



Single-use plastic items like cups, earbuds to be banned from July 2022

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Rahul Gandhi accuses Twitter of interfering in India's political process

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Vehicle-scrappage policy will promote circular economy: Modi

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Anderson's five-for helps England restrict India to 364

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NEARBY



Afghan students at JNU fear going back home

NEW DELHI  
 Students from Afghanistan who are nearing completion of their courses at Jawaharlal Nehru University are a troubled lot as they fear going back to their country, which is currently embroiled in violent insurgency.

CITY PAGE 3

Assam Assembly passes cow protection Bill

GUWAHATI  
 The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021, seeking to regulate the slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle, was passed in the Assembly on Friday. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had tabled the Bill in the House on July 12. Exemptions may be granted for certain religious occasions, said Mr. Sarma.

NORTH & EAST PAGE 7

Ganga in spate in many Bihar districts

PATNA  
 The swollen Ganga inundated many places from Buxar to Kahalgao in Bhagalpur district of Bihar on Friday and threatened to flood the State capital, Patna. Thousands of people have been shifted from flooded areas to relief camps set up by the government.

NORTH & EAST PAGE 7

## More Afghan cities fall as Taliban near Kabul

U.S., Britain deploy troops to speed up evacuation of citizens

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
 KABUL

The Taliban seized more major cities on Friday as they raced to take full control of Afghanistan and inched closer to Kabul, with the U.S. and Britain deploying thousands of troops to evacuate their citizens from the capital.

The evacuation orders came as the Taliban took control of Kandahar – the nation's second-biggest city – in the insurgency's heartland, leaving only Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad and pockets of other territories in government hands.

The Taliban also captured the capital of Logar province, just 50 km from Kabul, with a local lawmaker saying the insurgents were in complete control of Pul-e-Alam city.

Earlier on Friday, officials and residents in Kandahar said government forces had withdrawn en masse to a military facility outside the southern city.

"Kandahar is completely conquered. The Mujahideen reached Martyrs' Square," a Taliban spokesman tweeted, referring to a city landmark.

Hours later, the Taliban said they had also taken control of Lashkar Gah, the capital of neighbouring Helmand province.



Blitz continues: Taliban fighters standing on a damaged police vehicle in Kandahar on Friday. • AFP

A security source confirmed the fall of the city, saying that the Afghan military and government officials had evacuated Lashkar Gah after striking a local ceasefire deal with the militants. The government has now effectively lost most of the country following an eight-day blitz into urban centres by the Taliban that has also stunned Kabul's American backers.

Civilian footprint

Meanwhile, Washington and London announced plans late on Thursday to pull out their Embassy staff and citizens from the capital.

"We are further reducing our civilian footprint in Kabul in light of the evolving security situation," U.S. State Department spokes-

man Ned Price told reporters, while noting that the Embassy would remain open. "This is not abandonment. This is not an evacuation. This is not the wholesale withdrawal."

The Pentagon said 3,000 U.S. troops would be deployed to Kabul within the next 24 to 48 hours, underscoring that they would not be used to launch attacks against the Taliban.

The insurgents have taken over more than a dozen provincial capitals in the past week and encircled the biggest city in the north, the traditional anti-Taliban bastion of Mazar-i-Sharif, which is now one of the few holdouts remaining.

INDIA'S OPTIONS PAGE 11  
 BRINK OF VICTORY PAGE 13

## Petrol to cost ₹3 less in Tamil Nadu

In revised budget, DMK government waives ₹2,756 crore loans due from SHGs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 CHENNAI

In a major announcement, the DMK government in Tamil Nadu on Friday announced a tax cut of ₹3 per litre on petrol.

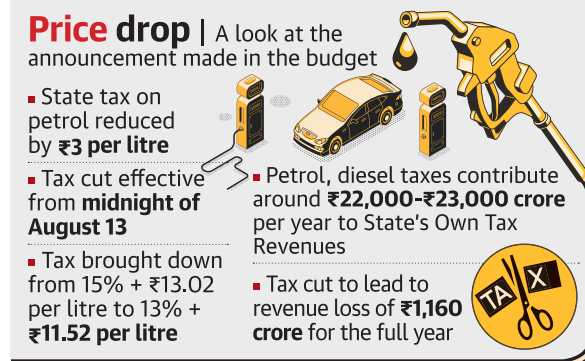
Finance Minister Palaniivel Thiaga Rajan made the announcement while presenting the revised budget for 2021-22 on the floor of the Assembly here.

The tax cut, effective Friday midnight, will result in a loss of revenue of ₹1,160 crore a year to the State exchequer.

"Tamil Nadu has 2.63 crore two wheelers. This has become the most popular mode of transport for the working poor. They keenly feel the pinch of the rising cost of petrol. The Chief Minister [M.K. Stalin] keenly

**Price drop** | A look at the announcement made in the budget

- State tax on petrol reduced by ₹3 per litre
- Tax cut effective from midnight of August 13
- Tax brought down from 15% + ₹13.02 per litre to 13% + ₹11.52 per litre
- Petrol, diesel taxes contribute around ₹22,000-₹23,000 crore per year to State's Own Tax Revenues
- Tax cut to lead to revenue loss of ₹1,160 crore for the full year



feels the pain of the working poor and the middle class," Mr. Rajan said in his maiden budget speech and hoped the cut would provide a major relief to the working class.

Contending that the Union government was solely responsible for the increase in the cost of the fuel, Mr. Ra-

jan underlined: "Nowhere is this dilution of the spirit of federalism more apparent than in the taxation of petrol and diesel at the pump. The overall Union levies on petrol were increased from ₹10.39 per litre in May 2014 to ₹32.90 per litre today."

The State government also announced a waiver of

loans to the tune of ₹2,756 crore due from self-help groups to the cooperative credit societies.

"The government will work out a suitable mechanism to infuse equity into the cooperative credit structure to ensure that the lending capacity of cooperatives is not affected," he said.

On the proposal for the payment of ₹1,000 every month to women heads of households, Mr. Rajan said: "To ensure that the payment of basic entitlement income is targeted to the genuinely poor, the government in consultation with experts is formulating guidelines on the criteria by which eligible households will be identified for this scheme."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## 'Industry's practices are against national interest'

VIKAS DHOOT  
 NEW DELHI

An unprovoked 19-minute tirade by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday, asserting that the business practices of Indian industry went against national interests, has left India Inc CEOs baffled, with Mr. Goyal repeatedly singling out the 153-year-old Tata group in

comments that he said came straight from his heart.

After the Minister's remarks at the annual meet of the Confederation of India Industry stirred up a hornets' nest in higher echelons of the government, the CII was asked to pull down the video from its YouTube channel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## House is for debate, not political battles: Venkaiah

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
 NEW DELHI

Political battles should not be fought on the "table of the House", Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu said on Friday, two days after the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2021, was passed amid protests from Opposition members, who had a tussle with the marshals de-

ployed in the chamber.

On August 10, when the RS took up a discussion on "the agricultural problems and solutions", some Opposition members, demanding a discussion on the Pegasus cyberattack and a repeal of the farm laws, climbed atop the reporter's table placed right in front of the Chair.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



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# UP attracts huge investments amid pandemic

## 96 investment intents worth Rs 66,000 crore received during pandemic-hit year



- Improved law & order, industry-friendly policies and assured government support for industries
- More than 1,000 UPSIDA plots acquired for setting up factories
- Centre approves setting up Integrated Manufacturing Clusters in Prayagraj and Agra under AKIC programme

Uttar Pradesh has undergone tremendous transformation in the past four years and a half. This is the period during which Yogi Adityanath has been at the helm of affairs as the Chief Minister. His unmatched vision, commitment and hard work have carved it out into a premium investment destination, something most unseemly till it actually happened. Achievements of the state may be seen in the fact that during the Covid-19 hit period, since April 2020, UP has received 96 investment

intents worth Rs. 66,000 crore from domestic and foreign entities. This includes foreign investment proposals worth over Rs 17,000 crore. Foreign investors coming to UP include some big-ticket projects from countries like the US, the UK, South Korea, Japan, France and Germany. It could be possible due to improved law and order, power supply, attractive industry-friendly policies and assured government support.

The success of the state in attracting big investors in various sectors has a lot to do

with the introduction of investor-friendly and industry-friendly policies. Led by clear intents of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state government took every possible step to alter the business environment as per requirements of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) norms. These changes were brought in so honestly that the state raced up to second spot from 14th in national EoDB rankings for states.

Regarding foreign investments, UP's Industrial

and Infrastructure Development Commissioner, Sanjiv Kumar Mittal, says, "Overall, we have got foreign investment intent worth Rs 17,231 crore that we are pursuing." He said, 24 foreign units have shown interest in establishing business in the state. Of these, 22 units are valued at more than 100 crore and the investment intent they have shown is Rs 16,653 Cr.

### 3,500 industrialists acquire UPSIDA plots

UP's achievements and its rise to 2nd spot in the EoDB rankings has an important role of its infrastructural development agencies including the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA). The UPSIDA has 154 industrial areas spread across UP. The agency has developed and organized these areas to supplement pro-investor policies introduced by the Chief Minister. During the last four years, more than 3,500 big industrial investors have acquired land plots in UPSIDA industrial areas spread over 51 districts. Factories being set up on these entail an estimated cost of Rs 11,500 crore. Most importantly, more than a thousand industrialists have acquired plots during the ongoing pandemic period since last one year. These firms are investing approximately Rs 5,100 crore.

Very recently, the state government's proposal to develop two Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMCs) in the state along the

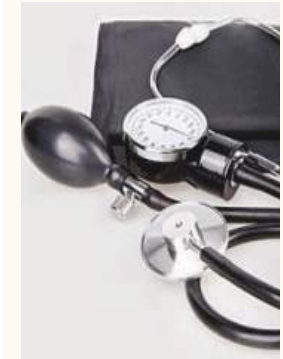
alignment of the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor got approved by the National Industrial Corridors Development Trust, a designated body of the central government. These IMC will be developed at a Brownfield site in Prayagraj and a Greenfield site near Agra. These two clusters are likely to attract investments to the tune of Rs 15,000 crore with potential of generating employment opportunities for more than one lakh persons.

Currently, the UPSIDA is working on a number of projects to attract more investment to the state. These projects include a Mega Leather Park in Unnao, a Perfume Park and Perfume Museum in Kannauj and a Mega Food Park in Bareilly.

### PIOs commit investments worth Rs 1,045 crore

This is also worth-mention that 32 foreign investors of Indian-origin have made investment proposals worth Rs. 1,045 crore during the pandemic-hit period. These proposals relate to agriculture, defence, information and technology among others.

It may be recalled that the state government has set up a project monitoring unit to solicit investments from investors among foreign Persons of Indian Origin (PIO). The unit is making efforts to identify more investors of Indian origin settled abroad to seek their help in industrial development of the state.



## UP plans largest Medical Device Park in Greater NOIDA

Acting on the appeal of the PM, the Yogi Adityanath government of UP has started developing the state's largest medical device park and Pharma Park in 350 acres area in Greater NOIDA. The PM Narendra Modi had recently given a call to the states to develop Medical Device Parks and Pharma Parks in view of the Corona pandemic. The chosen location is in the Sector 28 of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).

The Prime Minister's appeal for such development came in the wake of the country's under-preparedness in facing challenges like the prevailing Corona pandemic.

The plan for the largest medical device park and pharma park will be having industrial plots of 1000 sq meters to 4000 sq. meters area. In case of a firm needing a larger plot for a larger project, YEIDA will ensure availability of the required land.

The plan targets to set up these parks by 2023. This medical device park will be developed in two phases. In the first phase, this medical device park and pharma farm will be developed in 125 acres. In the second phase, the work on Medical Device Park will be carried out on 225 acres of land.

About Rs 18000 crore will be invested in the proposed Medical Device Park and Pharma Park and will provide employment to more than 35 thousand youth.

Emphasis will be laid on manufacturing units producing equipment like oxygen cylinders, PPE kits and oxygen concentrators that were needed the most in this corona pandemic.

### Special Concessions

The Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced that the state government will be giving special concessions to the entrepreneur setting up their units in the Medical Device Park and Pharma Park. Huge discounts will be given in everything from loan interest rate to GST. Not only this, if an entrepreneur wants to do research or develop his business further, then he will be provided with concession in many areas with more facilities.

### Cheaper Water and Power

Besides financial concessions and rebates, the government will provide electricity and water to the entrepreneurs at cheap prices. The government has already taken care of better connectivity for businesses there. Apart from connectivity to Jewar Airport, special care has been taken for metro connectivity.

## Construction of Jewar airport to begin soon, PM to lay foundation stone



Adding a bright feather to the story of rapid infrastructural development in Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will soon lay the foundation stone of the "Noida International Airport, Jewar". Closing last formalities before the construction, Licence Memorandum between the state government's joint venture company Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) and the SPV of the developer Zurich Airport International AG, Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd was signed last week.

All this could be possible due to CM Yogi Adityanath attaching high importance to the project. It may be recalled that the proposed Jewar airport kept hanging fire during

earlier regimes, but the present state government interacted and coordinated with the farmers of villages under the project area and acquired the 1336 hectares of land earmarked for the first phase of the project without any dispute.

It may be mentioned that the Jewar airport would be connected with high speed rail while the Indira Gandhi Airport would be connected to it by road and metro rail. Necessary site clearances from the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, approval for immigration services from the Ministry of Home Affairs and NOC from the Ministry of Environment have already been taken.

## Industrial parks to be developed on PPP model

### Thousands of acres of land identified near expressways to build industrial parks

With a view to promote economic activities in the alignment of expressways and other places in the state, the Yogi Adityanath government has planned to invite industrial houses and investors to set up private industrial parks. These parks are to be developed on PPP (public private partnership) model and expected to boost exports from the state.

Districts where private industrial parks are intended to be developed include Lucknow, Unnao, Amethi, Sultanpur, Pratapgarh, Auraiya, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Noida, Ghaziabad, Meerut, Azamgarh, Ambedkar Nagar, Gorakhpur and Prayagraj.

There are plans to set up such a park on the 97 acres of land of Auto Tractor Limited in Pratapgarh district. Auto Tractor Limited is closed for decades. However, the first such park is coming up in Unnao near Agra-Lucknow Expressway. Land has been identified to build this private



industrial park in Barauli Kalan village of the district. Industries manufacturing textile and ready-made garments, food processing, perfumes, brass products, toys and electronic equipment can be set up in these private industrial parks.

It is worth mentioning that the concessions offered to the entrepreneurs setting up such parks include permissions for significantly smaller land area. Entrepreneurs will be allowed to set up parks on a minimum of 20 acres of land in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal regions whereas 30 acres or more in Pashchimanchal and Madhyaanchal.

## MSMEs thrive with loans and widened scope of the sector



The MSME sector that holds the core of Uttar Pradesh economy is going to get an impetus with the Union government's recent decision to expand its scope by including the retail and wholesale trade under the purview of the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Hailing the development, the UP Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath tweeted that the inclusion of retail and wholesale business in MSME will strengthen the economy further. Lakhs of Traders will get huge benefit from this.

While announcing it, the Union Minister for MSME,

Nitin Gadkari, cited the impact of second wave of Covid-19 as one of the chief reasons to include traders in the category. This move is likely to have long-lasting impact on availability of priority sector financial assistance to such traders.

### Loans disbursed

It is pertinent to mention that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had recently disbursed loans totalling Rs. 2,505.58 crore to more than 31,542 MSMEs. The loan disbursement was done in an online Swarozgar Sangam aimed at rebuilding the MSME sector to counter the devastation wreaked by the

Covid pandemic on the sector. The state government also aimed to create employment opportunities by increasing the pace of industrial development.

Before this, the government had in the last financial year (2020-21) extended loans worth Rs. 42,700 crore to more than 13 lakh MSME units in the state. This huge volume of loans for the sector was released for the first time in the history of the state.

### Lakhs of jobs created

According to official sources, this support to the sector generated 65 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities in and through these units.

Further efforts to strengthen this sector are continuing. The additional chief secretary, MSME, Navneet Sahgal recently instructed the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for early disposal of pending applications for loans under various government schemes including the PMEGP and ODOP.

## UP Expressways to ensure sustainable development

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of constructing expressways as the most important infrastructure to ensure sustainable development of the state was clear to everyone when he laid stress on construction of expressways and industrial corridors in the state. The first expressway he mooted was the Purvanchal Expressway connecting eastern UP districts with the state capital, Lucknow, so that eastern-most points in the state got high speed connectivity with the western parts of the state and New Delhi through the Lucknow-Agra expressway and Yamuna



expressway. Immediately after that, he planned the Bundelkhand expressway to connect Bundelkhand with Lucknow-Agra expressway giving access to different parts

of the state.

The vision and pace with which the Yogi government has worked on developing network of expressways is unprecedented. Moving

further, the Chief Minister went for Ganga Expressway connecting Meerut in the northwest of the state and Prayagraj in the southeast.

The expressways under construction in the state are going to change the economic scenario of the state as development of industrial corridors and parks has been envisaged along these expressways. This is in addition to thrust on development and resurrection of developing industrial areas across the state. These industrial areas and parks are bound to attract new investments for big industries as well as MSMEs that have been core strength of the state economy.

## ODOP scheme empowering rural economy



The flagship programme of Uttar Pradesh government, One District One Product (ODOP), has proven to be highly successful in empowering the rural economy. The programme initiated with the aim to promote traditional industries of different districts of the state has helped various indigenous products hit international markets with a huge success.

The scheme has by now been adopted by a number of other states and Union Territories after the central government decided to moot it at all-India level.

As of now, over 20,000 ODOP products are available on various e-commerce platforms and the cumulative revenue from the sale of these products in last three years has been around INR 24.5 crore. The business volume is poised to grow significantly as the modern tools and marketing assistance provided by the MSME department have made their reach limitless.

It may be recalled that in order to make the programme successful, the MSME department has arranged training of entrepreneurs and artisans. It also undertook research of possibilities regarding production, development, marketing of products and many other essential business aspects. The department has also arranged for advertising, publicity and marketing opportunities at district, state, national and international levels.

**Timings DELHI**

SATURDAY, AUG. 14		
RISE	05:50	SET 19:02
RISE	11:21	SET 22:53
SUNDAY, AUG. 15		
RISE	05:51	SET 19:01
RISE	12:26	SET 23:34
MONDAY, AUG. 16		
RISE	05:52	SET 19:00
RISE	13:33	SET 00:00

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	36	27
Safdarjang	36	27
Palam	36	28

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C A comfortable morning and day will be very warm with occasional partly cloudy sky and light to moderate winds.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
36°C Dry and warm weather would continue with occasional partly cloudy sky and light winds likely.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Hate slogans: court denies bail to three**  
NEW DELHI  
A Delhi court has denied bail to three persons arrested in connection with the communal slogans allegedly raised during a protest at the Jantar Mantar here, saying one of them can be seen making "scathing" and "undemocratic" remarks. The judge noted that while accused Deepak Singh was seen making the remarks which were "uncalled for from a citizen of this country, accused Preet Singh was seen with him in the rally and accused Vinod Sharma was also present at the venue.

# Afghan students at JNU fear returning, seek visa extension

Similar predicament for those who got admission but at home due to COVID



**JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ**  
NEW DELHI  
Students from Afghanistan studying at Jawaharlal Nehru University – who are nearing completion of their courses – are a troubled lot as they fear going back to their country due to its current crisis. There are currently 12-13 students from Afghanistan studying at JNU. Three of the students secured admission last year but have not been able to attend classes on campus as they have not been provided visas. With the JNU announcing admissions for the current year, students fear that they will not be able to avail the opportunity due to the crisis in Afghanistan. An Afghan national, studying at the School of Social Sciences, said he is nearing the completion of his MA course and his visa expires next month. He said he can-

not afford the cost of the PhD programme at JNU for foreign students. "I have been staying on campus throughout the pandemic but now, as I am in my terminal year, I will have to leave. I fear going back to my country as the situation is highly dangerous. My family too advised me to try to get an extension of my visa," the student said.

**JNUSU writes to V-C**  
The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) said they will take up the issue with the administration and Union Ministers concerned to help the students. JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh said: "One of the students who secured admission last year is a woman. She approached us to help as she fears that she may have to discontinue her

studies if she remains in Afghanistan."

The JNUSU, in a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, said with each passing day, the Taliban is gaining ground in Afghanistan. The union demanded that the students concerned be given permissions for their visas along with hostel accommodation.

The Dean of Students was contacted but did not respond.

A female Afghan student, who secured admission in 2020 in MA Sociology at JNU, said she has finished one semester online but has been desperately reaching out to the administration for a letter that will help her get a visa to travel to India. "I have sent multiple emails, messages to the JNU administration, asking them for a letter to process my visa. I fear that the Taliban will strike the Kabul Airport soon. The Indian Embassy in Kabul has told me that they can process my visa within two days if I have a letter from JNU...I need an answer," she said.

We are taking all necessary COVID-19 Precautionary Measures.

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- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
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₹3 lakh cr. to be spent under new education policy: BJP

## Registration for admissions to NCWEB at DU under way

Process completely online, best of 4 subjects to be considered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday sought to corner the AAP government on issues related to the education sector. South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri said ₹3 lakh crore was scheduled to be spent on the expansion of the education sector under the new education policy of the BJP-led Centre and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is likely to "spend crores on advertisements" claiming credit for it over the coming days.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, said this was at a time when the AAP government was allegedly blocking the release of funds to 12 Delhi University colleges because of which teaching and non-teaching staffs were not getting their salaries.

Under the education policy 2.0, the South Delhi MP said, children under 3 years will be registered for admission both in government and private schools; there were over 15 crore students for whom 57 lakh teachers teach across the country, he added.

"In the new budget, there is provision for play-school, bal vatika, security, vocational studies among others," Mr. Bidhuri said.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The registration process for admissions to the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board (NCWEB) at the Delhi University (DU) is currently under way.

Admissions for BA (prog) and BCom will be based on merit and cut-off marks will be declared by the 26 undergraduate NCWEB centres that are there across various DU colleges.

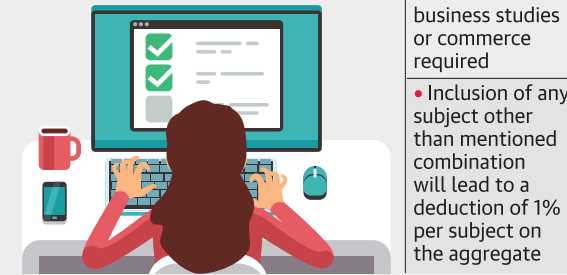
The application process is completely online and best of four subjects will be considered for admissions. According to the university, merit will be determined on the basis of one language and three best elective subjects.

