Marathon, Women's High Jump, Women's 4x400m Relay

**Baseball:** Men

**Basketball:** Men

**Beach Volleyball:** Men

**Boxing:** Men's Fly, Women's Fly, Men's Middle, Women's Welter

**Canoe Sprint:** Women's Canoe Double 500m, Men's Canoe Single 1000m, Women's Kayak Four 500m, Men's Kayak Four 500m

**Cycling Track:** Men's Madison

**Diving:** Men's 10m Platform

**Equestrian:** Jumping Team

**Golf:** Women

**Football:** Men

**Handball:** Men

**Karate:** Women's Kumite +61kg, Men's Kumite +75kg

**Modern Pentathlon:** Men

**Rhythmic Gymnastics:** Individual All-around

**Volleyball:** Men

**Water Polo:** Women

**Wrestling:** Men's Freestyle 65kg, Men's Freestyle 97kg, Women's Freestyle 50kg.

## GOLD MEDAL WINNERS ON FRIDAY

**Joshua Cheptegei (Uga):** Athletics: Men's 5000m

**Dawid Tomala (Pol):** Athletics: Men's 50km Race Walk

**Italy:** Athletics: Men's 4x100 relay

**Shaunae Miller-Uibo (Bah):** Athletics: Women's 400m

**Faith Kipyegon (Ken):** Athletics: Women's 1500m

**Liu Shiying (Chn):** Athletics: Women's Javelin

**Antonella Palmisano (Ita):** Athletics: Women's 20km Race Walk

**Jamaica:** Athletics: Women's 4x100 relay

**USA:** Beach Volleyball: Women

**Julio la Cruz (Cub):** Boxing: Men's Heavy

**Harrie Lavreysen (Ned):** Cycling Track: Men's Sprint

**Laura Kenny (GBR):** Cycling Track: Women's Madison

**Canada:** Football: Women

**Netherlands:** Hockey: Women

**Ryo Kiyuna (Jpn):** Karate: Men's Kata

**Jovana Prekovic (Srb):** Karate: Women's Kumite-61kg

**Luigi Busa (Ita):** Karate: Men's Kumite-75kg

**Kate French (GBR):** Modern Pentathlon: Women's individual

**Janja Garnbret (Slo):** Sport Climbing: Women's Combined

**China:** Table Tennis: Men's Team

**Mayu Mukaida (Jpn):** Wrestling: Women's Freestyle 53kg

**Zaurbek Sidakov (ROC):** Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 74kg

**Gable Steveson (USA):** Wrestling: Men's Freestyle 125kg



Bronze that feels gold: Felix with her record 10th medal.

# Bajrang grapples with a dodgy knee, still in the hunt for bronze

Seema makes early exit; Deepak Punia's coach expelled

## WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI

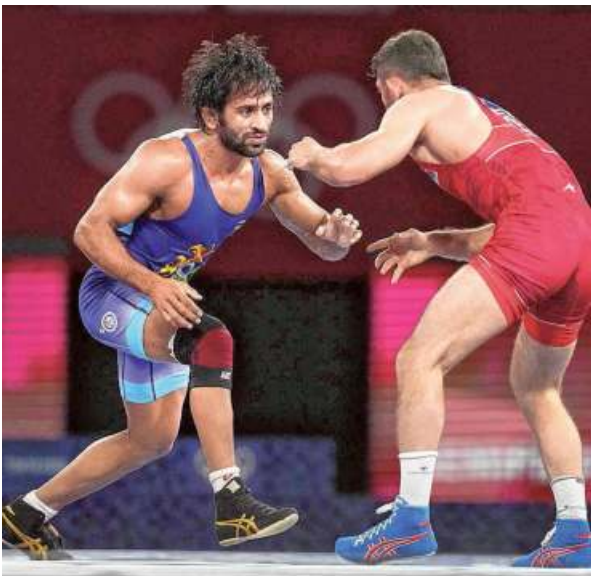
Triple World champion medallist Bajrang Punia defied a dodgy knee to stay in contention for a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 65kg category at the Tokyo Olympics on Friday.

