



NIA conducts searches at 56 J&K locations in terror funding case

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Opposition releases joint video, urges PM to 'listen' to them

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Myanmar protesters mark pivotal 1988 uprising anniversary

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Messi bids tearful farewell to Barcelona after two-decade stay

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NEARBY



Passengers double at IGIA in two weeks

NEW DELHI
 Since the reopening of Terminal 2 at Indira Gandhi International Airport here nearly two weeks ago, the passenger volume at the airport has doubled — from 42,000 to almost 85,000 passengers per day. “We will take a decision to reopen Terminal 1 once traffic reaches 1,20,000 mark per day,” the CEO of Delhi International Airport Limited, Vihed Kumar Jaipuria, told *The Hindu*.

CITY PAGE 2

'Contract marriage' fraud on the rise in Punjab

CHANDIGARH
 The family of 26-year-old Harpreet Singh in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, is yet to come to terms with what they describe as “marriage fraud” allegedly played on them by their daughter-in-law after she left for Canada two-and-a-half years ago. This is not an isolated incident as, over the years, Punjab has been witnessing an increasing number of cases of ‘contract marriage’ fraud for the purpose of getting permanent resident status in Canada.

NEWS PAGE 10

EDUCATION PLUS PAGE 5

Covishield-Covaxin mix gives better protection, says ICMR

18 persons from U.P., who inadvertently got the combination, were studied

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
 NEW DELHI

A combination of Covishield and Covaxin elicits better immunogenicity than two doses of the same vaccine, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Sunday.

The council released its findings which suggest that immunisation with a combination of an adenovirus vector platform-based vaccine followed by an inactivated whole virus vaccine was not only safe but also elicited better immunogenicity.

The immunisation programme against COVID-19 in India started with two vaccines — AstraZeneca's ChAdOx1-nCoV-19 (named Covishield in India) and inactivated whole virion BBV152 (Covaxin). A homologous prime-boost approach was followed.

Pre-print report

However, 18 individuals in Uttar Pradesh, under the national programme, inadvertently received Covishield as the first jab and Covaxin as the second. In its study, the ICMR compared the safety and immunogenicity profile of these persons against that of individuals receiving only one of the vaccines — either Covishield or Covaxin.

Mix and match | A look at key points from the pre-print ICMR report on the immune response generated by mixing doses of Covishield and Covaxin



Shot ready: A health worker preparing a jab of Covaxin during a vaccination camp in Ahmedabad on Sunday. ■ AFP

■ The study was conducted on 18 people who inadvertently received Covishield as the first dose and Covaxin as the second

■ It compared the safety and immune response generated in them with that in individuals who received both doses of the same vaccine. 40 persons were a part of both groups

■ Neutralising antibody response of the group which received the two different vaccines was significantly higher compared to that in groups that received two doses of the same vaccine

Those who received different vaccines also showed superior immunogenicity against the Delta variants

The pre-print report titled “Serendipitous COVID-19 Vaccine-Mix in Uttar Pradesh, India: Safety and Immunogenicity Assessment of a Heterologous Regime,” has not been certified by peer review and should not be used to guide clinical practice, the council said.

It, however, maintained that the findings have an important implication for the COVID-19 vaccination programme wherein heterologous immunisation will pave the way for induction of improved and better protection against the variant strains of SARS-CoV-2.

“Such mixed regimens will also help to overcome

the challenges of shortfall of particular vaccines and remove hesitancy around vaccines in people's mind that could have genesis in programmatic ‘errors’ especially in settings where multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being used. However, to conclusively prove these findings a multicentre RCT needs to be carried out,” the ICMR said.

Previously the World Health Organisation had warned against mixing of vaccines, saying there was very little information on the mix-and-match of vaccines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CERTIFICATE IN 3 STEPS PAGE 10

Human rights at risk in police stations: CJJ

Ramana flags routine custodial torture

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday said police stations pose the “highest threat” to human rights and dignity, which are “sacrosanct”.

“The threat to human rights and bodily integrity is the highest in police stations... Going by recent reports, even the privileged are not spared third-degree treatment,” the Chief Justice said. Custodial torture and police atrocities still prevail despite constitutional guarantees, he said.

A word of advice

Lack of effective legal representation at police stations is a huge detriment to arrested or detained persons. The first hours of arrest or detention often decide the fate of the case for the accused, the CJJ said. He was speaking at the release of the National Legal Services Authority's legal services app and vision

If we want to remain as a society governed by the rule of law, it is imperative for us to bridge the gap of accessibility to justice between the highly privileged and the most vulnerable. For all times to come, we must remember that the realities of socio-economic diversity which prevail in our nation cannot ever be a reason for denial of rights



N.V. RAMANA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

statement at Vigyan Bhavan.

Chief Justice Ramana had a word of advice for his fellow judges. He noted that if the judiciary wants to gain the trust of the poor and the vulnerable, it has to assure the marginalised that it exists for them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Economic blockade of Mizoram lifted

RAHUL KARMAKAR
 SILCHAR

The economic blockade of Mizoram was lifted late on Saturday after more than four hours of talks between the people of Lailapur, two Assam Ministers and officials.

Officials said nine goods trucks, stranded at Lailapur in southern Assam's Cachar district, proceeded to Mizoram on National Highway 306 after the locals were assured of justice for the death of six Assam policemen and a civilian killed in firing allegedly by Mizoram police personnel and armed civilians on July 26. Lailapur is the last Assam town near the border with Mizoram.

“The sentiment of the local people is very strong. They relented after a marathon 270 hours of discussion in the greater interest of relations between the two sister States and peace in the area,” Assam's Urban Development Minister Ashok Singhal told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

MPs seek reasoned view to open schools

The hazards of not reopening schools after prolonged closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic are “too serious to be ignored”, according to a Parliamentary committee on Education. The committee noted that the closure of schools had not only impacted the social fabric of families in a negative manner, but also increased the involvement of children in household chores. PAGE 10

SP will conduct a caste census: Akhilesh

OMAR RASHID
 LUCKNOW

If the Samajwadi Party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2022, it would conduct a caste census of the OBC com-

munities, its president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday.

In a bid to counter the BJP's strategy of pitting the Yadavs against the other OBCs, Mr.

Yadav has forged an alliance with the Mahan Dal, an OBC-based party headed by Keshav Dev Maurya.

DETAILS ON PAGE 9

Ending with a bang



Final show: Fireworks illuminate the Olympics Stadium as it displays Arigato (thank you), during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics 2020 on Sunday. ■ ANI (REPORTS ON PAGE 13)

Taliban seize three more Afghan cities

Lightning offensive appears to have overwhelmed government forces

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
 KUNDUZ/KABUL

The Taliban tightened the noose over northern Afghanistan on Sunday, capturing three more provincial capitals as they take their fight to the cities after seizing much of the countryside.

The militants have snatched four provincial capitals in Afghanistan since Friday in a lightning offensive that appears to have overwhelmed government forces. Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul and Taloqan in the north fell within hours of one another on Sunday, lawmakers and residents in the cities confirmed, but not without fierce fighting.

Pro-Taliban social media accounts claimed that the insurgents were also close to overrunning the provincial capital of Taloqan.



Significant gain: A Taliban flag was flying in the main square of Kunduz city in Afghanistan on Sunday. ■ AP

In Kunduz, one resident described the city as being enveloped in “total chaos”. “After some fierce fighting, the mujahideen, with the grace of God, captured the capital of Kunduz,” the Taliban said in a statement.

“The mujahideen also captured Sar-e-Pul city, the government buildings and all the installations there,” it said. The Taliban had the compound “surrounded”,

said Mohammad Hussein Mujahidzada, a member of the provincial council.

Perennial target

Kunduz is the most significant Taliban gain since the insurgents launched the offensive in May as foreign forces began the final stages of their withdrawal. It has been a perennial target for the Taliban, who briefly overran the city in 2015 and again in 2016 but never managed to hold it for long.

The Taliban captured Taloqan city in northeastern Takhar province on Sunday, a security source and residents told AFP.

A resident of the city said, “We saw the security forces and officials leaving the city in convoys of vehicles.”

FORCES RETALIATE PAGE 11

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NIKHIL M BABU
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

On July 19, less than a week after monsoon hit the Capital, several parts of the city were heavily waterlogged. Like many others, 27-year-old Ravi Chautala went to take photos of a waterlogged underpass in Pul Prahladpur. But he reportedly fell into the water and though fire brigade and divers were summoned to the spot, only his body could be retrieved from the waterlogged underpass. He left behind his wife and 10-month-old daughter.

Sadly, Chautala's is not a lone instance. On the same day last year, a 56-year-old driver died in a waterlogged stretch under Minto Bridge where his van got stuck. These deaths have yet again exposed the national capital's dirty secret: urban flooding.

Lost in implementation

Despite the deaths, a Drainage Master Plan, commissioned nine years ago and largely seen as a solution, is yet to be implemented. It has now hit a roadblock of "data irregularities", officials said. The last Drainage Master Plan of the city was prepared in 1976.

"At a meeting of the Technical Expert Committee last week, various departments said that the data used for the master plan was found to have several irregularities. A decision has yet to be taken on how to go forward," a Delhi government official told *The Hindu*.

Experts said that while a range of problems with the storm water network is the major cause of the urban flooding, faulty sewage systems, rapid urbanisation, and climate change are intensifying Delhi's woes.

The Drainage Master Plan for NCT of Delhi was commissioned by the Congress-led Delhi government in 2012 and a final plan submitted to the AAP government in July 2018 by IIT-Delhi. "The Chief Minister has directed the departments concerned to take concrete steps for the implementation of the report, which mentions in detail the specific reasons for waterlogging and flooding during monsoon," an offi-

cial statement issued by the Delhi government on August 1, 2018 on the master plan said.

It was then referred to a Technical Expert Committee, which is still going through the report. When contacted, R.K. Sinha, Member (River Management), Central Water Commission, who heads the committee, did not offer a comment.

Data irregularity

A.K. Gosain, Professor Emeritus of IIT-Delhi, who headed the team which prepared the master plan confirmed that the committee has flagged irregularities in data. "We used data which was given to us by various government departments to create the master plan. Now the committee asked departments to cross check 10% of the data with ground reality and in a large number of cases, the data given to us is not matching with the ground reality. This is not our fault. We had asked the departments many times to validate the data, but they never did it," Prof. Gosain said. The master plan submitted in 2018 had also warned of such a possible irregularity. "Since it is possible that many of the data elements that have not been independently validated by the respective departments may be different on ground than the digital reality captured and used in the model," reads the master plan.

The last master plan was prepared when the population of the city was 60 lakh. Since then the population of the city has increased about four times. In



Monsoon blues

the run up to the 2020 Assembly elections, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had said that if re-elected then the government will make roads in Delhi like that of Tokyo and London in the next five years. But currently, many parts of the city go under with half an hour to one hour of rainfall.

'World-class' facility

On the day Mr. Chautala died in the waterlogged underpass, Mr. Kejriwal said that different agencies will make a "world-class" drainage system. "In view of the monsoon, a review meeting was conducted with PWD, MCD, DJB, I&FC chaired by the L-G on the drain-

Though an age-old problem, waterlogging during the rainy season continues to torment the city, thanks to master plans and solutions not being implemented

age system of Delhi. Will implement a system like Minto Bridge at other vulnerable points. Drains and sewers will be regularly cleaned," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The fact that drains in the city are controlled by multiple agencies, some by AAP and the others by BJP, makes the task more difficult.

Core problems

At the centre of the urban flooding problem is the state of both natural and engineered storm water drains. Storm water drains are supposed to carry the run off rainwater and empty into a waterbody, which in Delhi is river Yamuna.

Natural storm water drains are developed over the years as water naturally tries to find a way to flow and it depends on the terrain and slope of the land. In Delhi's instance, many natural drains originate from the Aravallis.

"When you take an area for development, you engineer street-level drains, which will join the roadside drain and it will join larger drains. Usually, all these

are flowing under gravity and flow into a natural drain. This will then drain out into a waterbody," Mr. Gosain said.

Apart from this, there is supposed to be a separate sewage network, which is not connected to the storm water drain, and the sewage treated at plants. But in Delhi, sewage flows into the storm water network at many points and rain in storm water drains, including Najafgarh drain (the largest), is blackish in colour and extremely polluted. Near Signature Bridge, where the about 10-metre-wide Najafgarh drain empties into the Yamuna, it changes the river's colour to a darker shade and pollutes it.

Experts said the waste and sewage also reduces the water-carrying capacity of these drains. Adding to the problem, the rainfall has also become erratic. As global temperatures have soared, air has become warmer and it can hold more moisture, leading to more intense spells of rainfall.

"Studies have shown that in the last 3-4 years, Delhi has been getting intense rainfall in a short duration of

Traffic moving at a slow pace through a waterlogged road at ITO in the Capital. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

time, which was not the case before. This is due to climate change," said Kuldeep Srivastava, Head of the Regional Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department.

For instance, between 6.30 p.m. on July 31 and the same time on August 1, the ridge monitoring station received 126.8 mm of rainfall. This is unusual for Delhi. "Though this is 24 hour data, most of this rainfall was received in a 3-4 hour window on July 31 night," Mr. Srivastava said.

To contextualise, Delhi normally gets only 210.6 mm of rainfall in July. So, the ridge area got more than half of a month's normal rainfall for the city in a matter of 3-4 hours in a day.

Stuck in paper

Mr. Gosain's team, which took the help of over 900 students, inspected drains and collected data ranging from soil type and land use to rainfall and existing drainage network to come up with solutions.

The master plan gives a set of recommendations such as 'no encroachment to be allowed on storm water drains', 'no sewage should be allowed to enter storm water network', 'design of new storm drains should not be done in isolation', among others.

More importantly, the master plan used all the data collected to create a mathematical model which generated solutions for waterlogging problems in identified spots. The model generated four solutions – adjusting slope of the existing drain, diverting water to existing waterbodies, using additional storages, and other development works.

These solutions considered the rainfall, slope of the drain, and many other factors and were done with the larger picture in mind to provide a comprehensive solution to the city, rather than isolated ones. But they still remain on paper. "I'm disappointed at how things have progressed. Nothing much has happened after we submitted the report," said Mr. Gosain.

Combined task

Storm run off system of NCT of Delhi and departmental jurisdiction

Agency name	Length (km)
Irrigation and Flood Control	426.55
Public Works Department	2,064.08
South Delhi Municipal Corporation	258.78
North Delhi Municipal Corporation	122.46
East Delhi Municipal Corporation	140.63
New Delhi Municipal Council	335.29
Delhi Development Authority	251.30
Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation	98.12
Delhi Cantonment	39.68
National Thermal Power Corporation Limited	3.11
U.P. Irrigation (Old Agra Canal)	0.31

SOURCE: DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN

IN BRIEF

Dalit girl rape, murder: Cong. demands quick trial

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Congress on Sunday said the Delhi government should ensure a speedy trial in the alleged rape and murder case of the 9-year-old Dalit girl in Old Nangal Rai. The party demands trial in a fast-track court so that the accused be punished immediately. Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said the shortage of public prosecutors in POCOS courts was delaying delivery of justice to the victims. The Congress leader alleged that the Delhi government has shown no urgency in filling up 73 vacancies of public prosecutors in POCOS courts.

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Passengers double at IGIA in 2 weeks

Delhi airport deploys several technologies to ensure COVID-19 protocol is followed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Since the reopening of Terminal 2 (T2) at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) nearly two weeks ago, the passenger volume at the airport has grown two-fold – from 42,000 to almost 85,000 passengers per day.

"We will take a decision to reopen Terminal 1 (T1) once traffic reaches 1,20,000 mark per day," CEO of Delhi International Airport Limited, Vihid Kumar Jaipuria, told *The Hindu*.

Delhi's IGI Airport has three terminals, of which T1 is yet to reopen since the ban on flights last year in March because of low passenger volumes. While T2 also remained shut for a considerable amount of time, it was reopened in October last year – five months after flight operations resumed in May. However, T2 was shut down again on May 18 after a dip in passenger numbers during the second wave of COVID-19 and resumed operations on July 22.

Over the past 18 months, the airport has introduced several technologies to ensure disinfection of surfaces, circulation of clean air and to monitor that passengers comply with social



Passengers displaying tickets through a glass enclosure at Indira Gandhi International Airport in the city. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

distancing norms.

Luminometer

Luminometer is used to clean high contact surfaces such as lifts, check-in counters and travelators. It ensures these are free from any living or dead bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms. After a surface is cleaned, a test swab is taken and put in a Luminometer. It measures the intensity of the light emitted from a sample, and displays the test result in Relative Light Units (RLU), which is used to determine if the sample has passed or failed.

Delhi airport has also in-

stalled a UV tunnel at the baggage belt area of Terminal 3 that helps disinfect passengers' bags. A live CCTV feed of the UV scanning process mounted at baggage reclaim hall allows passengers to see the disinfection process, which involves high intensity UV lamps.

There are also mobile disinfecting towers that help to disinfect various locations of terminal buildings. Once disinfection is completed, UV power is switched off and these moveable towers are relocated to other areas for a similar exercise. DIAL has installed a system

which replaces air inside the terminal buildings after every 10 minutes. The air inside the terminal is drawn into the AHU (Air Handling Unit), where it gets filtered after passing through UV light and HEPA filters, before being released again into the terminal building.

Tracking system

XOVIS Passenger Tracking System is used to manage passenger flow inside the airport and prevent crowding and long queues. The 3D sensors of the roof-mounted device record passenger coordinates as dots, based on which the software calculates and visualises passenger density index. If the index exceeds 1, this system generates auto-alerts and prompts airport officials to act swiftly and disperse the crowd.

Mobile application

The HOI mobile application helps passengers during different stages of their travel by providing them real-time alerts about gate change, weather forecast at their destination, indoor navigation with voice guidance as well as contactless ordering of foods and beverages as well as their delivery.

Two arrested after video of celebratory firing surfaces

It was shot during a birthday celebration: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
Taking cognisance of a purported video on the social media platform, in which a man was doing celebratory firing, Delhi Police has registered an FIR and arrested the man and his friend on Sunday.

It was shot on August 4 during a birthday celebration organised at the rooftop of a house in outer Delhi's Paschim Vihar East and the man seen firing rounds in the air was identified as Sumit Tanwar, they said.

Police said the alleged video showed the man engaged in celebratory firing on the rooftop of a house here.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said: "A case under Section 336 [act endangering life or personal safety of others] of Indian Penal Code has been registered at Paschim

Vihar East police station and the matter is being investigated."

Identity revealed

During enquiry, the rooftop was identified and it was revealed that on August 4, Sumit, who is a resident of Guru Harkishan Nagar, was celebrating his friend's birthday in Pushkar Enclave, Paschim Vihar, which is owned by his another friend Abhijeet Adana, the officer said.

"The investigation so far has revealed that the revolver used in the celebratory firing belongs to Sumit's friend Abhijeet, which is being verified. The two accused are being questioned for recovery of firearm," Mr. Singh said.

Police said Sumit's father owns a leather products factory at Jaipur and the accused is looking after the factory office in Delhi while Abhijeet is into property dealing business.

CIABC cautions against high liquor licence prices in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) on Sunday welcomed the allotment of retail liquor vents through bidding but cautioned against high prices of alcohol licences in Delhi.

The CIABC said it hoped that high auction prices are not passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices or to manufacturers in the form of demands for undue discounts.

CIABC Director-General Vinod Giri said passing on the burden of high auction prices to consumer or to the manufacturers will not be good for long-term health of the industry.

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & TRAINING VARUN MARG, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

Public Notice for engagement of Change Makers in Education (CMIE) Fellows and Education Interns in SCERT, Delhi

State Council of Educational Research & Training, Delhi invites online applications from eligible candidates for Change Makers in Education (CMIE) Fellowship and Internship Programme 2021-2022.

CMIE programme is an opportunity for the dynamic youth who aim to contribute to society through a holistic transformation of the school education system in Delhi.

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Fellows shall receive a stipend of Rs.60,000/- per month and Interns shall receive a stipend of Rs.20,000/- per month.

For details of eligibility criteria, age limit and other terms and conditions of engagement log in to:

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The application deadline is 20.08.2021. Submission of application other than online mode will not be entertained. Applicants are strictly instructed not to send any hard copy of the application to this Council.

DIP/Shabdarth/0223/21-22 DIRECTOR, SCERT

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डॉ. यादवप्रिय मिश्र अध्यक्ष **पवन कुमार (IAS)** निदेशक

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DIVISION (PHE) KULGAM
(e-mail: xenphekgm@gmail.com Telephone/Fax:01931-295109)
انڈیا ریجنل ایجنسی کے ذریعے ای میل اور فون پر
Notice Inviting e-Tender.
Fresh e-NIT S. No. 40 of 2021-22 ISSUED UNDER NO: PHK/2348-60 Dated. 07-08-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two Cover System) on Item Rate Basis with maintenance period of three years which includes DLP of one year from are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies and other state Governments for the following works, which shall be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://ktenders.gov.in> for the submitted work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division KULGAM and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No.- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://ktenders.gov.in>.
The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) shall be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Kulgam

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Class of Contractor	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion	Head of account
2	Retrofitting of WSS shural Khalsa Laroo Khalsa for providing 100% FHTC by way of providing fixing and laying of pipes and successful commissioning of entire system incl. maintenance period of 3 years with DLP of one year under JJM	37.10	AAY	Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the Bid	2000/=	60 Days	JJM
2	Retrofitting of WSS Turka Tachoo for providing 100% FHTC by way of providing laying and fitting of pipes, construction of truss for pump operator quarter and septic tank, construction of crate protection bund incl. Construction of stair and wash out drain at Filtration plant/OHT site on bank of river Vishow and providing and installation of electro mechanical works and successful commissioning of entire system incl.maintenance period of 3 years with DLP one year under JJM	43.67	AAY	Bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the Bid	2000/=	60 Days	JJM

Position of AA: Accorded Position of Funds: Available
The bidders shall have to upload the following documents with their bids:
1. Scanned copies of tender fee and bid security form to be sworn on affidavit duly notarized be attached with the bid
2. Scanned copies of regd card duly renewed
3. Scanned copies of GST registration with latest GSTR-3B PAN, ITR, TDS
4. Experience/undertaking
5. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: [www.ktenders.gov.in](http://ktenders.gov.in). As per the Schedule of dates given below:
I Publishing date of NIT 07-08-2021 5.00 P.M.
II Download start date 07-08-2021 5.00 P.M.
III Bid submission start date 07-08-2021 5.00 P.M.
IV Bid submission end date 20-08-2021 5.00 P.M.
V Bid opening date 21-01-2021 10.00 A.M.
18.0 Any item of work which is required for satisfactory completion of the scheme / individual activity shall be exclusively responsibility of the contractor and no additional cost shall be paid to the contractor.
19.0 In case of any disputes/differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Anantnagony. Supplies, if involved any, will be delivered at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir
Sd/- Executive Engineer (JSD) PHE Division KULGAM
DIPK - 6161/21

Timings DELHI

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

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

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11
RISE 05:49 SET 19:05
RISE 08:16 SET 21:10

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	33	27
Safdarjang	33	27
Palam	33	28

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

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Warm and humid day with partly cloudy sky and moderate gusty winds likely. Short spell rain may occur.