"Interested female candidates residing in NCT Delhi are automatically enrolled for NCWEB on selection of courses offered - BA (prog) or BCom or both. Students are expected to attend classes regularly as the minimum 66.67% attendance has been made mandatory to appear in the university examinations, which are held in semester mode or annually in May," read the bulletin of information released by DU.

Students will be permitted to complete their respective three-year undergraduate

### NCWEB ADMISSIONS

- Online registration process for merit-based admissions to BA and BCom
- Marks obtained in one language course and three best academic elective courses to be a part of Best of Four (BFS)
- If more than one non-listed subject is included in BFS then a deduction of 2.5% per subject may be levied
- For BCom, an aggregate of 40% or more in English or Hindi and combination of best from mathematics, accountancy, economics and business studies or commerce required
- Inclusion of any subject other than mentioned combination will lead to a deduction of 1% per subject on the aggregate



courses in five years. "The NCWEB enables thousands of young women who cannot join regular colleges for various reasons to attend classes on Saturdays and Sundays and during academic breaks to obtain their undergraduate and postgraduate degrees," the university said.

Aryabhata College, Bharati College, Lakshmi Bai College, Hansraj College, Jesus and Mary College, Ramanujan College, Rajdhani College and Vivekananda College are some of the centres, which provide the undergraduate courses for NCWEB.

However, the university specified that students will not be permitted to change

their respective centres at a later stage during the admission process. "The board provides library facilities to all undergraduate students in the respective teaching centres. The board gives financial aid and book loan facility for the academic year to the needy and deserving students," the university said.

Non-collegiate students are also not permitted to pursue any other full-time or degree course. The registration process for undergraduate admissions to the various merit-based courses in DU began on August 2 and is scheduled to continue till August 31.

## 'DBSE set to affiliate schools, hold exams, give certificates'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

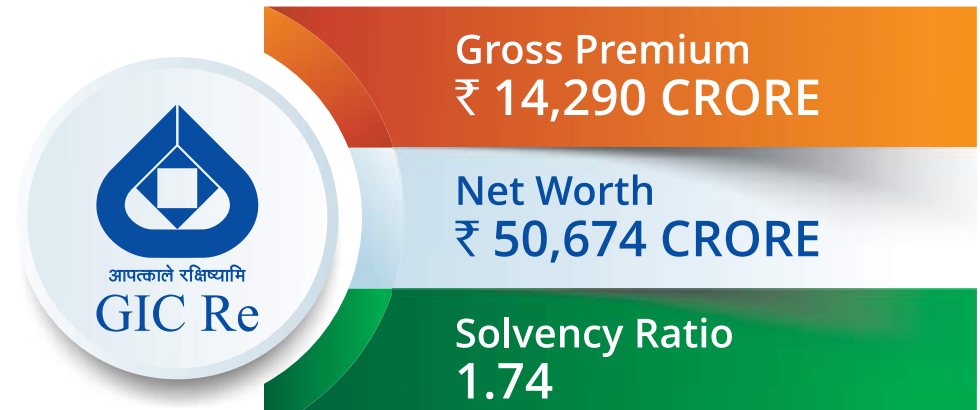
The Delhi government on Friday said the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) has been granted approval by the Council of Boards of School Education (COBSE) and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), enabling the assessment conducted by the

board to be valid for admission in higher education institutions.

"Apex bodies have granted equivalence to DBSE's examinations and certificates with other recognised boards. With this, DBSE is all set to affiliate schools, conduct examinations and grant certificates, which shall be treated

as equivalent to the corresponding certificates issued by other recognised boards in India. This will enable the students from DBSE-affiliated schools to take admission in other boards and apply to universities," the govt. said. Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said: "Collaboration with International Baccalaureate opens

world-class opportunities for our children. With COBSE and AIU approvals, the DBSE is all set to transform learning assessment." He added that students passing out of DBSE schools will have universal recognition and acceptance same as the certificates issued by the CBSE and other recognised boards.



### REVIEWED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	
		30.06.2021	30.06.2020
1	Premium Income (Gross)	14,289.92	15,881.55
2	Net Profit/(Loss) After tax	(771.73)	(557.47)
3	Paid up Equity share capital	877.20	877.20
4	Net Worth (including Fair Value change account)	50,673.76	39,071.36
5	Total Assets	142,454.14	129,291.31
6	Solvency Ratio	1.74	1.52

Notes:

- Premium income is Gross written premium, gross of reinsurance and net of applicable taxes.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and year to date Financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015. The full format of the quarterly and year to date Financial results are available on the websites of Stock exchanges (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and the Corporation (www.gicofindia.com)

For and on behalf of the Board Directors

Sd/-

Devesh Srivastava

Chairman and Managing Director  
DIN Number: 08646006

Place: Mumbai  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

### General Insurance Corporation of India

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CIN : L67200MH1972GOI016133

www.gicofindia.com

IRDAI Registration No: 112

# INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021

**Invites to the Independence Day 2021 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:**  
आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2021 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएं:

Entry strictly through invitation card/ticket only  
प्रवेश सिर्फ आमंत्रण पत्र/टिकट के द्वारा ही होगा

Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण	Photo/फोटो	Particulars / विवरण
	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें		Cigarettes, Bidies, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाइटर
	Bag, Briefcase थैला, ब्रीफकेस		Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, इत्र, स्प्रे
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरेकार्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एमपी3 प्लेयर		Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकीला हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडिकैम		Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आग्नेयास्त्र, खिलौना पिस्तौल और खिलौने
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन		Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेज़र, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दियासलाई		Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e. g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लेपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, टैब्लेट, पावर बैंक इत्यादि		Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाईल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel  
यदि कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं

Please co-operate with Police for searching/frisking  
कृपया तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें

Please be alert to your surroundings  
कृपया अपने आस पास नज़र रखें

Maintain Covid Appropriate Behaviour/Protocol  
कोविड अनुरूप व्यवहार/शिष्टाचार बनाए रखें

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.rakeshasthana@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

**FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-glidors, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly **till 16.08.2021** vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.

**Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.**

**All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**

**SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL**  
International School of Textiles & Management  
Autonomous Institute, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

1483, Avinashi Road, Peelamedu, COIMBATORE - 641004 Ph : 0422 - 2571675, 2592205

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• Textiles

**MBA**

• Textile / Apparel / Retail

**Avail**  
Merit based Scholarship

Application forms available in the Institute website  
Last date for the receipt of application is 31.08.2021

For admission details call  
88704 79675, 98438 14145  
70106 72526

For short-term course details call  
90036 45543

Visit www.svpitm.ac.in E-mail : admission@svpitm.ac.in

Applications are also open  
12 weeks online short-term certificate courses in Medical Textile Management, Non-Woven Textile Management & Block chain Technology applications in the Textile Industry for all.

### Chhattisgarh Rural Roads Development Agency VIKASH BHAVAN, CIVIL LINES, RAIPUR (C.G.)

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**

NIT No. 646, 647 & 648 / TC-T/CGRRDA/2021, Dated 12/08/2021

Chief Engineer (Tender Cell), CGRRDA, Raipur on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh invites package wise bids, in electronic tendering system for Construction & Maintenance of Roads Under PMGSY 2016-17 Batch-I&II, PMGSY year 2018-19 (100-249) Batch-I & II & Providing & Supplying The Necessary Equipments for Mobile Van, sanctioned for different districts of the state as per B.O.Q. from the eligible contractors / Firms registered with unified registration system (e-registration) for the works mentioned below. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement:

S. No.	NIT No	Work Name	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Districts	Rate invited
01	646	Construction & maintenance of PMGSY 2016-17 Batch-I & II	Total Cost (including 5 year Maintenance Cost.) Rs 7842.90 Lakhs	Bijapur, Sukma, Kanker, Dantewada, Kondagaon	percentage Rate SOR 04.02.2016 & 01.09.2014 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur
02	647	Construction & maintenance of PMGSY Year 2018-19 (100-249) Batch-I & II	Total Cost (including 5 year maint. Cost.) Rs 12508.29 Lakhs (including 12 % GST)	Sukma, Kanker, Narayanpur, Dantewada	percentage Rate SOR 22.02.2018 issued by CE, CGRRDA Raipur
03	648	Providing & Supplying The Necessary Equipments for Mobile Van	Probable amount for supply Rs 86.65 Lakhs		item rate tender

**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

**Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on our website <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> from 16.08.2021 from 5:00 PM & onwards. In future any related corrigendum would be seen in the notice section of this website.**

Chief Engineer (Tender Cell)  
Chhattisgarh Rural Road Development Agency  
Civil Lines, Raipur (C.G.)  
E-mail : pmsgyrc4@yahoo.co.in

Samvad-29568/4

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION**  
Society for Promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports (Lakshadweep Tourism), Tourism Bhawan, Kavaratti - 682 555, E-mail: sportsgm.lk@gmail.com

### NOTICE

With regard to inviting the Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum Request for Proposal applications (RFP) from interested developers to undertake development of eco-tourism projects on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis in Minicoy, Kadmat and Suheli islands of Lakshadweep, the pre-bid conference will be held on 17.08.2021 at 11.30 AM through video conferencing. The interested parties may forward their request to the email-ID: adtourism.lk@gmail.com on or before 7 PM on 16.08.2021.

The video conference link will be given to those who have applied for the said request on or before the specified time schedule.

Sd/- (S. Asker Ali, IAS)  
MD SPORTS & Secretary (Tourism), UTLA

### Tender Notice No. 11/ 2021-2022

The Tender is invited online by Executive Engineer Panchayat (R&B) Division, Vadodra. Pin code No. 390001 Phone No. (0265-2432643) for the Construction of bridge on Dev river Vyara at Waghodia Tal: Waghodia, Dist: Vadodra under MMGSY 2019-20. Which Estimated cost is Rs. 325.30 lakh by E-Tendering from the eligible and Approved Registered Contractor by Government of Gujarat. For Further particulars contact of above office. The details of the E-Tender can be seen from the web site <https://nprocure.com>, and tender are to be submitted online. Only notice will be available on web site State Government [www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in](http://www.statetenders.gujarat.gov.in) Any changes/ modifications of work will be seen online.

**:TIME SCHEDULE OF E-TENDERING:**

Online download Tender last date	Dt. 26/08/2021 18:00 Hrs
Online Opening Tender date	Dt. 27/08/2021 12:00 Hrs

(INF-VAD-59) - 21-22

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

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. 1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting date of downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time Allowed
1.	Construction of link road from Jeethnagar to Nehra Kamhali km. 0/00 to 1/880 (SH- P/L WBM G-I, WBM G-II and Bitumen concrete at Rd. 0/00 to 1/250).	39,31,491/-	26-08-2021	78700/-	03-09-2021	60 days
2.	Mitalling Tarring of Mashobra Ram Nagar road km. 0/00 to 5/300 (SH- P/L G-II and 30mm Bitumen concrete at Rd. 2/00 to 4/00).	41,51,570/-	26-08-2021	83100/-	03-09-2021	60 days
3.	Digging of Snaajilli Dhalli Bye pass road km. (SH- C/O Retaining wall at Rd. 152/923 to 152/945).	2237473/-	26-08-2021	44800/-	03-09-2021	60 days
4.	Digging of Snaajilli Dhalli Bye pass road km. (SH- C/O Retaining wall at Rd. 152/923 to 152/945).	1685851/-	26-08-2021	34000/-	03-09-2021	180 days

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

Executive Engineer,  
Shimla Division No.-1,  
HP PWD Shimla-3 H.P.  
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

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

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

### Tender Notice No. 13 of 2021-22

**Name of Work:** Concept, Design & Execution with 3 (Three) Years Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of "Orientation Center" at Maze Garden, Kevadia

(i) Estimated Cost: Rs. 290.71 lakh.  
(ii) Last Date/Time of online bid submission: Dtd: 26/08/2021. Up to 18.00 hrs.

For further details please visit website <https://www.ssnl.nprocure.com>, and [www.sardarsarovardam.org](http://www.sardarsarovardam.org)

(INF-VAD-597-21-22)

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Soni @ Mamta, W/o Devender, R/O C-29, Takiya Kalen Khan Meer Dard Road, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Long Black, wearing Maroon colour Chintdar Suit and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 26.07.2021. In this regard a DD No. 52A, dated 06.08.2021 has been registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform to the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. - 011-24368638, 24368641  
P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi  
DP/946/CD/2021 Ph.: 011-23370928, 8750870426

**Delhi urban shelter improvement board  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi**  
Office of the Executive Engineer- C-10  
Inderlok, Delhi-110035  
Email ID: [eccl10.dusib3@gmail.com](mailto:eccl10.dusib3@gmail.com)  
Cell No. 9717999322

### NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Executive Engineer, C-10, DUSIB, Inderlok, Delhi-110035 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (Online) in two bid system for the following work:

NIT No 07/EEC-10/DUSIB/2021-22 Tender No. 2021\_DUSIB\_205514\_1  
Name of work: Construction of BVK/C HALL (Revenue).  
Sub Head: Up gradation, Renovation & construction of Temporary Shed at terrace of Community Hall at Property No 1105-09 Gali Samosan Farash Khana in Ballimaran AC-22.

Estimated cost: Rs.87,08,282.00 Earnest Money: Rs. 1,74,200.00  
Tender Cost: Rs. 1000.00 Period of completion: 180 Days  
Last Date & Time of submission of e-Bids: 31.08.2021 upto 15:00 Hours  
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <https://eprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

\*The intending bidders are advised to visit above mentioned site regularly for any update / corrigendum related to the tenders. The corrigendum, if any, shall not be published in newspapers.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
C-10, DUSIB  
DIP/Shabdath/0235/21-22

## OBITUARY &amp; REMEMBRANCE

## DEATH



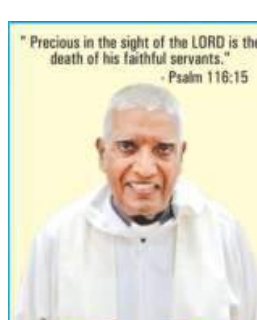
With profound grief it is to inform that our father left for his heavenly abode on 10.08.2021 at 4.15 pm

**K Kuppuswamy**  
DOB 23.05.1942 and Date of Demise 10.08.2021  
Deeply mourned by Sons K. Hari & Family K. Ramakrishnan & Family

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## DEATH

**A.R.RANGANATHAN (83)**, Retired Branch Officer, The Hindu, Coimbatore passed away on 13-08-2021. Address: Flat 1A Crescent Castle, 13/6, 2nd Crescent Park Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600020. Mobile No: 9840713642



"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants." Psalm 116:15

Our dearest Papa Canon George Karunakaran Amaladoss (81 years) was called to be with His Heavenly Father, Lord & Saviour on August 11, 2021. Funeral is being arranged on August 14, 2021. "Grieving but grateful for His beautiful life!" Children and Grandchildren. Ph: 9881258556, 9897024273

### BIRTH CENTENARY

#### Birth Centenary

**Prof. V. Krishnamurthy**  
14.08.1921 - 09.05.2014

Retd. Principal, Govt. Arts College (Men), Namakkal, Founder (Former) Director - Krishnamurthy Institute of Algalogy Founder & Former Chief Editor: Seaweed Research & Utilisation, India (1970) Indian Hydrobiology (1995)

**GUIDE OF GUIDES**  
We cherish the years of our association with you

by: Doctoral Students:  
**Dr.A.Balasundaram, ECOE, VMU, Salem**  
**Dr.P.Ranjithakani,**  
**Soka Ikeda College of Arts & Science for Women, Chennai**  
**Dr.R.Marimuthu, Principal (Retd.), GAC, Attur, Salem**  
**Dr.K.Jayagopal, Prof. of Botany (Retd.), GAC, Salem**  
**Dr.M.Sundararajan, Principal (Retd.), Muthayammal College of Arts & Science, Rasipuram**  
**Dr.M.Baluswami,**  
**President, Krishnamurthy Institute of Algalogy, Former Director, SFS, MCC, Chennai, Associate Prof. and Head (Retd.), Dept. of Botany, MCC, Chennai**

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PHE DIVISION, PULWAMA (JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT)**  
Email: [xenphepulwama@gmail.com](mailto:xenphepulwama@gmail.com)  
از دفتر ایگزیکٹیو انجینئر پی ایچ ڈی پولوامہ (جیل شاکتی ڈیپارٹمنٹ)

### CORRIGENDUM

Sub:- E-NIT S. No. 33/PHEP of 2021-22  
Reference:- Published under this office No. PHEP/2145-54 Dated. 02-08-2021.  
Due to non response shown by the bidders for the above-mentioned e-NIT, as such the same is hereby retendered. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site ([tenders.gov.in](http://tenders.gov.in)) as per the dates shown below:-

S.No	Description	DD	MM	YY	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	16	04	2021	1200 Hrs
2	Download start date	16	04	2021	1200 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	16	04	2021	1200 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	30	04	2021	1700 Hrs
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	30	04	2021	1800 Hrs

Rest will remain unchanged  
DIP/K- 6505/21 Executive Engineer, JSD (PHE) Divn, Pulwama.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX, UP(EAST)**  
Aayakar Bhawan, 5- Ashok Marg, Lucknow - 226 001  
Tel: 0522- 2233206, Fax: 2233206

### SPORTS QUOTA RECRUITMENT-2021

The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, UP(East), Lucknow, invites applications for recruitment of meritorious sports persons in certain games / sports disciplines. The recruitment will be made in the following posts.

Sr. No.	Name of the post	No. of Vacancies	Pay as per 7 <sup>th</sup> CPC
1	Inspector of Income Tax	03	Pay Level-7 (Rs. 44900 to Rs. 142400)
2	Tax Assistant	13	Pay Level-4 (Rs. 25500 to Rs. 81100)
3	Multi Tasking Staff	12	Pay Level-1 (Rs. 18000 to Rs. 56900)

The selected candidates would also be entitled to all the allowances as applicable to Central Government Employees.

Complete details regarding the Sports disciplines earmarked for recruitment, educational qualifications, other eligibility conditions along with the terms and conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on the Department's website <https://www.incometaxindia.gov.in> and official twitter handle of the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, UP(East), Lucknow @IncomeTaxUPeast

Duly filled in application form should be submitted by registered post only and addressed to Income Tax Officer(Hq/Admn) O/o Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, UP(East), Aayakar Bhawan, 5, Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001.

Incomplete applications will be rejected summarily. The last date for submission of application is 30.09.2021 (08.10.2021 for candidates domiciled in North Eastern States, Andaman Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala).

Sd/-  
(Jai Nath Verma)  
Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax (Hq/Admn)  
O/o Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, UP(East), Lucknow

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Email: [dycmmgkpd@gmail.com](mailto:dycmmgkpd@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.nerindianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nerindianrailways.gov.in) & [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in)

### Tender Notice No.- 25, Dated 10-08-2021

**Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement System**

Dy. Chief (Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur and on behalf of the President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & [www.tenders.gov.in](http://www.tenders.gov.in)

**Item No.-1, Tender No. & Due date:** 10216643 Due on Dt.-09-09-2021, Brief description of stores: Set of TPU Ring Consisting of 04 Items etc. Qty Required: 129 Set, Earnest Money (Rs): ₹72,820/-

(2) Above tenders are available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in), the firm desirous in participating against e-tender are advised to electronically regd. Themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class-III digital certificate (if already not obtain) from certifying agencies authorized under govt. of India IT Act, 2000. Manual offers will not be accepted. (3) Advertised tender and bulletin tenders of dy. cmm/depot office, NER are being opened through EPS (E-Procurement System) only. Firms desiring to participate in dy.cmm/depot. Tenders should obtain necessary digital certificate and get themselves registered with CRIS/NW Delhi, Necessary details in this regard can be obtained from the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (4) In case of difference between English and Hindi version of the tender notice the English version shall prevail. (5) Head of allocation towards S.D. Money is 00844517 & Earnest Money is 0084506. (6) The tender cost & EMD will be accepted through On-Line payment on IREPS Portal only for the tender published on or after 01-09-2016 against all the Dy. CMM/Depot/NER/GKP tenders except Global Tender.

Dy. Chief (Material Manager/Depot., CPRO-S-38 Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955  
Do not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train.

## Telangana HC provides relief to Chief Secretary

MARRI RAMU  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar received relief on Friday with the Telangana High Court vacating its order issued nine days ago to not release any funds under G.O. (Routine) 208 towards "expenses for contempt of court cases faced by the CS".

Observing that the court got clarification on the money sanctioned under GO 208, a Bench of Chief Justice Hima Kohli and Justice B. Vijayen Reddy vacated its earlier direction issued after hearing a PIL petition on G.O. 208. The plea was filed by social activist Prabhakar Chouthi seeking to declare the order arbitrary.

The petitioner contended that Telangana government issued G.O. 208 allocating ₹58.95 crore as expenses to face contempt of court cases pending against Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar, who also holds the posts of Revenue Secretary and Chief Commissioner of Land Administration.

### 181 contempt cases

Mr. Prabhakar said in his petition that Mr. Kumar was facing 181 contempt cases by virtue of two posts he was holding. By sanctioning ₹58.95 crore, the government allocated ₹32.57 lakh to each of such cases faced by him, the lecturer said.

Advocate General B.S. Prasad explained to the Bench that the amount was required to be disbursed as part of executive proceedings in land acquisition original petitions pertaining to a PIL petition. On hearing the explanation, the Bench allowed the government to release the money.

## Kerala to take over 13 estates close to forests

Expansion of green cover to prevent man-animal conflicts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In another step towards reducing human-wildlife conflict, the Kerala Forest Department plans to acquire private estates on forest fringes and transform them into forest.

Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran informed the Assembly on Friday that 13 estates in six divisions would be taken over in the first phase, providing adequate compensation to the owners.

"Steps are being taken in 27 centres under the Rebuild Kerala development programme. With the takeover, we can expand forest cover and guarantee conservation of wildlife habitats," he said.

The decision to take over private estates was taken in



Too close: A wild elephant is seen in a human settlement near Kanjikode in Palakkad in this file photo. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

view of threat to wildlife posed by human presence near forests and the crop damage caused by wild animal incursions.

There was an increase in wildlife population, but the animals faced habitat loss and shortage of food sources and water inside the forests. On some forest fringes, the

department had erected protective fences to deter wild animals venturing into settlements, the Minister said.