The second-ranked Bajrang, who injured his right knee during the Ali Aliyev memorial tournament in Russia in June, wrestled intelligently to beat Ernazar Akmatiev of Kyrgyzstan 3-3 (via criteria) and Morteza Ghiasi of Iran 'by fall' to enter the semifinals.

## Repechage round

In the last-four contest, Bajrang lost to Rio Olympics bronze medallist and three-time World champion Haji Aliyev of Azerbaijan 5-12 to make it to the repechage round.

Bajrang will meet either Worlds silver medallist Kazakh Daulet Niyazbekov or multiple African champion Adama Diatta of Senegal in the bronze medal contest on Saturday.



Brave warrior: Bajrang gave it his all before losing to Aliyev in the semifinals. •PTI

The 27-year-old Indian had overcome a strong challenge from Akmatiev to reach the quarterfinals.

## Off-colour

An off-colour Seema Bisla lost to Tunisian Sarra Hamdi 1-3 in a women's 50kg first round bout.

Sarra's 10-0 defeat to multiple Olympic medallist Mari-

ya Stadnik in the quarterfinals ended Seema's hopes for a repechage appearance.

In another development, Deepak Punia's foreign coach Murad Gaidarov was expelled from the Games for assaulting the referee who had officiated in the bronze medal playoff the Indian lost to San Marino's Myles Nazim Amine.

# Italy pulls off stunning win in the 4x100m relay

Indian men's 4x400m team sets Asian mark but misses final; Miller-Uibo delights

## ATHLETICS

STAN RAVAN

One stunning show after another. This has been a fantastic Olympics for Italy. After Lamont Jacobs shocked the world by emerging as the fastest man, Italy produced another breathtaking performance by grabbing the men's 4x100m men's relay gold on Friday.

It was Italy's first medal in the men's sprint relay since the bronze in 1948. This time, Jacobs' sterling second leg and a superb finish by Filippo Tortu saw Italy edge out Great Britain by one-hundredth of a second to win in 37.50s.

In the women's relay, the Jamaicans appeared anxious, worried whether they had messed up the first baton exchange after finishing first, till the official results announced them as winners in 41.02s.

Meanwhile, Shaunae Miller-Uibo, who was planning to skip the quarter-mile a month ago despite being the defending champion, was thrilled that she had changed her mind. The 27-year-old from the Bahamas had been



Exciting finish: Filippo Tortu, left, lunged at the tape to help Italy pip Britain for the men's 4x100m relay gold. •REUTERS

working on a 200-400m double at Tokyo but she was unhappy with the scheduling. Miller-Uibo had finished last in the 200m final earlier but she looked strong in the 400m on Friday and breezed to a comfortable victory in a personal best 48.36s.

## Felix makes history

American Allyson Felix produced a brilliant finish to take bronze. It was her 10th medal, making her the most-decorated female track Olympian. Felix joined Pao Nurmi (12) and Carl Lewis (10) as the only track and

field athletes with 10 or more medals at the Olympics.

Kenya's Faith Kipyegon, who had been training with legends like marathon world record holder Eliud Kipchoge and listening to their inspiring tales, thwarted World champion's Sifan Hassan's plans of winning a distance treble by retaining the 1500m title. She pulled ahead after the bell, pushing Hassan to the bronze behind Britain's Laura Muir.

The Indian men's 4x400m team of Muhammed Anas, Noah Nirmal Tom, Arokia Rajiv and Amoj Jacob rew-

rote the Asian record, clocking 3:00.25s to finish fourth in the second heat. The team was ninth overall and narrowly missed the final.

## Shiying's surprise win

China's Shiying Liu won a surprise gold in women's javelin with a 66.34m throw.

In men's 5000m, Joshua Cheptegei, the world record holder, ran a controlled race to take the gold in 12:58.15s.

Indian women walkers, Priyanka Goswami (1:32.36s) and Bhawna Jat (1:37.38), finished 17th and 32nd in the 20km event while Gurpreet Singh failed to finish the men's 50km walk.