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DDMA orders implementation of GRAP for COVID-19 management

The plan was approved last month at a meeting chaired by the Lieutenant-Governor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Sunday issued an order to bring into force a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for effective COVID-19 management.

The plan was devised by a State-Level Expert Committee and approved last month in a DDMA meeting chaired by the Lieutenant Governor.

Three parameters

The GRAP consists of three parameters – positivity rate, cumulative new positive cases and average oxygenated bed occupancy for lockdown/unlock in the Capital.

The government has introduced four levels of colour-coded alerts to kick in when the parameters are met.

The Level 1 or yellow alert will come into force when the positivity rate is over 0.5% for two consecutive days or cumulative new positive cases for seven days is above 1,500 cases or the average occupancy

COLOUR-CODED PLAN

Level of alert	Positivity rate (for 2 consecutive days)	Or	Cumulative new positive cases (for a duration of 7 days)	Or	Average oxygenated bed occupancy (for a duration of 7 days)
Level 1 (Yellow)	More than 0.5%	Or	1,500 cases	Or	500 beds
Level 2 (Amber)	More than 1%	Or	3,500 cases	Or	700 beds
Level 3 (Orange)	More than 2%	Or	9,000 cases	Or	1,000 beds
Level 4 (Red)	More than 5%	Or	16,000 cases	Or	3,000 beds

LEVEL 1 Yellow alert LEVEL 2 Amber alert LEVEL 3 Orange alert LEVEL 4 Red alert

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

of oxygenated beds for seven days is 500 beds. Under the alert, cinema halls, banquets, barbershops, salons, gyms, entertainment parks, schools and religious places will be shut. A night curfew will be imposed.

The Level 2 or amber alert will come into force when the positivity rate is over 1% for two days or cumulative new

positive cases for seven days is above 3,500 cases or the average occupancy of oxygenated beds for seven days is 700 beds. Restaurants and public parks will be shut and a weekend curfew will kick in.

The Level 3 or orange alert will kick in when the positivity rate is over 2% for two days or cumulative new positive cases for seven days is above

9,000 cases or the average occupancy of oxygenated beds for seven days is 1,000 beds. Many construction activities will shut along with shops and malls. The Delhi Metro will also shut down.

A Level 4 or red alert will be sounded when the positivity rate is over 5% for two days or cumulative new positive cases for seven days is above 16,000 or the average occupancy of oxygenated beds for seven days is 3,000 beds.

All government offices, apart from those providing essential and emergency services, will shut and a total curfew will be imposed.

66 new cases, 0 deaths

As per the health bulletin, the Capital recorded 66 new cases and zero deaths on Sunday. There are 536 active cases in the Capital.

The bulletin added that 1,19,942 beneficiaries were vaccinated in the last 24-hours out of which 60,097 received their first dose.

Class X to XII students can visit schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in an order on Sunday, permitted students of Class X to XII to visit schools from August 9 for work related to admissions, practical activities and board exam preparations. It also said health checkups and referral services on school campuses can resume.

“Students of Class X to XII in the city are permitted to visit their schools from August 9 for admission-related work, including counselling, guidance and practical activities for board exam. Health checkups and referral services situated in schools or conducted from there can resume. Children of all age may visit these centres accompanied by their parents or guardians,” the DDMA order stated.

The order also said the Directorate of Education shall issue appropriate guidelines to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are followed.



Delhi gets its first animal DNA lab set up in Rohini

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Capital on Sunday got an “Animal DNA Laboratory” set up at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Rohini. Before this, samples used to be sent to other States that have animal DNA testing facilities for the test results. Sometimes, the process delayed investigations.

It will be helpful for the Delhi Police for timely disposal of cases related to cow slaughter, illegal trade of animals and other animal-related cases.

Director Deepa Verma said, “The types of evidence analysed by our forensics lab include any part of an animal, including blood and tissue samples, carcasses, hair, teeth, bones contents.”

She added: “Our experts shall analyses DNA to provide information about the identity of a sample. Some answers that DNA tests may provide identification, characterisation of the relationships between animals, and evaluation of two different samples in order to deter-



Inauguration of the animal laboratory in Rohini.
•SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

mine if they originated from the same individual.”

Now, the laboratory can examine and identify the animal species of meat products, frozen meat packing, slaughter cases and more.

Asst. PRO, Dr. Rajnish Singh said: “The main challenge witnessed by a forensic scientist is identifying a particular species from crime scene evidence. It is very difficult for a scientist to distinguish if a piece of flesh is found at the scene of crime is from a protected animal like an elephant or tiger, etc. or if it comes from a non-protected animal. Now this new wing of Animal DNA shall address these requirements.”

IN BRIEF

DSEU signs MoU with Mercedes for diploma

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) on Sunday signed an MoU with Mercedes Benz India to offer a one-year Advanced Diploma in Automotive Mechatronics (ADAM) course.

Shelter home residents will get meals twice a day: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday launched an initiative in which meals will be provided twice a day to residents of shelter homes. In collaboration with the Akshaya Patra Foundation, the Mukhyamantri Poshahaar Yojana, will provide meals to over 6,000 people who rely on these shelters as homes.



CM Arvind Kejriwal distributes food during the launch of the programme in New Delhi. •PTI

All ready for reopening of weekly markets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Trade associations across the national capital have prepared to reopen weekly markets from Monday, following an announcement from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and a subsequent DDMA order to the same effect.

The weekly markets have been shut since April 19.

‘Reply to plea alleging insurance firm did not reimburse COVID treatment amount’

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the Delhi government and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to respond to a plea of a woman challenging an insurance company’s decision not to reimburse entire amounts spent on the treatment of her late husband for COVID. Justice Rekha Palli also issued notice to the National Insurance Company Limited and Fortis Hospital at Shalimar Bagh, where the woman’s husband died during COVID treatment last year. Case posted for hearing on December 12.

The plea filed by Delhi resident Sunita Goel and her two minor children said her husband held a mediclaim policy, Parivar Mediclaim Policy, and the sum insured was ₹5 lakh. The petition said the

woman’s husband, Gulshan Kumar Goel, was hospitalised on June 30 at Fortis Hospital after he tested positive. He died on July 7, 2020.

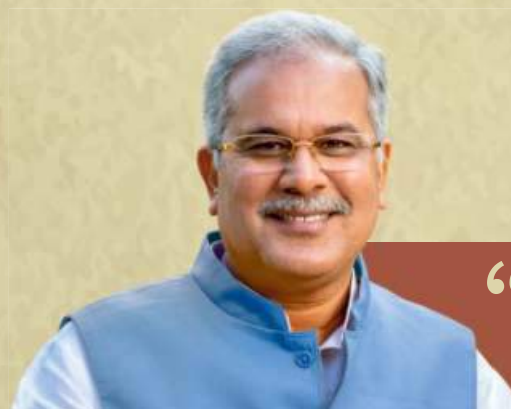
The plea contended that the insurance company has not reimbursed the entire amount spent on the premise that once Delhi government had by its June 30, 2020 circular fixed the rates chargeable by hospitals in Delhi, only the said amount was payable.

PRESERVING TRIBAL LEGACIES THROUGH EMPOWERING POLICIES

Welfare measures for upliftment and empowerment of the tribals

- ❖ Chhattisgarh is one of the leading states in distribution of individual and community forest rights certificates
- ❖ 4200 acres of agricultural land acquired for steel plant in Bastar’s tribal region of Lohandiguda returned to the farmers
- ❖ 718 cases registered against 944 tribals withdrawn; 218 tribals acquitted in 124 Naxal cases
- ❖ Swami Atmanand Government English Medium Schools providing equal opportunities for quality education
- ❖ Success of Malaria Mukht Abhiyan appreciated by UNDP and NITI Aayog
- ❖ Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana consistently delivering medical and healthcare services to 11 lakh tribals in remote areas
- ❖ Scope of Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana expanded to benefit tribals
- ❖ Remuneration for Tendupatta collection raised from ₹2,500 to ₹4,000 per standard bag, highest in the country
- ❖ In just 2.5 years, number of minor forest produce purchased at MSP increased from 7 to 52
- ❖ Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahaak Parivar Samajik Suraksha Yojana providing social security to Tendupatta collecting families
- ❖ Promoting tribal art & culture at the international level
- ❖ Ram Van Gaman Tourism Circuit to develop new tourist centres in tribal regions

9th AUGUST 2021



“ The state of Chhattisgarh is fortunate that its population consists of indigenous people who enrich our culture, traditions and have shaped the history of the state. Jai Adivasi! Jai Chhattisgarh! ”

- Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Pro Active - Pro People



Collector, SP shifted after Minister's visit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHOPAL
The Madhya Pradesh government has transferred Sheopur's Collector and Superintendent of Police (SP) on Sunday, a day after Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar was mobbed by angry locals during his visit to flood-hit parts of the district.
On Saturday, when Mr. Tomar visited Karatia Bazaar in Sheopur city, which is part of Morena Lok Sabha constituency represented by the Minister, people jeered at him and were heard saying he had come too late.
In an order issued on Sunday morning, the Madhya Pradesh government shifted Sheopur District Collector Rakesh Shrivastava.
In a separate order, it also transferred Sheopur's SP Sampat Upadhyaya.

Haryana govt. extends lockdown

It, however, lifts restrictions on timings to run shops, malls, bars and restaurants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM
The Haryana government on Sunday extended the lockdown in the State for a fortnight and lifted the restrictions on the timings to run shops, shopping malls, bars, restaurants, gyms, spas, club houses, and swimming pools were being removed and these establishments could run with adherence to the COVID norms.
Extending the lockdown till August 23 morning, Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan, in a four-page order, said the restrictions on the timings for the shops, shopping malls, restaurants, bars, gyms, spas, club houses, and swimming pools were being removed and these establishments could run with adherence to the COVID norms.
50% capacity cap
The maximum capacity for restaurants and bars, however, remains at 50%. The swimming pools are allowed to open after adopting require-



Queue at a vaccination centre in Gurugram. *FILE PHOTO: PTI

site social distancing norms with all swimmers and visitors vaccinated with both doses of vaccine.
In indoor spaces, gatherings up to 50% of the hall capacity are allowed with a maximum of 100 guests. Similarly, in open spaces, 200 guests are allowed with adherence to COVID-appropriate behaviour.
The earlier relaxations on conducting of exams, opening of universities for doubt classes, and opening of libraries, coaching institutes, training institutes and open training centres continue. Religious places are already allowed to open with maximum of 50 people inside the premises, but the corporate offices are permitted to open with full attendance. The sports complexes are also

open for all outdoor sports activities, but the spectators are not allowed.

Reopening of varsities
As per the earlier orders, the Vice-Chancellors are advised to plan the re-opening of the universities in the State from the next academic session and share the programme with the department concerned of the government.
The orders said that immediate action might be initiated by the university administration to fully vaccinate all the hostel students, day-scholars, faculty and staff, including those outsourced.
The order said that "No Mask-No Service" would be strictly observed in the State. As per the order, people will not be allowed to board public or private transport and enter any government and private establishments for any services without a mask.

TMC workers get bail in Tripura

Abhishek Banerjee spends the whole day at police station

SYED SAJJAD ALI AGARTALA
A court in Tripura on Sunday granted bail to 14 Trinamool Congress leaders and activists, including three youth functionaries from West Bengal, who were arrested for violating COVID-19 linked night curfew imposed under the Disaster Management Act.
TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, who arrived here in the morning, spent the whole day at Khowai police station to seek the release of the workers. He was accompanied by MP Dola Sen, West Bengal Minister Bratya Basu and party leader Kunal Ghosh.
Two of three youth leaders from Bengal - Sudip Raha and Jaya Datta - had sustained injuries due to stone pelting on their vehicle at Ambassa in Dhalai district yesterday.



Abhishek Banerjee

Presence of Mr. Banerjee triggered another phase of political tension in Khowai surrounding the local police station and the court complex. Protesters showed black flags and shouted 'go back'.
Paramilitary contingents of the Tripura State Rifles and the CRPF were deployed to maintain peace.
Mr. Banerjee reportedly had heated exchanges with senior officers. He argued that the detention was unlawful and made at the beh-

est of the ruling party.
After the TMC workers were taken to a court in Khowai, not far away from the police station, vehicles of the State TMC leaders, including former MLA Subal Bhowmik who recently joined the TMC, and an advocate were vandalised near the court complex. Mr. Bhowmik received injuries on his arm. Mr. Banerjee cancelled his scheduled press conference here as his return from Khowai was delayed due to court proceedings. He, other leaders and the three youth activists from West Bengal returned to Kolkata in a special flight in the night.
Meanwhile, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb tweeted that a 'group' hatched a conspiracy to disturb the ongoing development activities and prevailing peace in the State to achieve political mileage.

Odisha govt. go-ahead for coastal highway

It will not intersect any ecologically sensitive area, says senior NHA official

SATYASUNDAR BARIK BHUBANESWAR
The Naveen Patnaik Government has given its consent to the ambitious ₹8000-crore coastal highway project that would connect Odisha's Tangi with West Bengal's Digha, six years after mooting of the proposal.
If everything goes as planned, the first tender for laying a portion of road could be invited by March next.
"The State government has given consent for the coastal highway after much deliberation. We will go for different regulatory approvals required for the project as the proposed road will pass in the vicinity of various forests and Bay of Bengal and over rivers," said Ram Prasad Panda, Chief General Manager of National Highway Authority of



CM Naveen Patnaik

India (NHAI), Bhubaneswar.
Brushing aside environmental concerns being raised over the project, Mr. Panda said the proposed highway would not intersect any ecologically sensitive areas.
"Due care has been taken to evade the forest and sanctuary areas in the plan. The coastal highway will prove a key infrastructure milestone

for transportation of port-related goods, boosting tourism and handling disaster crisis in the future," said the head of NHAI's Bhubaneswar office.
Major traffic on National Highway-16 is likely to shift to the new coastal highway upon its completion.
Ecologically sensitive Chilika, Balukhanda Konark Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika Sanctuary Area and some of the important Olive Ridley turtle nesting sites were initially coming in way of the 382-km-long coastal highway.
The project was modified following reservations by environmentalists over a long bridge proposed over the Chilika Lake.
The crucial road project would originate from Tangi in Khordha district instead of Gopalpur in Ganjam district.

As per road design, all major towns would be by-passed, said Mr. Panda.
Except a stretch of road outside Puri town, all roads would be laid anew. "The project would require close to 2,000 hectares of land while 15-20% of the project cost would be spent towards acquisition of land," he pointed out.
Many bridges
The coastal highway would cross 11 rivers and a number of water channels in six coastal districts for which the project would have large number of bridges and culverts than that of other road projects. From engineering point of view, special treatment of slushy areas would be required to take up the road project.

Need to increase marriageable age of girls to 21 years stressed

It will help stop exploitation, say participants at meetings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM
Participating in a series of webinars and physical meetings - "Lado Panchayats" - under the aegis of "Selfie With Daughter Foundation", a non-government organisation working on gender issues, over the past few weeks, women, from across the country, have advocated the need to increase the minimum marriageable age of girls to 21 years from the present 18.
"We have held a dozen webinars with participants from across the country and physical meetings with the women in different districts of Haryana to discuss the issue of mar-

riageable age for the females. The participants have overwhelmingly supported that the marriageable age should be at par with the men," said Sunil Jaglan, founder, Selfie With Daughter Foundation.
Meetings in Haryana
The foundation has held physical meetings in Haryana's Gurugram, Nuh, Jind, Hissar and Sonapat districts so far. Mr. Jaglan said that the participants in the webinars presented poems, and articles to articulate their views on the issue. Some of the participants had offered to help the campaign with a digital support.
In a recent webinar, the

men from the families of the women participants, including fathers and brothers, also took part in the discussion and pledged their support to the cause. He, however, added that some of the posts of the women participants on the social media seeking support for their campaign had also evoked adverse comments.
Seeking higher marriageable age, the women, in the Lado Panchayats, broadly argued that their studies were adversely impacted due to early marriage. Most of them were of the view that marriage at an early age also led to physical, mental and social exploitation.

Drug dealer killed in police encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GUWAHATI
A suspected drug dealer was killed and a police officer injured in an encounter in Assam's Nagaon district on Sunday, a senior officer said.
Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the Khatowal police station led by officer in-charge Alok Datta Gupta undertook a search of a house in Geruamukh area at 1 a.m. "As soon as the team reached the spot, the drug dealer attacked the OC with a khukri. Datta Gupta sustained grievous injuries," Superintendent of Police Anand Kumar Mishra told PTI. Datta Gupta had to open fire in self-defence, he said. The drug dealer was declared brought dead at the hospital

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL

I-EXTENSION NOTICE
Due to no response the revised dates for e-NIT NO. 15 OF 2021-22 Dated. 27.07.2021 for the work "Providing & fitting of spares to ETIOS, Ambassador car No. JKO1L-6348, JKO1L-6347, JKO1L-6401, JKO1L-7646 & painting to ETIOS & Sumo at SKIMS, Soura." are extended as under:

Last date of uploading:-	upto 11.08.2021 (2.00 PM)
Last date of receipt of hard copies:-	12.08.2021 (4.00 PM)
Date of opening Cover-1st:-	13.08.2021 (02.30 P.M. or next convenient date)
Date of opening Cover-2nd:-	Shall be intimated separately.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical, SKIMS
DIPK-NB-2402/21

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

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tendering Tender Notice No. 37/2021
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), N.E. Railways Iztanagar For and behalf of president of India invites "OPEN" e-tender through on Line (E-tendering) for the following work.
SN-1. Description of works: Balance work of construction of 28 units type II staff quarters on replacement account at Kathgodam station (under sanctioned work construction of 35 units type II staff quarters on replacement account at Kathgodam station). **Approx. Value (Rs.):** ₹ 1,30,98,932.50. **E.M.D. (Rs.):** ₹ Nil. **Cost of Tender Forms (Rs.):** ₹ Nil. **Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:** 06 Months. 1. On line e-tender can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs of dated 31.08.2021. 2. For Full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. **Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), CPRO/W-137, Iztanagar**
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794849555
Never travel on roof and foot boards

NOIDA New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://letender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No.	Job No.	Name of work	Amount	Tender Publication
1.	01/Adv/L (DGM-Jay) 2021-22	ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON BOT BASIS ON BRIDGE PANELS AT MAHAMAYA AND SECTOR-82 FLYOVER (FOR ONE YEAR), NOIDA.	52,87,161.60	Third Time

Which can be uploaded by date 16.08.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 17.08.2021 at 11.00 AM.
DGM, Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR.
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Short term notice inviting E-tenders
Gist of NIT NO. 17 OF 2021-22 Dated. 05.08.2021
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites e-tenders from Registered/ Reputed and Experienced firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Providing and fitting of fire water pipeline and allied works at SKIMS, Soura.	Rs.8,70,720/-

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jtenders.gov.in>. bidders/tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

I)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	07-08-2021 at 11:00 Hour
ii) <td>Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet</td> <td>10-08-2021 upto 14:00Hours</td>	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	10-08-2021 upto 14:00Hours
iii) <td>Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading</td> <td>16-08-2021 upto 16:00 Hours</td>	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	16-08-2021 upto 16:00 Hours
iv) <td>Date of Submission of hard copies (only original EMD/DD for document fee)</td> <td>17-08-2021 upto 14:00 Hours</td>	Date of Submission of hard copies (only original EMD/DD for document fee)	17-08-2021 upto 14:00 Hours
v) <td>Date & Time of Commercial/Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening</td> <td>18-08-2021 at 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)</td>	Date & Time of Commercial/Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	18-08-2021 at 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi) <td>Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-I) Opening of the qualifying Bidders</td> <td>Shall be intimated separately</td>	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-I) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii) <td>Cost of e-bid Document</td> <td>Rs.500/=(Rupees Five Hundred only).</td>	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.500/=(Rupees Five Hundred only).
viii) <td>Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)</td> <td>Rs.17500/=(Rupees seventeen thousand & five hundred only)</td>	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs.17500/=(Rupees seventeen thousand & five hundred only)
ix) <td>Completion Time</td> <td>15 days</td>	Completion Time	15 days
x) <td>Budget Head</td> <td>M&R for the year 2021-22</td>	Budget Head	M&R for the year 2021-22

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PUBLIC NOTICE
We, Taranjeet Singh Slatch and Neha Slatch R/o 641-B, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi, inform that Simarjot Singh Slatch has been adopted as son on March 2021. His biological parents are Mohanjeet Singh Slatch and Harmeet Kaur Slatch, And his legal parents are Taranjeet Singh Slatch & Neha Slatch.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Unou Behl Satsangi D/o Lalpat Rai Behl, R/o Flat No. 100B, Sector-A, Pocket-B & C, Third Floor, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi -110070, have lost original Allocation Letter, Payment Challan, Conveyance Deed, General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and Purchase, Payment Receipt and Will, of the above flat. An FIR has been lodged to this effect. Finder(s) may pls contact #9313984696

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Three arrested for selling cars through forged papers
Seven cars seized from the accused

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The Delhi police has arrested three members of a gang for allegedly selling luxury cars to buyers using forged documents
Seven cars were seized from the possession of accused - Rajeev Kumar (34), Vaibhav Rana (21) and Vijender Rana (51) - who operated in the Delhi-NCR region and Uttar Pradesh, the police said.
Fake bank NOC
The gang got the cars financed through different banks using dummy applicants and later sold them to buyers after getting the vehicles cleared from transport authorities on forged NOCs of bank from where the vehicles were financed.
On August 2, a complaint was received from one of the private banks about two cars financed by them to two persons and alleged that it came to their knowledge that the hypothecation certificate of both the vehicles after making false representations and on the basis of forge documents submitted in the RTO, according to the police.
During the course of the investigation, local intelligence was developed and through technical surveillance three men, who were part of a gang, were arrested. At their instance seven vehicles were seized, a senior police officer said.