The government would look into complaints of inadequate compensation provided to farmers for crop damage caused by wild animals.

## Four accused in ISRO frame-up case get bail

At this old age they can't be jailed: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to the former police and Intelligence Bureau officers who were arraigned as accused in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) frame-up case.

Allowing the plea of P.S. Jayaprakash, Thampi S. Durga Dutt, Vijayan and R.B. Sreekumar, Justice Asok Menon held that the accused "should not be made to face a similar situation of being forced to undergo the ignominy of being incarcerated in the prison for interrogation at this old age after their retirement for an incident that took place a quarter of a century ago."

The court noted that there was no "indication or material, apart from the rhetoric that a foreign pow-

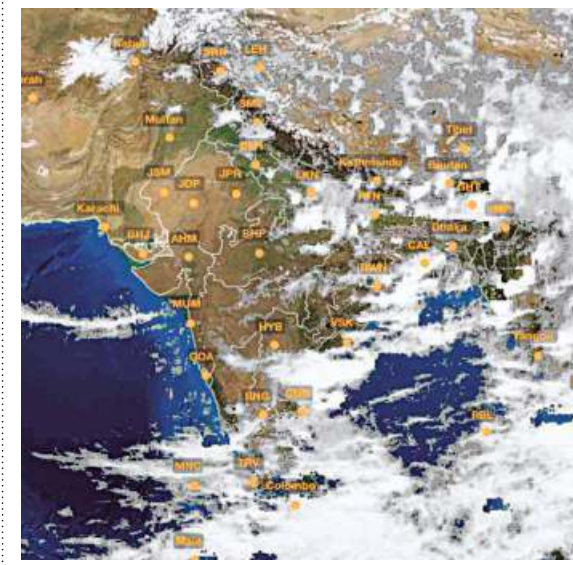
er has a hand in persuading the petitioners," to implicate the ISRO scientists in the case.

There was "not even a scintilla of evidence regarding the petitioners being influenced by any foreign power so as to induce them to hatch a conspiracy to falsely implicate the scientists" with the intention to stall the activities of the ISRO regarding the development of cryogenic engine. Unless there are specific materials regarding their involvement, prima facie, it cannot be said the officials were acting against the interest of the country, the court noted.

If arrested, the accused shall be released on bail on the execution of ₹1 lakh each with two solvent sureties for the same amount, the court ordered.

### WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Saturday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Bihar, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Rayalaseema and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.7	30.4	26.0	Kozhikode	0.2	30.0	24.5
Ahmedabad	34.0	26.7		Kurnool	0.2	33.1	25.2
Aizawl	24.1			Lucknow	0.2	34.4	26.1
Allahabad	35.3	27.0		Madurai	0.2	35.6	25.4
Bengaluru	3.8	27.4	20.0	Mangaluru	8.7	28.8	23.4
Bhopal	32.1	22.6		Mumbai	15.0	30.8	25.4
Bhubaneswar	34.7	26.0		Mysuru	0.2	28.0	22.0
Chandigarh	10.0	35.6	24.9	New Delhi	0.2	36.2	27.0
Chennai	35.4	27.7		Patna	10.0	32.0	26.2
Coimbatore	32.6	22.8		Port Blair	33.0	27.8	23.8
Dehradun	8.5	30.7	25.5	Puducherry	29.9	33.3	22.0
Gangtok	1.1	21.2	18.3	Pune	0.8	29.8	20.8
Goa	20.0	30.8	25.5	Raipur	0.2	34.6	25.7
Guwahati	2.2	32.7	26.6	Ranchi	0.2	32.7	23.5
Hubballi	28.0	21.0		Shillong	32.0	24.6	18.5
Hyderabad	31.8	24.0		Shimla	20.0	27.1	20.4
Imphal	29.9	23.0		Srinagar	0.2	32.0	18.1
Jaipur	34.6	25.6		Thiruvananthapuram	1.1	31.4	22.9
Kochi	0.1	28.6	24.6	Tiruchi	0.2	35.3	26.0
Kohima	5.0	25.4	18.2	Vijayawada	7.0	33.2	24.8
Kolkata	23.0	32.6	27.2	Visakhapatnam	0.2	37.4	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing** Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	3	37	168	128	180	■
Bengaluru	11	83	81	80	80	■
Chennai	6	30	55	37	63	■
Delhi	12	56	100	151	234	■
Hyderabad	4	87	24	41	66	■
Kolkata	18	27	30	90	88	■
Lucknow	15	30	57	56	97	■
Mumbai	16	10	72	103	103	■
Pune	61	14	110	69	61	■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	36	—	—	■

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

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

**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## 'Melsanthi posts are secular appointments'

Petitioners challenge TDB decision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The melsanthi (chief priest) posts of Sabarimala and Malikappuram temples are not *Karanma* (hereditary post) priesthood but secular appointments made by the Kerala government, contended the petitioners in the Sabarimala case.

The contention was raised by the petitioners, who challenged the Travancore Devaswom Board's decision to reserve the posts for Malayala Brahmins, in the Kerala High Court.

The appointments must be considered as government jobs and employment

as made under the provisions of a secular piece of legislation and the Constitution. All qualified Hindus, irrespective of their caste, shall be made eligible to apply, they submitted.

The petitioners also sought instructions to the Board to define the term Kerala Brahmin.

The Yoga Kshema Sabha, an organisation of Nambodiri Brahmins of Kerala origin, moved a petition to impede itself in the case.

The Travancore Devaswom Board sought time to file its counter-affidavit in the case. The court posted the case for September 13.

## Court directs ACB to submit status report in Sasikala case

She was allegedly given preferential facilities in prison

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to submit a status report on the investigation carried out so far in a criminal case of alleged illegalities and corruption in providing preferential facilities to V.K. Sasikala in the Bengaluru Central Prison when she was serving sentence in connection with the corruption case against former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha.



V.K. Sasikala

igation of the First Information Report registered way back in 2018 on the government's direction.

### 'Delay in probe'

The ACB had sought more time as the court on June 11, 2021, set a deadline of two months to submit the final report before the jurisdictional court while disposing of a PIL petition by K.S. Gita, a social worker and an educationist from Chennai, who had questioned the delay in completion of the probe.

Petitioner's advocate K. Aravind opposed the ACB's plea for extending the deadline to submit the final report.

## NORTH & EAST

# Assam Assembly passes cow protection Bill

It seeks to regulate slaughter and consumption of cattle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Assam Cattle Preservation Bill, 2021, seeking to regulate the slaughter, consumption and transportation of cattle, was passed in the Assembly on Friday.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had tabled the Bill in the House on July 12.

"The new legislation, replacing a similar Act of 1950, aims at forbidding the sale and purchase of beef in places other than those permitted by the competent authorities," he said.

The Chief Minister had earlier pointed out that the legislation would ensure that permission to sell beef is not granted in areas predominantly inhabited by Hindu, Jain, Sikh and other non-beef-eating communities or within a 5 km radius of a temple, *satra* (Vaishnav monastery) and any other religious institutions as may be prescribed by the authorities.

Exemptions may be granted for certain religious occa-



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

sions, he said.

The law will prohibit a person from slaughtering cattle without obtaining the necessary certificate from a registered veterinary officer of a particular area. The veterinary officer "will issue a certificate only if he or she is of the opinion that the bovine, not being a cow, is over 14 years of age."

A cow, heifer or calf may be slaughtered only if it is permanently incapacitated. Also, licensed or recognised slaughterhouses will be allowed to butcher cattle, the legislation said.

The new legislation will check transport of bovines

within the State or outside, if valid documents are not made available to the authorities. There will, however, no restriction on ferrying cattle for agricultural purposes within a district or to and from registered animal markets for sale and purchase within the district.

All offences under the new legislation will be cognisable and non-bailable, the law said.

### Imprisonment, fine

Violating the law will entail imprisonment for not less than three years or fine that may vary from ₹3 lakh-₹5 lakh or both.

If anyone convicted under the new law is found guilty of the same or a related offence the second time, the punishment will be doubled. The legislation will extend to the whole of Assam and the term 'cattle' will apply to bulls, bullocks, cows, heifer, calves, male and female buffaloes and buffalo calves, the law said.

## Ganga in spate in Bihar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

The swollen Ganga inundated many places from Buxar to Kahalgaoon in Bhagalpur district of Bihar on Friday and threatened to flood the State capital, Patna.

Thousands of people have been shifted from flooded areas to relief camps set up by the government.

As many as 14 *diara* (riverine) areas from Maner to Mokama have been com-

pletely submerged, forcing people to migrate to safer places with their cattle. All the river banks in the State capital have been flooded. Water has been flowing above the danger mark, threatening to enter Patna. The water level is the highest at Digha and Gandhi ghats (banks).

Gandak, Kosi, Sone, Kamla and Bagmati rivers have been showing a rising trend in different parts of the State.

## Two held for making fake voter IDs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh Police have arrested two persons for allegedly hacking into the Election Commission of India website and making 10,000 fake voter IDs.

Reacting to the development, the poll panel on Friday said its database is "absolutely safe and secure."

# DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT)

4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE - E-WASTE MANAGEMENT

E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 came into force w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016. These Rules mandates various responsibilities on manufacturers, producers, collection centres, dealers, refurbishers, consumers, bulk consumers, dismantlers, and recyclers. Major responsibilities of each of these stakeholders are listed as under. For more details, these stakeholders may visit <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/E-Waste-guidelines-2016pdf-8c88009919a1a1148a66f83a2257061.pdf>, and <https://www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in/uploads/pdf/EWMRulespdf-fdab6f4b3b8088efb1c981b6ba97705f.pdf>, for compliance.

#### MANUFACTURERS

- Apply for authorisation in **Form 1** (a) to Delhi Pollution Control Committee (**DPCC**).
- Maintain record of e-waste generated, handled and disposed in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by **DPCC**.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to **DPCC** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June following the financial year to which that return relates.

#### PRODUCERS

- Every producer of electrical and electronic equipment listed in Schedule I, shall apply application for Extended Producer Responsibility Authorisation to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in **Form 1**.
- Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and **DPCC**.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to CPCB on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June following the financial year to which that return relates.
- Create awareness through media, publications, advertisements, posters, or by any other means of communication and product user documentation accompanying the equipment.

#### COLLECTION CENTRES

- Ensure that the facilities are in accordance with the standards or guidelines issued by CPCB time to time and store the e-waste collected by them in a secured manner till it is sent to authorised dismantler or recycler as the case may be.

- Maintain records in **Form-2** of the e-waste handled as per the guidelines of the CPCB and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and **DPCC**.

#### DEALERS

- Shall collect the e-waste by providing the consumer a box, bin or a demarcated area to deposit e-waste, or through take back system and send the e-waste so collected to collection centre or dismantler or recycler as designated by producer.
- Shall ensure that no damage is



caused to the environment during storage and transportation of e-waste to authorised dismantlers or recyclers.

#### REFURBISHERS

- Apply for authorization by submitting an online application in **Form-1** (a) to **DPCC**.
- Shall ensure compliance with the guidelines issued by CPCB available as shown above.
- Maintain records of e-waste handled in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the **DPCC**.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to **DPCC** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June following the financial year to which that return relates.

#### DISMANTLER AND RECYCLERS

- Obtain authorization by submitting

online application in **Form-4** to **DPCC**.

- Maintain record of e-waste collected, dismantled, recycled and sent to authorised recyclers in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by the CPCB and **DPCC**.
- File annual returns in **Form-3** to **DPCC** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June following the financial year to which that return relates.

#### CONSUMERS/BULK CONSUMERS

- Shall ensure that e-waste generated by them is channelised through collection centre or dealer of authorised producer or

dismantler or recycler or through the designated take back service provider of the producer to authorised dismantler or recycler.

- Maintain records of e-waste generated by them in **Form-2** and make such records available for scrutiny by **DPCC**.
- File annual returns in **Form-3**, to **DPCC** on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June following the financial year to which that return relates.

Any violation of the provisions of the Rules and notified guidelines will attract penal action as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Please visit website of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (<http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>) for more details.

Member Secretary



## Slanting posts

Social media platforms should have the same standards for the rulers and the Opposition

Several Twitter handles associated with the Congress and its leaders including its former president Rahul Gandhi were blocked by Twitter in the last few days, for violating its user policy and the law of the land. The violation pertains to posts shared by these handles that identified the family of a child who was allegedly raped and murdered in Delhi. The platform has since revealed that the NCPDR brought the violation to its notice. A petition in the Delhi HC seeking legal action against Mr. Gandhi has pointed out that his post was in violation of Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 and Section 23(2) of the POSCO Act 2012, both of which mandate that any material that might reveal (directly or indirectly) the identity of a child victim of a crime shall not be published. Additionally, the post also violated Twitter's own rules. The Congress has not addressed the substantive question raised by the platform regarding these violations. It has alleged double standards by the platform, and questioned its impartiality. That is not a mature response. The party transgressed the norms of discussion in a sensitive case in its campaign. It must, without qualifiers, accept that mistake, and commit to better standards in social media campaigns.

Twitter had flagged posts on several handles associated with the BJP in May, which were intended to target the Congress, as 'manipulated media'. The BJP and the Centre took umbrage over the decision, claiming that only a police investigation could establish whether the content was altered. Twitter insisted that it had its own mechanism to check whether files uploaded on the platform were tinkered with. Herein lies the core conflict between the state and private companies over controlling the information flow in a democratic society. Both the state and the companies invoke public order and interest to justify their control over information, but the protocol for exercising that enormous power over lives remains open to question. Additionally, private companies also claim a right to unilaterally decide their user policy. This raises the pertinent question of whether a private company that is providing a service that is essential – connectivity in this instance – can set the terms of usage arbitrarily. The state has often shown itself unable to control speech in a fair and even-handed manner. It does even willfully misuse such powers, going by experience. The age of acceleration has thrown up many such complicated moral and governance questions that society needs to resolve. In the meantime, state agencies must exercise control over speech only in the rarest instances, for the briefest periods, and in the most transparent manner. Private companies must be more transparent in enforcing their guidelines and reassure users that their standards for those in power and those in the Opposition are one.

## Afghan tragedy

The Taliban are on the verge of re-establishing their murderous regime

With the fall of Kandahar and Herat, Afghanistan's second and third largest cities, to the Taliban, the war in the country appears to have entered an irreversible phase. They already seized Ghazni, a strategically important city on the Kabul-Kandahar highway. The speed with which the Islamist insurgents captured the cities – 17 in eight days – is a surprise. Troops from the U.S. and the U.K. are to go back to Afghanistan to evacuate their citizens. The latest U.S. intelligence assessment predicts that Kabul could fall within 90 days. The Afghan government has reportedly offered a power sharing proposal to the Taliban. But neither the offer nor the warning from the U.S. and other countries that they would not recognise a Taliban regime that takes power by force has stopped the militants. In his Id message, Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada said the Taliban are on the verge of establishing a "pure Islamic system" in Afghanistan. It is clear from his words and the military campaigns that the Taliban want the whole of Afghanistan under their command. Also, why should they make concessions when their offensives are cutting through the government defences at break-neck speed?

What altered the balance of power in the battlefield was the withdrawal of the U.S.-led international forces. While the U.S.-Taliban agreement in February 2020 legitimised the jihadists, the American withdrawal gave them a sense of victory. At no point in talks with the Taliban did the U.S. manage to extract concessions towards a political settlement in Afghanistan. The American focus was on taking its troops out unharmed, and the Taliban stayed away from targeting Americans even when they continued an assassination campaign inside the country. On the other side, the U.S. withdrawal has left the Afghan government, internally divided and lacking support in rural areas, devoid of its most critical advantage in the war – air support. Overstretched across the cities that were under siege for weeks, their defences crumbled like a sandcastle when the Taliban pressed on. The government of President Ashraf Ghani has long tried to ignore the former warlords in an attempt to shore up the national army. But when the national forces failed to defend the cities, Mr. Ghani turned to the ethnic leaders, but it is now too late as the Taliban are already at the gates of Kabul. The Taliban, like in the 1990s, promise stability and security. But the tragedy is that if they take Kabul, Afghanistan's nearly 40 million population would be subjected, once again, to one of the most barbaric forms of religious totalitarianism. Whatever limited progress and freedoms the Afghans earned over the last 20 years are now at risk of being surrendered to a murderous militia with scant regard for human rights.

# Growth needs steps beyond reforms

While the reform agenda must continue, social cohesion and equity considerations must be guaranteed



C. RANGARAJAN

The Indian economy has travelled through an eventful period through the last three decades. In the post-independence economic history of our country, 1991 stands out as a watershed year. This was the year in which the economy was faced with a severe balance of payments crisis. In response, we launched a wide-ranging economic programme, not just to restore the balance of payments but to reform, restructure and modernise the economy.

Thus, the crisis was converted into an opportunity to bring about fundamental changes in the approach and conduct of economic policy. A near tragedy was averted and a new path was laid out before the country. The words of Charles Dickens in somewhat reverse order seem appropriate: "It was the worst of times, it was the best of times, it was the winter of despair, it was the spring of hope."

### The shift, key players

It is important to recognise in what way the new regime was different from the earlier one. The break with the past came in three important ways: in dismantling the vast network of licences, controls and permits that dominated the economic system; in redesigning the role of the state and allowing the private sector a larger space to operate within, and in abandoning the inward looking foreign trade policy and getting integrated with the world economy

and trade. The last was particularly important because it was the opposite of what we normally did when faced with a balance of payments crisis.

Dr. Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister spearheaded the new policy. He articulated the need for change and provided not only the broad framework but also the details of the reforms. P.V. Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister gave the valuable political support and shield which were very much needed. It must be noted that as Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao also held the portfolio of Industry which was directly responsible for initiating the changes that led to the dismantling of various types of controls and licences related to the industrial sector. This was indeed a key element of the reform programme. At the ministerial level, strong support came from P. Chidambaram as Commerce Minister who oversaw the transformation of the external sector.

### The metrics

There is a common thread running through the various measures introduced since 1991. The objective has been to improve the productivity and efficiency of the system by creating a more competitive environment. Thus, barriers to entry and growth were removed. As the saying goes, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. It is therefore appropriate to look at three broad parameters to judge the performance of the economy after liberalisation – growth rate, current account deficit and poverty reduction.

Between 1992-93 and 2000-01, GDP at factor cost grew annually by 6.20%. Between 2001-02 and 2010-11, it grew by 7.69% and the growth rate between 2011-12 and



2019-20, was 6.51%. The best performance was between 2005-06 and 2010-11 when the GDP grew by 8.7% showing clearly what the potential growth rate of India was. This is the highest growth experienced by India over a sustained period of five to six years. This is despite the fact that this period included the global crisis year of 2008-09. The recent decline in growth rate which started even before the advent of COVID-19 should make policymakers reflect and introspect.

### Foreign reserves

The balance of payments situation had remained comfortable. There were three years in which the current account showed a small surplus. Most of the years showed a small deficit. The exceptions were 2011-12 and 2012-13 when the current account deficit exceeded 4%. This was taken care of quickly. Foreign exchange reserves showed a substantial increase and touched \$621 billion as of last week. The opening up of the external sector, which included liberal trade policy, market determined exchange rate and a liberal flow of external resources, has greatly strengthened the external sector. Of course, we still run a high merchandise trade deficit which is offset to a large extent by the surplus

in services.

### Poverty ratio

Besides growth, the other major objective of economic policy is to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line. There are many problems associated with the definition of poverty and the kind of data required to measure it. Going by the procedure adopted by the erstwhile Planning Commission using the Tendulkar expert group methodology, the overall poverty ratio came down from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05 and further down to 21.9% in 2011-12. The per year reduction in percentage points in poverty ratio between 2004-05 and 2011-12 was 2.18. The post-reform period up to 2011-12 did see a significant reduction in poverty ratio because of faster growth supplemented by appropriate poverty reduction programmes such as the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Extended Food Security Scheme. With the decline in growth rate since then and with a negative growth in 2020-21, this trend must have reversed, i.e. the poverty rate may have increased.

Had the growth trend seen up to 2011-12 continued, we would have an unqualified answer to the impact of reforms on growth. Growth requires more than reforms. Reforms are, in the words of economists, only a necessary condition. It is not sufficient. In a developing economy, in the final analysis, growth is driven by investment. It is the decline in investment rate of nearly five percentage points since 2010-11 that has led to the progressive decline of the growth rate. Reforms normally create a natural climate for investment. But 'animal spirits' are also influenced by non-economic factors such as social cohe-

sion. Reforms supplemented by a careful nurturing of the investment climate are needed to spur growth again. This should become the sole concern of policy makers.

### Need for continuity

The reform agenda must continue. It will be incremental in character. It has to be. Policymakers should be clear about the directions in which they should move. First of all, there is a need to move in the same direction in which we have been moving in the past three decades. Policymakers should identify the sectors which need reforms in terms of creating a competitive environment and improving the performance efficiency. From this angle, we need to take a relook at the financial system, power sector and governance. Centre and States must be joint partners in this effort. Second, in terms of government performance, there should be increased focus on social sectors such as health and education. In terms of the provision of services, the emphasis must be not just on quantitative expansion but also quality. To achieve the latter is even more difficult. The advent of COVID-19 has clearly shown our inadequate health facilities and preparedness.

Reforms are necessary to improve the productivity of the economy and achieve higher growth. But the story does not end there. We cannot ignore equity considerations. Growth and equity must go together. They must not be posed as opposing considerations. They are truly interdependent. It is only in an environment of high growth, equity can be pushed aggressively.

C. Rangarajan is former Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

# An Indian sail to navigate the maritime environment

India's leadership in the debate on maritime security has boosted its standing as a key player in the shared commons



SUJAN R. CHINO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on August 9 (<https://bit.ly/2VSH6Sz>) at the UNSC High-Level Open Debate on "Enhancing Maritime Security: A Case For International Cooperation", convened by India, was both timely and apt. He described the oceans as a common heritage for humankind and a lifeline for the future of the planet. In urging the global community to develop a common framework to deal with contemporary challenges, including maritime disputes and natural disasters, he outlined a far-sighted vision rooted in India's culture, history and geography.

### Maritime traditions

With a long coastline and large island chains spread-eagled across the Indian Ocean, India has a natural seaward orientation, with key sea lanes of communication coursing through its surrounding seas.

India has ancient maritime traditions. In the 15th century, Vasco Gama was piloted to the west coast of India from Zanzibar by a Gujarati seaman. Long before that, India's ancient mariners were trading with the old world. The very word navigation is derived from the Sanskrit word "navagath".