Shaunae Miller-Uibo. •AFP

## MEDALS RACE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	
Country	G	S	B	T
China	36	26	17	79
USA	31	36	31	98
Japan	24	11	16	51
Great Britain	18	20	20	58
ROC	17	23	22	62
Australia	17	6	21	44
Italy	10	10	18	38
Germany	9	11	16	36
Netherlands	9	10	12	31
France	7	11	9	27
<b>66. India</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

ROC: Russian Olympic Committee

# Chinese men reign supreme

## TABLE TENNIS

REUTERS

TOKYO

The Chinese team of Ma Long, Xu Xin and Fan Zhendong won the gold medal in the Olympic men's team table tennis event on Friday. The Asian nation has always triumphed in the event since it was introduced in 2008.

Germany took silver, with the bronze medal going to Japan.



## TV PICKS

**England vs India:** 1st Test, day 4, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**TNPL 2021:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.  
**Tokyo 2020:** Sony Six & Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. onwards (Sunday); Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 4 a.m. onwards (Sunday).

## IN BRIEF



## Nadal's comeback ends in Citi Open third round

WASHINGTON  
Rafael Nadal crashed out of his comeback event after a two-month lay-off, falling to South Africa's 50th-ranked Lloyd Harris in a third-round match at the ATP Citi Open on Thursday. The 35-year-old Spaniard lost 6-4, 1-6, 6-4. Nadal had aggravated a foot injury in Wednesday's victory over American Jack Sock. AFP



## Federer pulls out of Toronto, Cincinnati

WASHINGTON  
Roger Federer withdrew from the ATP Toronto and Cincinnati Masters events on Thursday. The Swiss, who turns 40 on Sunday, reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals but skipped the Tokyo Olympics due to a knee injury. The Toronto event begins on Monday and Cincinnati opens on August 16, two weeks before the US Open. AFP

## Canadian women win football title

REUTERS  
YOKOHAMA  
Canada won the Olympic gold medal in women's football by beating Sweden 3-2 on penalties after the final ended 1-1 following regular and extra time on Friday.

Julia Grosso kept her cool with the decisive penalty in sudden death to give Canada its first ever gold in Olympic football after bronze medals at London and Rio.

The United States had won bronze on Thursday.

## Relief and joy for Phillips

I could not stop shedding tears, says the winger who won bronze in 1972

## HOCKEY

S. DINAKAR  
CHENNAI

Indian men's heady hockey bronze medal win in the Tokyo Olympics was all about raw emotions.

After India's sensational 5-4 win over Germany in the bronze medal play-off, V.J. Phillips wept in relief and joy.

"I could not stop shedding tears. For me the win was equivalent to India winning the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 1975, a competition where I took part. Now, it seemed as if I had won the bronze," Phillips said to *The Hindu* on Friday.

**Outstanding**  
Phillips was an outstanding winger for India in his time, tearing down the right flank.

His words are significant because he was a key member of the Indian team that last won a bronze in the Olympics, in Munich '72, before Tokyo happened.

Although India triumphed in Moscow, '80, the field was severely depleted.

**Significant breakthrough**  
Thus, after the bronze in '72, this is India's most significant breakthrough in hockey.

Phillips remembered Munich. "We played on



**Words of praise:** Phillips feels that this team has cohesion, speed and skill. •PTI

grass, won bronze. Then, we had to play on astro-turf in the Montreal Olympics in

'76. It did not suit our style. We did not qualify for the semifinals."



V.J. Phillips.  
•THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Since then, with the lone exception being India's diluted triumph in Moscow, the country failed to qualify for the Olympics semifinals.

Phillips said, "Each Olympics we would go with high hopes, only to miss out on semifinals."

"For us all, it was agonising and painful."

## Rising blood pressure

And Phillips' blood pressure shot up in the final moments of the clash against Germany. "Thankfully, Sreejesh made that crucial save. This team had cohesion, speed and skill."

"It was able to come back against European teams, that is extremely tough. Simranjeet was brilliant in front of goal."

For Phillips, hockey is all about heart and emotions. And he is smiling now.

## USA and Brazil set up gold-medal clash

Both score straight-set wins over Serbia, South Korea respectively

## VOLLEYBALL

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

It proved to be a day to remember in Tokyo for American volleyball. Or the American women's volleyball to be precise.