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IN BRIEF



Y.V. Subba Reddy reappointed TTD chief
TIRUPATI
The Andhra Pradesh government has reconstituted the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) trust board and has once again appointed Y.V. Subba Reddy as its Chairman. The other members would be appointed shortly. Mr. Reddy, who is the uncle of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, was widely expected to get a successive second term after his two-year tenure came to an end on June 22.

Classes 9 to 12 to resume in Lakshadweep today

KOCHI
Regular classes for students in Classes IX to XII in Lakshadweep will begin on Monday, said a circular issued by the Directorate of Education, Lakshadweep Administration. The written consent of the parent is necessary, the circular said. All schools have to follow a standard operating procedure (SOP) to ensure the safety of students and staff. Classes IX and XII will function from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. while Classes X and XI will function from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Bharat Dynamics to set up unit in Jhansi

HYDERABAD
The Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), under the Ministry of Defence, and the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority have signed an agreement to set up a unit in the Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor. The only defence public sector company in the country manufacturing missiles and underwater weapons for the armed forces would be setting up an unit on 215 acres in Jhansi, its first in north India.

Kerala resorts gear up to receive guests

State govt. takes steps to boost domestic tourism

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Guests who have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine can stay at hotels and resorts where the staff are fully vaccinated, Kerala Minister for Tourism P.A. Mohamed Riyas said on Sunday.

The decision is part of efforts to give a leg-up to the State's tourism sector by boosting domestic tourism, Mr. Riyas told a press conference here. This will be applicable to hotels, resorts, houseboats, and other accommodation units. Guests

will not be disturbed even if the locality is declared a containment zone. The idea was that such facilities should operate as bio-bubbles where the guests would enjoy their stay safely, Mr. Riyas and Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism) V. Venu said.

The Minister made the announcement on the strength of the recent government order relaxing the pandemic norms from August 5.

Mr. Riyas cited the example of Vythiri in Wayanad district where 100% vaccination was achieved with the help of the Health Department.

The Chief Secretary has directed the District Collectors and District Police Chiefs to ensure that guests



In comeback mode: Houseboats resumed operations in Alappuzha last week after three months. ■ SURESH ALLEPPEY

with hotel bookings have unhindered passage to their destinations, he said.

₹33,000 crore loss
According to the Minister, the sector has suffered losses

to the tune of ₹33,000 crore between March 2020 and December 2020. Foreign exchange earnings have plummeted by ₹7,000 crore. Around 15 lakh people are dependent on the sector in

the State. The department is placing emphasis on domestic tourism as foreign tourist arrivals are not expected to bounce back soon.

Virtual Onam fete
The Tourism Department is organising virtual Onam celebrations this year, given the limitations imposed by the pandemic. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the Onam celebrations on August 14. Keralites all over the world can post pictures of their 'Onapookkalam' on the digital platform of the department under the 'Viswamanavikathayude Onapookkalam' event. Online registration will begin on August 10.

March from Amaravati to Mangalagiri temple foiled

Leaders detained as protests against 3-capital plan intensify

STAFF REPORTER GUNTUR
The police foiled an attempt by members of the Amaravati Joint Action Committee (JAC) to march to the Panakala Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple at Mangalagiri on Sunday to mark the 600th day of protests against the Andhra Pradesh government's decision to have three capitals.

The protesters have been demanding retention of Amaravati as the sole capital of the State.

A huge contingent of police personnel was deployed on all routes leading to Thullur as several leaders belonging to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) were taken into preventive custody.

Protesters pitched tents at Thullur, the main scene of action. Many of them, in-



TDP youth wing leader Ravipati Sai Krishna being detained during a protest at Thullur on Sunday. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

cluding women, entered into arguments with the police, demanding that they be allowed to march to the temple. But the police stopped them, citing pandemic-related restrictions.

The JAC has been holding protests since December 2019 when Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced the three-capital plan.

including former Ministers Devineni Umamaheswara Rao and Nakka Ananda Babu, and TDP leaders, including Ganji Chiranjeevi, were confined to their homes.

The JAC has been holding protests since December 2019 when Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy announced the three-capital plan.

Yediyurappa declines Cabinet-rank status

Order had evoked adverse reaction

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

A day after the State government bestowed Cabinet-rank privileges on former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, he declined to accept them on Sunday. The order had raised eyebrows as the veteran leader holds no statutory post and is only a legislator now.

In a letter to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Mr. Yediyurappa requested withdrawal of the order giving him a Cabinet-rank status coterminous with Mr. Bommai's term as CM. "I would like the State government to give me only those facilities that any former Chief Minister is given," he said in the letter.

Such an order was unprecedented, and had been issued to keep Mr. Yediyurappa placated by the current



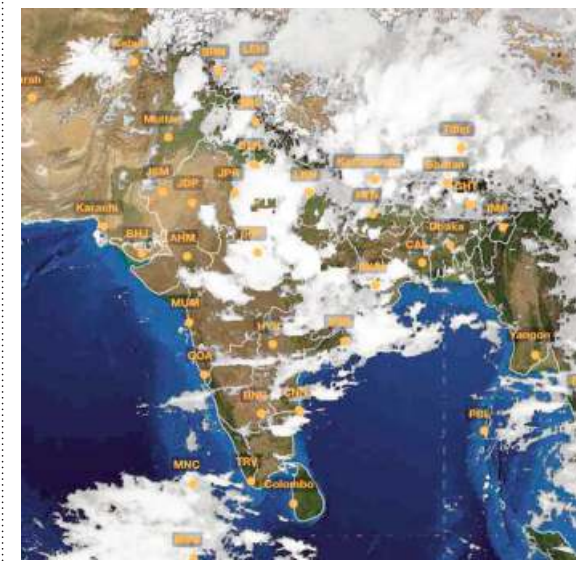
B.S. Yediyurappa

regime, sources in the government said. It was a way to help him continue to stay in the 'Cauvery' bungalow of the government that he was keen on, sources said.

Though the order was issued after consulting him, Mr. Yediyurappa is learnt to have changed his mind after the adverse reactions it elicited from sections of society and his own party. "The order was ill-advised and damaging to his stature," a leader close to him said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	18	31.6	26.3	Kozhikode	18	30.2	24.2
Ahmedabad	35.5	27.1	24.2	Kurnool	0.2	33.8	26.1
Aizawl	1.4	26.2	19.5	Lucknow	—	34.7	28.5
Allahabad	34.2	26.8	25.7	Madurai	—	40	25.7
Bengaluru	1.2	30.7	20.8	Mangaluru	41.3	29.5	23.1
Bhopal	2	29.6	23	Mumbai	—	30.4	26.5
Bhubaneswar	35.7	26.3	20.2	Mysuru	—	30.1	20.2
Chandigarh	1	34.7	27.4	New Delhi	0.5	31.6	26.1
Chennai	3	35.8	28.6	Patna	27	32.2	26.6
Coimbatore	34.8	22.6	26.2	Port Blair	2	30.9	26.2
Dehradun	19	32.8	24	Puducherry	—	36.4	24.8
Gangtok	48	21.2	17.7	Ranchi	108	29.6	21.5
Goa	30.6	25.3	21.6	Raipur	—	33.3	26
Guwahati	4	34.8	25.9	Rancho	—	25.9	20.2
Hubballi	28	22	17.5	Shillong	11	27.9	17.5
Hyderabad	5	33.2	23.2	Shimla	2	25.9	20.2
Imphal	6	31.6	22	Srinagar	—	28.1	17.7
Jaipur	—	35	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	9	29.5	23.1
Kochi	18	29.2	24.2	Tiruchirappalli	—	39	26.4
Kohima	13	26.2	17.6	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	12	31.1	25.7	Visakhapatnam	—	35.8	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	42	44	22	64	100	Good	—
Bengaluru	6	50	33	19	69	Good	—
Chennai	4	16	76	76	116	Good	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 241 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17
Delhi	10	12	30	272	153	Poor	—
Hyderabad	8	19	41	79	79	Good	—
Kolkata	12	26	23	58	57	Good	—
Lucknow	8	11	60	50	83	Good	—
Mumbai	24	27	11	50	130	Good	—
Pune	33	12	111	72	63	Good	—
Visakhapatnam	16	44	30	44	—	Good	—

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: 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.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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thesis of biomaterials for femtosecond processing will be preferred. Candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis may also apply.
PRIZES AND REWARDS: As per Gol (SERB/MHRD) norms
DEADLINE: August 14
APPLICATION: Via email b4s.in/edge/RMP6

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For Engineering: Up to 80% of total academic fees or up to ₹1 lakh.
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APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/edge/CSE1

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	Acceptance of offer 9 th September, 2021
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Golden arm

Indian sportspersons showed self-belief at the Olympics to return with a record tally

India took on a golden glow at Tokyo on Saturday as Neeraj Chopra hurled the javelin to fetch the country its first Olympics gold in track and field. Neeraj's winning effort at 87.58m capped the finest ever performance by Indian sportspersons in the quadrennial global stage. India won seven medals – one gold, two silvers and four bronzes – and cumulatively edged past the previous best of six at the 2012 London Games. For a country resigned to a meagre yield or none at the Olympics since its debut in 1900, the latest edition was laden with riches. At 23, Neeraj has the world at his feet and the skies to aim for. The Indian Army man has grown in stature, and to supplant German Johannes Vetter, until now the world's best javelin thrower, was no mean task. Neeraj's golden tryst was special at many levels; it was India's maiden gold in athletics at the Olympics while Norman Pritchard had won two silvers in 1900. It was also India's second individual gold at the Games after shooter Abhinav Bindra hit bullseye at Beijing in 2008. That Neeraj had previously won golds in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games are all pointers to a journey that is on cruise-mode while his coach Klaus Bartonietz keeps a close watch.

Neeraj's dash of magic seasoned in sweat and muscle, found mirror-images within the Indian contingent. Wrestler Bajrang Punia won bronze in the men's freestyle 65kg bout, pinning down Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov. It also bolstered India's medals' kitty that had prior contributions from Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Ravi Kumar Dahiya, P.V. Sindhu and the men's hockey team. What stood out was the Indian contingent's belief that they can compete on level terms with their fancied rivals. It showed in Aditi Ashok's golfing endeavour as she came tantalisingly close to silver before a rain-marred day out at the greens undid her rhythm and the Bangalorean finished at the fourth spot. When the curtains were lowered on the latest Olympics on Sunday, the India-story was largely driven by Neeraj, hockey-renaissance and women-power while shooting proved underwhelming. Among the rest, it was status quo as the United States of America and China led the medals tally with host Japan and Great Britain following while India was placed 48th in the table. Usain Bolt's stardust was missed but Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah added zest while setting a new Olympic record of 10.61 seconds in the women's 100m sprint. The pandemic delayed the Games by a year but it marches on unhindered while the fans look forward to the 2024 version at Paris.

Tightrope walk

The RBI should not undermine its own credibility by delaying steps to rein in inflation

Governor Shaktikanta Das's statement accompanying the RBI's latest policy announcement highlights the bind that monetary authorities find themselves in. While the central bank's growth supportive actions – maintaining the benchmark interest rate at a decade low, ensuring ample liquidity and an accommodative policy stance – are yet to help engender a meaningful recovery, inflation continues to disquietingly hover around the 6% upper bound of its mandated target. Governor Das acknowledged the RBI's predicament when he said: "Before the onset of the pandemic, headline inflation and inflationary expectations were well anchored at 4%, the gains from which need to be consolidated and preserved. Stability in inflation rate fosters credibility of the monetary policy framework and augurs well for anchoring inflation expectations. This, in turn, reduces uncertainty for investors... increases external competitiveness and, thus, is growth-promoting." It is this vital inflation targeting remit that the Monetary Policy Committee has temporarily set aside in the wake of COVID-19 and its brutal impact, while the central bank focuses its efforts on using all available policy tools to simultaneously preserve financial stability and support a durable economic revival. Still, the central bank's outlook for growth and inflation shows it is cognisant of the ground realities and the limits to its policy options.

Asserting that domestic economic activity has started to recover with the 'ebbing of the second wave', the MPC is hopeful of a bounce back in rural demand on the back of agricultural output remaining resilient, coupled with urban consumption recovering as the manufacturing and service sectors rebound with a lag, and as increased vaccinations help release pent-up demand. However, given that underlying conditions are still weak and the Current Situation Index of consumer confidence in its own July survey is still stuck near the all-time low polled in May, the RBI has retained its full-year GDP growth forecast at 9.5%. The fact that it has at the same time lowered the Q2, Q3 and Q4 growth projections it made just two months ago, by between 0.5 and 0.9 percentage points, belies the uncertainty in its outlook. With the monsoon rainfall deficit once again widening to minus 4% as on August 8, latest *kharif* sowing estimates revealing an almost 23% shortfall and composite PMI data for July showing a persistent contraction in business activity and continuing job losses, it is hard to see either a near-term revival in demand or an easing in inflationary pressures from cereal and edible oil prices. Admitting the price pressures, the RBI has also raised its fiscal-year inflation projection by 60 basis points to 5.7%. Also, with one of the six members of the MPC dissenting and voting against the language of the policy stance, it seems clear the central bank may sooner than later have to bite the bullet and start normalising rates if it wants to avoid undermining its own credibility by delaying steps to rein in inflation.

The looking glass of history in Afghanistan

The reason for the U.S.'s failure is no different from that of the Soviets; India too can hardly impact the ground situation



VIVEK KATJU

Mikhail Gorbachev became General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in March 1985. By then Soviet forces had been in Afghanistan for over five years. They had failed to successfully combat the mujahideen groups, most of whom were based in Pakistan. The mujahideen received crucial support from the United States but the critical factor was their Pakistan base. Secure with the U.S. fully behind it, Pakistan knew that the Soviet Union would not risk crossing the Durand Line to take armed action on Pakistani territory.

In his insightful book, *The Great Game in Afghanistan: Rajiv Gandhi, General Zia and the Unending War*, Kallol Bhattacharjee records that immediately after becoming the Soviet Union's supreme leader, Mr. Gorbachev had met the Pakistani dictator in Moscow. He had warned him that "Moscow would ensure that Pakistan faces the consequences of backing the mujahideen". Zia was unfazed by the threat because he knew that the new Soviet leader was posturing.

From the USSR to the U.S.

Thirty-two years later, the wheel of history had turned. It was the United States which was bogged down in Afghanistan. For 16 years it had, despite a military surge, failed to quell the Taliban insurgency even though the group merely had the support of Pakistan. The reason for the U.S.'s failure was no different from that of the Soviets. It could not carry the war into the territory of Pakistan,

now armed with nuclear weapons; destabilising such a state would have incalculable consequences.

Now, a new U.S. leader, President Donald Trump announcing his Afghanistan policy in August 2017, said, "We can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond. Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with our effort in Afghanistan. It has much to lose by continuing to harbor [u]r criminals and terrorists (https://bit.ly/3fjgILP)." He followed this with a tweet on new year's day 2018 accusing Pakistan of "lies and deceit". For sometime, the Pakistani leadership was concerned by the mercurial Trump but then realised that his were empty threats, signs of the U.S.'s frustration. It continued with its Afghan policy as before.

A thread in these approaches

Within a year of taking over, Mr. Gorbachev was convinced that the Soviet Union's Afghan quest was futile. In February 1986 he told the Communist Party that Afghanistan had become a "bleeding wound". He now decided to prepare for the retreat of the Soviet forces. His aim was to have an orderly withdrawal. He also abandoned the idea of leaving behind a "socialist" government and sought to have a broad-based one which would include the mujahideen.

Fourteen months after warning Pakistan of serious consequences in his August 2017 policy announcement, Mr. Trump too caved in and authorised talks between U.S. diplomats and Taliban representatives in Doha. In these talks, the U.S.'s principal objective was to secure a Taliban guarantee that it would not harbour international terrorist groups in territories under its control. And, like the Soviet



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

Union over three decades ago the U.S. too accepted the idea of an Afghan interim administration which included the Taliban. The February 2020 U.S.-Taliban agreement (https://bit.ly/3xwlyFG), which Mr. Trump's successor President Joe Biden has honoured, marked the strategic defeat of the world's pre-eminent global power. It was reminiscent of the Geneva Accords of 1988 which were a strategic defeat of a then superpower, the Soviet Union. They both paved the way for the safe withdrawal of foreign forces.

From 1986 to 1988, the Soviets tried hard to put in place an inclusive government in Afghanistan. Najibullah, a forceful if brutal Afghan leader of Pashtun ethnicity, became President in 1986. He virtually abandoned communist ideology for Afghan nationalism and stressed the country's Islamic heritage. He reached out to all sections of Afghan society. The U.S. and Pakistan seemed to go along with the idea of an inclusive government as long as the final assurance of Soviet withdrawal was not gained.

The Indian initiative

Significantly, India too advocated a broad-based government and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was in the forefront in advocating it. India took active measures, including contacting the former King Zahir Shah, living in exile in Rome, to lead it. This annoyed the U.S. and Pakistan. Both wanted In-

dia to assume a non-operational position on Afghan developments and restrict its role to pressing the Soviets to leave. Once it became clear that Pakistan wanted a mujahideen government without Najibullah's participation or Zahir Shah's leadership, India decided to fully support the Najibullah government. This even before the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan in February 1989.

As part of its outreach to all Afghan parties in 1987 and 1988, India was also in contact with the mujahideen. In February 1988, Rajiv Gandhi met Peter Galbraith, a staffer with the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and whom he had known from his youth. Mr. Bhattacharjee records, "To Galbraith's surprise, Rajiv said that India had reached out to all sections, including the mujahideen inside Pakistan and Afghanistan and was now assessing the entire formula for a broad-based government in Kabul". This shows that Rajiv Gandhi pursued the requirements of realpolitik: even while firmly supporting Najibullah he was not averse to acknowledge, at the highest political level, that if Indian interests demanded so, India would not hesitate to do business with any Afghan group however regressive its ideology.

India's 2021 Afghan dilemma mirrors, to an extent, the one it faced post the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. There is a major difference though. In 1989, Kabul was led by a strong Afghan leader, Najibullah, who had the capacity to hold the situation together with Soviet assistance. That was forthcoming, for while the Geneva Accords provided that neither side would help their protégés, they continued to do so. Thus, for three years, Najibullah kept the mujahideen at bay. It was with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that the political unity of Kabul frayed. With that

the army fragmented, paving the way for the mujahideen to take over in April 1992. Soon enough, intra-mujahideen conflict resulted in complete instability in the country. That set the stage for the rise of the Taliban with Pakistani assistance. The internecine mujahideen hostilities, fortunately, provided India strategic opportunities to influence the ground situation in Afghanistan along with Iran and Russia. But fortune does not smile at all times.

Afghanistan today

Now, like Rajiv Gandhi in the 1986-1988 period, Indian foreign policy and security managers are advocating the formation of an inclusive government. So, ostensibly are the western powers including the U.S. The problem is that Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani is no Najibullah. His capacity to hold Kabul together is questionable. Besides, the Kabul political elite is at odds with itself and if it frays, will the Afghan National Security Forces remain united? The extent to which the U.S. will be willing to support Kabul post August 31 (the date of complete withdrawal) remains to be seen. This situation of total flux could have been easily foreseen. Equally, the need for maintaining open and direct contacts with all Afghan political parties could also have been anticipated only if pragmatic and correct strategic attitudes had guided Indian policy.

Notwithstanding all the appropriate diplomatic noises India may make, it has now no real capacity to impact the ground situation in Afghanistan. And, even if the best option for India comes to pass – the formation of an inclusive government – its absence of open contacts with the Taliban will place it at a great disadvantage.

Vivek Katju is a former diplomat

Revisit the idea of 'aging out' India's coal plants

A more nuanced analysis considering the various characteristics of individual plants would be appropriate



ASHOK SREENIVAS & MARIA CHIRAYIL

As part of the Union Budget address for 2020-21, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, said that the shutting down of old coal power plants, which are major contributors to emissions, will aid the achievement of India's Nationally Determined Contributions, an idea which has been endorsed by the Power Minister, R.K. Singh (https://bit.ly/3jQnQxL).

Some studies cite advantages

Some research studies have also argued in favour of it, citing the economic and the environmental benefits of shutting down coal plants older than, say, 25 years. It is argued that the availability of under-utilised newer (and presumably more efficient) coal-based capacity means that shutting down older inefficient plants would lead to improved efficiencies, reduced coal usage, and hence, cost savings.

Further, it is argued that it would be uneconomical for old plants to install pollution control equipment required to meet the

emission standards announced by the Environment Ministry, and hence it would be better to retire them. The recent order from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) allowing Delhi's BSES distribution company to exit its concluded 25 year old power purchase agreement with the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited's Dadri-1 generating station, also lends some credence to this (https://bit.ly/3JmZQ).