In enunciating five principles,

Mr. Modi linked free and open trade to India's civilisational ethos. His words were a reminder of India's maritime trade with Mesopotamia 4,500 years ago. Lothal was a key maritime centre of the Indus Valley civilisation.

The Prime Minister's home State, Gujarat, has one of India's oldest maritime histories. Kutch and Kathiawar as well as the Malabar coast enjoyed ancient links to Africa. A ship built indigenously and manned by a local crew voyaged to England and back in the time of Rao Godji II (1760-1778) of Kutch. Buddhism and Hinduism spread to South-east Asia by the maritime route. Even Islam took the maritime route from India to South-east Asia.

Mr. Modi reiterated the relevance of SAGAR (Security And Growth For All In The Region). He urged the international community to develop a cooperative and inclusive framework for maritime security, so essential for unimpeded trade and commerce. Ninety per cent of global trade is conducted on the high seas, for the simple reason that it continues to be the most cost effective mode of transport.

Disruption of sea lanes of communication has global repercussions. The blockage in the Suez Canal earlier this year interrupted the flow of trade worth billions of dollars. In 1956, great powers intervened militarily when Egypt nationalised this key waterway. Today, a naval blockade at any choke-point in the Indo-Pacific could prove catastrophic.



Freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce are key to the spread of prosperity. Critical supply chains depend on the concept of *mare liberum* (open seas). The neo-colonial concept of *mare clausum* (closed seas) in the South China Sea is anathema to the future of the global economy.

### Dispute settlement

The Prime Minister advocated peaceful settlement of maritime disputes on the basis of international law. This idea is rooted in India's values of peace and non-violence. India's acceptance of the award by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2014 paved the way for India and Bangladesh to put aside their maritime dispute and forge even closer ties. This should be an example to others in the region. In 2016, China summarily rejected the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling in favour of the Philippines.

Today, natural disasters and maritime threats posed by non-state actors have grown exponentially. Mr. Modi called upon the global community to rally together to deal effectively with the ravages of cyclones, tsunamis and maritime pollution. India's role as 'first res-

ponder' in the Indian Ocean, whether in thwarting piracy or providing relief after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, is well-documented. The Indian Air Force airlifted 30 tonnes of relief material to Mauritius in August 2020 to contain an oil spill that threatened to engulf the island nation's pristine coast.

The Indian Coast Guard's operational reach and capability has vastly improved in dealing with environmental hazards and piracy. The election, on August 5, of the Director General of Indian Coast Guard as the executive director of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Information Sharing Centre, Singapore, is an endorsement of India's contributions. India now has white shipping agreements with several countries. The Indian Navy's state-of-the-art Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) based in Gurugram hosts officers from the United States, Japan, France, Australia and the United Kingdom. The Indian Navy regularly offers a large number of training slots to friendly countries.

### Environmental concerns

Mr. Modi's remarks underscored the importance of preserving the maritime environment and its resources. The oceans remain our lifeline. Yet, they have been overwhelmed by plastic waste which chokes all forms of marine life. This, in turn, poisons the entire food chain and imperils the lives

of millions.

Development of connectivity and infrastructure were also outlined as a major priority. There are heightened concerns today over China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India stands for openness and transparency in the execution of projects, based on local priorities, with in-built fiscal viability and environmental sustainability. The U.S., Japan and Australia are also promoting better standards for global infrastructure through the Blue Dot Network.

### Primacy of UNCLOS

As President of the UN Security Council for the month of August, India's leadership in the debate on maritime security, that too at the level of the Prime Minister, has strengthened its credentials as a key stakeholder in the maritime commons. The Presidential Statement issued on the occasion highlights the commitment of the UN Security Council to international law. More relevantly, it emphasises the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the legal framework governing all maritime activity.

India's natural interests stretch across both the Indian and Pacific Oceans as reflected in its inclusive Indo-Pacific vision. No doubt, India's initiative will further the prospects for a stable and enduring maritime environment.

Sujan R. Chino, a former Ambassador, is currently DG, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

## 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.

### State of Parliament

The monsoon session of Parliament has come a cropper but the Government and the Opposition are at each other's throats (Page 1, "Outsiders brought inside House to manhandle MPs", August 13). However, the common man is nonplussed as he/she expected that at least in these trying times our lawmakers would behave more responsibly and not boorishly. Both sides have been striving to outdo each other by way of stalling Parliament. There is also a new emerging trend that may be ascribed to the proliferation of social media – political leaders taking to social media to air their homilies and hitting out at adversaries. The rest

is left to their spokespersons and spin doctors to shout at each other in TV debates. These sordid episodes further lowers the stature of our hallowed Parliament which is now being relegated to acts of theatrics and not for transacting serious business.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,  
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

### Afghanistan imploding

With a number of cities in Afghanistan coming under Taliban control, it is doubtful if the olive branch being extended by Kabul on sharing of power with the resurgent Taliban would have any takers or is even workable in the longer run (Page 1, "Kabul offers to share power", August 13). Despite the presence of the

mighty U.S., the Taliban have been ruthless in the pursuit of achieving their objective of bringing Afghanistan under their complete fold. It looks certain that they are very close to the goal. It would be naive to expect them to share power with someone when they are calling the shots, and Afghanistan's defence is in a shambles. Sharing of power with moderates would mean making a compromise on pushing through some of Taliban's hardcore principles, which may not be acceptable to them. The negotiating countries, viz. the United States, Russia and Pakistan aiming for a compromise, have muddied the situation in the past with strategies that never worked, and are just going

through the motions. It may be a face-saving exercise to counter any blame that Afghanistan was left high and dry by them, with false hopes of bringing stability and peace in the region. The distraught Afghan leadership is in such dire straits, unable to make out whom they can trust and bank on to wriggle out of the crisis. India is finding to its utter dismay that all its efforts towards developing Afghanistan into a self-reliant state, through assistance in the areas of infrastructural development, education and health, are now disappearing under the pressure being exerted by the militant group. If the Taliban ultimately take control of Afghanistan, the

already troubled Indian subcontinent would be in for a longer period of uncertainty. There is every possibility of some of our hostile neighbours exploiting the situation to settle scores with India.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai

■ The complete lack of any kind of resistance to the advance of the Taliban is curious. At this rate, the fall of Kabul is imminent. Or perhaps the forces have

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The report titled "Common survey to count India's elephant and tiger populations" (August 13, 2021) said according to a 2018-19 survey, there were 2,997 tigers in India. The figure should have been 2,967.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-2841297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: [readerseditor@thehindu.co.in](mailto:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in); Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturba Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on [www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)







# Aligning with ISF was a mistake: CPI(M)

Party blames its poor showing in Bengal on sharp right-ward shift in the State with RSS expanding fast

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

In an analysis of its defeat in the West Bengal Assembly election, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Central Committee has conceded that it had been a mistake to align with the newly formed Indian Secular Front (ISF). Despite "the secular nature of programme and candidates fielded, emphasising on candidates from marginalised sections could not completely erase the image of it being a Muslim minority outfit," the party noted.

This is the first time in independent India that no Communist party candidate was elected to the Bengal Assembly.

The Central Committee is the highest decision-making body of the CPI(M). Following its meeting held from August 6 to 8, the party prepared a report with a detailed analysis of the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Puducherry.

The committee indicted the West Bengal unit of the party for the formation of



**Failed experiment:** Abbas Siddiqui formed the ISF ahead of the West Bengal Assembly election. •PTI

the Sanjukta Morcha – a third front comprising the Left parties, the Congress, and the Indian Secular Front, newly formed by Furfura Sharif patron Abbas Siddiqui. The party said: "The Central Committee had decided that the party can have electoral adjustments with others to maximise the pooling of anti-BJP, anti-TMC (Trinamool Congress) votes. But during the course of the campaign the seat adjustments with the Congress Party and the Indian Secular

Front (ISF) were projected under the terminology of the Left parties, the Congress, and the Indian Secular Front calling for an alternative government. This was wrong and not in consonance with the CC understanding," the party said.

This third front, it noted, was not cohesive since the Congress had largely disowned the ISF. "Irrespective of the secular nature of its programme and candidates fielded, emphasising on candidates from marginalised sections could not complete-

ly erase the image of it being a Muslim minority outfit. Both the factors affected the cohesiveness of this electoral understanding," it noted.

## Understanding can stay

While Sanjukta Morcha, it said, cannot be a permanent structure in the forthcoming Assembly byelections or local body elections, an electoral understanding with the anti-Trinamool, anti-BJP secular forces can continue.

The CC said that the review of these results could not be a one-time exercise but had to be a continuous, serious, self-critical introspection. The defeat of the BJP, though, does offer solace. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau, in an analysis soon after the results on May 2, had concluded that polarisation between the Trinamool and the BJP was the main reason for the Left's defeat in the State. The CC warned that the BJP's emergence as the main Opposition party in Bengal was "a dangerous signal for the future".

The CPI(M) contested 138 seats and got 4.73% of the votes. The Sanjukta Morcha

secured 9.9% of the votes. Of this, the Left Front got 5.6% of the votes, the Congress got 2.3%, and the ISF got 1.38%.

The Left Front's vote share declined by 21.5% compared with the 2016 share. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the Left front polled 7.4% of the vote, which fell to 5.6% in the Assembly election.

The CC noted with dismay that though there had been a decline in the party's mass base since 2008, the Left Front had successfully organised big struggles, mobilising large numbers of people. The CC asked, "Brigade rallies with the participation of more than 10 lakh people were also organised. Yet the question remains why such mobilisations and actions have not translated into better electoral results or reverse the trend of the decline in our mass base."

The party has blamed this on a sharp right-ward shift in West Bengal, where the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, it said, had expanded rapidly. The party also conceded that it had overestimated the anti-incumbency against the Trinamool.

# Rahul charges Twitter with interfering in political process

Congress leader calls the social media platform biased

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Twitter of interfering in India's political process and described the social media platform as a biased one.

In his first video statement on Twitter blocking his account, Mr. Gandhi said Twitter only listened to the government.

Last week, Twitter blocked his account after he posted the picture of the parents of a nine-year-old girl who was allegedly raped and murdered in Delhi.

"By shutting down my Twitter they are interfering in our political process. A company is making its business to define our politics. And as a politician I don't like that," Mr. Gandhi said in a two-minute video.

It was not just an attack on him but the "democratic structure" of the country as it was denying the right to an opinion for his 19-20 million followers.

"Our democracy is under attack. We are not allowed to speak in Parliament. The media is controlled. And I



Rahul Gandhi

thought there was a ray of light where we could put what we thought on Twitter. But obviously, that's not the case," he stated.

"It's obvious now that Twitter is actually not a neutral, objective platform. It's a biased platform. It's something that listens to what the government of the day says. As Indians, we have to ask the question: are we going to allow companies just because they are beholden to the Government of India to define our politics for us?" he observed.

**'Dangerous thing'** Mr. Gandhi cautioned that "taking sides in a political

contest will have repercussions for Twitter and could be a dangerous thing for investors".

Since its action against Mr. Gandhi last week, Twitter India has blocked thousands of handles associated with the Congress, including the official party handle and over two dozen senior leaders.

In its defence, Twitter said they acted against Mr. Gandhi after receiving a complaint from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights which has pointed out that posting the picture of the parents of a victim is a violation of Indian law.

However, the Congress said Twitter had "double standards" as a similar picture of parents was shared by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on August 2.

When *The Hindu* checked the timeline of the NCSC, the offending photograph from August 2 was removed but the account was functional and the last tweet from the verified handle was sent out at 11.50 a.m. on August 13.

# Taliban gains complicate India's options

For New Delhi, an unfriendly govt. in Kabul can complicate its strategic options

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Even by the most pessimistic prognoses of the situation, the fall of major Afghan cities and provinces to the Taliban has been swift, and the impact on India's interests is coming clearly into focus.

The first concern is for Indian diplomats, personnel and citizens based in Afghanistan, and over the past year, since it became clear that the U.S. troops would leave the country, India has pared down its diplomatic presence there. In April 2020, the government flew home all Indian staff at its missions in Herat and Jalalabad, given the security and COVID-19 concerns. In the past month, consulates in Kandahar and Mazar have been closed as well, and the Kabul Embassy, the only working mission, has issued stern advisories telling all Indian citizens they must take commercial flights out at the earliest.

The External Affairs Ministry has said that it has already helped more than 383 members of the Hindu and Sikh community to "return" to India, and will provide assistance to any of these minorities. However, it is unclear, especially in light of



**Brief respite:** Afghan security personnel sleeping by their vehicles in Kandahar in Afghanistan on Friday. •AP

the government's push for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) that does not include other persecuted Afghan citizens, whether India will welcome thousands of others, in the manner it did in the past.

With the Taliban in power in much of Afghanistan, India has other concerns as well. One worry is that groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad could now have more ungoverned spaces to carry out attacks against India. The Taliban's control will also mean a bigger hand for the Pakistani military and intelligence agencies to influence outcomes for the country, which will mandate a much smaller role for Indian development and infrastructure work that has

won it goodwill over the past 20 years.

In addition, trade through Afghanistan under a Taliban regime would be routed through Karachi and Gwadar, and the Indian investment in the Chabahar port, meant to circumvent Pakistan, may become unviable.

In addition, there is the threat of growing radicalisation and space for pan-Islamic terror groups in India's neighbourhood.

**India has four options** Given all these concerns, India has four options, none of which are easy, nor without repercussions.

The first option is to stick to its principle of backing only a democratically-elected government in Kabul, and providing political and hu-

manitarian support while that lasts.

The second one would be to go further and supply the ANDSF with military supplies, including ammunition and air power, possibly via the Iranian route. In an interview to NDTV on Friday, Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen threatened consequences for India if it did that, however.

The third would be to accelerate contacts with the Taliban. However, this is unlikely to give India much leverage, given the Pakistan factor, as well as the fact that all regional and donor countries have already done so.

Finally, India could simply wait and watch, until the chaos of conflict reveals a winning side, and weigh its options accordingly. This option seems expedient, but it also denies India relevance at the "high table" where Afghanistan's future is being discussed, especially the "Troika-plus" grouping of special envoys of U.S.-Russia-China with Pakistan, that met again this week, while India was included in a group at Doha of more distant countries with a much lower stake in the future of Afghanistan.

# Caste census: Tejawhi writes to Modi

Opposition leader in the Bihar Assembly Tejawhi Yadav on Friday wrote a letter to the Prime Minister on the State's unanimous demand for a caste-based census.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT PATNA**

Mr. Yadav also expressed surprise over Mr. Modi's lack of response to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's letter sent to him a week ago, seeking an appointment to discuss a caste-based census.

"I have written to the Prime Minister to conduct a caste-based census as the Bihar Legislature had earlier unanimously passed this resolution twice. But I wonder that the Prime Minister did not even think of responding to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's letter seeking an appointment over the issue," Mr. Yadav said. "If PM Modi will not listen to our demand, we will have no option except to sit in *dharma*," he said.

# Value of Dalit life less than that of a cow for BJP, RSS: Congress

'Why Modi, Shah silent on incidents involving Dalit women'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The value of a Dalit life is less than that of a cow in the eyes of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Congress alleged on Friday.

Addressing a joint press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate and Dalit Congress leader

Udit Raj (a former Lok Sabha member of the BJP) questioned why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had been silent on incidents involving Dalit women and daughters.

Referring to the incident in Delhi where a nine-year-old Dalit girl was raped and murdered, the Congress leader said, "RSS and BJP

supporters didn't go to Nangal village in the Delhi Cantonment area.

"If a cow had been killed, thousands of them would have descended there. In the eyes of the BJP and RSS, the value of a Dalit life is less than a cow."

Ms. Shrinate argued strongly that the Congress was not in violation of Twitter's own policy.

# Uddhav, Pawar to attend meeting called by Sonia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar will attend the virtual meeting of Opposition leaders called by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on August 20, party leaders confirmed here on Friday.

Sena leader Sanjay Raut told PTI that Mr. Thackeray will attend the meeting. NCP MP Supriya Sule confirmed that Mr. Pawar will be taking part. Congress is part of the Sena-led ruling coalition in Maharashtra, along with the Nationalist Congress Party.

# Mukul Roy's faux pas embarrasses TMC

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**

For the second time in the past week, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mukul Roy, who switched camp to the party from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after the West Bengal Assembly election results, expressed his support to the BJP. Asked by journalists about the pending bypolls in the State, Mr. Roy said that he would "win again from Krishnanagar on a BJP ticket".

Mr. Roy's son Subhrangshu Roy, described his father's remarks as a "slip of tongue". He also added that his father had been depressed after the death of his mother.

"Only Mamata Banerjee can tell in which party Mukul Roy is. After all, it was in her presence that Mr. Roy joined the Trinamool Congress," BJP leader in State Assembly Suwendu Adhikari said.

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SCT-2006	Scientist	UR	Plant Tissue Culture
SCT-2007	Scientist	SC	Plantation & Farm Management
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TA-2015	Technical Assistant	UR	Business Development
TA-2016	Technical Assistant	OBC	Plant Science
TA-2017	Technical Assistant	UR	Food Science/Food Technology/Food Processing

Abbreviations: UR: Unreserved; SC: Scheduled Caste; OBC: Other Backward Class, EWS: Economically Weaker Section, PWD: Persons with Disabilities/Divyangjan.

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किसी मान्यताप्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय से स्नातक स्तर पर अनिवार्य या वैकल्पिक विषय के रूप में हिंदी अथवा अंग्रेजी के साथ अथवा उनमें से एक परीक्षा के माध्यम के रूप में और अन्य अनिवार्य तथा वैकल्पिक विषय के रूप में हो, हिंदी अथवा अंग्रेजी को छोड़कर किसी भी विषय में स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि  
Master's degree from a recognized University in any subject other than Hindi or English, with Hindi and English as compulsory or elective subjects or either of the two as a medium of examination and the other as a compulsory or elective subject at degree level.  
**तथा/AND**
- हिंदी से अंग्रेजी और विलोमतः अनुवाद में मान्यताप्राप्त डिप्लोमा या प्रमाणपत्र पाठ्यक्रम अथवा भारत सरकार के उपक्रम सहित केंद्रीय/राज्य सरकार के कार्यालय में हिंदी से अंग्रेजी और विलोमतः अनुवाद कार्य में दो वर्षों का अनुभव  
Recognized Diploma or Certificate Course in Translation from Hindi to English and vice-versa or two years experience of translation work from Hindi to English and vice versa in Central/State Government Office, including Government of India undertakings.

**[संक्षिप्त रूप / Abbreviations:** अ.पि.व./ OBC= अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग / Other Backward Class]

विशेष विज्ञापन वीएसएससी वेबसाइट <http://www.vssc.gov.in> में दिया जाएगा अभ्यर्थियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि पद सं., वेतन स्तर, अनिवार्य योग्यता(रं)आय सीमा, आरक्षण, कार्य की प्रकृति आदि के लिए विशद विज्ञापन देखें।  
Detailed advertisement will be hosted in VSSC website <http://www.vssc.gov.in>. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement for Post No, Pay Level, Essential Qualification(s), Age limit, Reservation, Nature of job etc.

1. उपर्युक्त पद के लिए आवेदन मात्र ऑन-लाइन प्राप्त किए जाएंगे।  
Applications for the above post will be received on-line only.

2. ऑन-लाइन आवेदन के प्रस्तुतीकरण हेतु यह वेबसाइट दिनांक 16.08.2021 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 30.08.2021 को 1700 बजे तक खुला रहेगा।  
The website will be opened for submission of on-line application from 1000 hours on 16.08.2021 to 1700 hours on 30.08.2021.  
"सरकार एक ऐसे कार्यबल का विकास करती है जो लिंग संतुलन की अभिव्यक्ति करता है तथा महिला उम्मीदवारों को आवेदन देने हेतु प्रोत्साहित किया जाता है।"  
**"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply".**

# Intranasal vaccine gets nod for phase 2/3 trials

Development of the vaccine was supported by DBT-BIRAC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech's BBV154 intranasal vaccine has become the first of its kind to receive the regulatory approval for phase 2/3 trials, according to a release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on Friday.

"This is the first of its kind COVID-19 jab to undergo human clinical trials in India. BBV154 is an intranasal replication-deficient chimpanzee adenovirus SARS-CoV-2 vectored vaccine. The company has in-licensed technology from Washington University in St. Louis, USA," said the release.

The development of the vaccine was supported by



A woman taking the COVID-19 vaccine in Hyderabad on Thursday.

the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and its PSU, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), the release stated.

As per information released by the Ministry, phase I clinical trial has been

completed. "The company reports that the doses of the vaccine administered to healthy volunteers in the Phase I clinical trial, has been well tolerated. Previously, the vaccine was found to be safe, immunogenic and well tolerated in the pre-clinical toxicity studies. The vaccine was able to elicit high level of neutralising antibodies in animal studies," noted the release.

**Safety, efficacy**  
Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT and Chairperson, BIRAC, said the department, through Mission COVID Suraksha, was committed to developing safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccines.

# AB-PMJAY gave ₹2,794 cr. for COVID treatment

7 lakh treatments authorised under Central health insurance scheme from April 2020 to July 2021

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Union government's health insurance scheme, approximately 20.32 lakh COVID-19 tests and 7.08 lakh treatments were authorised from April 2020 to July 2021.

The total value of the tests and treatment stood at ₹2,794 crore, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

While several States had made testing and even treatment of COVID-19 free, the cover allowed beneficiaries to avail free testing and treatment across all empanelled hospitals – both public and private.

"Besides this, State governments were provided with the flexibility of modifying the Ayushman packages



Govt. response: As many as 20.32 lakh COVID-19 tests were authorised under the scheme. \*S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

as per the local requirements," said the official.

**'Dynamic response'**  
The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme. It noted that the response towards COVID-19 had

been dynamic, keeping pace with the spread of the disease. The prevalence of the disease had not followed a uniform pattern across States.

"All Ayushman beneficiaries are eligible," said the NHA in a statement while explaining that the NHA provided flexibility to States to

deploy ways and means to ensure that beneficiaries availed free COVID-19 testing and treatment under the scheme.

"The priority was to ensure that no beneficiary is denied entitlement to free testing and treatment under AB-PMJAY," it added.

Many State governments decided to make COVID-19 testing and treatment free under the scheme for all the residents. While some of them used the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY ecosystem, including the IT platform, others also made it free but without recording the transaction on the NHA's IT platform, the nodal agency said.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry on Friday noted that the Union Cabinet had approved a new scheme – India COVID-19 Emergency

Response & Health System Preparedness Package: Phase-II (ECRP-II package) – on July 8, 2021 amounting to ₹23,123 crore.