After April Ross and Alix Klineman gave the United States the gold in women's beach volleyball, their compatriots stormed into the final of the women's volleyball with a straight-set victory over Serbia in the semifinal. The US won 25-19, 25-15, 25-23 to set up a final clash on Sunday with Brazil, which beat South Korea 25-16, 25-16, 25-16.

It was a sweet revenge for the Americans against Serbia in the match between the



**Smooth sailing:** Carol gets ready to serve during Brazil's victory over South Korea. •REUTERS

bronze and silver medallists from the last Olympics. Five years ago in Rio at this stage, they had lost to their European rivals.

They have an excellent chance to win their first ever

Olympic gold in the event after collecting three silver and two bronze, the last of which came in Rio.

Their performance in the semifinal at the Ariake Arena certainly has raised hopes of

the gold. They were too good for a strong Serbian side.

Late in the opening set, Serbia had shown some pluck, saving four set points before a smash from Foluke Akinradewo ended that fightback. The Serbians could not quite replicate such resilience in the next two sets.

The US was strengthened by the return to the squad of setter Jordyn Poulter. Jordyn Thompson is still nursing her ankle injury though, but her replacement Andrea Drews rose to the occasion once again, scoring 17 points, more than any of her teammates.

**The results (semifinals):** United States bt Serbia 25-19, 25-15, 25-23; Brazil bt South Korea 25-16, 25-16, 25-16.

## Indian team for Davis Cup

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Asian Games gold medalists Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan will make the doubles team for the Davis Cup World Group tie to be played against Finland on indoor hard court at the Espoo Metro Arena, Finland, on September 17 and 18.

The leading singles players Prajesh Gunneswaran, Sumit Nagal and Ramkumar Ramanathan got the green signal from the selection committee which met virtually under the chairmanship of Nandan Bal.

The other members of the selection panel were Balram Singh, Mustafa Ghouse and Sai Jayalakshmy.

**The team:** Prajesh Gunneswaran, Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Rohan Bopanna, Divij Sharan.  
**Captain:** Rohit Rajpal; **Coach:** Zeeshan Ali.

## Bangladesh seals series

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
DHAKA

Bangladesh defeated Australia by 10 runs in the third T20 here on Friday to seal its first ever series win over its opponent in any format.

Nathan Ellis took a hat-trick on his debut for Australia. Victory gave Bangladesh an 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

**The scores:**  
Bangladesh 127/9 in 20 overs (Mahmudullah 52, Shakib 26, Ellis 3/34 incl. hat-trick, Hazlewood 2/16, Zampa 2/24) bt Australia 117/4 in 20 overs (Marsh 51, McDermott 35, Shoriful 2/29). Bangladesh won by 10 runs, leads five match series 3-0.

**Toss:** Bangladesh.  
**MoM:** Mahmudullah.

## Drag racing championship today

SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI

The Madras Motor Sports Club will kick-start the 2021 season with a round of the MMSC-FMCSI Indian National Motorcycle Drag racing championship at the refurbished MMR circuit here on Saturday.

## Mumbai likely to tour Oman later this month

AMOL KARHADKAR & SHAYAN ACHARYA  
MUMBAI

Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) is likely to tour Muscat later this month for an exposure trip that is being initiated by Oman Cricket for a possible win-win for both the teams. While Oman has qualified for the T20 World Cup, it will also host the weeklong qualification stage before the marquee event moves to United Arab Emirates.

As a result, Oman cricketers are keen to compete against a seasoned outfit ahead of its litmus test. For MCA, with no off-season tournaments being planned anywhere in India ahead of a proposed full domestic season, the new head coach and a new look selection committee can try out some of the fringe players during the tour.

Confirming the proposed series, Oman Cricket president Pankaj Khimji said the



## Multifaceted fancied

BENGALURU: Multifaceted, who has been well prepared is expected to score in the Monsoon Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the opening day's races to be held here on Saturday (Aug. 7). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1 ACCUEILLIR PLATE (1,200m),** rated 00 to 20, 1:30 p.m.: 1. Capable (11) M. Naveen 60, 2. Perfect Halo (3) Vinod Shinde 60, 3. Sizzler (12) Bhawani Singh 60, 4. Dream Chaser (1) P. Ramesh 59.5, 5. Indian Star (6) A. Imran 59.5, 6. Bahurupah (10) Chetan G 59.7, Pretana (9) Yash 59, 8. Chul Bul Rani (8) B. Nayak 58.5, 9. Iconic Princess (7) Indrajit Singh 58.5, 10. Song And Dance (5) Mark 58.5, 11. Marvellous Maggi (4) Darshan 58 and 12. Challenging Star (2) Nazerul 56.