Since plants older than 25 years make up around 20% of the total installed thermal capacity in the country and play a significant role in the country's power supply, decisions regarding their retirement merit finer scrutiny to see if the claimed benefits really accrue.

The benefits

How significant are the potential benefits?

While there are some old plants tied up in expensive power purchase agreements, as in the case of the CERC order, there are also several old plants, which generate at lower costs. For instance, plants such as Rihand, Singrauli (both Uttar Pradesh), and Vidhyanchal (Madhya Pradesh), are all over 30 years old and have very low generation costs of around ₹1.7/kWh, which is lower than the national average. This may be due to locational advantage rather than efficiency, as older plants are likely to be located closer to the coal



GETTY IMAGES

source, reducing coal transport costs. However, this just highlights the complexity of the issue, since efficiency does not naturally translate to savings.

A savings analysis

Indeed, our analysis (https://bit.ly/3jDat3a) suggests that the total savings in generation cost from shutting down plants older than 25 years would be less than ₹5,000 crore annually, which is just 2% of the total power generation cost. These savings may not be sufficient to even pay for the fixed costs (such as debt repayment) that would have to be paid anyway, even if the plants are prematurely retired. Similarly, savings in coal consumption by replacing generation from plants older than 25 years with newer coal plants are also likely to be only in the 1%-2% range.

The argument about older plants finding it uneconomical to install pollution control equipment to meet environmental norms is a stronger one, as all coal plants should indeed reduce emis-

sions. However, even here, the argument is not black-and-white. There are some old plants that may continue to be economically viable even if they install pollution control equipment as their current fixed costs (which would increase with pollution control equipment installation) are very low. Indeed, about half the coal capacity older than 25 years has already issued tenders for pollution control equipment installation.

Risks with retirement

The question then becomes whether these limited savings are worth the risks associated with early retirement of coal plants, especially given the current trends in the country's power sector. To support the growing intermittent renewable generation in the sector, there is an increasing need for capacity that can provide flexibility, balancing, and ancillary services. Old thermal capacity, with lower fixed costs, is a prime candidate to play this role until other technologies (such as storage) can replace them at scale. Further, the capacity value of the old capacity is critical to meet instantaneous peak load, and to meet load when renewable energy is unavailable.

There is also a political economy risk, as aggressive early retirement of coal-based capacity, without detailed analyses, could result in real or perceived electricity shortage in some States, leading to

calls for investments in coal-based base-load capacity by State-owned entities. About 65 gigawatts (GW) of thermal capacity is already in the pipeline, of which about 35 GW is in various stages of construction. This is likely in excess of what the country needs, and further addition to it, driven by State political economy considerations, will lead to stranded assets and locked-in resources.

This is not to say that no old plant should be retired. However, using age as the only lever to drive these decisions is too blunt an instrument, and can prove counterproductive. Instead, a more disaggregated and nuanced analysis, considering the various technical, economic and operating characteristics of individual plants and units, while also accounting for aspects such as intermittency of renewables, growing demand, and need to meet emission norms, would be appropriate to make retirement-related decisions. Hence, it may be prudent to let old capacity fade away in due course, while focusing on such detailed analysis and weeding out the needless capacity in the pipeline, to derive long-term economic and environmental benefits.

Ashok Sreenivas and Maria Chirayil are from the Prayas (Energy Group), and work on topics which include the interlinkages of the coal-thermal and power sectors

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Tokyo and after

The historic moment of glory should be inscribed in letters of gold. The overall performance of the Indian contingent is no mean achievement in the backdrop of a raging pandemic. Unlike many other popular games, which have a committed audience to boast, athletes have to motivate themselves to do their best as hardly anyone notices and appreciates them to enhance their morale. Many who participated in the Olympics are from a rural background who have scaled greater heights with limited or inadequate infrastructure to hone their skills. Not resting on laurels, this euphoric moment should be sustained with an allocation of enhanced funds and training facilities to identify

and nurture talent. It is clear that there is no scarcity of talent.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ With the all-time best medals haul in Indian Olympic history, it is probably time for both the authorities and us people in India to start looking at how those who succeeded have done it rather than looking at what ails the system. Modern equipment, world-class training and a good financial support system are probably what are getting our sportspersons to be among the best in the world. Besides the medal winners, there have been quite a few near misses which only goes to show that we have a new breed of Olympians. With a little more focus in the hunt for genuine talent among our youth and training them to

be mentally tough to face competition, the next Olympics is sure to see India firmly on the path to glory.

YOGANANDH T.,
Salem, Tamil Nadu

■ Our favourable demographic profile does not seem to be yielding a proportionate performance in competitive sports. Scouting for talent and honing it in high-grade competition is needed to touch world class. This entails huge financing and drive. Governments and corporates must fund and innovate big time.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

This is jarring

The details in the report, "Casteist abuse shameful, says women's hockey team skipper" (Inside pages, August 8), left one

shame-faced. That the family of Vandana Katariya, one of the players in India's women's hockey team at the Olympics, faced alleged casteist abuse after the Indian team lost the semi-final clash, is disgusting. Winning and losing any game is a part and parcel of sport.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ While on one hand we are busy celebrating the heroic achievements of some of our Tokyo Olympians, it is disturbing that a few countrymen are intent on pulling down other achievers. One must realise that it takes much sweat and sacrifice for the families concerned to overcome sarcasm, taunts and bias in ensuring that their son or daughter fetches a medal for the country. Many of us need

to learn lessons from these deeply inspiring life stories rather than demoralising or insulting some of our sporting heroes.

JYOTI KUNWAR,
Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ This mushrooming of religious/casteist discrimination in the country is alarming. Yet our political leaders seem reticent and do nothing to eliminate this menace for reasons best known to them. We are in need of comprehensive laws to enable the extermination of casteism in the country.

THOMAS K.M.,
Muvattupuzha, Kerala

Hair loss

As a person who experienced severe hair loss (alopecia) from an early age, I found the article, "Some facts on hair - why it drops and how it grows" (Science

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& Technology' page, August 8), to be educative. It was interesting to read that "traditional yoga exercises are seen to stimulate the growth of hair...." In my case, there was no hope and after trying traditional cures, ranging from oil concoctions to tonics, I have had to settle for a natural hair wig. I do envy the bountiful crown of hair that Olympian Neeraj Chopra has – a TV commentator says Neeraj is also known as Mowgli. I do hope that there is progress in abolishing quackery in trichology, which was also the theme of the 2012 meeting in Chennai of the Hair Research Society of India. There needs to be a breakthrough achieved in reversing hair loss.

VEDANTH BHARADWAJ,
Bengaluru

The sovereign right to tax is not absolute

BIT provisions to challenge taxation measures include expropriation and fair and equitable treatment



PRABHASH RANJAN

An important bill introduced in Parliament last week aims to nullify the regressive 2012 amendment in the Income Tax Act. The 2012 amendment overturned the Supreme Court's decision in *Vodafone International Holdings v. Union of India* and made the income tax law retroactively applicable on indirect transfer of Indian assets. The retroactive amendment resulted in Vodafone and Cairn Energy suing India before Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) tribunals of India-Netherlands and India-U.K. bilateral investment treaties (BITs). Both the tribunals held that India's retroactive amendment of tax laws breached the fair and equitable treatment provision of the two BITs.

The proposed amendment, long overdue, is a welcome development. However, it is being presented as a domestic legal reform undoing a past mistake. It appears that this amendment hasn't been proposed to comply with the two adverse ISDS decisions rendered against India or to comply with India's international law obligations contained in BITs. This is because there is an erroneous belief in the bureaucratic and political circles that since taxation matters are part of sovereign measures, they cannot be challenged before ISDS tribunals.

Sovereign right to tax

Several ISDS tribunals have recognised the fundamental principle that taxation is an intrinsic element of the state's sovereign power. For instance, in a case known as *Eiser v. Spain*, where foreign investors challenged a tax imposed by Spain on electrical producers under the Energy Charter Treaty, the tribunal held that the power to tax is a core sovereign power of the state that should not be questioned lightly. Likewise, in *El Paso v. Argentina*, where the investors challenged several facets of Argentinian tax measures as breaching the United States-Argentina BIT, the tribunal held that the tax policy



"Carving out taxation measures from the scope of the BIT does not mean that states are free to do as they please." A Vodafone store in Mumbai. •AFP

of a country is a matter relating to the sovereign power of the state, and thus "the State has a sovereign right to enact the tax measures it deems appropriate at any particular time". Not just this, the ISDS tribunals have also held that whenever a foreign investor challenges states' taxation measures, there is a presumption that the taxation measures are valid and legal. For instance, an ISDS tribunal in *Renta 4 v. Russia* said that when it comes to examining taxation measures for BIT breaches, the starting point should be that the taxation measures are a bona fide exercise of the state's public powers.

Limits on the right

Notwithstanding the state's sovereign right to impose taxes and the presumption about the validity of taxation measures, there are certain limits on the exercise of this public power. The two most used BIT provisions to challenge a state's taxation measures are expropriation and the fair and equitable treatment provision. In the context of expropriation, one of the key ISDS cases that explained the limits on the state's right to tax is *Burlington v. Ecuador*. In this dispute, investors challenged Ecuador's windfall tax imposed on excess profits resulting from oil ex-

ploration under the United States-Ecuador BIT. The tribunal held that under customary international law, there are two limits on the state's right to tax. First, the tax should not be discriminatory; second, it should not be confiscatory. In another ISDS case, *EnCana v. Ecuador*, a Canadian corporation sued Ecuador for value-added taxes under the Canada and legal. For instance, an ISDS tribunal in *Renta 4 v. Russia* said that a state's tax measures would amount to an expropriation of foreign investment if the tax law is extraordinary, punitive in amount, or arbitrary in incidence.

In the context of the fair and equitable treatment provision, foreign investors have often challenged taxation measures as breaching legal certainty, which is an element of the fair and equitable treatment provision. Although legal certainty does not mean immutability of legal framework, states are under an obligation to carry out legal changes such as amending their tax laws in a reasonable and proportionate manner.

The tribunal in *Cairn Energy v. India* said that taxing indirect transfers is India's sovereign power and the tribunal would not comment on it. However, such matters are not of "absolute, unquestioning deference and there are limits on it". Thus, India's

right to tax in the public interest should be balanced with the investor's interest of legal certainty. In the context of amending tax laws retroactively, such an action should be justified by a specific purpose that could not be accomplished by applying taxes prospectively. The tribunal held that the public purpose that justifies the application of law prospectively will usually be insufficient to justify the retroactive application of the law. There must be an additional public purpose to justify the retroactive application of the law. For example, India argued that the 2012 amendment was to ensure that foreign corporations who use tax havens for the indirect transfers of underlying Indian assets pay taxes. However, the tribunal held that this objective could be achieved by amending the income tax law prospectively, not retroactively. It is critical to bear in mind that the tribunal did not rule against retroactivity of tax laws per se but against the retroactive application that lacked public policy justification.

Carving out taxation measures

India in its 2016 Model BIT carved out taxation measures completely from the scope of the investment treaty. Nonetheless, carving out taxation measures from the scope of the BIT does not mean that states are free to do as they please. As it was held in *Yukos Universal v. Russia*, if states act in bad faith towards foreign investors or abuse their right to tax or adopt mala fide taxation measures, they won't be able to take the benefit of the carve-out provision.

The biggest takeaway from this nine-year-long sordid episode of retrospective taxation is that India should exercise its right to regulate while being mindful of its international law obligations, acting in good faith and in a proportionate manner. ISDS tribunals do not interfere with such regulatory measures. In sum, the debate never was whether India has a sovereign right to tax, but whether this sovereign right is subject to certain limitations. The answer is an emphatic 'yes' because under international law the sovereign right to tax is not absolute.

Prabhash Ranjan will soon join Jindal Global Law School, O.P.Jindal Global University as professor and vice dean. Views are personal

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Recusal of a Readers' Editor

The line dividing the professional creed of a journalist from her anxieties as a citizen is getting blurred by executive excesses



A.S. PANNEERSELVAM

In the judiciary, judges sometimes recuse themselves from hearing cases listed before them. The reason for their recusal is either conflict of interest or prior association with one of the parties involved in the case. It must be kept in mind that there are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them. Judges use their discretion in making the decision of whether or not to hear the case. As the Readers' Editor of this newspaper, I have often wondered what would be the case from which I would recuse myself.

The individual views of journalists

I have participated in protests defending freedom of expression and the rights of journalists to perform their work without fear of intimidation. I have been part of teams that defended democratic rights, raised voices against jingoism, and supported the idea of pluralism. I am aware of editors and media managers who are wary of journalists expressing their views publicly. On the other hand, there are also editors who have taken the view that individual views, as long as they conform to the foundations of ethical journalism, should not be curbed. The Society of Professional Journalists has distilled journalistic ethics to four operational principles: seek truth and report it, minimise harm, act independently, and be accountable and transparent.

In the case of public media organisations such as the NPR of the U.S. or the BBC of the U.K., the rules for public engagement and demonstrations are more stringent but layered. For instance, the BBC makes it clear that accuracy, evidence, facts, transparency and informed judgments are constituent parts of an impartial approach. The NPR, which started as a national radio but has now transformed into an important news media organisation across multiple platforms, tweaked its long-standing policy last month. Its new ethics policy, which was unveiled on July 7, has given more elbow room for journalists to express their personal opinions on a range of issues. The policy, in part, reads: "NPR editorial staff may express support for democratic, civic values that are core to NPR's work, such as, but not limited to: the

freedom and dignity of human beings, the rights of a free and independent press, the right to thrive in society without facing discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, disability, or religion."

NPR's policy has already become a subject of debate. The public media organisation has been a witness to some of the defining developments in the U.S. such as the Black Lives Matter movement and the Pride parade. NPR's chief diversity officer Keith Woods explained the factors that led to the changes. While he agreed that it is important for journalists to keep many of their personal views private, he also argued that "there are things in the world where we are not torn about where we stand. We are against bigotry, we are against discrimination and unfairness."

NPR Public Editor Kelly McBride said the recent policy "confronts the generations-old question in newsrooms: Where does the journalist end and the citizen begin?" NPR lists its guiding principles: "honesty, integrity, independence, accuracy, contextual truth, transparency, respect and fairness". It adds a new reference to its "democratic role as watchdogs". NPR also has a section on universal values such as human rights, a free press, anti-discrimination and anti-bigotry.

The question that haunts Ms. McBride is the one that forces me to retain my ambivalence. She asked: "What if a journalist wants to picket an abortion clinic or demonstrate in support of women's autonomy over their bodies? What about a journalist who wants to express her general support of the Second Amendment?" The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms".

A blurred line

In the Indian context, the line that divides the professional creed of a journalist from her democratic anxiety as a citizen is getting blurred by the day due to executive excesses. When institutions that are supposed to provide checks and balances become an extension of the executive or an apology for it, is it fair to expect journalists not to express their anguish as citizens? When constitutionally guaranteed rights are abrogated, and bills are pushed through without any discussion in Parliament, silence becomes an unbearable burden.

As the Readers' Editor, I would recuse myself from hearing any case that asks me to draw the line that divides journalism from citizenry.

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The many hurdles for students

Indian students studying overseas and those seeking to go abroad face many COVID-related challenges

TRIDIVESH SINGH MAINI

Students from China and India accounted for 47% of all active foreign students in the U.S. in 2020, as per the Student and Exchange Visitor Programme, part of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Indian students comprised the second largest student community in the U.K. and Australia in 2019-2020.

In recent years, Canada has emerged as a sought-after destination for Indian students. One of the biggest beneficiaries of the Donald Trump administration's restrictive student visa policies was Canada. Indian students are now the largest group within the international student community in Canada.

But in spite of their role in enhancing India's soft power internationally, through their excellent academic performance as well as seamless integration into these countries, Indian students face several problems. These are often overlooked. However, in recent years Indian student associations have been trying to draw attention to these concerns.

Three major challenges

Ever since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian students already studying overseas as well as those seeking to go abroad have faced several challenges. First, most Indian students were forced to delay their plans in 2020 due to the imposition of lockdowns, disruption of flights, and embassies not issuing student visas. This led to a drop in the number of Indian students going abroad to study in 2020. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, while in 2019 nearly 5.9 lakh students went overseas for higher education, in 2020 only 2.6 lakh were able to go. While the first two months of 2021 saw 72,000 students going overseas, the devastating second wave impacted the career plans of students. This is not to say that the enthusiasm to go overseas has waned; embassies and high commissions are unable to deal with the backlog of applications.

Furthermore, many countries have closed their borders and/or restricted flights from India. As a result,

students have to look for circuitous routes and end up paying higher air fares. While students are able to make it to Canada through expensive and indirect routes right now, Australia is likely to keep its borders closed well into 2022 given the surge in cases there. The U.K. and the U.S. have tried to make exceptions to their rules for international students, but there remain a number of rules and regulations which have made it very cumbersome to enter these countries, if not impossible.

The second problem is that of vaccination. As universities abroad open up for international students and begin allowing in-person classes from fall 2021, many require students to get vaccinated before they go. Covaxin and Sputnik V are yet to be recognised by the World Health Organization. Countries like the U.S. do not accept students who have been inoculated with these vaccines and have told them to get re-vaccinated. Many students who have been vaccinated with Covishield are waiting for the 12-week gap to pass in order to get their second dose. To help them, States which send a large number of students abroad have prioritised vaccines for international students.

Third, due to the disruption caused by COVID-19, students overseas are finding it difficult to get jobs.

Addressing issues

In a post-COVID-19 world, there are likely to be numerous disruptions, but it is important for officials and universities to work jointly to address the challenges which overseas Indian students face. It is impossible to predict when things will get back to normal and when logistical issues relating to Indian students seeking to study overseas will be addressed. While there are certain issues which specifically impact students, there are others such as policies pertaining to air travel and recognition of Covaxin which need to be addressed at the earliest to facilitate smooth travel for tourists seeking to go overseas.

Tridivesh Singh Maini is a faculty member at the Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

DATA POINT



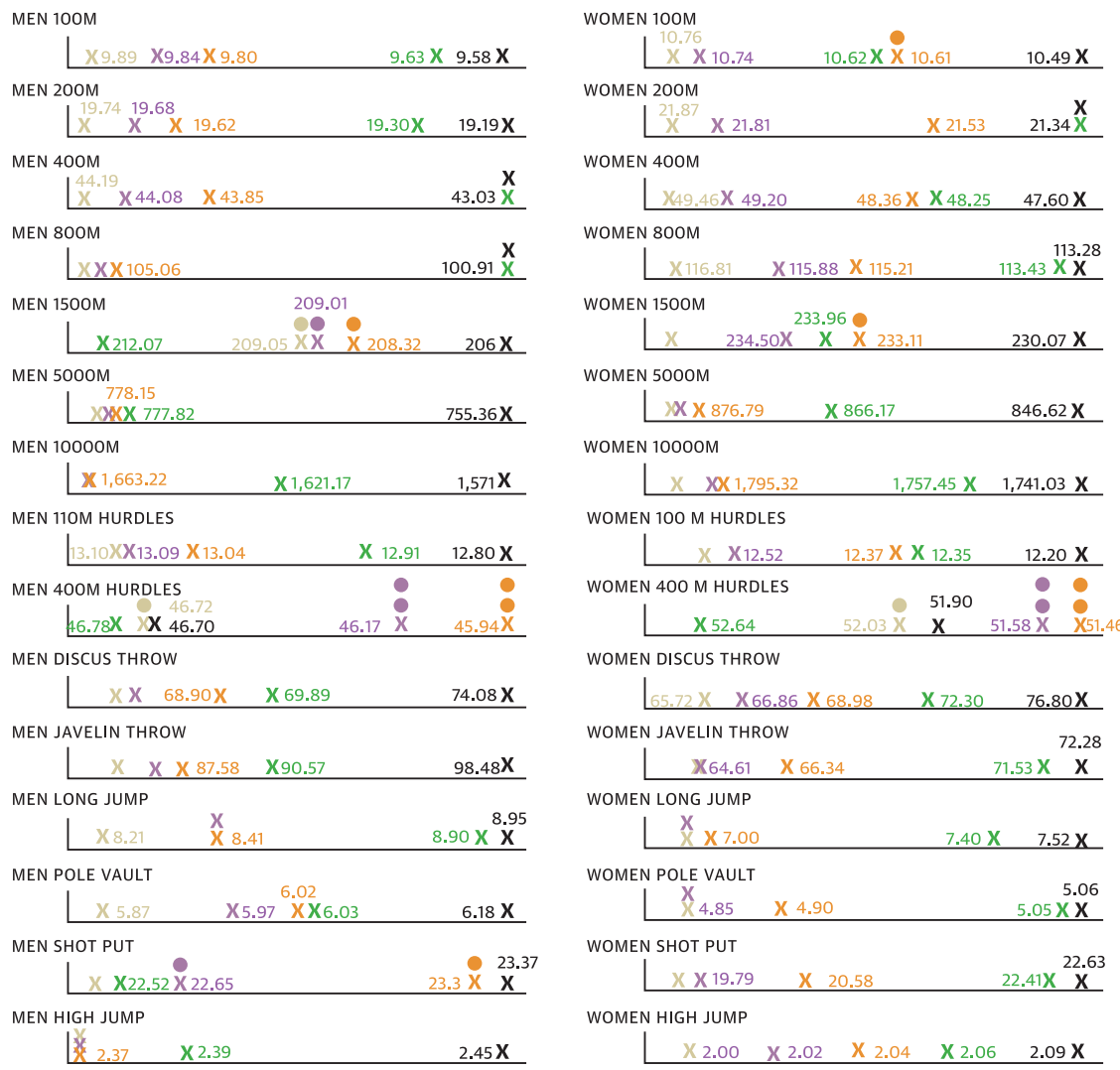
■ U.S.'s Sydney McLaughlin completed the women 400m hurdles in 51.46 seconds, improving her WR of 51.9. The U.S.'s Dalilah Muhammad completed the race in 51.58 seconds outperforming the previous WR

■ Norway's Karsten Warholm completed the men 400m hurdles in 45.94 seconds, improving his WR of 46.7. Rai Benjamin of U.S. completed the race in 46.17 seconds outperforming the previous WR

Running away with records

In 13 instances, the Olympic records (OR) in various individual track and field events were broken in the Tokyo Olympics. In two competitions — the men's and women's 400m hurdles — both the gold and silver medalists this year broke the earlier world record (WR). In three competitions — the men's 1,500m, the men's and women's 400m hurdles — all the medalists this year broke the earlier ORs. Most records were broken in the long distance races or hurdles events. By Sumant Sen, Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

HOW TO READ THE CHARTS | Each chart depicts the timing (in seconds) achieved by the Gold (X), Silver (X) and Bronze (X) medalists at the Tokyo Olympics in an individual event. The OR (X) and WR (X) timings are also depicted for comparison. One circle ● above the mark represents a new OR and two circles ●● represent a new WR



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1971

Site where Socrates was sentenced

A team of American archaeologists has completed piecing together the site where Socrates stood trial and was sentenced to death in Athens 24 centuries ago [Athens, August 8]. The site is the royal stoa, or arcade, which according to ancient writers was Athens' seat of religious and judicial affairs. It was discovered and unearthed in the western corner of the agora (market) at the foothill of the Acropolis by a group of American archaeologists under Professor Theodore Shears Jr. of Princeton University. The stoa was a covered colonnade, about 20 metres long. It was part of the marketplace and civic pulse of ancient Athenian life, a centre of public services, business establishments and gossip. In 399 B.C. it provided the site for the trial of the famous philosopher Socrates, found guilty of "corrupting youth and refusing to worship Gods." Socrates boldly reiterated his beliefs before his judges, and was sentenced to drink a cup of poisonous hemlock. His last hours were spent discussing the immortality of the soul with a group of his disciples. "It is thrilling for an archaeologist to sit on the benches near the north wall of the stoa — where the Athenian judges sat and where such well-known and notorious events have taken place," Prof. Shears said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1921

Position of Indians.