"To fast-track the implementation of the ECRP-II, on July 22 this year, ₹1,827.80 crore was released to the stakeholders as 15% advance to undertake preparatory activities. Further, 35% funds are being released on Friday to the States and Union Territories, thus, making a total of 50% release of funds so as to ensure implementation of critical activities at the State and District levels to prepare the public healthcare systems in response to the evolving pandemic," said the release.

This scheme is a Centrally sponsored scheme with some Central sector components.

# Plea seeks decision on reopening of schools

A Class 12 student approaches SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A Class 12 student from Delhi has moved the Supreme Court to direct the Union and State governments to stop vacillating and take a "holistic, equitable and speedy" decision on the reopening of schools that were closed due to the pandemic.

The nearly two-year-long shutdown has affected students both physically and mentally, the petition said. Children from underprivileged families, who cannot afford the electronic paraphernalia required for online classes, have been deprived of their fundamental right to education.

Many, under pressure from their families to make ends meet and with no regular physical classes, have slipped back into child labour, the petition added.

"Issue a writ, order or direction, directing respondents [Union and State governments] to consider and take a time-bound decision in regard to the physical reopening of schools in their respective areas, and conduct of offline teaching, which forms subject matter of the present petition," Amar Prem Prakash said in his petition.

"From whichever social prism or perspective, the relentless and never-ending deprivation of regular schooling and teaching in the congenial academic environment of an educational institution, is leaving an indelible mark on the psyche of the student community and is taking a heavy toll on their wellness and psychological mental framework, leading at times to depression and social reclusiveness," the petition said.

# Drop from the sky



Free fall: To mark the beginning of the 75th Independence Day celebrations, the Para Brigade at Agra held a demonstration on Friday, which included a combat free fall by 75 paratroopers and a display of unarmed combat. \*SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# SII founder flays move to mix COVID-19 vaccines

He also criticises export ban on jabs

SHOUMAJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Serum Institute of India (SII) founder Cyrus Poonawalla on Friday expressed strong disapproval of any move to mix COVID-19 vaccine doses. He stated that it was wrong to make "a cocktail of vaccines" by mixing Covishield and Covaxin.

At the same time, Dr. Poonawalla qualified his remarks by stating that those who had taken the first dose of a particular vaccine and in the event of the unavailability of the second dose of the same vaccine, another vaccine could be administered as an alternative.

"That said, the efficacy and the immunogenicity of the combination are dependent on the ongoing studies conducted by regulators," he said in a statement.

"It is very wrong to make a cocktail of vaccines. Such a mixing is not at all proven in field trials... In the event something goes wrong, there could be a blame game between the two vaccine makers, with each finding fault with the other's vaccine," he said earlier at an award function here.

**CMC to conduct study**  
His remarks come on the heels of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) green-lighting a study to be conducted on the mixing of Covaxin and Covishield. The study will be conducted by the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, with a trial involving 300 healthy volunteers, Dr. V.K. Paul of the Niti Aayog had informed earlier this week.

Dr. Poonawalla, who is the chairman and managing director of the Cyrus Poon-



Cyrus Poonawalla

walla Group, which includes the SII, also criticised the Union government for its ban on exporting vaccines. At the same time, he commended the government for cutting through the bureaucratic red tape in securing permission for manufacturing vaccines, while recalling the onerous delay the vaccine industry had to face in the past during the "Permit Raj" era. Dr. Poonawalla further said Covishield would not be administered to children below 18 years as it was dangerous.

The SII founder was honoured with the prestigious 'Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2021' by the Lokmanya Tilak Smarak Trust in the presence of former Union Home Minister and Maharashtra Chief Minister Sushilkumar Shinde in the city's Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.

On the ban on vaccine exports, he said: "I think the export ban must be lifted as other countries in the world also need vaccines. To date, the Serum Institute has been providing vaccines to 170 countries around the world. But now, we have a situation where we cannot provide them with vaccines when needed. Advance money has also been taken from them."

# Govt. allows GM soy meal import to support poultry industry

Environmental activists have raised concerns

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

There was some relief for the beleaguered poultry industry this week with the Union government deciding to allow the import of crushed genetically modified (GM) soybean, which is a major ingredient of poultry feed. However, environmental activists have raised concerns about the permission given for something derived from a genetically modified plant to enter the human food



The poultry industry has been lobbying for the import of soy meal.

chain, given that India's regulatory system has yet to approve GM foods.

The poultry industry has been crushed by multiple disasters over the last year

and a half. In January 2020, a false rumour that COVID-19 could be spread by eating chicken meat led to a crash in demand. If the losses in both the broiler and layer sectors are included – that is, both meat and eggs – it amounted to ₹28,000 crore, according to All India Poultry Breeders Association chairman Bahadur Ali. A year later, avian flu cases led to another crash, followed by a crippling rise in the prices of poultry feed.

"Poultry feed makes up 65% of the cost of production for the farmer. Soy meal [which is left over after oil is extracted from the bean] is

the main protein ingredient in the feed, especially for broilers. Over the last three to four years, soy meal has been available at an average cost of ₹34 to 36/kg. This month, it shot up to ₹96/kg," said Mr. Ali.

The poultry industry has been lobbying for the import of soy meal to tide over domestic shortages and tame prices, but have been stymied by the grey area of regulation regarding genetically modified ingredients.

On August 10, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) notified the Customs Department that soy meal and oil

cake from GM soy would be permitted for import. In a letter to the poultry breeders, the DAHD cited the Environment Ministry, saying it had no objection "since soya de-oiled and crushed cake did not contain any living organism".

# 63 rescued turtles return to Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Sixty-three endangered turtles rescued in Maharashtra reached their native habitat in Assam on Friday noon after an 18-hour flight.

The turtles belong to five species, including the spotted pond turtle. According to Shailendra Singh, director of the Turtle Survival Alliance's (TSA) India programme, the turtles were confiscated by the Pune Forest Division between 2019 and 2020.

**THE CROSSWORD + 13326** Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

(set by KrisKross)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

**ACROSS**

- Pied piper enters, cunning and elusive (8)
- Perpetually breaking law, say (6)
- Most dangerous openers in Ranji Trophy belting... one plays a lofted shot (8)
- Keep talking with the nurse who gave you the vaccine shot? (6)
- Artist is free, liberal and immature (9)
- Baby bird? (5)

**DOWN**

- Writer cries woefully over book (6)
- Slight damage – utensil losing tip of handle (6)
- Reward peers, as told (5)
- Withdraw from competition, exhausted... with unending desire perhaps (7)
- Noah's acting in play as Shylock, say (4,5)
- Rambo is reeling after a heavenly drink (8)
- Attractive Carol, holding gift, skipping around (8)
- A team, led by captain in the middle, move slowly along the ground (4)
- Bowled underarm to restrict one single (9)
- Snake-like tailless rodent under cooking oven (8)
- Route of river mostly Northwards in U.S. state (8)
- Vulgar piece of music (karaoke) (4)
- Again, head of finance cutting rate – an indication of things to come (7)
- Boy in jet, starting to turn deep blue (6)
- Rise like Caesar in the beginning, before dying (6)
- International judge is very angry (5)

**SUDOKU**

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13325**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

**FAITH**

## Five types of wealth

When Mahabali wants to give Vamana the land the latter asks for, Sukracharya warns Bali. He says, "If you grant this Brahmachari what He seeks, you will lose everything – your kingdom, your wealth, your tejas. He can measure all the three worlds with three steps." Sukracharya then speaks about daana, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. Wealth should be divided into five types, says Sukracharya. One portion is to be set aside for dharma. One portion is for one's own sreyas. One portion should be used to augment one's current wealth. One portion is to be used to run everyday life. One portion is to be used to help relatives.

There is a Sanskrit verse, which says wealth faces many challenges. A demand on money comes in the form of the need to give daana. If one gives daana, then one is saved from the other three demands on it. If you do not give daana, your wealth will be taxed by rulers and will get depleted. Or you could be robbed. So it is best to give to others, but even this must be within reasonable limits, and this is what Sukracharya points out to Mahabali. The Vedas compare this body to a tree. A tree bears flowers and fruits. But this is possible only if the tree is healthy. If the tree itself becomes shaky, then can it bear flowers or fruits? Likewise, only if a man is economically stable, he can help others. If he gives away everything, then he will become impoverished himself, and will be unable to help anyone. He who cannot help himself cannot help others.

Keeping all this in mind, Sukracharya warns Mahabali. But Bali says, "I am Prahlada's grandson. Not keeping my promise is a sin. Nothing can harm a person's dharma, but his sins. And to lie is a sin. I have promised this Brahmachari whatever He asks for. How can I go back on my word?"



## Instapick

**ArtEast 2021:** In its fourth edition, the fringe art festival has gone virtual and is exploring 'Art as Storytelling'. "It will include contemporary and traditional forms," says curator Kishalay Bhattacharjee, "from paintings and textile motifs that tell stories to photography — like Isaac Gergan who documents the spaces where stories are told in Ladakh [kitchens and where women dry apricot seeds]." Till August 22, on [arteastfestival.com](http://arteastfestival.com).



## Talking Point

**Jee Le Zarea:** First there was the iconic road trip to Goa in *Dil Chahta Hai* (it's been 20 years, people!). Then there was *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* and the boys taking on Spain in 2011. Now, it's the girls turn. After taking "three years to align all our schedules", Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Alia Bhatt and Katrina Kaif are ready to take the car out. Farhan Akhtar, we have a lot of expectations!

## Pick of the week

Virtual tours, workshops, and other events you just can't miss



### Chat with Banerjee

"Dibakar Banerjee is as much a sociologist as he is a filmmaker," states a post on FC Front Row. So who better than the maker of films such as *Khosla Ka Ghosla* and *LSD* to share how to "tell stories that capture hearts and change minds"? Sign up for **'The Art of Telling Political Stories'** today, at 5.30 pm, on Zoom. [in.bookmyshow.com](http://in.bookmyshow.com). **Madras Day** (August 22) is almost here. Get a head start on celebrations with a virtual heritage trail of West Chennai organised by Nam Veedu Nam Oor Nam Kadhai. From 6 pm-7.30 pm. [themadrasday.in](http://themadrasday.in).



### Celebrate soon

Onam is around the corner, on August 21, while Rakshabandhan is a day later. **Mahabelly in Delhi's Saket**, is doing an Onam sadhya with 24 items, including two types of payasam. August 20-22; ₹999 takeaway, ₹1,099 dine-in (limited), ₹1,199 delivery across Delhi-NCR; book at [linktr.ee/mahabelly](http://linktr.ee/mahabelly). For Rakshabandhan, every purchase from skincare brand Nourish Mantra will be shipped with a bamboo rakhi made by the artisans of Sampoorna Bamboo Kendra, based in Melghat, Maharashtra.



### Cursed encounters

Epic battles aside, the *Mahabharata* is filled with dark narratives, especially curses. "These are pivotal points in the epic — like Gandhari's curse on Krishna [that his entire clan would be destroyed in 36 years]," says V Balakrishnan of **Theatre Nisha**. "Being an actor, I relate to the dramatic tension and conflict that these curses offer." Join him for a five-day storytelling session, **Accursed — Curses from the Mahabharata**. August 16-20, at 7.30 pm, on Google Meet. Tickets at ₹1,000 (for five days). 9677172897, 7550008139



### From Goa to Grimm

Make time for some retail therapy. **Nicobar**, the clothing and accessories brand, is in 'A Goa State of Mind' this season. Spot the bright, bold colours of the Konkan coast on a new range of dining and décor pieces. Portuguese-inspired architecture and Mario Miranda's caricatures also make an appearance. From ₹1,250 onwards, on [nicobar.com](http://nicobar.com). At **Tara Books**, pick up *Lucky/Happy Hans*. Spanish conceptual artist Maguma reinterprets the classic Grimm brothers story with a new twist. ₹720 on [tarabooks.com](http://tarabooks.com).



### Power play

Add to your shopping list with **Amit Aggarwal's Catalyst**. The new collection is inspired by fierce individuals such as pole dancer Aditi Singh and sculptor Tarini Sethi. Comprising 22 styles — from jumpsuits and capes to dresses — it features intricate hand-weaving and gradient printing on chiffon, linen and satin. The pret 2021 line will be available on [amitaggarwal.com](http://amitaggarwal.com) soon. And don't miss Neeman's new **ReLive Knits**, India's first sneaker crafted from 100% recycled PET bottles. ₹3,299, on [neemans.com](http://neemans.com).



### Artisans' corner

National Handloom Day may be over, but you can still do your bit for our artisans. **GoSwadeshi Online**, the virtual marketplace GoCoop's ongoing exhibition (till August 17) is showcasing a range of weaves and crafts from across the country. Think Bengal's Tangail saris, Karnataka's Molakalmuru silks, home linen and more. [gocoop.com/goswadeshi](http://gocoop.com/goswadeshi). If you would rather shop textile art, **Red Earth** has a collection of door hangings, vintage borders embroidery patches and beaded artwork. From ₹2,500 onwards, on [art.redearthindia.com](http://art.redearthindia.com)



### Art mat

Artychoke that does **products with original artwork**, has introduced their new collection of accent furniture. Called The Untamed, each piece is inspired by wild creatures and is a riot of colour. At [artychoke.co](http://artychoke.co); ₹20,000 upward. Ochre at Home, a Kolkata-based design company, has launched a set of coffee tables and side tables, with highlight materials like malachite, Michael Angelo marble, and semi-precious stones. They are inspired by Indian art and architecture. At [ochreathome.com](http://ochreathome.com); ₹85,000 upward.

## SPIT TAKE

# His Divine Wiseness rides again

As you get back to work (or school), a sage nudge to help change your perspective

KRISHNA SHASTRI  
DEVULAPALLI

The Olympics have bid goodbye, Kohli got a duck, the third wave threatens to come, and so does Akki's latest movie. I say what better time for some more life-affirming advice from His Divine Wiseness, Dr Funky Astral Kumar.

### Gratitude

No one achieves success without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude. It is better than giving equity.

### Science

It is like the appendix. No one knows what it's there for.



### Courage

Courage is answering the doorbell despite knowing it's the neighbours with an invite for their daughter's dance recital.

### Attitude

A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. A negative attitude, on the other hand, lets you sit back with a drink in your hand and say, 'Baby, could you get me the oorga?'

### Reputation

It takes years to build a reputation and seconds to destroy it. So why bother?

### Fairness

It is not fair to ask of others what you are unwilling to do yourself. That is why you make your wife or seven-year-old ask them.



### Belief

I am made by my belief. As I believe, I am. I believe I will have another Ceylon egg

parotta.

### Devotion

True devotion is when your involvement with the divine is so absolute that you yourself do not matter any more. It could also mean you are dead, though.

### Happiness

Success is not the key to

happiness. Happiness is the key to success. Money, of course, is the duplicate key to both.

### Ignorance

To know one's ignorance is true knowledge. To use it well, now that is wisdom.



### Journey

Life is a journey. If you get a window seat, the view might be good but going to the loo becomes difficult.

### Karma

One chicken's karma is another man's kurma.



### Loneliness

There is no greater loneliness than poor WiFi in your bathroom.

### Memories

You call it a burp. I call it a precious memory of the garlic fried rice from three days ago.

### Nature

In every encounter with nature, one always receives more than one seeks. On my last trip, it was ticks.

### Opportunities

These are disguised as hard work. Which is why most people don't recognise them. Come to think of it, old classmates are hard to recognise, too. Because they become bald and fat. Lol!

### Questions and answers

The knowledgeable man has the right answers. The intelligent one asks the right questions. The wise man sits between these two fellows in class.

### Relationships

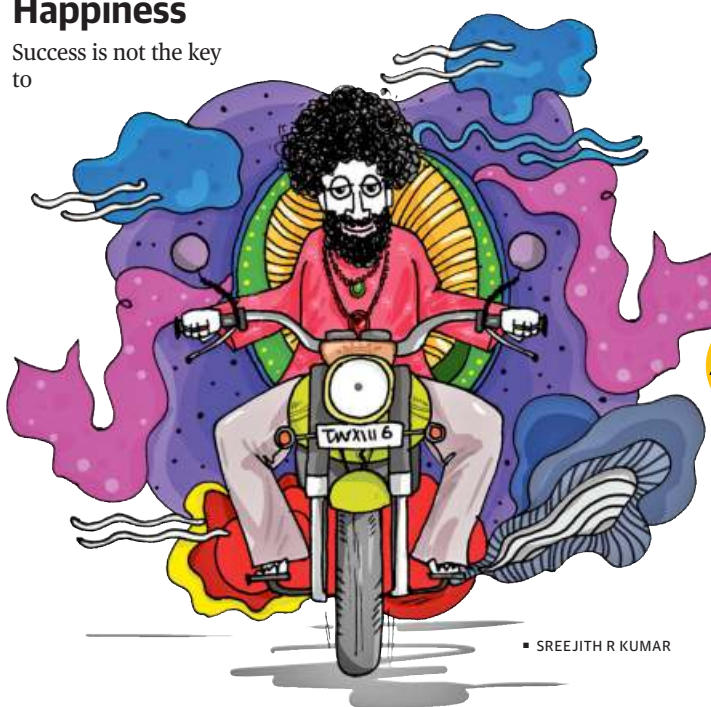
The key to a good relationship is not the length of time you have spent together. It is the frequency of intervals you've spent apart.



### Talent

Talent is an anagram of latent. Just like anagram is an anagram of... er... maranga. What does that mean? How should I know? I can't tell you everything.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a satirist. He has written four books and edited an anthology.



■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY, AUGUST 12



NIDHI ADLAKHA

Five years ago, a 15-month-old elephant calf was airlifted from the Shaba National Reserve after her mother was shot dead by poachers. Apty named Shaba, when the calf arrived at Kenya's Reteti Elephant Sanctuary for orphaned and abandoned jumbos, she was anxious, and charged at everyone she saw. Over time, however, she became the matriarch of the orphan herd, a story that award-winning American photojournalist Ami Vitale — whose film, *Shaba*, is now available online on [shabafilm.org](http://shabafilm.org) — has been following since. Having spent close to six years on the film, Vitale, 50, shares her learnings from the local Samburu community and, most importantly, how we can turn guardians for our elephants.

### The most important lesson Shaba taught you?

When I met her for the first time, she tried to charge me and she was not a little elephant. The metallic sound of my shutter further aggravated her. This went on for almost a year until one day, I knew she had finally accepted me when she

## In Shaba's world

National Geographic photographer Ami Vitale's latest film is on Reteti's famed matriarch and the self-sustaining Samburu community



(Clockwise from left) Ami Vitale, and snapshots from the film  
\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND AMI VITALE



brushed her trunk on me as she idly walked by. As a filmmaker, I have to build relationships, not just with people but also with the creatures whose stories I'm telling. Shaba taught me how important it is to have that same trust with animals that we build with humans.

### What makes Reteti different from its counterparts?

I have visited other sanctuaries in Kenya and Thailand, but what makes Reteti so special is that it is wholly owned and run by the Samburu community. It also works with the first indigenous female elephant keepers in a traditional,

patriarchal community. Recruited from within the Namunyak Conservancy, they have rescued over 35 elephants and returned 10 back to the wild since 2016.

### How can the common man become an elephant guardian?

Elephants are a keystone species and are great engineers of our ecosystem — they push over trees to maintain savanna ecosystems, excavate waterholes and fertilise land. This ultimately helps humans too.

One must make their voices heard to pass legislation that protects habitats and wild elephants. Learning how to determine whether a sanctuary is truly acting in the best interest of the animals empowers you to support those doing good work.

Shaba is available on-demand till August 31 on [shabafilm.org](http://shabafilm.org). All sale proceeds will go towards operating costs of Reteti.

Read the full story and watch the video on [weekend.thehindu.com](http://weekend.thehindu.com)

## On an elephant chase

Award-winning wildlife photographers from across the country on their lockdown sightings, and how we can become elephant guardians



### Aneesh Sankarankutty | 34 — winner of Golden Turtle International Photography Awards 2020, Moscow

Image: shot at Palakkad in 2020

With festival season coming to a halt due to the pandemic, Eموor Bhagavathy Temple's elephant Rajagopalan's usual walks to the festival grounds also stopped. Instead, he took walks through the village to keep fit. Here he's seen in a paddy field with his mahout, Ayyappan. The duo has been together for over 20 years — which is rare in Kerala, where mahouts don't spend more than a few years with their jumbos.



It isn't uncommon to spot a jumbo roaming in the forest on a jungle safari, but then again, safaris are a distant memory for many of us. So photographs have been filling the void, especially of elephants exploring their 'human-free' surroundings during lockdown last year. What makes these snapshots special are the stories behind them — as photographers tracked the pachyderms for hours together to understand how a herd functions.

— NA



### Aarzo Khurana | 27 — published widely in the BBC, National Geographic

Image: shot at Corbett National Park in March 2021

I clicked this photo of a female tusker and her calves after tracking the herd all day. Elephant herds are matriarchal and until the babies grow up, females tend to keep a protective ring around them. After this baby was done playing, he returned to his mother. He was then immediately flanked by another female, completing the protective circle.



### Aishwarya Sridhar | 24 — first Indian woman to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2020

Image: shot in January 2020 at Valparai, Tamil Nadu

This matriarch is notorious and has killed a few people because of her traumatic past (her tail was burnt after a flaming tyre was thrown at her). We tracked the herd for about 30 minutes and finally spotted them in a corner of the tea gardens. Due to increasing numbers of plantations cropping up in the hills, the forest area is shrinking and elephants are using these gardens like wildlife corridors.



R V MOORTHY



# Change agents in real estate

Women in this business might be a minority, but with the industry going digital, a lot more female brokers are opting for it

SUNALINI MATHEW

In May 2019, Nimmy David, 34, started a YouTube vlog in her name, documenting in Malayalam the various luxury properties she sold – mainly across Kerala. Initially, it was just a value-add, because people were physically travelling to see spaces. Ten months later, the pandemic hit, and suddenly an investment of ₹45,000 in video equipment paid off.

"People didn't have much to do, so they would go online and watch my videos. When things began reopening, there was quick conversion," says David, who has been in the industry for 12 years. Pre-pandemic, she and her husband (a graphic designer who does the vlogs) would make a sale every month or two, with just a couple of enquiries daily. During the lockdowns, she'd get 20-25 fresh calls a day; these have now settled to 10-20. David's sales right after the pandemic went to about 2-3 a month, which continues today.