**2 ALWAYS A RAINBOW PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m),** rated 15 to 35, 2:00: 1. Ocean Dunes (7) S. John 60, 2. In A Breeze (2) P.S. Chouhan 57, 3. Chain Of Thoughts (8) Naveen K 56.5, 4. Dynamical (5) Kiran Rai 56.5, 5. Extraordinary (1) Arvind K 56.5, 6. Will Power (4) Khurshad Alam 56.5, 7. The Omega Man (3) D. Patel 55.5, 8. Orleans (9) Indrajit Singh 55, 9. Princess Jasmine (10) Jagadeesh 55, 10. Beautiful Oblivian (12) P. Surya 54.5, 11. Konichiwa (11) Darshan 54.5 and 12. Capital Gain (6) Rayan 53.

**3 K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II), (1,200m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2:30: 1. Angelico (4) Akshay K 56, 2. First Royalist (11) P. Surya 56, 3. Princeton (6) Rayan 56, 4. Analect (7) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 5. Ashwa Kanika (1) Arshad 54.5, 6. Demeter (2) Jagadeesh 54.5, 7. Divine Blessings (3) Neeraj 54.5, 8. Lady Supremos (12) Khurshad Alam 54.5, 9. Oriental Lilly (9) Nazerul 54.5, 10. Quiet Style (8) Vivek 54.5, 11. Serendip (10) S. Shareef 54.5 and 12. Star Of The Hills (5) D. Patel 54.5.

**4 DHARMAPRAKASH L.S. VENKAJI RAO MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3:00: 1. A Star Is Born (7) Yash 56, 2. Defining Power (10) Dhanu Singh 56, 3. Etosha (9) Sandesh 56, 4. For Old Times (12) Darshan 56, 5. Rule Of Law (4) Ashok K 56, 6. Sacrament (6) Sai Kumar 56, 7. Southern Dynasty (1) Kiran Rai 56, 8. Stockbridge (5)

**5 MONSOON CUP (1,400m),** rated 85 & above, 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4:00: 1. Multifaceted (4) S. John 60, 2. Northern Alliance (3) A. Imran 59, 3. Augustus Caesar (1) Neeraj 58, 4. Automatic (5) S. Shareef 57, 5. Mauritania (2) Akshay K 57 and 6. Shesmyscript (6) P.S. Chouhan 55.5.

**6 PADDIWLICK PLATE (1,400m),** rated 45 to 65, 4:30: 1. Electra (5) Shreyas Singh 60, 2. Lake Tahoe (9) P.S. Chouhan 58, 3. Speedster (2) S. Shareef 58, 4. Whizzo (6) A. Imran 57, 5. Forever Together (1) Yash 56.5, 6. Osiris (10) Arvind K 56, 7. Redoubtable (8) Akshay K 55, 8. Karadeniz (7) Nazerul 54, 9. Musterion (12) Kiran Rai 53.5, 10. Anakin (11) J.H. Arul 53, 11. Sea Of Cortez (3) Likhit Appu 52.5 and 12. Kimera (4) Salman Khan 52.

**7 FOREVER TOGETHER, 2. REDOUBTABLE, 3. SEA OF CORTEZ**

**8 ALWAYS A RAINBOW PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m),** rated 15 to 35, 5:00: 1. Definitive (1) A. Imran 60, 2. Own Legacy (-) (-) 60, 3. Stroke Of Genius (12) M. Naveen 59.5, 4. Flamingo Road (5) J.H. Arul 58.5, 5. Bloom Buddy (1) Anjar Alam 57.5, 6. Drusilla (9) Sandesh 57, 7. Jersey Legend (10) Rayan 57, 8. Mrs Thatcher (3) Sai Kumar 56, 9. Commandpost (8) Yash 55.5, 10. Exaltation (4) Arshad 55, 11. Embosom (2) Dhanu Singh 53.5 and 12. Quick Shots (7) B. Dharshan 53.5.