Simla, August 8 — Information has just been received from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, that the following resolution has been adopted by the Imperial Cabinet in regard to the Position of Indians in the Dominions: "The Imperial Conference while reaffirming the resolution of the Conference of 1918, that each community of the British Commonwealth should enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population by means of restriction on immigration, from any of the other communities, holds that there is an incongruity between the position of India, as an equal member of the British Empire and the existence of disabilities upon British Indians, lawfully domiciled in some other parts of the Empire. The Imperial Conference is accordingly of the opinion that in the interests of the solidarity of the British Commonwealth, it is desirable that the rights of such Indians to citizenship should be recognised. The representatives of South Africa regret their inability to accept this resolution in view of the exceptional circumstances of the Union."

Opposition urges PM to listen to them

Parties release video on their attempts to speak on Pegasus snooping controversy and farm laws

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the concluding week of the monsoon session, Opposition parties on Sunday released a video on social media platforms in which they highlighted their futile attempts to speak on the issues of the Pegasus snooping controversy and farm laws in Parliament, and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "listen to them."

The parties that are part of the collaborative effort include the Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party, Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), CPI(M), Rashtriya Janata Dal, Aam Admi Party and Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

The video — first released by Trinamool Congress leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien — sets the tone for the Opposition's strategy in the coming week even though parties will formally meet on Monday morning to decide their strategy in the two Houses of Parliament.

"Mr Modi, Come listen to us," Mr. O'Brien tweeted and



Strong pitch: Rahul Gandhi, centre, with other Opposition leaders. The video has been released ahead of the concluding week of the monsoon session. —PTI

tagged 10 Opposition parties including his own party.

'BJP stalling debate'

"PM @narendramodi seems to have lost his nerves. Why is he not keen on answering questions in the Parliament? The opposition parties are ready for discussions in the Parliament, but @BJP4India Govt is stalling the proceedings so that the truth doesn't get to the people," Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha

ha Mallikarjun Kharge said on Twitter and tagged the three minute 45 seconds video.

Talking to *The Hindu* about the idea behind video, Mr. O'Brien said, "When the voice of the entire Opposition is being censored daily in Parliament, we will innovate to communicate... and there is more to come."

The video is a compilation of statements made by different Opposition MPs in the

Upper House in the past three weeks on the issues of the farmers' agitation and the Pegasus spyware.

Leaders indicated that merely disrupting the proceedings of the Parliament was not enough and it was important for the people to know the "causes" for which the Opposition is fighting.

"You are not allowing the discussion we have been asking for the past 14 days and the discussions we can do la-

ter. You are passing that Bill now. If you have courage, begin the discussions on Pegasus now," Mr. Kharge is heard saying in the video, in a short clip of what he said earlier on the floor of the House.

Sukhendu Shekar Roy of the Trinamool is heard raising the issue of "freedom of speech in Parliament"; the clip with Manoj Jha of the RJD alleges that "Pegasus has reached everyone's house" and the Congress's Deepinder Hooda is seen saying he would raise issues relating to farmers only if his "microphone is not switched off".

Meanwhile, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, in a series of tweets, said, "The ECONOMIST magazine has reported that India is among ten countries that had a potential list of 50,000 telephone numbers out of which hundreds of numbers were infiltrated. NSO Group admitted to have 40 countries and 60 agencies as its clients. Ten of those countries used Pegasus spyware for spying. Was India one, is the question".

2 more held for derogatory posts against judges

CBI took over the probe following direction from A.P. HC

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested two more persons in connection with derogatory social media posts against judges and the judiciary. The agency has so far arrested five persons in the case.

The accused Pattapu Aadarsh and Lavanuru Samba Siva Reddy were arrested by the agency on Saturday. "In order to investigate the larger conspiracy, the CBI has also examined certain persons, including Nandigam Suresh, MP, and former MLA Amanchi Krishna Mohan, not mentioned in the First Information Report (FIR)," said a CBI official.

In the same case, the CBI arrested Dhami Reddy Konda Reddy and Pamula Sudheer on July 28. While Mr. Dhami Reddy Konda Reddy is currently in judicial custody, Mr. Sudheer is in the agency's custody till August 10. Another accused named Lingareddy Rajasekhara Red-

dy, who earlier worked in Kuwait, was arrested on July 9. He is also in judicial custody.

FIR filed

The agency took over the probe on November 11, 2020, after registering the FIR against 16 accused and other unknown persons, following a direction from the Andhra Pradesh High Court. It was alleged that they deliberately targeted some judges of the Supreme Court and the Andhra Pradesh High Court through interviews in the media, abusive comments and threats on social media platforms.

During the investigation, the CBI traced 13 persons named in the FIR. Three of them were found to be living overseas.

The agency has examined 11 accused. The CBI is also trying to secure the presence of two other accused, said to be in the United States, for their questioning.

While five have been ar-

rested so far, evidence against the remaining six is being evaluated for further necessary legal action.

"Searches were also conducted on the premises of accused persons. One of them, Lingareddy Rajasekhara Reddy, had allegedly been using a passport issued in another name," the official said, adding that all the objectionable contents were removed from the Internet.

The agency has sought assistance from its counterparts in other countries, through the Interpol, to gather evidence from abroad. It is alleged that the derogatory contents were posted last year after different Benches of the Andhra Pradesh High Court passed orders with regard to some petitions filed against the instructions and actions of the State government and its functionaries.

"Even the persons occupying high position gave interviews against judges," the Court said.

VHP demands Central law against forced conversion

It accuses secular parties of supporting such activities

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Sunday demanded a Central law against forced religious conversion. Addressing a press conference in Meerut, Surendra Jain, the international joint general secretary of the Parishad, thanked Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for bringing a strong law against forced conversion in the State. "But the recent events in Loni area of Ghaziabad proved that it is a pan-Indian racket and hence requires a Central law."

Adding that they would raise the demand with the Union Home Minister, Mr. Jain claimed those involved in conversion activities also indulged in spreading terrorism and thus required a strong Central law.



Surendra Jain

He alleged that the so-called secular parties provided support to such activities. "When a private member Bill against forced conversion was brought in the Chhattisgarh Assembly, it was nixed by members of the Congress," he alleged.

'Saffron revolution'

Calling for a "saffron revolution" in the region, Mr. Jain also said the VHP and Bajrang Dal had identified 70

sensitive spots in western Uttar Pradesh from where Hindus were seeking mass exodus out of fear. "We will nurture self-confidence in Hindus who are living in areas where they are in a minority," he said, referring to a recent incident in Moradabad where around 80 Hindu families had allegedly put posters declaring that their houses were on sale because they were facing harassment at the hands of Muslim neighbours.

The local police, however, had debunked the theory.

In "Palayan nahin Parakram" (Courage not exodus), he said, the VHP had given a new motivational chant to Hindus in western U.P. "It has been decided that every village will have a Bajrang Dal *akhara* and a Durga Vahini centre."

'SP will conduct a caste census'

BJP will not do it as it knows who are more in numbers, says Akhilesh Yadav

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

If the Samajwadi Party comes to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2022, it would conduct a caste census of the OBC communities, its president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav said on Sunday.

"How much time will it take in the age of technology," asked Mr. Yadav, while addressing a gathering of workers of the Mahan Dal.

In a bid to counter the BJP's strategy of pitting the Yadavs versus the other OBCs — the largest community bloc in U.P. — Mr. Yadav has forged an alliance with the Mahan Dal, an OBC-based party headed by Keshav Dev Maurya.

On Sunday, the Mahan Dal held its workers meet at the SP's headquarters and Mr. Yadav was the chief guest at the event. The auditorium resonated with the chant,



BJP created a fight between us saying that Yadavs stole all [your] rights. Sometimes they say we snatched everyone's rights, the rights of pichdas (Backward Caste)

"Mahan Dal de *thahna hain, SP sarkar banana hain.*"

Mr. Yadav said the BJP would never conduct a caste census "because they know who are more in numbers", a reference to the numerically-dominant OBCs.

In the past few elections in U.P., the BJP has successfully been able to pit the non-Yadav castes against the Yadavs, who are the core support base of the SP. Sunday's event was one of the few occasions when Mr. Yadav tried to address that question, though in a mild fashion.

cluding the party of snatching their rights and honour.

The Mahan Dal has a base among the backward caste Maurya-Shakya-Kushwaha-Saini communities, traditionally associated with growing vegetables and farming. In the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha polls, it allied with the Congress but fared poorly. In 2014, it forfeited deposits on all three seats it got as part of the alliance — Budaun, Etah and Nagina, securing less than 23,000 votes. In 2019, too, it supported the Congress, which eventually won only one seat.

Mr. Maurya, who started his career with the SP, said his fight was to provide "honour and share" in the power to the Maurya, Kushwaha, Sakhya and Saini castes. He claimed his outfit could damage the BJP by 15,000-20,000 votes in each constituency.

'Alliance in the making to oust BJP'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Rajior Dal chief Akhil Gogoi on Sunday said that an alliance of regional parties under the leadership of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is in the making to oust the BJP from power in 2024.

"We aim to form a confederation of regional forces and project Mamata Banerjee as its leader," he said.

Cong. slams Twitter's 'double standards'

'Rahul singled out over photos of rape victim's kin'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after social media giant Twitter temporarily blocked former Congress president Rahul Gandhi's account allegedly following complaints from the NCP, the party on Sunday condemned the platform's "double standards".

Twitter had also removed one of Mr. Gandhi's tweets of a photograph of the parents of a nine-year-old girl, who was raped and brutally murdered in the national capital, after he met the victim's family last Wednesday.

Under Indian law, revealing the identities of sexual assault victims or their fami-



Rahul Gandhi

lies is prohibited and may be taken as a violation of Twitter's policy in India. On Wednesday, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had asked the micro blogging site as well as Delhi Police to take action against Mr. Gandhi.

However, Congress leaders claimed that similar pho-

'Take action against Rahul'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Delhi High Court seeking legal action against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly sharing on social media a picture of himself with the parents of a minor rape and murder victim.

ographs, revealing the identity of the parents, were shared by members of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. Why was Mr. Gandhi being singled out, the Congress asked. "See the double standard! @TwitterIndia how fearful are you of the Modi gov't that you are singling out Shri

Makarand Suresh Mhadlekar, who claims to be a social activist, said in his petition that the Congress leader's post on Twitter was in violation of Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and Section 23(2) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

@RahulGandhi's account, when Govt bodies have done the exact same thing," Congress general secretary (Organization) K.C. Venugopal asked on twitter.

Meanwhile, women members of the Congress held a press conference to question the silence of the top leadership over the crime.

Panel will take up Pegasus issue: Tharoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Shashi Tharoor, Congress leader and chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, on Sunday said the panel's last meeting on July 28 was "disrupted" by BJP members as they did not want the Pegasus-related allegations to be discussed.

In an interview with PTI, he also put the blame for the logjam in Parliament on the BJP and said it had reduced the "temple of democracy to a rubber stamp for its agenda or worse, a notice board to announce its unilateral decisions".

Asked if going forward the Standing Committee on IT would be able to take up the Pegasus snooping issue, Mr. Tharoor said that for two years now the IT committee had been conducting discussions on citizens' data privacy and security and cybersecurity, topics that also featured in its agenda under the previous chairman, BJP's Anurag Thakur. The Pegasus issue, therefore, clearly fell under the panel's purview.

"It is no secret that the committee's meeting [July 28] was disrupted by BJP members who did not want Pegasus to be discussed. It was unprecedented for 10 members to attend and to refuse to sign the register in order to deny the committee a quorum," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said.

Adoption not limited by religion: Delhi HC

Judge reprimands U.S. citizens for trying to adopt Hindu child under a wrong law

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has declared a Christian couple, both U.S. citizens, as 'adoptive parents' to a minor girl born out of Hindu parents while reprimanding them for trying to adopt the child under a wrong law.

The High Court reiterated that Christian and Muslim couples could not adopt a Hindu child under the Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (HAMA), as was sought to be done in this case.

"The Adoption Deed

drawn up under the HAMA is invalid as the parties are Christians and not Hindus," Justice Asha Menon said, taking note of the fact that the child, now more than six-years-old, had been under the custody of the adoptive parents since her birth.

Justice Menon said the child was being well taken care of by the foster parents and their family and hence "there is no cause to remove the child from their charge and custody."

The High Court said the personal law of the Hindus

recognised adoption. "Therefore, the adoption ceremony known as 'Datta Homam', where the biological parents voluntarily surrender and hand over the child to the recipient, following religious ceremonies, was considered sufficient to result in a valid and legal adoption," it said.

The relationship of the biological family to the child given in adoption extinguished when this ceremony was conducted. However, this right to adopt had been brought under the HAMA, which laid down certain lim-

itations on who could adopt and who could be adopted and what were the other conditions for a valid adoption. HAMA was applicable only to Hindus, and specifically provided that it applied to "any other person who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion".

However, Justice Menon said that a person interested in adopting a child was not limited by his or her religion, if adoption was sought under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान युग / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022
(फोन नं. / Ph. No: 0471-2564568 / 2564537)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 1) वीएसएससी/सीएमजी/सिविल/05/2021-22 दिनांक 06.08.2021
2) वीएसएससी/सीएमजी/सिविल/06/2021-22 दिनांक 06.08.2021
E-Tender Notice No. 1) VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/05/2021-22 Dt. 06.08.2021
2) VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/06/2021-22 Dt. 06.08.2021

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

1. भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works.

क्र.सं./Sl.No.	विवरण / Description	ब्यौरे / Details (1)	ब्यौरे / Details (2)
1.	कार्य का शीर्षक/ Title of work	आइआइएसयू, वट्टियूरकवु में आइटीसी भवन के अंदर परिशुद्ध अपकेन्द्रित के लिए नीव का निर्माण (सिविल कार्य) / Construction of Foundation for Precision Centrifuge inside ITC Building at IISU, Vattiyoorakavu (Civil works)	पीएफसी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा की फोम एवं रेजिन प्रयोगशाला के लिए भवन का निर्माण - शेष कार्य (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Building for Foams and Resins Process Laboratory at PFC, VSSC, Thumba - Balance Works (Civil & PH Works)
2.	निविदा में दी गई अनुमानित लागत/ Estimated cost put to tender	₹/Rs.79.00 लाख/Lakhs	₹/Rs.43.70 लाख/Lakhs
3.	कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि/ Period of completion	05 (पाँच/Five) महीने/Months	02 (दो/Two) महीने/Months
4.	बयाना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest money deposit (EMD)	शून्य (ईएमडी घोषणा के हस्ताक्षरित प्रति प्रस्तुत करना है) या सैसा की विस्तृत एनआइटी के पर्यंत सं 7 में उल्लिखित है) NIL (Signed copy of EMD Declaration shall be submitted as referred in Point No.7 of detailed NIT)	शून्य (ईएमडी घोषणा के हस्ताक्षरित प्रति प्रस्तुत करना है) या सैसा की विस्तृत एनआइटी के पर्यंत सं 7 में उल्लिखित है) NIL (Signed copy of EMD Declaration shall be submitted as referred in Point No.7 of detailed NIT)
5.	अवधि जिसके दौरान निविदा दस्तावेज को डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है/ Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	से/From 09.08.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/To 16.08.2021, 23.00 बजे/Hrs	से/From 09.08.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/To 16.08.2021, 23.00 बजे/Hrs
6.	बोली स्पष्टीकरण/ Bid clarifications	से/From 09.08.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/To 16.08.2021, 16.00 बजे/Hrs	से/From 09.08.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/To 16.08.2021, 16.00 बजे/Hrs
7.	निविदा पाने की अंतिम तिथि व समय/ Last date and time for receipt of tenders	को तक/Up to 17.08.2021, 14.30 बजे/Hrs	को तक/Up to 17.08.2021, 14.30 बजे/Hrs
8.	निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय/ Due date and time of opening of tenders	को/On 18.08.2021, 12.00 बजे/Hrs	को/On 18.08.2021, 12.00 बजे/Hrs

2. शोच्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करे, जिसे www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. Sd/- युग निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

Till debt do us part: Punjab's 'contract marriages' are cases of cheating

Their weddings arranged to facilitate migration mainly to Canada, girls allegedly renege after they reached the promised land first

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The family of 26-year-old Harpreet Singh at Mandi Gobindgarh in Punjab is yet to come to terms with what they describe as a "marriage fraud" allegedly played on them by their daughter-in-law after she left for Canada two-and-a-half years ago.

"Our son [Harpreet] married in July 2018. In January 2019, my daughter-in-law, who had scored well in the IELTS [International English Language Testing System], went to Canada on a study visa. After reaching Canada, she conveyed to my son that she did not want to continue her relationship with him as she had plans to spend her life with another person," Manjeet Singh, Mr. Harpreet's father, told *The Hindu*. "It was a shock for the family. My son is in extreme distress. We have not yet come to terms with it. I

spent around ₹28 lakh on the wedding, paid for her air tickets, the institute's fees... We did not think such a fraud would be played on us."

Later, after pressuring the girl through mutual friends and relatives, the family was able to send Mr. Harpreet to Canada on a spouse visa. "But the girl then filed for divorce in Canada. After this, I filed a complaint here and a first information report [FIR] was lodged for cheating under Section 420 of Indian Penal Code [IPC] and other sections against the girl and her family," Mr. Singh said.

Punjab has been witnessing an increasing number of "contract marriage frauds" carried out for securing the Canadian 'Permanent Resident' status required to migrate to that country.

Jobenjeet Singh, 33, of Fatehgarh Sahib district, has a

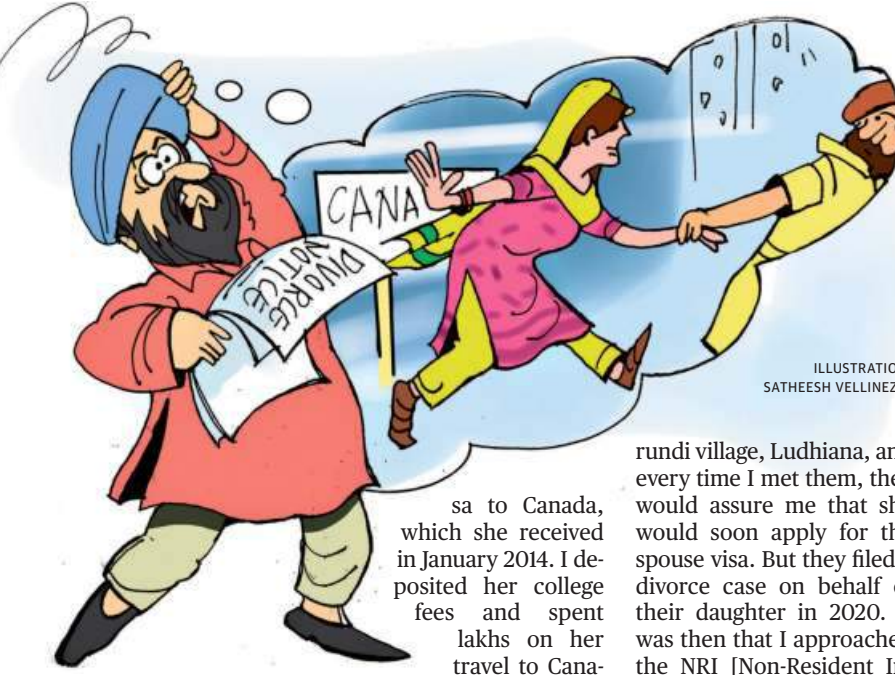


ILLUSTRATION: SATHESH VELLINEZZHI

similar tale to share. "I got married in 2012. My wife had a good IELTS score and she applied for a student vi-

sa to Canada, which she received in January 2014. I deposited her college fees and spent lakhs on her travel to Canada. After reaching Canada, she initially stayed in touch with me, but later stopped all communication. My in-laws are based in Ba-

rundi village, Ludhiana, and every time I met them, they would assure me that she would soon apply for the spouse visa. But they filed a divorce case on behalf of their daughter in 2020. It was then that I approached the NRI [Non-Resident Indian] wing of the Punjab police, following which a case under Section 420 was registered," he said.