"It is only because of the vlog," she says, of the 10-20 minute videos with her as host, describing the home, its amenities, surroundings, and the project itself. David often interviews property developers, establishing her credentials as an influential direct selling agent (selling builders' projects) of luxury residences to Malayalees across the globe.

In Mumbai though, Srishti Patel, 28,

says the luxury market has been hit by 20% to 30%. A number of business owners who need liquid cash are selling homes they may have bought as investments. And learning is through a system of internship. Corporatisation removes the stigma of being in an unorganised segment, while support from an establishment ensures that women are accompanied to in-progress or off-the-grid sites.

It is only now that women are choosing it as a career option. One reason is that there's more structure, with professionally run firms establishing themselves. And learning is through a system of internship. Corporatisation removes the stigma of being in an unorganised segment, while support from an establishment ensures that women are accompanied to in-progress or off-the-grid sites.

### Making connections

The trade needs certain skills that women naturally have, say the six agents from varied age groups we spoke to, across the country. The common consensus amongst these working professionals is that women brokers are softer spoken, patient, take more time to understand clients' needs, and are more sincere.

On the twenty-first floor of Gurugram's Aralia's, a housing society that looks more like tropical Singapore than dusty Haryana, Neetu Arya, 43, engages with a middle-aged woman and her teenage daughter. Spread across 9,600 square feet, with four bedrooms, separate dining and drawing spaces, a terrace, and a view of the pool and the golf lake, she says the rent is in the ₹4 lakh range. The person she is showing the house to "is a friend and a client," says Arya, who works on-

ly through references.

Networking is key, something women are natural at. "Women are used to slow and steady interactions, and begin with connecting, explaining contexts and availability clearly," says Uma Natarajan, 54, who sells and rents residences for Chennai's Hanu Reddy Realty. Addressing the advantage of being entrenched in a community, she says, "You can make a particular neighbourhood your zone and invest time and years learning everything about that area."

The profession also offers flexibility. David takes her daughter to many client meetings, while Ranjan initially worked from home, taking care of her twin girls and household responsibilities.

What's also important is the connection they form with other women who often do the background research for residential properties, whether buying or renting. "Even when a couple comes together, it's often the women who ask detailed questions about the neighbourhood and areas around," says Patel, adding, "I try to make it all about them, so I listen as much as I can."

### Business-only approach

Arya's job does not appear like it's out of a scene from *Selling Sunset*, a reality



(Clockwise from left) Neetu Arya, Neha Tekriwal, Ekta Ranjan, Nimmy David, Srishti Patel • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



TV show based in LA. There, model-like women broker multi-million dollar deals as they work (and party) for a company run by the Oppenheim brothers.

Here, the women maintain a strict business-only approach to prevent predators. They also want to ensure the highest levels of professionalism so they're taken seriously in a business where a client may raise an eyebrow at the unfamiliar experience of a woman showing him land records.

Neha Tekriwal, in her 30s, the only woman partner in Kolkata's Shri Vriddhi Properties runs the business with family and friends. She tells the story of a client who wanted to buy a house in the ₹4 crore range. "I would send him property details every weekend and he would promise to see them and then wouldn't turn up. One weekend I told him I wasn't going to send him details anymore, and he'd just have to come to look at a few houses," she says. He turned up, and ended up booking houses for four times what he had budgeted for.

Today, women can focus on the joys of the profession rather than its challenges. But Ranjan cautions that it's not just about getting a RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) certification. It's really about grooming girls young to move out of the house and take risks, so we don't limit their career options by telling them to play safe, she concludes.



Getty Images/Stockphoto

## The tricolour on Panjim's waterfront

Why visitors to the sunshine state this Independence Day weekend should make time for the 60-year-old ritual at the Old Secretariat's promenade

CHRYSSELLE D'SILVA DIAS

It's just past 7 pm on a damp monsoon evening. I'm at the Panjim promenade, deserted except for the occasional local peering into the river, hoping to catch his dinner.

All around me are expansive views – the Mandovi now swollen with flood waters, three bridges seemingly criss-crossing close to each other, the flotilla of bobbing boats, and the neon-lit fishing villages of Betim and Malim on the opposite bank. As I enter the city, I come to the exquisite Adil Shah Palace, which once housed the Secretariat of Goa. This is one of the oldest buildings in Panjim and one of the most statuesque on the riverfront.

As the sun sets in the Arabian Sea not too far away, something unusual (for the tourists) begins to unfold. Four uniformed members of the Goa Police leave their office in the Old Secretariat and cross the road to the tall flagpole installed on the promenade's pavement where the tricolour sways gently. One moves away, red baton and whistle in hand, to stop traffic, while another begins to unravel the loop of rope to lower the flag. The other two step into the now-clear road, at attention. Then, as the roar of traffic suddenly ebbs, a bugle sounds. Its plaintive call fills the

hushed air as the flag is gently lowered. The tricolour is then folded with great care – the blue Ashoka Chakra always pointing upward – and put away until sunrise the next morning, when the flag is hoisted with similar ceremony all over again.

Only when the flag is back across the road in its home, does traffic move again. The whole event barely takes a minute or two. Nobody minds.

This happens every single day, no matter the weather. Even though the Secretariat moved to Porvorim across the river many years ago, the old tradition remains. "This is the first flagpole installed in the city, so

### Flying on schedule?

**At Times Square:** New York's iconic Times Square is all set to witness the 'biggest tricolour' on the eve of India's 75th Independence Day. An initiative by the Federation of Indian Association (FIA), for the second year in a row, the flag is set to be 6 ft by 10 ft and mounted on a 25 ft pole. To be unfurled by the consul general of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, the ceremony will be followed by day-long celebrations. The Empire State Building is also slated to be lit in the colours of the Indian flag.

the tradition continues even now," says Guard Commander Manoj Bandekar.

Raising the tricolour might be a daily event across select government edifices, but there are very few that the public are witness to. "Because we are on the main road, the public have a rare chance to see the ceremony," says Bandekar. Pedestrians are asked to wait a moment, as a mark of respect to the flag. "To keep it consistent, we refer to just one newspaper, *Tarun Bharat*, for sunrise and sunset timings," he adds.

"When we were old enough to cycle, we used to pass by on our way home and stop for the ceremony," says my husband, Luis, who grew up here. "It was nice to watch the pageantry of it all, including the bugle. We liked to stop our cycles and wait with other traffic; it made us feel like we had a proper vehicle as well!"

I've been a resident of Panjim for over 13 years now and this happens not far from my home. Whenever I've walked by, I've stopped and taken in the moment – the sudden silence, the goosebumps the bugle evokes, the slap of boots on the still road as the police salute in unison. I've taken my son to witness the ceremony as well and it is something tourists (and locals) should definitely see when they're in Panjim.

### FOOD SPOT

Delhi's Pracheen - India before 1947 serves up traditional dishes from across the country



(Clockwise from left) Chapli kabab, dal sultani, laal maas • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Food from another time



RAHUL VERMA

Food is always willing to embrace change, and every dish has as many interpretations as recipes. Take the case of *laal maas*. In the good old days, I used to often cook this red and lethal Rajasthani dish. I soak the chillies in vinegar to balance the heat with a souring agent. Indeed, the dish changes texture and colour depending on who wields the *karchi*. The *laal maas* that I ate some days ago brought back memories of the much loved meat dish.

It came from a new food delivery place called Pracheen - India before 1947. I must point out that there is very little that is *pracheen* or ancient about the dish: One of its vital ingredients – red chillies – came with the colonisers. But the dish, eaten with some hot-

off-the-tawa *naan*, was delicious, and blurred the lines between the old and the contemporary.

Pracheen (Ph no: 9956027777) was started by an entrepreneur called Vidit Rawat and run by chef Brajesh Ghansiyal. The cloud kitchen is in East of Kailash and delivers through apps as well as directly.

The menu, while compact, includes regional favourites. Hyderabad is represented by *bagara baingan* and *dum ka murgh*, Kerala by prawn *moilee*, and Awadh by its *nihari*, biryani and *dal sultani*. Goa's chicken *cafreal* is there, as is Bengal's *kosha mangsho*. I like Pracheen's menu, but a few

northeastern dishes would add to the flavours.

The chicken dishes mostly cost ₹629, the mutton ones ₹829, and vegetable dishes ₹329 to ₹479.

We started our meal with two kinds of kababs: *chapli* mutton kabab and *dal ki shammi*. The *chapli* was rather good: The shallow fried mince *tikkis* had been flavoured well with ginger, onion and tomatoes. The meat was soft, and the spices were just right. The vegetarian *dal shammi* didn't appeal to me: I found it a bit bland.

We went on to the mains. I am fond of Rajasthani food and had zeroed in on two dishes that the state is known for – the *laal maas*, of course, and Jodhpuri *gattey ki sabzi*. The former

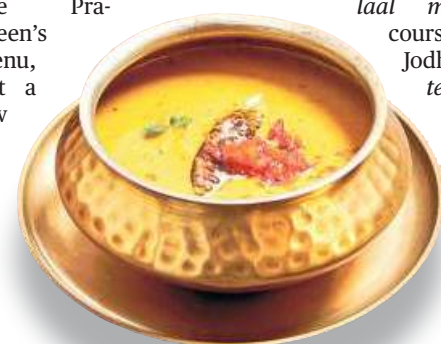
was delicious, though I think the chefs could have taken up the chilli quotient a notch or two. The gravy was rich, and the meat was tender. I am very fond of *gattey* – steamed gram flour cooked in gravy – and while I enjoyed the gravy, I found the pieces too hard.

The dish that won my heart was the Awadh *dal sultani*, *toor dal* cooked with yoghurt, and tempered with *shahi jeera* and onions. The dal was thick, the way it should be, and had an enjoyable minty flavour.

Then came the disappointment: Paneer 65, prepared with red chillies, mustard seeds, and curry leaves. It was over-spiced and over done, which meant that the *paneer* had hardened.

Then I had the *gulab phirni* (₹129), and all was well with the world again. The rice and thickened milk had a delicious flavour of rose petals, and brought the curtain down on a happy meal.

The writer is a seasoned food critic



# Are the Taliban on the brink of victory?

With half of provincial capitals under their control, the militants are surrounding Kabul from all sides

STANLEY JOHNY

The speed with which the Taliban have seized Afghanistan's key cities has triggered fears that Kabul could fall to the Islamist insurgents sooner than many had expected earlier. The Taliban now control at least 17 provincial capitals, including Kandahar and Herat, the second and third largest cities in the country, and are pressing on with their offensive. In many places, government troops retreated en masse.

The map showing who controls which part of Afghanistan is changing by the hour. If the government had controlled all 34 provincial capitals and more than half of the country's 421 districts before May 1, the Taliban are now firmly in control of more than 60% of territories.

According to the *Longwar Journal*, 242 Afghan districts are now controlled by the Taliban, while the government has 65 districts under its control. The rest are contested. The Taliban captured Zaranj, the first city, on August 6. In eight days, they have taken 17 provincial capitals.

## Taliban's strategy

When international troops started withdrawing on May 1, the Taliban started an offensive in the north, north-east and western districts of Afghanistan. The plan appeared to be consolidating their position in the hinterlands as well as surrounding the big cities. The Taliban captured most districts in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces, which had hosted the Northern Alliance that continued to fight the Taliban during 1996-2001.

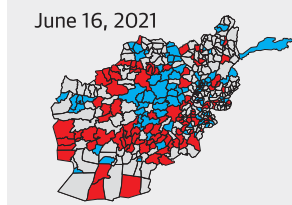
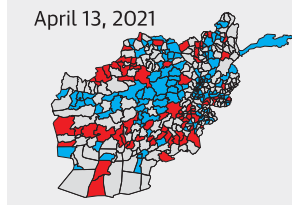
After capturing the districts, the Taliban turned their focus to the border crossings. They seized the Sher Khan Bandar crossing with Tajikistan, which was

## Taking control

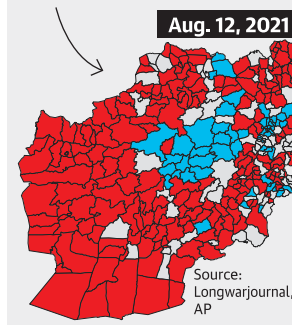
The Taliban, who now control two-thirds of Afghanistan, are inching towards the gates of Kabul. How the Taliban's control grew:

### Mapping the change

The maps show the districts controlled by the Taliban (red), the government (blue), and the contested areas (grey).



As on Thursday, the Taliban control 242 districts, while the government controls 65 and the remaining are contested areas



### Fall of cities

The insurgents have taken half of the country's 34 provincial capitals in recent days, including its second and third-largest cities, Herat and Kandahar

**AUG. 6 | Zaranj:** The capital of Nimruz province in the south becomes the first provincial capital to fall since the Taliban launched their latest offensive on May 1

**AUG. 8 | Sar-e-Pul:** The capital of Sar-e-Pul falls to the insurgents

**Kunduz:** The northern city, which the Taliban had tried to take over several times in the past, falls

**Taluqan:** The capital of northern Takhar province, which was the hotbed of anti-Taliban

**Herat:** The third-largest city, that's home to about 6 lakh people, falls

**Kandahar:** The capital of the southern province of Kandahar, the second-largest city and the birthplace of the Taliban, falls

**AUG. 13 |** The militants overrun six provincial capitals in a single day — Lashkar Gah, Qala-e Naw, Feruz Koh, Pul-e Alam, Terakot and Qalat



**Rapid rise:** Taliban militants stand on a vehicle along the roadside in Kandahar on Friday.

partly built with U.S. funds, the Islam Qila crossing with Iran and Spin Boldak with Pakistan. By taking these crossings, the Taliban squeezed the Kabul government out of critical revenues, leaving a financial blow. The control over the northern border would also allow the insurgents to check potential aid coming from neighbouring countries to their enemies in the future if a 1990s-type civil war breaks out.

After taking the districts and key border crossings,

the Taliban turned fighting towards the cities. They had already laid siege to the main cities such as Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz and Ghazni.

## EXPLAINER

All they had to do was to start an all-out offensive breaking through government defences. They first took smaller cities in the north and then moved to the bigger ones such as Herat and Kandahar. The plan appears to isolate and sur-

round Kabul to force the government of Ashraf Ghani to surrender or launch an offensive on the city.

**Is Kabul in danger?**  
The fall of Ghazni, Herat and Kandahar are the heaviest setbacks to the government so far in the war. Ghazni sits on the Kabul-Kandahar highway, roughly 150 km south of Kabul, linking the Taliban-controlled areas with the capital city. The way Ghazni fell surprised many. The Governor of the province, Daud Laghmani, handed over his

office to a senior Taliban commander without any resistance. "He gave a flower to the Taliban commander and congratulated him," an official in the Governor's office told the *Wall Street Journal*. Ghazni fell on the morning of August 12, and in the evening, Herat was also in the Taliban's control. Within hours of Herat's fall, the jihadists took Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban. Clearly, the Taliban are encircling Kabul from all sides. The Taliban's advances have pushed foreign governments into swift action. The U.S. and the U.K. are sending more troops to evacuate their diplomats and civilians from the country. India recently closed its consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif. Earlier in the week, Afghanistan's acting Defence Minister Khalid Payenda quit his job and left the country, which speaks of the mood in the government.

The U.S. intelligence, which had earlier concluded that Kabul could fall within six months, revised its assessment that the Taliban could capture the capital within 90 days, according to the *Washington Post*. The situation looks a lot worse than what it was in 1989 when the Soviet troops pulled back after 10 years of military intervention in Afghanistan. The Communist government of Muhammed Najibullah clung on to power in Kabul for three more years, despite repeated attacks by the Mujahideen, who were backed by the ISI and the CIA. Najibullah's regime fell in 1992, only after supplies from Moscow dried up following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. It took four more years for the Taliban to reach Kabul in 1996. Now, with the U.S. occupation set to end in two weeks, the Taliban seem to be eyeing Kabul before the winter sets in.

# Amid virus fears, Sri Lanka to widen vaccine coverage

'Give health experts greater say in decision-making process'

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

In the midst of a sharp rise in daily COVID-19 infections and fatalities during the past week, Sri Lanka has decided to widen its vaccination drive, rather than locking down the country during a severe economic crisis.

Health authorities reported 156 deaths on Wednesday, the highest single-day tally recorded in the country so far. Daily cases are at an average of 3,000, comparable to the surge in May, when Sri Lanka experienced its third wave and identified the Delta variant within the community.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Friday instructed health officials to pay "special attention" to persons aged over 60 years, and suffering from "chronic non-communicable diseases", according to a statement from the Presidential Media Division. His orders follow an analysis of recent COVID-19 deaths, the statement said. The government has resisted a complete lockdown this year, citing the economic strain on the people and the national economy.



A woman being inoculated during a mobile vaccination drive in Colombo. AFP

However, medical professionals have called for urgent measures, including strict mobility restrictions, to contain the current spike in cases that, they say, is already burdening the country's health sector.

A group of senior medical experts, who attended a recent meeting convened by the WHO's local office, have observed that thousands of deaths could be averted if "strictly enforced" movement restrictions are in place and all public events are cancelled for at least three weeks, in a note seen by *The Hindu*.

According to the Institute for Health Policy, a Colombo-based research institution, the PCR-test positivity rate was 16.7% on August 12. For the past two months, Sri Lanka has been administer-

ing less than 2,000 PCR tests a day, its data showed.

"Despite home quarantine and treatment of patients being allowed now, we are unable to cope with the load of patients at hospitals," public health specialist Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne told *The Hindu*. "The political leadership is deciding on the strategy, the military is largely handling the operational part, but health experts should have a bigger say in the decision-making process," he said.

Last week, the Sri Lanka Medical Association warned the government of a "rapid escalation" in cases, reaching an "extremely serious point", especially in the Western Province, where Colombo is located. "Insufficient coverage" among those below 30 years and the vaccines' limits in preventing the Delta variant could compound the challenge, the medical professionals said in the note.

Just over 4 million people, or about a fifth of the country's population, have received both doses of the vaccines so far. A majority of them received China's Sinopharm vaccine.

# 21 dead as rain batters China

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

At least 21 people died as heavy downpours struck central China's Hubei province, authorities said on Friday, weeks after record floods wreaked havoc and killed hundreds in a neighbouring province.

China has been battered by unprecedented rains in recent months, extreme weather that experts say is

increasingly common due to global warming.

In Hubei, torrential rains caused power cuts and landslides, destroying hundreds of homes and forcing the evacuation of nearly 6,000 people, the province's Emergency Management Bureau said, as reservoirs reach dangerous levels.

"Twenty-one people were killed and four others are missing as heavy rain lashed

townships from Wednesday," state broadcaster Xinhua reported on Friday.

Footage showed families wading in water that had risen to hip level and carrying essentials in plastic bags in Yicheng, which saw a record 480 mm of rain on Thursday. Rescuers carried people to safety on bulldozers.

"We haven't seen so much rain in 20 or 30 years," a resident said.

# U.K. man kills mother, 4 others in mass shooting

He shot himself before arrival of police

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

A young man who killed five people, including his mother, and then took his own life in Britain's first mass shooting in over a decade had complained online about difficulties meeting women and being "beaten down" by life.

Police said on Friday the motive for the shootings was unclear but there were no immediate signs that the crime was an act of terrorism or the 22-year-old gunman had connections to extremist groups.

They identified the shooter as Jake Davison, 22, and said he had a gun license. He used a pump-action shotgun, police said.

Gun crimes are rare in Britain, which has strict firearm control rules.

Police responded to mul-

iple emergency calls at 6:11 p.m. on Thursday, arrived six minutes later at an address in Plymouth's Keyham neighborhood, where Davison had shot and killed his mother, 51-year-old Maxine Davison, also known as Maxine Chapman.

According to police accounts, Davison left the house and immediately shot and killed a 3-year-old girl, Sophie Martyn, and her father, Lee Martyn, 43. He then shot and wounded two other people down.

Police said Davison moved on to a park where he shot Stephen Washington, 59, who died at the scene, and then to a nearby street, where he shot Kate Shepherd, 66 on a nearby street. She died later in hospital. Eyewitnesses reported that Davison shot himself before police arrived.

# No need for further WHO virus origins probe: China

Move is driven by politics, says Beijing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

China on Friday rejected the World Health Organization's calls for a renewed probe into the origins of COVID-19, saying it supported "scientific" over "political" efforts to find out how the virus started.

Pressure is once more mounting on Beijing to consider a fresh probe into the origins of a pandemic which has killed over four million people and paralysed economies worldwide since it first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

A delayed and heavily politicised visit by a WHO team of international experts went to Wuhan in January 2021 to produce a first phase report, which was written in conjunction with their Chinese counterparts. It failed to conclude how the

virus began.

On Thursday the WHO urged China to share raw data from the earliest COVID-19 cases to revive its probe into the origins of the disease.

China hit back, repeating its position that the initial investigation was enough and that calls for further data were motivated by politics instead of scientific inquiry.

"We oppose political tracing... and abandoning the joint report" issued after the WHO expert team's Wuhan visit in January, Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxun told reporters. "We support scientific tracing."

That report said the virus jumping from bats to humans via an intermediate animal was the most probable scenario, while a leak from Wuhan's virology labs was "extremely unlikely".

# Mob attacks Indian businesses in Congo over student's death

Congolese student was arrested in Bengaluru over 'drug possession'

REUTERS  
KINSHASA

A mob attacked Indian businesses and vehicles in Democratic Republic of Congo's capital on Thursday, the police said, part of ongoing fallout from a Congolese student's death in police custody in Bengaluru last week.

Several Indian businesses in Kinshasa were looted last week following the death of Joël Malu, a Congolese student in Bengaluru.

African diplomats have complained in the past about racism against their citizens living in India, especially in the aftermath of the beating death in 2016 of a Congolese man in Delhi.

Congo's police said the mob on Thursday looted Indian shops and warehouses, set a car on fire



Joël Malu

"Uncivilised people, mainly young people, have been looting stores and warehouses held by Indian nationals," said Kinshasa police commissioner Sylvano Kasongo.

Police arrested three people and recovered 40 bales of stolen clothing, Mr. Kasongo said. The statement did not mention any injuries.

## Bengaluru clashes

Malu was arrested in Bengaluru on August 1 on suspicion of drug possession. Police said he complained of chest pains and was transferred to hospital, where he died.

His death sparked clashes between protesters and baton-wielding officers in Bengaluru the following day.