**9 DRUSILLA, 2. FLAMINGO ROAD, 3. BLOOM BUDDY**

**10 DAY'S BEST: DRUSILLA**

**Double: ANGELICO - SECRET OF LIFE**

**Tr:** (i): 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7 & 8.

Neeraj 56, 9. Super Kind (3) Rayan 56, 10. Moonlight Sonata (2) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 11. Secret Of Life (8) Akshay K 54.5 and 12. Teresita (11) Zervan 54.5.

**1. SECRET OF LIFE, 2. STOCKBRIDGE, 3. ETOSHA**

**5 K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I), (1,200m),** maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3:30: 1. All Attractive (1) P.S. Chouhan 56, 2. Chiraag (8) S. Mubarak 56, 3. Here I Come (7) S. Shareef 56, 4. Lauterbrunnen (10) Md. Akram 56, 5. Magellan (11) Darshan 56, 6. Peyo (6) Yash 56, 7. Sir Phoenix (9) Sandesh 56, 8. Turkoman (3) Kanjeet Singh 56, 9. Brunhild (2) Dhanu Singh 54.5, 10. Lightning Flame (4) Kiran Rai 54.5, 11. Muirfield (12) Neeraj 54.5 and 12. Ruling Goddess (5) Akshay K 54.5.

**1. ALL ATTRACTIVE, 2. RULING GODDESS, 3. MUIRFIELD**

**6 MONSOON CUP (1,400m),** rated 85 & above, 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4:00: 1. Multifaceted (4) S. John 60, 2. Northern Alliance (3) A. Imran 59, 3. Augustus Caesar (1) Neeraj 58, 4. Automatic (5) S. Shareef 57, 5. Mauritania (2) Akshay K 57 and 6. Shesmyscript (6) P.S. Chouhan 55.5.

**1. MULTIFACETED, 2. NORTHERN ALLIANCE**

**7 PADDIWLICK PLATE (1,400m),** rated 45 to 65, 4:30: 1. Electra (5) Shreyas Singh 60, 2. Lake Tahoe (9) P.S. Chouhan 58, 3. Speedster (2) S. Shareef 58, 4. Whizzo (6) A. Imran 57, 5. Forever Together (1) Yash 56.5, 6. Osiris (10) Arvind K 56, 7. Redoubtable (8) Akshay K 55, 8. Karadeniz (7) Nazerul 54, 9. Musterion (12) Kiran Rai 53.5, 10. Anakin (11) J.H. Arul 53, 11. Sea Of Cortez (3) Likhit Appu 52.5 and 12. Kimera (4) Salman Khan 52.

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**10 DAY'S BEST: DRUSILLA**

**Double: ANGELICO - SECRET OF LIFE**

**Tr:** (i): 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7 & 8.

## Serie A: 50% capacity for new season

REUTERS  
ROME

The presidents of the Italian Football Federation and Serie A have welcomed the decision to allow vaccinated crowds of up to 50% capacity into stadiums when the season starts on August 21.

The Italian government has altered rules to allow a 'checkerboard' seating pattern at stadiums, with a one free seat between each spectator. Previously, regulations allowed 50% capacity crowds but enforced a one-metre distance between fans, which logistically meant that most stadiums could only be filled to around 30% capacity.

Only holders of the 'Green Pass', who are vaccinated against COVID-19, will be allowed to attend matches, while the maximum capacity allowed at indoor sporting venues has risen from 25 to 35%.

## 'ATP not ensuring level-playing field for Asians'

It has become expensive for many of us to even play in Europe or US: Vishnuvardhan

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

At 34, Davis Cupper J. Vishnuvardhan believes he still has it in him to make it big in doubles and not surprisingly is training hard with another Hyderabad and Davis Cupper Saketh Myneni.

The 6'2" tennis player says that the ATP's fresh guidelines to deduct ranking points from August 9 even if someone has played in any tournament or not in the last one year is not fair.