According to official data,

4,266 complaints were received by the NRI wing of the Punjab police in 2019, which included cases of cheating, matrimonial dispute and property dispute. The complaints were filed by both men and women. In 2020, the number of complaints stood at 3,829, while in 2021, so far, 2,248 complaints have been lodged.

A large number of people, especially youth from Punjab, travel abroad in the hope of a better life. Marriages of convenience are known to facilitate these aspirations. To do this, the bride, the groom or their families enter into an informal contract in which the boy, or his family, is willing to pay for the girl's education and travel abroad, provided that once she completes her education and gets a Permanent Residency (PR) in the foreign country, she will apply immediately for a

spouse visa. However, many young men find that "the women go abroad and dupe" them.

"It is basically an arrangement to facilitate the immigration of boys who are not scoring good grades in the IELTS. In certain countries, one can take spouses along, but in some others, it is not allowed. Canada has certain conditions and it is only after fulfilling those conditions that spouses are given a visa. Hence, the cases of cheating surrounding Canada are a tad higher," A.S. Rai, Additional Director-General of Police (NRI Affairs), told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rai said it had been observed that the cases were not of matrimonial dispute, but instead that of cheating "where one party has entered into a contract with the other person, who has the promised delivery of some service, and one has

paid a certain amount of money, but the person has rescinded on that contract".

"In such cases, we check the financial transactions. The finances have to be routed through legal channels, for instance, air tickets have been purchased, university fees paid, etc. We are then able to establish a case of cheating," he said.

"Around 2.5-3 lakh students move abroad annually from Punjab, apart from the 2 lakh who leave for jobs, etc. The trend of going abroad soon after passing Class 12 slowed down in 2020 because of the pandemic."

Mr. Rai added that the Punjab government was cognisant of such cases, and the 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobar Mission' provides free counselling for youth interested in foreign study. The initiative is beneficial for Punjabi youth, he said.

Vaccination certificates in three easy steps: Ministry

'Public can obtain it via WhatsApp'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Sunday said the general public can obtain their certificates after receiving their COVID-19 vaccination via WhatsApp by following three easy steps.

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in his tweet, said anyone who wanted to download their vaccination certificate can send a WhatsApp message to a number and would receive the certificate at once.

'Within seconds'

"Revolutionising common man's life using technology! Now get COVID19 vaccination certificate through My-



People can download their certificate by sending a message via WhatsApp.

Gov Corona Helpdesk in 3 easy steps. Save contact number: +91 9013151515. Type & send 'covid certificate' on WhatsApp. Enter OTP. Get your certificate in seconds," the Health Minister's office said on Twitter.

MPs seek reasoned view to open schools

Parliamentary panel calls for accentuating vaccine programmes for all students, teachers, allied staff

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The hazards of not reopening schools after prolonged closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic are "too serious to be ignored", according to a parliamentary panel.

The committee noted that the closure of schools had not only impacted the social fabric of families in a negative manner, but also increased the involvement of children in household chores.

"The closure of schools for over a year has had a deep impact on the well-being of students, especially their mental health... The confinement of young children within the four walls of the house, being unable to

attend school, has altered the relationship between the parent and the children adversely," the panel said.

"The closure of schools has impacted the social fabric of the family in negative manner leading to early/child marriage and increased involvement of children in household chores. The present situation has exacerbated the learning crisis that existed even before the pandemic with the marginal and vulnerable children getting adversely affected. Keeping this situation in mind, it becomes all the more imperative to open schools," the panel has noted.

This week, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on



New normal: Children using mobile phones to attend an online class in Hyderabad, Telangana, earlier this year. *AFP

Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, headed by BJP MP Vinay P. Sahasrabudde, tabled in Parliament its report 'Plans to bridge the learning gap

caused due to school lockdown as well as review of online and offline instructions and exams and plans for reopening of schools'. A well-balanced, reasoned view may

be taken for the opening up of schools, the panel said.

Accentuating vaccine programmes for all students, teachers and allied staff so that schools may start functioning normally at the earliest; holding classes on alternate days or in two shifts to thin out students, along with observance of physical distancing and compulsory wearing of face masks at all times; frequent hand sanitisation, etc.; and regular thermal screening at the time of attendance and conducting random RT-PCR tests to identify and isolate any infected student, teacher or staff immediately, were among the recommendations for the reopening of schools made by the panel.

DGCA seeks details of U.K. airfares

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to submit details on the airfares they have been charging for India-U.K. flights during August, a senior official said on Sunday.

Sanjeev Gupta, Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, Union Home Ministry, on Saturday had complained on Twitter that an economy class ticket on British Airways' Delhi-London flight for August 26 was priced at ₹3.95 lakh.

He said a Vistara and Air India ticket for August 26 was priced between ₹1.2 lakh and ₹2.3 lakh, amid the college admission time in the U.K.

Mr. Gupta said he had "alerted" Union Civil Aviation Secretary P.S. Kharola about it. A senior DGCA official said on Sunday that the aviation regulator had asked the airlines that operate India-U.K. flights currently to submit fare details.

While there have been lower and upper limits on all domestic airfares in India since May 25 last year, no such limits had been imposed on international airfares.

Vistara said: "Pricing is always a function of supply and demand. There are only 15 flights a week allowed currently on the India-U.K. route for Indian carriers and when there is relaxation and more capacity allowed, it will automatically bring down prices."

Restrictions on Pune's shops lifted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

According major relief to shopkeepers, restaurateurs and traders in Pune, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday announced relaxations in pandemic-related curbs by permitting shops and restaurants to henceforth remain open till 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., respectively.

While malls have been allowed to stay open till 8 p.m., only people who have availed of both vaccine doses will be allowed to enter.

ITBP inducts first women officers on combat service

53 officers pass out from the ITBP officers' training academy located in Mussoorie



Proud moment: ITBP inspector Kamlesh Kumar saluting his daughter Deeksha, who joined the force. *PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUSSOORIE

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force, which guards the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the India-China border, on Sunday commissioned its first two women officers in combat after they completed their training here.

A total of 53 officers passed out from the ITBP officers' training academy located in Mussoorie after a parade was held, with Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami officiating as the chief guest.

The first-ever *History of ITBP*, a 680-page book containing unknown facts and photographs of the border guarding force, was also released by Mr. Dhami and ITBP Director-General S.S. Deswal.

Mr. Dhami and Mr. Deswal put the rank of Assistant Commandant, an entry-level officer rank in the paramilitary, on the shoulders of two women officers - Prakriti and Deeksha - after the passing out parade and an attestation ceremony where they took their oaths to serve the country.

While Ms. Prakriti's father has retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF), Ms. Deeksha's father, Kamlesh Kumar, is an ITBP inspector. "My father is my role model. He never considered me lesser than anyone," Ms. Deeksha said.

Ms. Prakriti, who holds a degree in electrical engineering, said life in the force was "very tough, but it is also challenging and exciting".

The ITBP started recruiting women combat officers in its cadre from 2016 through an all-India examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commis-

sion (UPSC). Before this, it had combat women only in the constabulary ranks. Out of the 53 officers, 42 officers are in the general duty combat cadre, while 11 are in the engineering cadre of the force. These officers will now be posted across ITBP formations in the country, including along the LAC with China and the anti-Naxal operations theatre in Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the officers, Mr. Dhami said the commanders should "give their best" while performing their duties.

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28						29	

ACROSS

- Exchange very small talk with husband (8)
- A petty officer with expression of surprise at farthest point (6)
- Obvious that black king threw out pierced support (8)
- Sensitive scar in gut concealed (6)
- Primarily drops of precipitation may go down this (5)
- Working after attempt to hold the short sports event (9)
- Restrict device responding to signal on the radio (6)

DOWN

- Modest about medieval humour (6)
- One and only iron panel destroyed (9)
- Self interest exhibited by mischievous one (5)
- Guest with appeal breaking shield (7)
- Endlessly train with a rookie - it's sensible (9)
- Question - what helps fish breathe outside river? (5)
- One that builds a locomotive with hesitation (8)
- Circular plate with dips is served cold for starters (4)
- For the most part, use racquet incorrectly in shot (6,3)
- Mistake in repetition at spectacle (9)
- Shed clue about plan (8)
- Cheese produced from the south (4)
- Headgear of musicians - a new craze essentially (7)
- Move at full speed in one's job (6)
- Quality of teetotaler embracing woman who was on top of the world (5)
- Group of people with grand ring (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13320

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Spirit of surrender

Alavandar, also known as Yamunacharya, is revered as the foremost of acharyas in the Vaishnava tradition as he has laid the foundation of the Visishtadvaita philosophy through his many excellent granthas. His direct disciples and other acharyas in this lineage have been quick to discern the salient features of this sampradaya from his works and have in turn further clarified, explained and propagated them through their works and teachings.

In this context, interpreters have highlighted the significance of his hymn, 'Stotra Ratna,' for the way in which Alavandar establishes the Supremacy of Srīman Narayana and the efficacy of the paths of bhakti and prapatti, pointed out Sri A. K. Sundararajan in a discourse. This hymn, held as a jewel among hymns, instils in the spiritual seeker the values and the inherent path of dharma shown in the Vedas. Alavandar draws much philosophical strength and conviction from the hymns of Azhvars who have shown the way to salvation by seeking God's feet. The bhava or spirit of utter humility and helplessness which is to be present in the seeker when he offers surrender to God is captured most effectively in one particular verse in this hymn.

The verse, roughly translated runs thus: "O Lord, You alone are to be sought as refuge by me, but I am not worthy as I am not established in dharma; nor do I have any atma jnana; my devotion is not in any way fervent or deep; but I am helpless and without any support; so, I seek you since you are the sole protector and support of all beings."

The prayer is applicable to all jivatmas who are aware that their practice of the paths of karma, bhakti or jnana is very limited and insufficient. The seeker accepts his inability to protect himself and is aware that he has no other refuge.

Afghan forces fighting to retake cities: govt.

U.S. forces conducted several air strikes in defence of Afghan partners: Central Command spokesperson

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUNDUZ

The Afghan Ministry of Defence said on Monday that government forces were fighting to retake key installations after the Taliban captured three more provincial capitals on Sunday in quick succession.

The insurgents have taken control of five provincial capitals in Afghanistan since Friday. Kunduz, Sar-e-Pul and Taloqan in the north fell within hours of each other on Sunday. On Friday, the militants captured Zaranj, and followed it up by taking Sheberghan the next day.

"The commando forces have launched a clearing operation. Some areas, including the national radio and TV buildings, have been cleared of the terrorist Taliban," the Ministry said.

Spokesman for the Interior Ministry, Mirwais Stanikzai, said later that reinforcements, including special forces, had been deployed to



In the crossfire: Afghans in front of shops damaged in fighting between the Taliban and Afghan forces in Kunduz city. • AP

Sar-e-Pul and Sheberghan.

"These cities that the Taliban want to capture will soon become their graveyards," he added.

Kabul's ability to hold the north may prove crucial to the government's survival.

Northern Afghanistan has long been considered an anti-Taliban stronghold that saw some of the stiffest resistance to militant rule in the 1990s.

The region remains home to several militias and is also a fertile recruiting ground for the country's armed forces.

'Prisoners freed'

"The capture of Kunduz is significant because it will free up a large number of Taliban forces who might then be mobilised in other parts of the north," said Ibraheem Thural, a consultant for In-

ternational Crisis Group.

Vivid footage of the fighting was posted on social media over the weekend, including what appeared to be large numbers of prisoners being freed from jails in captured cities.

The Taliban frequently target prisons to release incarcerated fighters to replenish their ranks.

Fighting was also reported on the outskirts of Herat in the west, and Lashkar Gah and Kandahar in the south.

The pace of Taliban advances has caught government forces flatfooted, but they won some respite late on Saturday after U.S. warplanes bombed Taliban positions in Sheberghan.

"U.S. forces have conducted several air strikes in defence of our Afghan partners in recent days," Major Nicole Ferrara, a Central Command spokesperson, said.

Sheberghan is the stronghold of Afghan warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, whose

militiamen and government forces were reportedly retreating east to Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province.

Mr. Dostum has overseen one of the largest militias in the north and garnered a fearsome reputation fighting the Taliban in the 1990s – along with accusations his forces massacred thousands of insurgent prisoners of war.

Thousands displaced

A retreat of his fighters dents the government's recent hopes that militias could help the overstretched military.

Hundreds of thousands of Afghans have been displaced by the recent fighting, and on Saturday, 12 people were killed when their bus was struck by a roadside bomb as they tried to flee Gardez in Paktia province.

I lost my mother, father, two brothers, two sisters-in-law and other members of the family," said Noor Jan.

Myanmar protesters mark 1988 uprising anniversary

Flash mobs seek ouster of junta govt. in Yangon, Mandalay

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
YANGON

Myanmar protesters on Sunday marked the anniversary of a 1988 pro-democracy uprising that brought Aung San Suu Kyi to prominence, with flash mobs and marches of defiance against the ruling junta.

The country has been in turmoil since the generals launched their February putsch and subsequent crackdown on dissent that has killed more than 900 people, according to a local monitoring group.

But protesters remain undeterred, taking to the streets daily in lightning-quick rallies to demand the end to the State Administration Council – as the junta's so-called "caretaker" government has dubbed itself.

On Sunday, flash mobs popped up across Yangon and second city Mandalay to



Mounting challenge: Anti-coup protesters marching on the anniversary of the 1988 uprising in Mandalay. • REUTERS

commemorate the 1988 uprising – a pro-democracy movement which the military violently quelled by opening fire on protesters and jailing thousands.

Following the calls of an online campaign, red-clad protesters on Sunday flashed an eight-finger salute and carried banners that read "Let's return the old blood debt of 1988 in 2021."

"In 1988, our country sacrificed a lot – many people lost their lives. But the dictatorship is still alive," said Ko Sai Win, in Mandalay.

"It is like a black shadow on our country."

The 1988 uprising heralded the rise of Ms. Suu Kyi, who had returned to Myanmar just before protests kicked off to care for her ailing mother.

ELSEWHERE



Riyadh to reopen borders for vaccinated pilgrims

Saudi Arabia will begin accepting vaccinated foreigners wanting to make the umrah pilgrimage, authorities said on Sunday, a move that will boost an economy hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 18 months after it closed its borders to battle coronavirus, Saudi Arabia will from Monday begin "gradually receiving umrah requests from various countries." Earlier, only immunised pilgrims residing in Saudi Arabia were eligible for umrah permits. AFP

Thai man arrested over murder of Swiss woman

A Thai man was arrested in connection with the suspected murder of a Swiss woman, whose body was found near a waterfall in Thailand's famed tourist island of Phuket, police said on Sunday. The body of the 57-year-old was found on Thursday lying face-down. She had travelled to Phuket under a so-called "sandbox" scheme, a pilot project allowing vaccinated tourists to enter the island without undergoing the usual two-week mandatory hotel quarantine. AFP

Raisi names Mokhber as Iran's Vice-President

Iran's new President Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday named the chairman of a powerful state-owned foundation sanctioned by the U.S. as his first Vice-President, the President's official website said. Mohammad Mokhber, long rumoured by local media to be top pick for the position, has for years headed the foundation known as Setad, or the Execution of Imam Khomeini's order, in reference to the Islamic republic's founder Ruhollah Khomeini. AP

In Pak., 5 killed over murder of politician

Pakistani counterterrorism police said on Sunday they killed five people involved in the abduction for ransom and subsequent death of a nationalist political party leader.

The raid took place overnight in the southwestern city of Pishin.

Malik Ubaidullah Kasi, leader of the secular Awami National Party, was abducted for ransom from his native Kuchlak area near the provincial capital, Quetta, in late June. His body was found on Thursday near an Afghan refugee camp in Pishin district.

Hundreds flee, homes destroyed as wildfires ravage Greek island

Greece, Turkey battling wildfires for nearly two weeks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GOUVES

Hundreds of Greek firefighters fought desperately on Sunday to control wildfires on the island of Evia that have charred vast areas of pine forest, destroyed homes and forced tourists and locals to flee.

"We have ahead of us another difficult evening, another difficult night," Civil Protection Deputy Minister Nikos Hardalias said on Sunday.

"On Evia we have two ma-

major fire fronts, one in the north and one in the south. The one in the north is driven by blasts of wind to the beach settlements," he added.

In all, 17 firefighting aircraft – planes and helicopters – were fighting the fires on Evia, he added.

Evia lies just northeast of the capital Athens. To the southwest is the Peloponnese region where Hardalias said the situation was stable. Fires in a northern suburb of Athens have subsided, the

Minister added.

"The situation in Attica (which encompasses Athens) is better but we are afraid of the danger of flare-ups," said Mr. Hardalias.

Greece and Turkey have been battling devastating fires for nearly two weeks as the region suffered its worst heatwave in decades, which experts have linked to climate change. So far, the fires have killed two people in Greece and eight in neighbouring Turkey, with dozens more hospitalised.

Will respond to Israel strike: Hezbollah

Israel carried out air raids on Lebanon after many years, prompting return fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

The head of Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, has vowed a "suitable and proportionate" response to any Israeli air strikes on Lebanon after a flare-up at the border last week.

Israel carried out its first air raids on Lebanese soil in years on Thursday, prompting Hezbollah to fire rockets back at the Jewish state the following day.

"Our response was linked to the Israeli strikes that occurred in south Lebanon for the first time in 15 years," he

said in a televised speech ahead of the anniversary of the end of the last war with Israel in 2006.

"We wanted to tell the enemy... that any air strike by the Israeli air force on Lebanon will inevitably draw a response, though in a suitable and proportionate way, because we want to serve the purpose of protecting our country," he added.

Nasrallah described the air strikes this week as a "very dangerous development", but said Hezbollah did not want war.

"We are not looking for war and we do not want to



Hassan Nasrallah

head towards war, but we are ready for it" if necessary, he said, echoing similar comments by the Jewish state this week.

Before Thursday, Israel's

last air strikes on Lebanon dated back to 2014, when warplanes struck territory near the Syrian border.

Hezbollah's volley of rockets at Israeli positions on Friday morning prompted retaliatory shelling from Israel, prompting UN peacekeepers to warn of "a very dangerous situation".

U.S. on Friday urged Lebanon's government to prevent Hezbollah from firing rockets into Israel.

The 33-day conflict in the summer of 2006 killed 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

North Korea's Kim calls for relief in rain-hit areas

'1,170 homes destroyed, 5,000 evacuated'

REUTERS
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has mobilised the military to carry out relief work in areas recently hit by heavy rains, state media said on Sunday, amid concerns over an economic crisis and food shortage.

The ruling Worker's Party's Central Military Commission held a meeting in the eastern province of South Hamgyong to discuss damage and recovery from the downpour, the official KCNA news agency said.

An early monsoon season arrived on the Korean peninsula last month, with torrential rains also inflicting damage in some southern regions.

North Korean state TV released footage this week showing submerged houses and destroyed bridges and railroads in Hamgyong, saying some 1,170 homes were devastated and 5,000 people evacuated.



Kim Jong-un

Mr. Kim did not attend the meeting but party officials conveyed his message that the military should kick off a relief campaign and provide necessary supplies in the region, KCNA said.

"It was also emphasised that he called for awakening and arousing the (party) officials...into waging the recovery campaign skilfully and unyieldingly," KCNA said.

KCNA said the military commission explored emergency measures to rebuild the disaster-stricken areas and prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Chibok girl freed after seven years

REUTERS
MAIDUGURI

One abducted girl from the Nigerian town of Chibok has been freed and reunited with her parents seven years after Boko Haram militants kidnapped her and more than 200 of her classmates, Borno State's Governor said on Saturday.

The raid on the school one night in April 2014 sparked a global outcry and a viral campaign on social media with the hashtag #bringbackourgirls.

Governor Babagana Zulum said the girl and someone she said she married during her captivity surrendered themselves to the military 10 days ago. Mr. Zulum said government officials had used the time since to identify her and contact her parents.

Some 270 girls were abducted by the Islamist group but 82 were freed in 2017 after mediation, adding to 24 who were released or found.

UN slams child marriages after Zimbabwean teen dies in labour

Her death sparked widespread anger on social media

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HARARE

The UN has condemned underage forced marriages in Zimbabwe following the death of a 14-year-old girl reportedly during childbirth at a religious shrine in the east of the country.

The death has sparked widespread anger on social media and among children's rights activists.

A petition to the police commissioner has attracted nearly 58,000 signatures since it was launched on Thursday.

Police at the weekend said

they had opened an investigation into the death, which occurred last month.

In a statement on Saturday, the United Nations said it "notes with deep concern and condemns strongly the surrounding circumstances leading to the untimely death of 14-year-old Memory Machaya... who died while giving birth at an apostolic sect shrine."

"Sadly, disturbing reports of the sexual exploitation of underage girls, including early forced marriages, continue to surface and this is indeed another sad case,"

the agency added.

The UN said the trend of cases of violence perpetrated against women and girls in Zimbabwe, "including marriages of minors, cannot continue with impunity."

Official statistics show that one in three Zimbabwean girls are married off before the age of 18.

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, head of Rozaria Memorial Trust, a Zimbabwean charity fighting the practice of child marriages, says that is an underestimation.

"We saw the spike with COVID-19," she said.

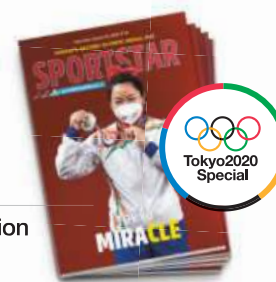
HE WON 4 GOLD MEDALS FOR HIS COUNTRY. AND A BATTLE FOR HIS RACE.



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ASK US



AARATI KRISHNAN

Q. I am a software engineer, aged 29. My monthly salary is ₹1 lakh. Currently, I invest in EPF and in an LIC policy. I am not sure where else to invest to get financial relief after 15 years. Please give me suggestions.