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Press NIT No.10(Item No.2)/(2021-22)

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Processing Fee (Fresh)	Publication date of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date & time for receipt of tender from e-procurement solution
1.	Installation of tubewells at Halderpur Water Works. (Tender ID: 2021_DJB_206918_1)	7648611/-	Exempted vide Office Endorsement No. DJB/2020-21/MISC(IPT)/971 dated 23/12/2020 of Jt. Director (F&A), DJB	1000/-	11.08.2021	31.08.2021

The more detail required above can be seen on website [www.delhi.govprocurement.com](http://www.delhi.govprocurement.com)

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S.No./M.B.Nath/Nirman/21/5207 Date : 11.08.2021

**Notice Inviting Bid**

Bids for different works NIT No. 20/2021-22 of Municipal Board Nathdwara are invited from interested bidders upto date 08-09-2021 on 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state govt.

UBN No. - DLB2122SLOB12188  
Raj.Samwad/2147422 Commissioner

**CHANDIGARH INDUSTRIAL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

CITCO invites e-bids for:-

- Ferrying/operating Solar Boat at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh on revenue sharing basis.
- Licensing out space (3711 Sq. Yds. approx) for setting up & operating Amusement Park at Lake, Sector-42, Chandigarh on license basis.

Detailed E-tender documents are available on <http://etenders.chd.nic.in> for online participation. Last date of submission of e-bids is 14.09.2021 upto 05:00 P.M. MD reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Chief General Manager  
CIN: U45202CH1974SGC003415  
Regd Office: SCO - 121-122, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh - 160017.  
Phone No. 0172 - 4647925 & 4647931, Fax No. 0172-4644441.  
Email: info@citcochandigarh.com, Website: www.citcochandigarh.com

**ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING RESCHEDULING OF OJEE - 2021**

No: OJEE / 279 DATE : 13.08.2021

This is for information of all concerned that the **Odisha Joint Entrance Examination, 2021 (OJEE - 2021)**, which was originally scheduled in the month of June, but had to be postponed due to COVID - 19 pandemic, will now be conducted **during 6th September to 18th September, 2021.**

The Entrance Examination will be conducted in **Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for all the courses, in three shifts on each day of the examination.**

**The shift-wise complete schedule of the examination is displayed on the official websites of OJEE ([www.ojee.nic.in](http://www.ojee.nic.in) / [www.odishajee.com](http://www.odishajee.com))**

Information on Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the examination and downloading of Admit Card etc. shall be notified later on.

The candidates and their parents are advised to keep visiting above websites for latest updates.

Sd/-  
**CHAIRMAN, OJEE,**  
QIPR-14020/11/0009/2122

**Indian Bank**  
Corporate Office: Estate Department Tel: 044-2813 4505/4306/4401/4498

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Tender)**

Indian Bank invites online offers (e-tender) in 2 bid system (Technical bid and Price bid) from reputed contractors for carrying out Construction of New Branch cum Residential Building for existing Indian Bank Velachery Branch after Demolition of old building at Velachery Main Road, Velachery, Chennai-42.

For details, please refer our website <https://www.indianbank.in/tenders/>

All further notifications, corrigendum or addendums (if any) related to this tender shall be floated in our website. Bidders are advised to follow the website regularly during tender process.

Asst. General Manager (P&E)

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर**  
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR**  
(A Statutory Body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)  
Engineering Branch (Civil), Sijua (Patrapada), Bhubaneswar(Odisha)-751019  
[www.aiimshubaneswar.nic.in](http://www.aiimshubaneswar.nic.in)

File No. :AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./616/ NIT-009/ 2021-22 Dated : 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar invites e-Tender for the Work(s) for Provision of Aluminium Partition Work in UPS Room at Hospital Campus, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar (NIT No. : AIIMS/BBSR/Engg./009/2021-22). The detailed Tender Document along with Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender can be viewed & downloaded from the website [www.aiimshubaneswar.nic.in](http://www.aiimshubaneswar.nic.in), [www.tenderwizard.com/](http://www.tenderwizard.com/) AIIMS/BBSR & CPP Portal [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in).

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer(Civil) I/C  
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer-1, Lakes, 3rd Floor, New Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002  
No.: EE-1/Lakes/TEND-13/CORR-1/2021-22 Date: 12.07.2021

**CORRIGENDUM**

Ref.: (1) Tender notification No. EE-1/Lakes/TEND-13/2021-22, Dated: 06.08.2021

The revised dates pertaining to the work of Development of Horamavu lake Call-6 notified vide ref (1) shall be read as under: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 27.08.2021 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (2) Technical Bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the Office of the Executive Engineer-1 (Lakes) on 30.08.2021 at 4:30 p.m. The remaining terms and conditions of the tender remain unaltered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1, Lakes, BBMP  
**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC. BE AWARE**

Wear Mask, 2 Feet Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

MARKET WATCH

	13-08-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	55,437	1.08
US Dollar	74.24	0.01
Gold	45,586	0.05
Brent oil	70.71	0.75

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	704.15	0.10
Asian Paints	2988.70	13.20
Axis Bank	759.90	2.55
Bajaj Auto	3825.75	56.40
Bajaj Finserv	14317.50	-23.20
Bajaj Finance	6156.55	-42.95
Bharti Airtel	637.05	13.90
BPLCL	454.90	6.75
Britannia Ind	3579.55	-41.25
Cipla	894.40	-10.90
Coal India	143.75	-0.65
Divis Lab	4948.70	39.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4652.20	-64.20
Eicher Motors	2546.80	-69.75
Grasim Ind	1496.90	-4.60
HCL Tech	1119.45	22.95
HDFC	2704.15	35.40
HDFC Bank	1526.20	24.80
HDFC Life	670.50	-4.45
Hero MotoCorp	2772.20	-10.75
Hindalco	442.05	4.80
Hind Unilever	2404.50	12.20
ICICI Bank	704.80	3.45
IndusInd Bank	1024.15	-11.20
Infosys	1712.20	22.60
IndianOil Corp	104.65	0.55
ITC	211.45	2.55
JSW Steel	749.05	0.15
Kotak Bank	1788.00	0.30
L&T	1668.40	44.95
M&M	778.65	2.45
Maruti Suzuki	7002.20	-9.80
Nestle India Ltd.	18269.55	135.70
NTPC	118.25	-0.90
ONGC	116.10	-0.15
PowerGrid Corp	184.75	-2.25
Reliance Ind	2145.65	35.15
SBI Life	1138.60	4.55
State Bank	431.20	4.05
Shree Cement	26600.40	7.40
Sun Pharma	778.30	-0.35
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	807.45	33.20
Tata Motors	307.25	1.25
Tata Steel	1461.65	26.30
TCS	3463.40	111.65
Tech Mahindra	1383.15	-3.40
Titan	1837.90	14.30
UltraTech Cement	7460.70	-8.00
UPL	779.10	2.00
Wipro	615.50	9.65

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.05	74.37
Euro	87.00	87.38
British Pound	102.16	102.61
Japanese Yen (100)	67.15	67.44
Chinese Yuan	11.42	11.47
Swiss Franc	80.32	80.67
Singapore Dollar	54.52	54.76
Canadian Dollar	59.13	59.39
Malaysian Ringgit	17.47	17.55

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Bharti, Jio end spectrum trading agreement

NEW DELHI  
Bharti Airtel announced the closure of its agreement with Reliance Jio Infocomm to transfer the 'right to use' of Bharti's 800 MHz spectrum in three circles to Jio. Bharti said it has received ₹1,004.8 crore from Jio for the proposed transfer. PTI

Nadir Godrej named CMD of Godrej Industries

MUMBAI  
Godrej Industries Ltd. (GIL) said effective October 1, Adi Godrej will step down as chairman and Nadir Godrej, MD will take over as CMD. Mr. Adi Godrej will continue to serve as chairman of the Godrej Group and chairman emeritus of GIL. "It has been a privilege to serve Godrej Industries for over four decades," said Mr. Adi Godrej in a statement. "I look forward to Nadir and our team achieving our exciting aspirations," he added.

# Sensex soars past 55,000, adds 593 points on retail 'euphoria'

Tech stocks spur gains; 'cooling inflation, pickup in manufacturing aid sentiment'

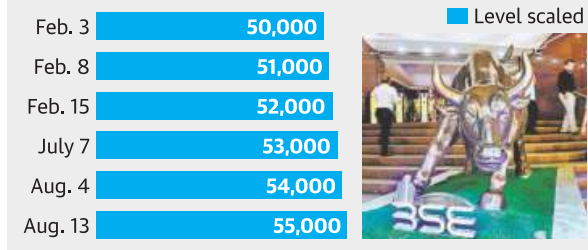
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices closed at record highs on Friday, with the S&P BSE Sensex scaling the 55,000 mark, propelled by consumer and technology stocks.

Amid sustained buying in blue-chip stocks, the Sensex rose 593.31 points, or 1.08%, to 55,437.29 points. The NSE Nifty 50 climbed 164.70 points, or 1.01%, to 16,529.10, its highest close ever.

The top Nifty-50 gainers included Tata Consumer, which rose 4%, TCS (3.11%), L&T (2.56%), HCL Tech (2.22%). Reports of a dip in retail inflation in July and pickup in manufacturing ac-

Major Sensex trends in 2021



SOURCE: PTI

tivity in June buoyed market momentum, analysts said.

"Factors like strong corporate results, inflation cooling off and a few sectors finding favour have all resulted in the Sensex touching new all-time highs," said Rahul Shah, co-head of Research, Equitymaster. "Above all, it

is the optimism and euphoria, especially from retail investors that's keeping the party going," he added.

He said the fear of losing in a falling market witnessed in March 2020 "has now been replaced by euphoria and greed." He said if it had been time to be aggressive in

buying stocks back in March 2020, it is perhaps time now to turn a 'tad defensive'. "This does not mean there's a crash coming or one should just get out of stocks entirely... But it may not be a bad idea to tweak one's allocation a little and liquidate maybe a small portion of the portfolio," Mr. Shah said.

According to a BSE presentation, it took 129 trading sessions for the Sensex to go from 50,000 to the 55,000-mark. The Sensex had crossed the 50,000 closing level on February 3. The journey from 45,000 to 50,000 was covered in 41 trading sessions while the 40,000 to 45,000 milestone took 375 trading sessions.

## Vodafone Idea files for review of AGR ruling

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea has moved the Supreme Court to review its dismissal of the firm's request for an opportunity to place grievances about 'arithmetical errors' in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues before the Department of Telecom.

A Special Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, S. Abdul Nazeer and M.R. Shah had concluded on July 23 that what Vodafone and other telecom firms truly wanted, "under the guise of correcting arithmetical errors", was a recalculation of their AGR. The court had earlier ordered that the annual 10% instalments for AGR dues payment would commence on April 1, 2021 and go on till March 31, 2031.

## July exports rise 49.9%, imports surge 63%

Trade deficit widens to \$10.97 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The country's exports surged 49.9% to \$35.43 billion in July on account of healthy growth in petroleum, engineering, and gems and jewellery segments, even as the trade deficit widened to \$10.97 billion during the month, official data showed.

Imports rose by about 63% to \$46.40 billion, as per the data released by the Commerce Ministry. "The trade balance for July 2021 was estimated at (-) \$10.97 billion as against (-) \$4.83 billion in July 2020," the Ministry said in a statement.

**Oil imports leap**  
Oil imports soared by 97.5% to \$12.89 billion. Exports during April-July



2021-22 rose by 74.5% to \$130.82 billion.

Imports during the first four months of FY22 rose 94% to \$172.5 billion.

Commenting on the data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) president A. Sakhivel said the global demand during this period has also remained buoyant as the order booking positions of exporters have been impressive.

## Future Coupons seeks stay on seizure of assets

Moves apex court against HC order

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Future Coupons Private Ltd. has moved the Supreme Court to stay an order passed by the Delhi High Court to attach the assets of Future Coupons, Future Retail and Future Group promoter Kishore Biyani.

A Single Judge of the High Court had ordered the attachment of assets in March. The judge had directed the Future group firms and promoters to file affidavits giving details of their assets for violating an Emergency Arbitrator's award.

On August 6, the Supreme Court had ruled in favour of e-commerce major Amazon against the pro-



Kishore Biyani

posed ₹24,713-crore merger between Future Retail Ltd. (FRL) and Reliance Retail.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton F. Nariman and B.R. Gavai had upheld the validity and enforceability of a Singapore-based Emergency Arbitrator award that had restrained FRL from going ahead with the disputed transaction.

## Govt. extends export rebate for garments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

The Ministry of Textiles has notified the continuation of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) scheme for export of garments and made-ups and issued guidelines for its implementation.

According to the Textile Ministry's notification, garment exporters would continue to get a rebate on Central and State taxes on outward shipments till March 31, 2024.

The Department of Revenue would implement the scheme with end-to-end digitisation for issuance of transferable duty credit scrip.

## Vehicle-scrappage policy will promote circular economy: PM

'Scheme will attract ₹10,000-cr. investments, boost jobs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday unveiled the National Automobile Scrapage Policy and said the initiative will promote a circular economy and make the process of economic development more sustainable and environment friendly.

The policy, aimed at recycling old and unfit vehicles, will give a new identity to India's mobility and auto sector, Mr. Modi said in his address while virtually unveiling the initiative during an 'Investors Summit' organised in Gandhinagar.

The summit, which saw the participation of potential



investors and industry players, was organised to attract investment for setting up vehicle-scrapping infrastructure under the Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme, as per an official release. "This policy will play a major role in removing unfit vehicles from

our roads in a scientific manner. It will modernise the vehicular population on our city roads," he added.

Under this policy, people who give their old vehicles for turning them into scrap, will be given a certificate by the government, he said.

People having this certificate will not be charged any registration fee on the purchase of a new vehicle, said Mr. Modi, adding that such vehicle owners will also be entitled for some rebate on road tax.

The policy would attract an investment of ₹10,000 crore and create thousands of employment opportunities, he said.

## Greaves arm to buy stake in EV firm MLR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Ampere Vehicles, the e-mobility arm of Greaves Cotton Ltd., said it will acquire a strategic stake in electric three-wheeler maker MLR Auto Ltd.

Initially, Ampere would acquire a 26% stake in MLR for a little more than ₹18.81 crore. It will have the right to increase its shareholding by another 25% within 12 months from the date of closing of the initial acquisition of 26%, Greaves Cotton said in a filing.

"With this, Ampere Electric gets ready to operate as full range last mile EV company," said Nagesh A Basavanhalli, director, Ampere Electric.

## TII turns ₹135-crore net profit for Q1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII), a Murugappa Group firm, said its consolidated net profit for the first quarter stood at ₹135 crore against a net loss of ₹65 crore a year earlier.

Revenue from operations jumped more than fivefold to ₹2,437 crore. CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd., a subsidiary, posted a revenue of ₹1,050 crore (₹363 crore) and PBT of ₹75 crore (loss of ₹162 crore), it said.

Shanthi Gears registered a revenue of ₹67 crore (₹25 crore) while PBT stood at ₹12 crore (₹5 crore loss). TII witnessed good demand in the engineering and metal formed products business, according to chairman Arun Murugappan.

## Grasim Q1 net surges fourfold to ₹2,412.32 cr.

Revenue rises 53% to ₹19,919.40 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Grasim Industries Ltd.'s first quarter consolidated net profit surged more than fourfold to ₹2,412.32 crore.

Consolidated revenue rose 53% YoY to ₹19,919.40 crore, it said.

Standalone revenue increased almost tripled to ₹3,763 crore. Profit after tax stood at ₹482 crore against a net loss of ₹283 crore, the company said in a filing. Revenue and EBITDA from discontinued operations (fertiliser business) for Q1FY22 stood at ₹687 crore and ₹56 crore compared with ₹605 crore and ₹72 crore respectively.

"The second wave of COVID-19 slowed down the pace of economic activity, which was fast recovering,"

With fast pace of vaccination and receding second wave, the economy is witnessing a strong rebound

the company said. "However, with the accelerated pace of vaccination by the government and the receding impact of the second wave, the economy is witnessing a strong rebound," it added.

The company said under VSF business, the share of value-added products in the overall sales mix improved to 26% in Q1FY22 from an average of 22% in FY21.

Grasim said for FY22, the company had planned capital expenditure of ₹2,604 crore, excluding paints and fertilizer business.

## ALL eyes bigger role in global market

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) is gearing up to play a much bigger role in the international market, said CFO Gopal Mahadevan.

"ALL's international market revenue in the total portfolio is about 8-9% and it has the potential to grow much more. We are waiting for the international markets to open up fully," Mr. Mahadevan told mediapersons.

ALL has strong presence in traditional markets such as West Asia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, the CFO added.

The company plans to enter South East Asia and Africa (both East and West) markets. In Africa, ALL will be appointing large dealer houses, he said.

## 'Only 5 out of 136 unicorn founders are women'

EMA Partners' study highlights skew

MINI TEJASWI BENGALURU

India's 136-strong unicorn founders' club has only five women, and as of August 4, the country had 56 start-ups that had turned unicorns.

A gender analysis brought out the skewed scenario as 131 of the 136 unicorn founders in the country are males and only five are women: Divya Gokulnath (Byju's), Falguni Nayar (Nykaa), Ruchi Kalra (OFBusiness), Saritha Katikaneni (Zenoti) and Gazal Kalra (Rivigo), as per EMA Partners, a global executive search and leadership advisory.

The study, titled 'An analysis of Indian unicorns & their founders', also found it took seven years on a median basis for 56 start-ups to achieve unicorn status.



Falguni Nayar

Four companies took only 1-2 years of operation to reach the milestone, 15 reached it in 3-5 years, 19 in 6-8 years, 12 in 9-12 years and the remaining took 13-plus years to get valuations of \$1 billion.

Eleven of these unicorns are single-founder firms, 22 have two founders, 15 have three founders, four have four founders and four more have 5 founders each.

## E.I.D. Parry nets loss on surplus, output

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

E.I.D. Parry India Ltd., one of India's largest manufacturers of sugar, recorded a net loss of ₹33 crore for the quarter ended June, compared with a profit of ₹226 crore a year earlier, due to carry-over surplus and higher sugar production.

Revenue from operations shrunk to ₹450 crore (₹491 crore). "Operating performance in Q1 was almost in line with [that a year earlier] as sugar prices remained muted for the quarter. Debt reduction measures have helped in reduction of finance cost," MD S. Suresh, said.

"We were able to export around 36,500 MT under the MAEQ scheme which also helped in better cash flow," he added.

SPORT

## Dennerby named head coach of the senior women's National team

The Swede will oversee preparations for the Asian Cup to be hosted by India in early 2022

FOOTBALL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA KOLKATA

India set in motion the preparations for the AFC Women's Asian Cup by announcing Swedish manager Thomas Dennerby as the head coach of the senior women's National team on Friday.

Dennerby, who was appointed the head coach of Indian women's U-17 team in 2019, has been given the bigger responsibility ahead of the Women's Asian Cup which will be hosted by the country early next year from January 20 to February 6.

Immediately after his appointment as the National coach, Dennerby announced



Multi-tasking: Thomas Dennerby, who was already guiding the U17 team, will have additional responsibility. FILE PHOTO

a list of 30 probables for a senior national team preparatory camp which will be held

in Jamshedpur from August 16, an All India Football Federation release said. With the

Indian Super League season yet to be announced, the camp will be held in the Jamshedpur FC's training facility in the Steel City for an unspecified period.

Dennerby will be overseeing the preparations of the senior national women's team till the Asian Cup and then will move to take charge of the Indian U-17 World Cup squad after the completion of the continental competition. The U17 Women's World Cup will be held in India from October 2022. The veteran Swedish coach said that it will be a big challenge getting the Indian women's team ready for the continental event.

"It is an honour to be taking over as the Head Coach of the Indian Senior Wo-

men's National team. I have been in India and am aware of the huge potential. It is a big challenge to get the girls ready for the AFC Women's Asian Cup. Life is all about challenges, and I relish it," Dennerby told the AIFF website.

Composite calendar

The AIFF announced that it will be working out a composite calendar in consultation with Dennerby and relevant stakeholders. The calendar will also look to include a number of International exposure tours for the Women's Team leading to the AFC Asian Cup India 2022.

At the domestic level, the national federation is also planning to have the Senior National Women's Cham-

pionships in November and is "looking for a probable window" for the Hero IWL in March/April 2022 in Bhubaneswar.

**The probables for senior women's National camp: Goalkeepers:** Aditi Chauhan, Sowmiya Narayanasam, M. Linthoingambi Devi, Shreya Hooda. **Defenders:** Jabamani Tudu, Ashalata Devi, Sweetie Devi, Hemam Shilky Devi, Michel Castanha, Ritu Rani, Ranjana Chanu Sorokhaibam, W. Linthoingambi Devi, Kritina Devi Thounaojam, Anju Tamang, Asem Roja Devi. **Midfielders:** Indumathi Kathiresan, Sangita Basfore, Martina Thokchom, Dangmei Grace, Soumya Guguloth, Sumithra Kamaraj, Mariyamma Balamurugan, Sanju, Manisha. **Forwards:** Renu, Karishma Shirvoikar, Sandhya Ranganathan, Sumati Kumari, Daya Devi, Pyari Xaxa.

## Liverpool ready for the fight this season

Klopp says it will be a tough battle

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

Liverpool will fight "for everything" this season but manager Jurgen Klopp expects it to be a really tough battle between several clubs as his side bids to regain the Premier League title that Manchester City reclaimed last term.

"Last year, the gap was pretty big (City had a 12-point advantage over second-placed Manchester United and 17 over Liverpool)," said Klopp at Friday's press conference ahead of its opening Premier League match away on Saturday to Norwich. "The previous season,

the gap between us was pretty big (Liverpool finished 18 points clear of City). I'm not sure if it can get any more intense for all the rest.

Ambitious

"We will see. Chelsea aren't hiding their ambitions, Man United aren't, City aren't. We don't want to hide our ambitions, we want to fight for everything." Klopp, though, says it is not only the top four sides in the league last season who will aspire to being viable title candidates.

"I mention only these four, but it will not be only these four," he said.