"This will deny us a huge advantage over players from Europe and the US. Definitely, the ATP is not ensuring a level-playing field for the Asian players and neglecting their interests," he said in a chat with *The Hindu*.

## Own example

The Asian Games silver medallist in mixed doubles with Sania Mirza cited his own example.

"For instance, I was ranked World No. 180 in dou-



**Training hard:** J. Vishnuvardhan, right, training with Saketh Myneni, feels he still has it in him to make it big in doubles. •V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

bles before the pandemic broke.

"And not having played any tournaments since then I am now ranked No. 260," said Vishnu, who regularly

trains with Myneni.

"The Asian players will be the worst-hit as neither were there any major events for close to two years now in Asia after the pandemic

broke out nor is anything scheduled in the near future, while players from Europe and the USA are already playing in tournaments," Vishnu said.

## Ankita in doubles semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU  
CONCORD (USA)

Ankita Raina and Mona Barthel of Germany beat Sophie Chang and Sophia Wittke of the USA 7-5, 6-2 to reach the doubles semifinals of the \$115,000 WTA tennis tournament here on Thursday.

**The results: Doubles (quarterfinals):** \$115,000 WTA, Concord: Mona Barthel (Ger) & Ankita Raina bt Sophie Chang &

Sophia Wittke (US) 7-5, 6-2.

**\$25,000 ITF women, Parnu (Estonia):** Magali Kempen (Bel) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Melanie Klaffner & Sinja Kraus (Aut) 6-1, 6-1; Oleksandra Olynykova (Cro) & Sowjanya Bavisetti w/o Julia Avdeeva & Ekaterina Kazionova (Rus).

**\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir (Tunisia):** Mariana Drazic (Cro) & Sara Lanca (Por) bt Shria Atturu (US) & Smriti Bhasin 6-2, 7-6(2).

## Sarabjot pips Shiva Narwal narrowly to top men's air pistol

Aadhya Tayal surprise winner in women's event; Shweta Singh is second followed by Padma Devaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Sarabjot Singh shot 244.9 to pip Shiva Narwal by 0.2 point for the top spot in men's air pistol in the second National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here on Friday.

Sarabjot Singh shot 244.8 to beat Naveen by 1.5 point in

topping the junior event.

Qualification topper Arjun Singh Cheema (585) finished eighth following a string of 9s in the final.

Aadhya Tayal was the surprise topper in women's air pistol ahead of Shweta Singh, while Padma Devaram continued to hold sway with third position.

Shri Nivetha, who topped qualification with 575 like Aadhya, finished seventh in the final.

Esha Singh missed the women's final by one point but managed to clinch the honour in the youth event, and placed fourth among the juniors. In the rifle 3-position event, Ayushi Podder shot

1164, but was beaten to the top spot in the final by Nischal.

**The results: 10m air pistol: Men:** 1. Sarabjot Singh 244.9 (579); 2. Shiva Narwal 244.7 (581); 3. Ravinder Singh 223.5 (579).

**Juniors:** 1. Sarabjot Singh 244.8 (579); 2. Naveen 243.3 (582); 3. Shiva Narwal 223.2 (581).

**Youth:** 1. Shiva Narwal 244.1 (581); 2. Lavish Kumar 237.8 (569); 3. Varun Tomar 218.6 (579).

**Women:** 1. Aadhya Tayal 239.0 (575); 2. Shweta Singh 238.0 (573); 3. Padma Devaram 218.7 (570). **Juniors:** 1. Shikha Narwal 244.1 (576); 2. Rhythm Sangwan 241.9 (571); 3. Sharvari Bhoir 218.8 (568).

**Youth:** 1. Esha Singh 240.3

(567); 2. Shikha Narwal 238.7 (576); 3. Sharvari Bhoir 218.2 (568).

**50m rifle 3-position: Junior men:** 1. Sartaj Singh Tiwana 447.5 (1156); 2. Amar Chakravarthi 446.1 (1143); 3. Sanskar Havelia 432.4 (1141).

**Junior women:** 1. Nishchal 459.8 (1163); 2. Ayushi Podder 456.0 (1164); 3. Ashi Chouksey 443.1 (1146).