R. MUTHURAJA

A. There are a number of investment options that you can consider beyond your EPF and LIC policy. If you are considering investments for a 15-year horizon, you can either invest in instruments with a shorter term and reinvest the proceeds on maturity or choose vehicles that you can hold for 15 years.

If you prefer a safe investment with fixed returns, the Public Provident Fund, which is a retirement savings vehicle with a 15-year term, may be your ideal choice. You can open a PPF account with any post office branch or leading bank and make regular investments in the account. The interest on the PPF, which is declared every quarter, usually tends to be much higher than that on bank deposits and is also tax-free. The interest is credited to your balance every year and compounds until you seek to withdraw the money. You can also open an NPS account where you can make monthly investments towards retirement in market-linked instruments such as shares and bonds.

For shorter horizons, you can consider the 5-year National Savings Certificate (NSC) where your interest compounds until maturity, or the Kisan Vikas Patra which doubles your money in 10 years and four months, too. You can also consider parking your periodic surpluses in the Government of India's 7-year floating rate savings bonds where the interest rate offered is 35 basis points above the NSC and is announced every half year. The only 'minus' for these bonds is that the interest is paid out to you, requiring you to reinvest it. Cumulative term deposits with banks or leading NBFCs, which accrue fixed interest every year, is another option, though less safe than post office schemes.

If you don't mind volatility in your returns in the short run and are sure you won't be needing your money within the next 5-7 years, you can invest in hybrid or index equity funds through monthly instalments (called Systematic Investment Plans or SIPs). While such funds offer anytime liquidity, their returns can be quite volatile depending on how bond and stock markets move. This entitles you to dividends from the company and share-price appreciation, if any, when you sell the share. With both mutual funds and shares, you can hold on for as long as you like, but also exit if you should need the money at any time. You face the risk of loss in your capital over shorter time frames, but if you hold on for more than 7 years, they can generate inflation-beating returns that are better than fixed deposits or bonds.

Before making a start on these investments which require you to lock in your money for long periods though, do build up a bank deposit equal to about 6-9 months' worth of your living expenses, as an emergency fund. Do buy a health insurance plan, so that your savings aren't dented badly by a medical emergency.

Q. I am a 24-year-old graduate. I have been offered a job at a private sector bank with an annual CTC of about ₹15 lakh. I need your advice on investments.

D. SUZANN

A. There are three things to keep in mind as you begin your investing journey. One, to invest effectively and to stick to your planned course on investments, it would be good to write down your key financial goals and the timelines over which you would like to achieve them. For example, you may plan to travel, buy a vehicle or pursue higher education within the next three years, marry or buy a home over 5 to 7 years, nurture dreams of becoming wealthy or retiring early 10-20 years hence. If you have family members for whom you'd like to do something, include those objectives in your goals too. Mapping out your goals is important because they lend purpose to your savings and investments and helps you to choose investment vehicles that fit your goal and investment horizon.

For goals up to 5 years, bank and NBFC deposits can be a good option. So can short-term debt, PSU and banking debt mutual funds. For 5 to 7-year goals, small savings schemes like NSC and GOI floating rate savings bonds would be a good bet.

You can also consider hybrid mutual funds. For goals that are 7 years plus, Public Provident Fund, NPS and index mutual funds playing on the Nifty50 or Nifty Next50 would make for good choices.

Two, before you start making the above investments, estimate your likely monthly living expenses and build a fund equal to 6-9 months' worth of those expenses from your initial savings. It can help you tide over illness, job loss or other emergencies that require quick money.

In addition, do buy a health insurance policy of ₹5-10 lakh to cover hospitalisation expenses. If you have parents or siblings dependent on you, get a term- insurance policy so that their financial interests are taken care of in the event of an unfortunate event happening to you.

Three, get into the habit of saving before spending each month. Signing up for investment products that put your investments on autopilot, by channelling money out of your salary account at the beginning of each month, can help you get into a regular savings habit. Recurring deposits and Systematic Investment Plans of mutual funds are two good ways to do this. Strive to save a minimum 15-20% of your monthly pay towards investments.

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

Look beyond the call of IPOs

For a stock to be a good long-term bet, it needs to be backed by a strong business and be available at reasonable valuations

BHAVANA ACHARYA

Seven months, 25 issues. 80, 100, 120% in listing-day returns. IPOs this year are a starry lot! If you were among those that received allotments in IPO applications and made good money, you'd be sitting happy. But if you didn't apply or weren't allotted any shares, don't bemoan the missed opportunities. Here is what you should know about IPOs.

No sure-shot returns

IPOs are sought after in the belief that they serve up return opportunities that you won't find in 'older' or existing stocks. But does that pan out in reality? Not quite. Let's take it from two perspectives.

First, the purely fundamental perspective - that is, looking at an IPO based on its business strength and growth prospects for long-term holding. On this count, long-term returns for IPOs do not boast of anything special, with most of them putting up mediocre performance. Those that have delivered multifold are few. Over the past 15 years, there have been roughly about 325 IPOs. Of these, almost half are below issue price i.e. in the long term, they have been poor performers.

Prospects always depend on the business itself and the valuations at the time of the issue. For a stock to be a good long-

term investment, it needs to have a strong business and you need to buy it at reasonable valuations; this means you also need the freedom to wait for business prospects to improve or the right valuation to come by.

In an IPO, you control neither aspect. It's logical that the company will try to maximise issue proceeds and will price it accordingly - and IPOs that come in bull markets, such as now, can get away with pricey earnings multiples. Therefore, many IPOs slip post listing because their pricing left little on the table for long-term investors.

Second is the listing-gains perspective. Recent IPOs such as those of Tatva Chintan Pharma, GR InfraProjects or Zomato have seen exuberant listing, with listing day gains of close to or over 100%.

Listing gains, though, are a factor of the market scenario, how fancied the IPO is in context of the market scenario - and more than a little luck.



• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

While the IPOs mentioned above grabbed the headlines, plenty others, which also debuted in the same market and saw good subscription interest, put up sedate listing performances. KIMS Hospitals, India Pesticides and Shyam Metaliks, for instance, saw listing gains of below 30% while those such as Kalyan Jewellers or Suryoday Small Finance Bank dropped.

If you're viewing IPOs from this lens, remember that betting on listing gains is more a speculation than an exercise rooted in analysis of fundamental strengths or valuations. Apart from the wide range of

post-listing returns, it is hard to say beforehand what a stock does on listing day. Over-subscription, institutional interest or even grey-market premiums are not sure-fire ways to gauge what listing returns can be. A turn of market mood between the IPO launch and its listing, for example, can dampen even fancied themes.

Finally, there's no way to know if and how many shares you will receive in IPO allotments. Small allotments will have no meaningful impact on your wealth creation.

But if you're looking for IPOs where the business strength is sound and which can be part of your stock portfolio, then all you need to do is bid your time.

Second chances

IPOs that have made good money for investors haven't always been on an upward trend. Consider V-Mart Retail, which today has delivered a 41% CAGR from its issue in 2013. That stock had almost halved from its issue price just six months after listing. The post-listing period, therefore, offered plenty of buying opportunities. The com-

Over the past 15 years, there have been roughly about 325 IPOs. Of these, almost half are below issue price i.e. in the long term, they have been poor performers

pany was also able to showcase its ability to keep revenue growth up and skirt around the troubles that dogged other retail players.

Post-IPO periods help give a deeper understanding of how a company performs across business cycles - something that is hard to gauge from an IPO prospectus that gives limited data on historical performance. Several other IPOs that have gone on to create wealth such as Galaxy Surfactants, Rail Vikas Nigam, Aavas Financiers, Fine Organics and Mishra Dhatu Nigam, all dropped post listing.

But even if IPOs don't correct, that does not mean there are no investment opportunities. Companies with sound businesses can be buys, and valuations buttressed by steady earnings accretion, even if prices

es don't correct after listing. Take Jubilant FoodWorks. This stock hasn't dipped below its 2013 issue price - but it has made money even for those who got in much later. Other examples include Dr. Lalpath Labs, HDFC AMC, or Sheela Foam.

The more recent crop of IPOs - those that have come over the past couple of years - have certainly offered slightly more differentiated opportunities. IPOs of AMCs, small finance banks, retail and consumption and so on, for instance. But when business strength is sound, the secondary market still offers the grounds to pick these up.

Watchlist

Put simply, IPOs offer no special opportunities. Stocks that shoot through the roof on listing are more an exception than the norm. So, if you identify a good business in an IPO, go right ahead and subscribe. But should allotments be low or nil, don't sweat it. Add these stocks to your watchlist and bid your time to enter.

(The writer is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

COVER NOTE: UNDERSTANDING POLICY CONDITIONS

Let not the small print surprise you

Claims payment is a sticky point for any policyholder, but is the insurer to blame?

K. NITYA KALYANI

It's cliché that insurance companies 'find' a way not to pay your claim. However, when the 'way' had already been spelt out in your policy, it was up to you to be aware.

'The large print giveth and the small print taketh away' is exactly how my friend felt about the hospitalisation policy for her mother.

The policy was taken when her mother was well over 70 and the insurance company would offer only ₹2 lakh as sum assured to start with. As is usual, plans of enhancing the sum assured at subsequent renewals were forgone.

When she required an operation, reality dawned that the daily room rent allowed under the policy was limited to 1% of the sum assured, that is, ₹2,000 per day.

However, the rate for the category of room that my friend's family preferred cost four to five times as much.

This was not the only setback. In many hospitals, most other treatment costs including medical practitioners' fees and ICU charges are pegged to the category of room you are in. That is, if you are in a semi-priv-



Deft clauses: Conditions in the policy may specify limits for certain treatments. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

ate room costing ₹8,000, your surgeon's fee would be ₹X. If you were in a private room costing ₹12,000, it would be 1.5 times ₹X. There is some logic in there somewhere, but it was a total let-down for my friend who thought that she would be able to claim ₹2 lakh.

Sub-limits are only one type of small print that you have to become familiar with. If you had been aware of this, you may have been focussed on increasing your sum assured or taking an additional policy. Or,

maybe, you would have had a rethink about a policy at all.

Other 'small-print' clauses in your hospitalisation policy, which, by regulation cannot be in actual small print, include standard exclusions, time-bound exclusions and specified limits for certain treatments.

Policy exclusions

Standard exclusions would include treatment outside India, treatment for self-inflicted injuries and cosmetic surgery except if necessitated due to an

accident.

Time-bound exclusion refers to the waiting period - usually about 3 to 4 years after taking the policy - when pre-existing diseases are not covered. Some procedures are covered only after a 2-year waiting period and they will be listed on your policy document.

Some treatments, such as cataract surgery, have specified claim limits. Usually, you can enhance these limits by paying an extra premium.

Read in depth

So, it pays to read through what each policy offers and excludes and to spend quality time comparing the offerings of different companies before you sign up. Hospitalisation insurance is an enduring requirement and you are assured of lifelong renewal from your insurance company as per regulations.

Though you have the comfort of portability, which means you can change your policy from one insurance company to another, making the correct decision on the right fit the first time around is a prudent way to spend your premium money.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

When expectation does not match reality

The policy schedule sets out clauses

K. NITYA KALYANI

Many disappointments with insurance policies are a result of expectation and reality. But here's the thing. All the clauses, the ifs and buts, in your policy are available for you to read before you buy. You just have to ask your agent for a policy schedule and see what clauses apply to you depending on the options you choose.

In a typical motor insurance claim, for example, your cost of repairs/spares/replacement will not be given in full.

The cost of plastic and fibre-glass parts will be adjusted for depreciation, and these rates will be stated right there in your policy.

Depreciation will also apply on the entire claim depending on the age of the vehicle and can go up to 50%. You can usually purchase additional cover for the depreciation.

Compulsory excess

These days most policies come with a compulsory excess, also called a compulsory deductible. This is a specified flat amount, the first



part of the claim that you have to bear yourself. In addition to this, you can opt for a voluntary excess or voluntary deductible and you will get a discount in your premium.

In health insurance, there can be an excess and there can also be a co-pay. This will be a percentage of each claim that you have to bear, as different from a flat sum. Considering that the larger your claim, the larger your co-pay, it is worth being aware of this well ahead of time, before you sign up.

Once you know you have to look for these so-called small-print clauses, you can shop around for your policy with other insurance providers whose terms suit you better. Or, at the least, you will go in with your eyes wide open.

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs)		Processing fee (% of loan amount)
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	
HDFC Bank	10.50-21.00	10,747-13,527	2,149-2,705	Upto 2.5% (Max Rs 25,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50-19.00	10,747-12,970	2,149-2,594	Upto 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.00-15.60	10,624-12,053	2,125-2,411	Rs 1,000-10,000
State Bank of India	9.60-13.85	10,525-11,595	2,105-2,319	Upto 1.5% (Max Rs 15,000)
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.75-24.00*	10,809-14,384	2,162-2,877	Upto 2.5%
Punjab National Bank^	8.95-14.50	10,367-11,764	2,073-2,353	Upto 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%
South Indian Bank	10.15-14.45	10,660-11,751	2,132-2,350	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.55-12.90^^	10,513-11,351	2,103-2,270	Upto 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	12.05	11,135	2,227	Upto 0.75%
Indian Bank	9.05-13.65	10,391-11,544	2,078-2,309	1%**
Dhanlaxmi Bank	11.90-15.70	11,097-12,079	2,219-2,416	Upto 2.5% (Min Rs 1,250)

*Digital Personal loan starting at 10.50% p.a.

**For pensioners, NIL processing fees for loan upto Rs 25,000, and fees of Rs 250 for loan above Rs 25,000.

^0.10% additional concession in applicable interest rate to customers who opt for coverage under Credit Life Insurance.

^^ Interest rate of 8.55% p.a. offered to BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.) employees

Source: Paisabazaar.com

NEW CAR LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs)		Processing fee (% of loan amount)
		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	
Union Bank of India	7.15-7.50	9,936-10,019		Rs 1,000
Bank of India	7.35-8.55	9,983-10,270		Up to 0.25% (Max: 5,000) For Rural Areas: Rs 1,500-20,000
UCO Bank	7.45-7.70	10,007-10,067		1% (Max: Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India*	7.50-8.45	10,019-10,246		Rs 999 + GST (Till 30.9.2021)
IDBI Bank	7.50-8.10	10,019-10,162		Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra**	7.55-10.40	10,031-10,722		Up to Rs 25,000 (No processing charges for women borrowers under Maha Combo Scheme)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.55	10,031		Rs 500-Rs 10,000
ICICI Bank	7.90-9.85	10,114-10,587		Rs 3,500-Rs 8,500
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.10-9.20	10,162-10,428		1%
Federal Bank	8.50	10,258		Rs 2,000-4,500
Axis Bank	8.65-10.90	10,294-10,846		Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	9.05-10.50	10,391-10,747		1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	12.25-12.75	11,185-11,313		1% (Min: Rs 250)

*Further interest rate concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle (Green Car Loan)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR

Rates and charges as on August 4

Source: Paisabazaar.com

An unblemished show amidst intense scrutiny and raging pandemic

After successfully organising the delayed sporting extravaganza, the Japanese capital officially hands over the baton to Paris, the 2024 host



SHYAM VASUDEVAN
TOKYO

...and scene! The Tokyo Olympics, held during a raging pandemic, drew the curtains down on Sunday. The host nation finished third with 27 golds and a total of 58 medals, a vast improvement from its 12 golds and 41 medals in 2016. But it will take greater pride that its bio-bubble largely were intact.

The Games were held under intense scrutiny and amid constant pressure from locals, but the organisers managed to pull off a clean show.

Scores of people gathered around the Tokyo Olympic

Stadium hours before the closing ceremony to witness the spectacle from the perimeters.

Among the horde of people gathered in the narrow by-lane outside the stadium was Santosh from Pune, who has lived in Tokyo for three years.

He brought his wife, and his child on a stroller, to watch the fireworks. But they were not able to catch a glimpse of Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia who carried the Indian flag for the closing ceremony.

It was a carnival on the streets. People turned up in cosplay suits, one came in a Wonderwoman costume and was accompanied by an elderly citizen donning a Superman T-shirt.

They were ready for a party but were confined to a morose evening on the sidewalks. The entry to the stadium was restricted to athletes, officials, VIP guests and members of the media.



Spectacular finish: Fireworks light up the Tokyo sky during the closing ceremony on Sunday. **Right:** Bajrang Punia carries the tri-colour. • GETTY IMAGES, PTI



The policemen circling the stadium were watchful to sniff out any untoward incident. A group of stray cyclists

took a wrong turn, and they were onto them in a split-second to redirect them. A few hundred protesters turned

up with placards that read "Abolish Olympics" and "#GetOutBach", but it ended peacefully. On the other side

of the road, under the magnificent wooden roof of the stadium, International Olympic Committee president

Thomas Bach thanked the Japanese authorities for their support.

"These were unprece-

dent Olympic Games. It took us, the IOC and our Japanese partners and friends, an equally unprecedented effort to make them happen. This is why I would like to thank the Japanese authorities at all levels, in particular Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide and Governor Koike Yuriko, for their steadfast commitment. Thank you for staying with us on the side of the athletes, who were longing so much for these Olympic Games," he said.

Appreciation
"Our deep gratitude and appreciation go to the organising committee. Nobody has ever organised a postponed Olympic Games before."

Tokyo, which will now host the Paralympic Games from August 24, officially handed the baton to Paris. And now we wait for three more years, in the hope that India, which won an unprecedented seven medals here, can script history yet again.

How Neeraj struck gold

The 23-year-old practised the art of visualisation

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
TOKYO

Neeraj Chopra sits in a quiet space, imagines he's walking into the Tokyo Olympics Stadium. He gets ready, makes his approach run and lets the javelin soar. The 23-year-old practised the art of visualisation and played this scenario in his mind for months leading up to the Tokyo Olympics.

His focus in these sessions was purely on technique and not the outcome. On August 7, the outcome was an Olympics gold medal.

He could barely sleep the night before the event. "I wanted to sleep early but couldn't. I managed to sleep around 12:30 a.m. and I was wide awake by 5:30 a.m. I tried to sleep again because rest is essential for recovery, but I wasn't able to. I had breakfast and tried again, but I was wide awake in an hour. *Aisa lag raha tha ki mere shareer se aag nikal raha tha, aisa garam tha. Josh bahut tha* (it felt like my body was radiating fire. I was very charged up)."

Challenges aplenty

There were challenges aplenty in the final stretch. For instance, getting the body and mind used to the seven-hour time difference between Tokyo and Sweden, where he trained for more than a month before the Olympics.

"It took some time to get used to the time difference. I would sleep a little late, so, I was hoping to sleep longer in the mornings. But the doping control officers showed up at 5:45 a.m. or 6 a.m. for the past two days and whisked me away. *Par*



Swashbuckling: Neeraj roared before each throw and approached it with the swagger of an athlete in control. • PTI

maine haath jod ke request ki please 7 tareek ko itni jaldi mat aana (I requested them not to come this early on August 7)," he said with a smile.

Neeraj's coach Klaus Bartonietz said he never wanted the athlete to feel the pressure of winning the gold. The German's last piece of advice to Neeraj was in Hindi: "*maje karo* (have fun)."

Klaus, a biomechanical expert, felt Neeraj's biggest strength was athleticism and that set him apart.

While Neeraj is comparatively leaner and not as tall as his opponents, Klaus noted that his suppleness was a game-changer.

"There are javelin throw-

What a show, Neeraj! Dad waited so many years for this to happen. I am crying as I tweet this and I am sure dad is crying up above

JEEV MILKHA SINGH

ers who are stronger, but don't throw as far. You need to be like a bent bow, like a *dhanush*. You need to use body elasticity in your throws and not just brutal power."

Having harnessed all these striking physical attributes and mental fortitude for the Olympics, Neeraj basked in the glow of the gold on a memorable Tokyo night.

U.S. women finally get it right

Brazil loses way when it matters; bronze for Serbia

VOLLEYBALL

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

They struck gold, finally.

After three silver and two bronze medals from the previous nine Olympics, the United States women took the volleyball gold on Sunday.

U.S. beat Brazil 25-21, 25-20, 25-14, in an hour and 22 minutes.

It was also sweet revenge for the Americans; they were beaten by Brazil in the finals of the 2008 and 2012 editions. On Sunday at Tokyo's Ariake Arena, Brazil was humbled by a team playing at the top of its game.

Brazil missed the services



Defining moment: The United States team is on a high after defeating Brazil in the gold medal match. • AP

of one of its key players, Tandara Caixeta, who had to return home following a positive dope test. But even her presence would not have

perhaps been enough to stop the U.S. women.

Earlier, Serbia took the bronze beating South Korea 25-18, 25-15, 25-15.

GOLDIES

Eliud Kipchoge (Ken): Athletics: Men's Marathon

USA: Basketball: Women

Kellie Harrington (Irl): Boxing: Women's Light

Andy Cruz (Cub): Boxing: Men's Light

Lauren Price (GBR): Boxing: Women's Middle

Bakhodir Jalolov (Uzb): Boxing: Men's Super Heavy

Jason Kenny (GBR): Cycling Track: Men's Keirin

Jennifer Valente (USA): Cycling Track: Women's Omnium

Kelsey Mitchell (Can): Cycling Track: Women's Sprint



Kipchoge. • REUTERS

France: Handball: Women

Bulgaria: Rhythmic Gymnastics: Group All-around

USA: Volleyball: Women

Serbia: Water Polo: Men

FINAL MEDALS TALLY

Country	G	S	B	T
USA	39	41	33	113
China	38	32	18	88
Japan	27	14	17	58
Great Britain	22	21	22	65
ROC	20	28	23	71
Australia	17	7	22	46
Netherlands	10	12	14	36
France	10	12	11	33
Germany	10	11	16	37
Italy	10	10	20	40
48. India	1	2	4	7

ROC: Russian Olympic Committee

The U.S. juggernaut rolls on

Sweeps past Japan to clinch seventh straight crown

BASKETBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAITAMA

A rampant United States swept past Japan to their seventh straight women's basketball crown on Sunday, with Sue Bird and Diana Taurasi collecting their fifth Olympic gold medals to cap remarkable careers.