TV PICKS

**England vs India:** 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.

IN BRIEF



**Aditi, Tvesa have tough day at Scottish Open**

**DUMBARIE LINKS**  
Aditi Ashok carded a five-over 77 to lie tied 129th after the opening round of the Scottish Open on Thursday. Fellow Indian Tvesa Malik too had a rough start, shooting a one-over 73 to be 79th. Scotland's Michele Thomson was in the lead with a seven-under 65. PTI

**Sonam Malik responds to WFI notice**

**NEW DELHI**  
Wrestler Sonam Malik on Friday said she won't repeat her mistake as she responded to the notice she received from the national federation for "misconduct". Vinesh Phogat's emotional outburst, where she spoke about the mental trauma she has been going through post her Tokyo Olympics debacle has not convinced the WFI. Vinesh has time till August 16 to respond to WFI. PTI

**Banthia loses in doubles**

**SPORTS BUREAU MONASTIR (TUNISIA)**  
Siddhant Banthia and Naoki Tajima lost 6-4, 6-4 to Japan's Yuta Kawahashi and Keisuke Saitoh \$15,000 ITF men's tennis quarterfinals here.

**Other results: \$100,000 ITF women, Landisville, USA: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Yu-Chieh Hsieh & Chieh-Yu Hsu (Tpe) w.o. Renata Zarazua (Mex) & Ankita Raina.  
**\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Miharu Imanishi & Ramu Ueda (Jpn) bt Kariann Pierre-Louis (USA) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-4, 6-3; Tiphane Fiquet (Fra) & Akvile Parazinskaitė (Ltu) bt Noella Bouzo Zanotti (Esp) & Vasanti Shinde 7-5, 7-6(4); Miyabi Inoue (Jpn) & Lauren Proctor (USA) bt Daria Zelin-skaya (Rus) & Renne Singla 6-1, 6-0.

**Adarsh joins Spanish third division side**



N. Adarsh.  
\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM HYDERABAD**

At 18, N. Adarsh decided to chart a different course to realise his dream of donning the ISL and India colours.

Adarsh, who has been training for the last couple of years in Germany and UK, moved one step closer after he was selected to represent Club Deportivo Olimpico de Xativa in the Spanish third division this season.

"I will be joining the Spanish club next week and train with the team till October before the season begins. It will end in June 2022," Adarsh told *The Hindu*.

The striker, who represented Fateh Hyderabad FC in the I-League (under-15), said he hoped to improve his skills during the training stint with Olimpico de Xativa.

How did this selection for Olympic happen? "There were selections in Bengaluru in 2018, attended by about 150 players, and I got the nod when the Spanish coach Oscar Ruberio was impressed with me," Adarsh said.

# Anderson's 31st five-for helps England restrict India

Visiting batsmen fail to get going on the second morning; Root stands firm as the home team finishes the day on 119/3

INDIA IN ENG

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

Jimmy Anderson claimed the latest five-wicket haul of his enduring career to drag England back into the second Test against India that was finely poised on Friday after Mohammed Siraj's quickfire double in the home team's reply to 364.

England reached stumps on day two at 119/3, with captain Joe Root unbeaten on 48 and seemingly needing a big innings to maintain his side's recovery, which was sparked by another memorable performance by Anderson at Lord's.

Master of swing

The name of the 39-year-old master of swing will go up on the famous Honours Board at the home of cricket for the seventh time in his career after compiling figures of 5-62, helping skittle out India with the addition of just 88 runs to its overnight score of 276-3.

"Every time you turn up to this ground, it's special," Anderson said. "To get seven (five-wicket hauls) here is incredible. I do love it here."

Anderson removed Ajinkya Rahane off his first ball of the day – and England's seventh – and then Ishant Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah in successive overs as India's tail failed to wag.



On a roll: James Anderson has Ajinkya Rahane poke at one to be caught at first slip by Joe Root. AFP

England's record wicket-taker now has 626 in a Test career that is showing no sign of slowing down. Anderson has 31 five-wicket hauls, too. And he even took a catch to remove Ravindra Jadeja for

40, off the bowling of Mark Wood, wrapping up a disappointing end to India's innings that looked in great shape at the end of Day 1. England's openers got through an hour before tea,

only to lose two batsmen – Dom Sibley (11) and Haseeb Hameed (0) – in the space of two balls by Siraj. It was Hameed's first Test innings in nearly five years and he got a golden duck.

Rory Burns and Root put on 84 for the third wicket but Burns was trapped lbw by Mohammed Shami in the closing stages, leaving Root in the middle with Jonny Bairstow (6) at the close.

SCOREBOARD

**INDIA – 1st INNINGS**  
Rohit Sharma b Anderson 83 (145b, 11x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Sibley b Robinson 129 (250b, 12x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara c Bairstow b Anderson 9 (23b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Root b Robinson 42 (103b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Root b Anderson 1 (23b), Rishabh Pant c Buttler b Wood 37 (58b, 5x4), Ravindra Jadeja c Anderson b Wood 40 (120b, 3x4), Mohammed Shami c Burns b Moeen O (2b), Ishant Sharma lbw b Anderson 8 (29b, 1x4), Jasprit Bumrah c Buttler b Anderson 0 (6b), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-8, lb-5, nb-2): 15; Total (in 126.1 overs) 364.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-126 (Rohit, 43.4 overs), 2-150 (Pujara, 49.6), 3-267 (Kohli, 84.4), 4-278 (Rahul, 90.2), 5-282 (Rahane, 91.1), 6-331 (Pant, 109.6), 7-336 (Shami, 110.5), 8-362 (Ishant, 123.6), 9-364 (Bumrah, 125.6).

**ENGLAND BOWLING**  
Anderson 29-7-62-5, Robinson 33-10-73-2, Curran 22-2-72-0, Wood 24.1-2-91-2, Moeen 18-1-53-1.

**ENGLAND – 1st INNINGS**  
Rory Burns lbw b Shami 49 (136b, 7x4), Dominic Sibley c Rahul b Siraj 11 (42b, 1x4), Haseeb Hameed b Siraj 0 (1b), Joe Root (batting) 48 (75b, 6x4), Jonny Bairstow (batting) 6 (17b); Extras: (lb-2, nb-3): 5; Total (for three wickets in 45 overs): 119.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-23 (Sibley, 14.2), 2-23 (Hameed 14.3), 3-108 (Burns, 41.2)

**INDIA BOWLING**  
Ishant 11-2-32-0, Bumrah 9-3-23-0, Shami 8-2-22-1, Siraj 13-4-34-2, Jadeja 4-1-6-0.

■ Anderson's name will go up on the famous Honours Board at the home of cricket for the seventh time in his career

■ Root climbed into second place in the list of England's all-time runs scorers in Test – behind Cook

"I think we have a lot of hard work to do," Anderson said. "India have the edge but I think if we get a couple of big partnerships tomorrow, it gets us right back in the game."

Midway through his knock, Root climbed into second place in the list of England's all-time runs scorers

in Test – above Graham's Gooch (8,900) – and only behind Alastair Cook.

K.L. Rahul, India's over-night century-maker, was out off the second ball of the day, for 129, when he drove a loose shot straight to cover off Ollie Robinson. He added just two runs to his day one score.

## Brathwaite digs in to frustrate Pakistan

Pakistan makes 217 in the first innings



Delight: Mohammad Abbas celebrates Nkrumah Bonner dismissal for his second scalp. AFP

PAKISTAN IN WI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KINGSTON

Kraig Brathwaite (35 batting) was at his most obdurate as the West Indies lost just one wicket to reach lunch at 81 for three in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 217 on the second day of the first Test at Sabina Park on Friday.

Roston Chase was the lone casualty for the hosts, which resumed in the precarious position of two for two after seamer Mohammad Abbas claimed the wickets of Kieran Powell and Nkrumah Bonner off consecutive deliveries just before the end of play on day one.

Brathwaite and Chase put on exactly 50 for the third

wicket, playing and missing on numerous occasions but still exercising considerable discipline against a Pakistan attack in which the seamers persevered in pursuit of an early breakthrough.

They had to wait for more than an hour before the introduction of Hasan Ali into the attack brought almost immediate reward.

Chase essayed a big drive to a full, wide delivery and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan took the straightforward catch to send the upright right-hander back to the pavilion for 21. The scores: Pakistan 217 in 70.3 overs vs (Fawad Alam 56, Faheem Ashraf 44; Jason Holder 3/26, Jayden Seales 3/70) vs West Indies 81/3 in 30 overs at lunch (K. Brathwaite 35 batting).

## Finch undergoes knee surgery, targets T20 WC return

Insists no problem with the Aussie team despite debacle against Bangladesh

AYAN ACHARYA

Australia's limited-overs captain Aaron Finch, who underwent knee surgery on Thursday, expects to be fit for the T20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates. "Jumped in for a quick procedure yesterday... I am on pain killers at the moment, and now all roads lead to recovery," Finch told *Sportstar*.

Finch missed the recent Bangladesh tour, where Australia slumped to its fifth successive series defeat in T20Is. Stand-in captain Mat

thew Wade's side was skilted in just 13.4 overs in the fifth and final T20, making it Australia's shortest innings in 144 years of international cricket.

No panic

However, Finch is not pressing the panic button even as debates rage around Australia's long-standing middle-order issues in the shortest format.

"Let's wait and see how we go at the World Cup, and after that, we will see what the perception [around the middle-order] looks like. We

are out there giving it a crack every time we step on the field, no matter which team we have in the park. We are representing Australia. At the moment, I don't think there is a problem."

In the final T20I, Australia picked three frontline spinners in the hope that the slowness of the Dhaka surface and the turn would help its bowlers. With conditions at the T20 World Cup likely to help spinners, Finch didn't rule out a spin-heavy bowling strategy.

"Depending on the conditions we face will depend on

the makeup of the team. If the conditions are similar to Bangladesh I can't see why three spinners can't play in the same team."

Non-committal

However, he remained non-committal on the makeup of the World Cup squad. "I actually don't have any inputs in the squad, my job is to just get out there and captain the team."

"George Bailey [new chairman of selectors of the Australia men's team and his colleagues] will be selecting the squad."



Aaron Finch. FILE PHOTO

## Unmukt Chand calls it a day



Unmukt Chand. FILE PHOTO

He skippered India to U-19 World Cup triumph in 2012

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

Unmukt Chand, who led India to Under-19 World Cup glory in 2012 but struggled to replicate the success at the senior level, announced his retirement from all forms of the game on the social media on Friday.

Unmukt, who was the

man-of-the-match in the under-19 final for his unbeaten 111, thanked the BCCI and described winning the World Cup as the biggest moment of his life.

Unmukt, who played for Delhi and also captained Uttarakhhand, played 67 First-Class matches, amassing 3,379 runs, with eight hundreds and 16 fifties.

However, he never had that breakthrough Ranji or IPL season that could have catapulted him to the next level.

## PSPB honours its hockey heroes

11 players get cash rewards and promotions

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

In continuation with the felicitation functions for the Tokyo medallists, the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) honoured 11 members of the bronze-winning hockey team here on Friday.

These players, five from Bharat Petroleum and three each from Indian Oil and ONGC, received ₹15,000 each, a silver plaque and more significantly, out-of-turn promotion from their respective employers.

Wrong seating!

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri noted at the outset that the sitting arrangement for the function was not right.

He pointed to the players and said, "These stars should have been on the dais and we all should have sat in



Cherished memorabilia: The Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri poses proudly with a signed jersey at the felicitation function. TWITTER/HARDEEPSURI

the audience." In the presence of the who's who of the Petroleum companies, it was indeed an evening for the hockey heroes.

The Minister recounted India's glorious days in the game and assured the increased support for the players.

The players – Hardik

Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Simranjit Singh (all IOC), Vivek Sagor Prasad, Birendra Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Varun Kumar (all BPCL), Sumit Kumar, Gurjant Singh and Mandeep Singh (all ONGC) – signed a T-shirt for the chief guest and also presented autographed hockey sticks to the dignitaries.

## T20 WC: 15 players, 8 officials allowed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has allowed participating nations in the upcoming T20 World Cup to bring 15 players and eight officials for the tournament in the UAE.

An official of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Friday that

the ICC had set September 10 as the deadline for participating nations to submit their final 15 players and eight officials.

The T20 World Cup, the first since 2016, will be held from October 17 to November 14 in Oman and three venues in the UAE – Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

## Arjun Kalyan stuns Praggnanandhaa

CHESS

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

Arjun Kalyan stunned R. Praggnanandhaa to join D. Gukesh, S. L. Narayanan and Arjun Erigaisi in the nine-player leaders' group at five points after six rounds of the RTU Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Thursday.

Leading results (involving Indians): Sixth round: Arjun Eri-

gaisi (5) drew with S.L. Narayanan (5); D. Gukesh (5) drew with Iliia Smirin (Isr, 5); Paulius Pultinevicius (Ltu, 5) drew with Nihal Sarin (5); Aravinth Chithambaram (5) drew with Vahap Sanal (Tur, 5); R. Praggnanandhaa (4) lost to Arjun Kalyan (5).

Fifth round: Nihal drew with Aram Hakobyan (Arm); Narayanan bt Kaido Kulaots (Est, 3.5); Gergely Kantor (Hun, 4) drew with Praggnanandhaa (4); N. R. Vishakh (3.5) lost to Arjun Erigaisi (4.5); Aras Vardanyan (Ltu, 3.5) lost to Gukesh (4.5).

## Mendonca struggles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Three draws preceded by a loss kept lone Indian Leon Mendonca in the 13th spot after four rounds of the Kramnik Challenge online rapid chess tournament on Thursday.

Germany's Vincent Keymer leads with 3.5 points in the 16-player round-robin event. Selected results: Fourth

round: Dinara Saduakassova (Kaz) drew with Leon Mendonca; Third round: Mendonca drew with Awonder Liang (USA); Second round: Carissa Yip (USA) drew with Mendonca; First round: Lei Tingjie (Chn) bt Mendonca.

Leading standings (after four rounds): 1. Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5), 2-4. Christopher Yoo (USA), Awonder Liang (USA) & Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) (3 each); 13. Leon Mendonca (1.5).

IN BRIEF



**Aussie skipper Finch undergoes knee surgery**

**SYDNEY**  
Australia white-ball captain Aaron Finch underwent knee surgery on Thursday and is targeting a return for the Twenty20 World Cup in October. Finch had missed Australia's recent ODIs against the West Indies and the tour of Bangladesh. He went under the knife on Thursday, his first day out of a mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine after returning from Barbados. **AFP**



**Kawhi Leonard to stick with LA Clippers**

**LOS ANGELES**  
NBA club Los Angeles Clippers announced on Thursday it had re-signed Kawhi Leonard. ESPN reported that Leonard had inked a four-year, \$176.3 million max deal that includes a player option in the fourth year. Leonard had declined his player option for \$36 million in the upcoming season to become a free agent. **AFP**

**BCB names Prince batting consultant**

**DHAKA**  
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Thursday appointed former South Africa batsman Ashwell Prince as full-time batting consultant until the 2022 Twenty20 World Cup. Prince had worked with the team in the series against Zimbabwe in July. Bangladesh will face New Zealand for five Twenty20 Internationals in their next series in September. **AFP**

# 'Aim is to be stable in technique'

Bartonietz says Neeraj coming up with big throws in his first attempt was always part of the plan

**ATHLETICS**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI**

Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has rectified most of the shortcomings in his technique and now the endeavour is to maintain technical "stability" to touch greater heights, said his coach Klaus Bartonietz.

Neeraj began working with Bartonietz in 2019 after undergoing a successful surgery, and the German biomechanics expert said though the youngster did not have any major flaws he still needed attention.

**Shortcomings**

"Run-up speed, (not) blocking in correct body position and 'rushing' into the throw as a young powerful athlete... these were the shortcomings I found (at the beginning). The follow through should be more forward than on sideways," Bartonietz said in an interview from Germany.

"I made him understand and he started doing it the correct way. There was nothing dramatic. The angle of release should be right, you need to know aerodynamics if you want to throw farther. No doubt we have made improvements. There were



**Course rectification:** I made Neeraj understand his shortcomings and he started doing it the correct way, says Klaus Bartonietz. **\*GETTY IMAGES**

shortcomings but we have worked them out."

Asked if there are no technical shortcomings now, Bartonietz said: "We have to work all the time on technique and continue and make it stable. You may do well during training but during competitions the mental state is different. If you want to do the same thing you have done during training, you have to calm down and be confident."

The German said the best thing about Neeraj is that he

is an all-round athlete as he can sprint, jump and perform other exercises well.

He added that when he took Neeraj under his wings in 2019, he knew the Haryana lad had it in him to become a top thrower.

"Some people do very well at the junior-level but wear out later on. But Neeraj was going in a sophisticated way (after becoming world junior champion). So, everybody was sure he had a bright future."

During the build-up to the

Olympics, Neeraj had said that he was trying to throw the javelin flatter as the high projectile of the spear reduced the actual distance covered.

Asked about this, Bartonietz said, "the javelin should go far and not high. Most of the athletes at the Olympics threw the javelin high. It's not our business to correct them but yes it's the correct thing to try and throw flatter."

Neeraj topped the qualification round ahead of Ger-

**○ You cannot save your best throw consciously till the end. You don't know whether you will make the first three**

man Johannes Vetter, who came to Tokyo as the gold-medal favourite but finished ninth, and Bartonietz said winning a gold was never a realistic target.

"Depending on what the others do (in the final), there was a real chance to win a silver or bronze, but not gold. Nobody thought of gold."

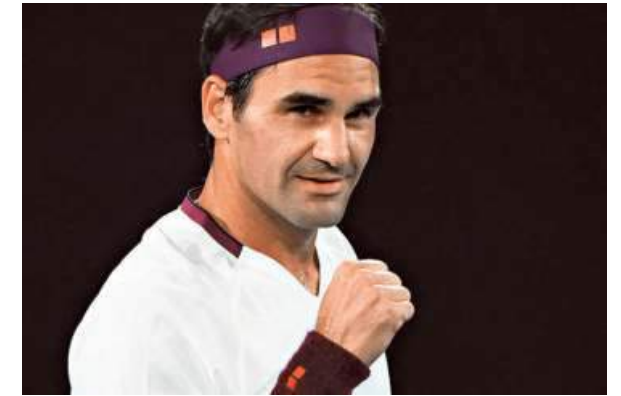
"When you are so much fixed with gold. If you think like I must win gold, I will win gold, then mostly this will not happen. If you are enjoying what you are doing, and if you are doing your best, medals or gold medal will come."

Neeraj came up with big throws in his first attempt in both the qualification round and the final, and Bartonietz said that was always part of the plan.

"It is his intention and logic also. You want to shock your opponents and show them you are a contender. Everybody would like to do this. You cannot save your best throw consciously till the end. You don't know whether you will make the first three."

# Federer says return date uncertain

'I'm sure there is still a lot of great things to come'



**Laid low:** Federer has only played 13 matches in 2021, having been out for more than a year with two knee surgeries. **\*AFP**

**TENNIS**

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
GENEVA**

Roger Federer said on Friday that the timing of his return to the courts is still uncertain, just weeks ahead of the US Open, but the tennis legend remains upbeat after turning 40.

Federer, who has only played 13 matches in 2021, having been out for more than a year with two knee surgeries, pulled out of the Tokyo Olympics and subsequent tournaments.

**40th birthday**

After turning 40 on Sunday, Federer said he was learning to adjust to the fact that recovering from niggles takes two weeks rather than two days.

The US Open gets underway on August 30 but Federer did not say whether he would be taking part in the last of the year's four Majors.

"I'm fine. I was on holiday. I haven't done anything for a while because of my knee. I had to stop everything after Wimbledon," he told *Blick* newspaper.

"This week, I have to

meet my doctors and my team, and then we will see what happens next. For now, everything is still a bit uncertain."

Federer reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals but pulled out of the Tokyo Games and then withdrew from the ATP Toronto and Cincinnati Masters – the last major tune-ups for the US Open. He said it is hard to deal with the uncertainty.

"It was different before. The questions were simple: what is my place in the ranking? What will my next tournament be?" he said.

"Today, it's more difficult: how do I feel when I start training again? What are my goals? How to reconcile all this with the family? What does the rest of the team say? I am much more enthusiastic than before, the attitude is different. It's really completely different from 10 years ago."

Federer is a 20-time Grand Slam champion, a record he shares with his younger rivals Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

He said he celebrated his landmark birthday privately with family and friends, and felt surprisingly good the following day.

# Jacobs to take a sabbatical till 2022

Olympic 100m champion's decision comes in the backdrop of 'doping insinuations'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ROME**

Italy's Lamont Marcell Jacobs, who claimed a shock Olympic triumph in the 100m, said on Friday he had decided not to run again until 2022 so he could be in top form next year.

"It's not a simple decision," he said in an interview on Rai 1 public television, the day after announcing the

pause on social media.

"I am the first to want to compete every week, but you get to a certain point in which you realise that it does not end here, in the sense that this is only a great starting point," Jacobs said.

Almost unknown a year ago, the 26-year-old claimed a shock triumph in the 100m at the Tokyo Olympics as well as gold in the 4x100m relay.

The Texas-born sprinter had been scheduled to next run on August 21 at the Eugene Diamond League meet in the US, before appearing in Brussels and Zurich in early September.

More work was needed, he said, and "for next year I want to arrive the top of the top, confirm (my results), actually improve on what I achieved this year."

Italian daily *Il Corriere della Sera* said on Thursday Jacobs had called a halt after a fall blamed on "the accumulated fatigue of Olympics as well as a knee problem".

Eyebrows have been raised in some quarters about Jacobs' performance, as before 2020, his times in the 100m had never gone below the 10-second barrier.

Britain's *The Times* ran a

story last weekend about how Jacobs' former sports nutritionist was caught up in an Italian police investigation into the alleged illegal distribution of anabolic steroids.

Jacobs said on Friday insinuations of doping "haven't touched me because I know all the sacrifices and setbacks I took to get to this moment, and I want to enjoy it 100 percent".



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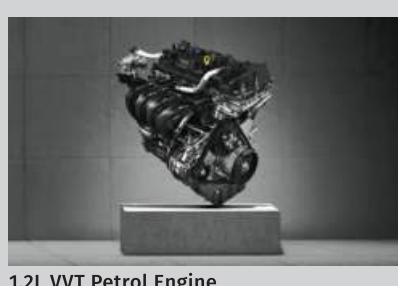
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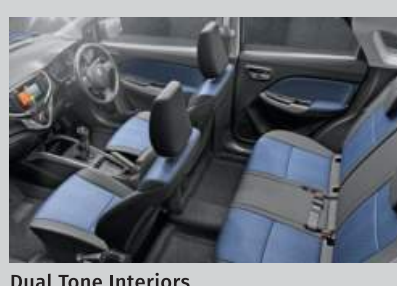
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