Brittney Griner scored a game-high 30 points with five rebounds and two assists as the hosts were overpowered 90-75 by a team that stretched its Olympic win streak to 55 games dating back to the 1992 semifinals.

Beating the Americans was always going to be a huge ask.

They had won eight of the



Height of excellence: Sue Bird, right, and Diana Taurasi with their fifth Olympic golds with Team USA. • AFP

past nine Olympic titles. Their only blemishes in the history of the tournament were a silver behind the Soviet Union at the inaugural event in 1976 and bronze in 1992.

The Americans' seventh title equalled the longest ever streak by a team in any Olympic sport – matching the feat of the U.S. men's basketball team between 1936 and 1968.

Rain has the final say

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NOTTINGHAM

England and India drew the first Test at Trent Bridge after rain meant no play was possible on Sunday, the final day.

The match, which had already seen more than 100 overs lost to bad weather, was intriguingly poised with India 52/1 in its second innings, needing a further 157 runs to reach a victory target of 209.

But rain prevented play resuming as scheduled at 11 a.m. local time and, after further downpours the umpires abandoned the match as a draw at 3:49 p.m., only for the sun to briefly burst through the overcast skies above Trent Bridge.

The scores: England 183 & 303



Shastri. • GETTY IMAGES

drew with India 278 & 52/1 in 14 overs.

Second Test: August 12-16, Lord's.

Everything that we had prepared for over the last one and a half months sort of fell in place nicely. It was a great way to start the series for us. Hopefully, we can keep getting better as the series moves on

K.L. RAHUL

Tearful Messi confirms Barca exit, says he is in talks with PSG

'I tried to behave with humility and respect and I hope that is what remains of me when I leave the club'

REUTERS
BARCELONA

A tearful Lionel Messi confirmed on Sunday he was leaving FC Barcelona after the club said it could no longer afford paying the Argentine's high wages, adding he was in negotiations with French club Paris St Germain over a possible move.

French newspaper *L'Equipe* reported on Sunday that the Argentine will travel to the French capital either Sunday or Monday to undertake a medical and finalise his deal with the Qatar Sports Investment-owned club.

While Messi did not confirm he would definitely join the Parisians, he said his plans were to carry on playing as long as possible, adding he still harbours ambitions to win another Champions League trophy.

"As long as I go on being competitive and as long as



Welling up: Messi turned emotional during an interaction with the media on Sunday. • GETTY IMAGES

my body responds (I'll carry on playing)," he told a news conference.

"As long as I can, I will carry on competing."

"I tried to behave with humility and respect and I hope

that is what remains of me when I leave the club," said an emotional Messi as hundreds of fans, many wearing his No. 10 jersey, massed outside Barca's Camp Nou stadium to bid farewell to the

player they called Messiah.

"This is all like a bucket of cold water has been poured over me and we are still coming to terms with it," he said through tears.

"When I get home, I'm

sure it'll be even worse. But I'll be surrounded by my loved ones and I'll carry on playing football, and when I do so, I'm sure it'll become a bit easier."

It had been widely report-

ed by local media that Messi was set to stay at Camp Nou, with the player admitting he had agreed to a five-year deal involving a 50% pay cut.

Barcelona, whose debts total way over €1 billion, was unable to make the deal work within the frameworks of La Liga's financial fair play regulations – prompting its surprise U-turn announcement last Thursday.

"Honestly, when the elections happened (in March), I spoke with (Barca president Joan) Laporta, we had dinner and after that I was convinced I would be staying," Messi said.

"My contract was never the issue ... What I know is that I did everything I could. The club say it could not happen because of La Liga. I can guarantee you that I did everything I could to stay. Last year I didn't want to and I said that, but this year it was different."

IN BRIEF



Jorge Martin bags his first MotoGP win

SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA)
Rookie Jorge Martin of Ducati-Pramac cruised to his first MotoGP victory in the Styria GP on Sunday, finishing ahead of Spanish compatriot and reigning champion Joan Mir on a Suzuki. The race had to be restarted after the KTM of Spaniard Dani Pedrosa and the Aprilia of Italian Lorenzo caught fire in the middle of the track after a crash. AFP

ICC Player of the Month nominees for July

DUBAI
The International Cricket Council on Sunday announced the July nominees for the ICC Player of the Month awards, instituted in January this year to recognise the best international performances across formats for male and female cricketers.
The nominees: Men: Shakib Al Hasan (Ban), Mitchell Marsh (Aus), Hayden Walsh Jr (WI); **Women:** Hayley Matthews (WI), Fatima Sana (Pak) and Stafanie Taylor (WI).

Rutuja loses in doubles final

PARNU (ESTONIA)
Third seeds Justine Mikulskytė and Anna Siskova defeated Rutuja Bhosale and Magali Kempen of Belgium in the doubles final of the \$25,000 ITF women's event.
The results: Doubles (final): Justine Mikulskytė (Ltu) & Anna Siskova (Cze) beat Magali Kempen (Bel) & Rutuja Bhosale 6-7(5), 6-3, [10-5].

Muddappa wins above 1,051cc crown

Bengaluru riders sweep the honours

DRAG RACING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Riders from Bengaluru, spearheaded by reigning champion Hemanth Muddappa, swept the honours in the first round of the MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle drag racing championships, which concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday, under strict COVID safety protocols.

The results: Super Sport (above 1,051cc): 1. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) 07.882secs; 2. Hafizullah Khan (Bengaluru) 08.116; 3. Harish Naik (Bengaluru) 08.538. **851-1050cc:** 1. Mohd. Riyaz (Bengaluru) 08.026; 2. Hemanth Muddappa (Mantra Racing, Bengaluru) 08.116; 3. N.V. Satyanarayana Raju (Hyderabad) 08.191.

Super Sport Indian (361-550cc): 1. Aiyaz Rem (Bengaluru) 12.568; 2. Zuheeb Ahmed (Bengaluru) 12.860; 3. D. Anish Samson (Speed Up Racing, Bengaluru) 12.942. **226-360cc:** 1. Bharath Raj (Rockers Racing, Chennai) 12.602; 2. Yogeshwaran (Speed Up Racing, Chennai) 12.798; 3. D. Anish Samson (Speed Up Racing, Bengaluru) 13.050. **Upto 165cc:** 1. Kevin Kannan (RACR Castro Power, Chennai) 14.573; 2. R. Anand (Chennai) 14.824; 3. Chandrashekar (Bengaluru) 14.910.

Girls (4-stroke, upto 165cc): 1. Lani Zena Fernandez (Chennai) 16.591; 2. Nivetha Jessica (Chennai) 16.640; 3. Soundari Sindy (Chennai) 16.794.
2-Stroke upto 130cc: 1. Mujahid Pasha (Bengaluru) 13.547; 2. Prashanth (Chennai) 13.682; 3. Mohd. Rafiq (Bengaluru) 13.733. **131-165cc:** 1. Mohd. Rafiq (Bengaluru) 12.818; 2. Husain Khan (Mumbai) 13.002; 3. Aiyaz Rem (Bengaluru) 13.047.



Trophy time: Winner Hemanth Muddappa, centre, second-placed Havizullah Khan, left, and Harish Naik, who was third in the above-1,051cc category. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coe concerned about climate change

Says the effects might impact sporting calendar in future

ATHLETICS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO

The effects of climate change will force sports bodies to rethink their calendar of events, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said on Sunday.

Coe, a two-time Olympic champion, was speaking on the final day of the Tokyo Games. The extreme heat and humidity in Japan forced changes to the track schedule, as well as tennis and women's soccer.

"You don't have to be a devotee of climate change or a denier to know the world is getting hotter," Coe said.

"It probably will mean a global discussion around the calendar and how we stage events."

Coe noted the stress on his staff of "having to create



Sebastian Coe. ■GETTY IMAGES

2024." In July 2022, the track world championships will be held in Eugene, Oregon, where a record heatwave raised temperatures to 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42 degrees Celsius) at the U.S. trials in June. Morning sessions were suspended.

New norm

"The new norm is, particularly in dealing with endurance events, really harsh climatic conditions," Coe said.

"The reality of it is, I think this a challenge we are all going to confront now," said Coe, who is an IOC member.

"If you are going to be intellectually coherent here, we are going to have to have that debate," Coe said, predicting sports bodies will be "revisiting what is possible and probably having to be more adaptable in future."

field hospitals and having your team spending a year thinking about little else other than how you are going to be coping with the welfare of the athletes."

"Nobody wants to do that. That's not what we came in to the sport for," he said, adding "we could well be confronting the same temperatures in Paris in

Vikas undergoes shoulder surgery

Vows to come back stronger from Olympic heartbreak

BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian boxer Vikas Krishan, whose Olympic campaign ended abruptly after a dislocated right shoulder caused an opening-round loss, has undergone a surgery to fix the injury which will keep him out of action for the next

three months.

The 29-year-old, who was competing in his third Olympics, was forced out early after "fighting with one hand" in the opening clash against Japan's Sewon Okazawa.

The surgery on his dislocated shoulder was performed at Mumbai's Kokilaben Hospital by renowned surgeon Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala, who operated and

fixed a career-threatening shoulder injury that newly-crowned Olympic gold-winner Neeraj Chopra had suffered in 2019.

Dr. Pardiwala has also operated top cricketers like Jasprit Bumrah and Shreyas Iyer along with shuttler Saina Nehwal, among others.

"I will be back in three months, I have been assured by Dr. Pardiwala. My shoulder

had dislocated and a crucial muscle, called Subscapularis, and a ligament had been torn," the decorated boxer said after his surgery that took place on Thursday.

Vikas picked up the injury during the training trip to Italy before the Olympics. Unaware of the severity of the damage, he competed in the Olympics after taking painkilling injections.

Dr. Pardiwala said given the scale of the injury, painkillers were never going to be enough. "It was quite valiant of him to have gone ahead and fought the bout," Dr Pardiwala said.

"He told me that he experienced a dead arm during the bout. It will take three weeks for the healing to be completed and another three months for rehab."

Rhythm tops trials

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rhythm Sangwan continued to assert her supremacy in the junior women's sports pistol as she topped the second National shooting selection trials on Sunday.

Simranpreet Kaur Brar gave her a good fight in the final, after having qualified in the seventh place with a score of 563.

In women's 50-metre rifle prone, Ashi Chouksey topped with 625.4, much ahead of the rest of the pack.

The results: 25m sports pistol: Junior women: 1. Rhythm Sangwan 32 (581); 2. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 30 (563); 3. Tejaswani 24 (570). **50m rifle prone: Women:** 1. Ashi Chouksey 625.4; Sift Kaur Samra 617.0; 3. Heena Gohel 615.8. **Junior men:** 1. Sanskar Havelia 621.6; 2. Sameer Dagur 612.4; 3. Deependra Singh Shekhawat 610.3.

RACING

Ashwa Yashobali capable of a repeat in the Mandate Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's ward Ashwa Yashobali, who won in his last start, may score an encore in the Mandate Plate, the main event of Monday's (Aug. 9) races. Rails will be announced one hour before the start of first race.

1. ABBOTS ROYAL PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.05 p.m.: 1. Blue Label (8) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Cosmico (5) Md. Ismail 56, 3. Dream Station (2) Gaurav Singh 56, 4. Flying Rudolf (9) G. Naresh 56, 5. Royal Support (11) Ajinkya 56, 6. Sea Of Class (6) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 7. Burano (10) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 8. Furious Fun (7) Kiran Naidu 54.5, 9. Golden Amaris (3) Afroz Khan 54.5, 10. Gray Hawk (Ex: Aamayra) (12) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 11. River Song (4) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 12. Spectacular Cruise (1) A.A. Vikrant 54.5. **1. RIVER SONG, 2. DREAM STATION, 3. BURANO**

2. ASCOT PLATE (1,400m), Maiden (Terms), 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.35: 1. Ashwa Migsun (1) Ashad Asbar 56, 2. First In Line (10) Surya Prakash 56, 3. General Atlantic (6) B. Nikhil 56, 4. Grand Duke (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Paladino (1) Kiran Naidu 56, 6. Sharp Mind (7) P. Gaddam 56, 7. Starwalt (-), 8. Able Love (4) T.S. Jodha 54.5, 9. Georgia Peach (3) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 10. Hot Seat (8) Md. Ismail 54.5, 11. Limoncello (2) P.S. Chouhan 54.5 and 12. Siri (9) B.R. Kumar 54.5. **1. GEORGIA PEACH, 2. LIMONCELLO, 3. ABLE LOVE**

3. ABBOTS ROYAL PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.05: 1. Charmer (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. Dominator (12) G. Naresh 56, 3. Magic Mark (1) P. Gaddam 56, 4. Quality Warrior (11) Kiran Naidu 56, 5. Star Cruise (7) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 6. That's My Way (3) B. Nikhil 56, 7. Unsung Hero (2) Uday Kiran 56, 8. Angelita (10) Afroz Khan 54.5, 9. Good Tid-

ings (6) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 10. Over Joy (9) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 11. Show Me Your Walk (8) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 12. Thanks (4) P.S. Chouhan 54.5. **1. THANKS, 2. QUALITY WARRIOR, 3. ANGELITA**

4. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,800m) (1,200m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.40: 1. Miss Marvellous (9) N.B. Kuldeep 62.5, 2. Call Of The Blue (6) Gaurav Singh 61, 3. Rhythm Selection (8) Mukesh Kumar 61, 4. Advance Guard (7) Ajeeth Kumar 59.5, 5. Francis Bacon (2) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 6. Sweet Melody (5) B.R. Kumar 59, 7. Lightning Power (3) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 8. King Roger (1) Akshay Kumar 57.5 and 9. Stark (Ex: Echoes Of Heaven) (4) Ajit Singh 52. **1. LIGHTNING POWER, 2. FRANCIS BACON, 3. KING ROGER**

5. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE (1,200m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Days Of Reckoning (10) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Hidden Hope (11) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 3. Ashwa Raudee (5) Ashad Asbar 58, 4. Greek's Ace (3) Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 5. Sublime (4) Santosh Raj N R 56, 6. Blink Of An Eye (1) N.B. Kuldeep 55, 7. Thunder Road (7) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 8. Royal Pal (8) Nakhat Singh 54, 9. Art In Motion (9) Afroz Khan 53.5, 10. Flamingo Fame (2) G. Naresh 52, 11. Aerial Combat (6) Akshay Kumar 51.5 and 12. Lifetime (12) Surya Prakash 50.5. **1. BLINK OF AN EYE, 2. HIDDEN HOPE, 3. THUNDER ROAD**

6. GUINDY PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m) 4-y-o & upward, rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Sun Dancer (7) N.B. Kuldeep 62, 2. La Lady (9) Kiran Naidu 61.5, 3. Due Dilligence (8) Surya Prakash 61, 4. Amaretto (4) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 5. Bravo (12) Ajeeth Kumar 60.5, 6. N R I City (-), 7. Forever Bond (6) P. Gaddam 60, 8. Jo Malone (3) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 9. Hip Hop (1) C.P. Bopanna 58.5, 10.

Turf Monarch (5) Md. Ismail 58.5, 11. Felix Flame (11) Ajit Singh 58, 12. India Gate (13) A.A. Vikrant 57, 13. Cephalonia (2) B. Nikhil 54.5 and 14. Hopscotch (10) B.R. Kumar 52. **1. AMARETTO, 2. HIP HOP, 3. LA LADY**

7. MANDATE PLATE (1,400m) 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. Mark My Word (11) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Her Legacy (13) Santosh Raj N R 59.5, 3. Ashwa Yashobali (12) Gaurav Singh 58.5, 4. Blazer (10) N.B. Kuldeep 56, 5. Shaquille (6) A.A. Vikrant 56, 6. Balius (1) B.R. Kumar 55, 7. Incredible (2) Md. Ismail 55, 8. Maxwell (7) Ajeeth Kumar 55, 9. Private Empire (9) Akshay Kumar 55, 10. Red Sniper (8) Afroz Khan 54, 11. City Of Wisdom (3) T.S. Jodha 52.5, 12. Once More (5) Nakhat Singh 51.5 and 13. Super Angel (4) Abhay Singh 51.5. **1. ASHWA YASHOBALI, 2. MAXWELL, 3. BALIUS**

8. GUINDY PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m) 4-y-o & upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Bedazzled (12) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 2. Star Babe (10) Rohit Kumar 61.5, 3. Mr. Davidson (1) Mukesh Kumar 61, 4. Berkeley (8) N.B. Kuldeep 60.5, 5. Lightning Fairy (11) Surya Prakash 60.5, 6. Sputnik (4) Md. Ismail 60.5, 7. Exponent (14) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 8. Sacred Lamp (6) Gaurav Singh 59, 9. N R I Gift (3) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 10. Proud Legacy (2) Ajeeth Kumar 58.5, 11. Minelli (9) P. Gaddam 58, 12. Sheldon (5) G. Naresh 58, 13. Moka (13) A.A. Vikrant 54.5 and 14. Royal Avenger (7) B. Nikhil 50.5. **1. BEDAZZLED, 2. SHELDON, 3. EXPONENT**
Day's Best: **BEDAZZLED**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3. (ii) 3, 4 & 5. (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

Knotty Dancer wins feature

HYDERABAD: D. Netto-trained Knotty Dancer (Akshay Kumar) won the K. Mahipati Rao Memorial Golconda Juvenile Million, the feature event of Sunday's (Aug. 8) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Krishnan Kamesh & Mr. Srikanth Badruka. Jockey Akshay Kumar hogged the limelight by riding five winners while trainer R.H. Sequeira saddled three winners.

1. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m) Maiden, (Terms) 3-y-o only: LIFES SONG (Akshay Kumar) 1, Soloist (Koushik) 2, Morior Invictus (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Salisbury (Kiran Naidu) 4. 2. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 1 m, 13.30s. ₹12 (w), 10, 13 and 101 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 304, FP: 41, Q: 36, Tanala: 1,060. Favourite: Lifes Song. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

2. NEWMARKET PLATE (1,400m) rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): DOWNTOWN GAL (Nearaj) 1, N R I Valley (Akshay Kumar) 2, Havelock Cruise (Deepak Singh) 3 and Long Range (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 5 and 1/2. 1 m, 24.41s. ₹36 (w), 14, 11 and 31 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 74, FP: 263, Q: 89, Tanala: 2,172. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Mr. V.N. Babu, Mr. Veeramachandran, Mr. Prodhutur Vijay Shourya & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

3. MALAKPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m) Maiden, (Terms) 3-y-o

only: CITY OF BLISS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Total Dare (Afroz Khan) 2, One More Time (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Mireya (B.R. Kumar) 4. 2. Nose and 3/4. 1 m, 14.20s. ₹11 (w), 10, 11 and 31 (p). SHP: 18, THP: 61, FP: 20, Q: 19, Tanala: 137. Favourite: City Of Bliss. Owners: Mr. K. Thirubhuvan Reddy & Mr. K. Vivek Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekanth.

4. BIPSO PLATE (1,600m) rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): PEAKY BLINDERS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Safiron Art (Ajit Singh) 2, Fire Power (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Rapid Fire (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Nk, 2/3/4 and 1 m, 40. 81s. ₹28 (w), 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 69, FP: 137, Q: 76, Tanala: 275. Favourite: Fire Power. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra & Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

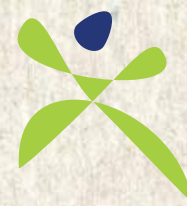
5. SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m) 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45: N R I VISION (Akshay Kumar) 1, Linewiler (Afroz Khan) 2, Four One Four (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Rhine (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Green Turf. 1-1/4, 1/2 and 1/2. 1 m, 13.50s. ₹37 (w), 11, 21 and 24 (p). SHP: 52, THP: 53, FP: 243, Q: 134, Tanala: 4,102. Favourite: Dundkirk. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy. Male. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. K. MAHIPATI RAO MEMORIAL GOLCONDA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m) (Terms) 3-y-o only: KNOTTY DANCER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Alicia (Zervan) 2, Buggy

(A. Imran Khan) 3 and Scintillating Lass (Sandesh) 4. 3, 1 and 1. 1 m, 25.06s. ₹40 (w), 12, 36 and 16 (p). SHP: 132, THP: 40, FP: 1,252, Q: 726, Tanala: 7,553. Favourite: Columbian. Owners: Mr. K. Balamukunda Das, Mr. Krishnan Kamesh & Mr. Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. MAHALAXMI PLATE (1,400m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BISATE (P.S. Chouhan) 1, N R I Sun (Akshay Kumar) 2, Cheltenham (N.B. Kuldeep) 3 and Trump Star (Deepak Singh) 4. Nk, 6-1/4 and 1/2. 1 m, 25.37s. ₹15 (w), 13, 13 and 21 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 46, FP: 38, Q: 27, Tanala: 152. Favourite: Bisate. Owners: Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Company Private Limited. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

8. SILVER JET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): KING MAKER (Surya Prakash) 1, N R I Mader (Akshay Kumar) 2, Mind Reader (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Explosive (Gaurav Singh) 4. Hd and 1/4. 1 m, 13.34s. ₹76 (w), 22, 14 and 29 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 76, FP: 302, Q: 162, Tanala: 1,510. Favourite: N R I Mader. Owner: Mr. C.S. Koushik. Trainer: L V R Deshmukh. Jackpot: 70% ₹8,667 (39 tkts.) and 30% 348 (416 tkts.). Treble: (i) 124 (325 tkts.), (ii) 153 (209 tkts.), (iii) 603 (123 tkts.). Mini jackpot: (i) 839 (48 tkts.), (ii) 2,615 (35 tkts.).



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*In terms of AUM, as of March 31, 2021, according to the report titled "Assessment of Housing Finance Market in India, July 2021", issued by CRISIL Research, a division of CRISIL Limited ("CRISIL Report") | *Among the peer set as of March 31, 2021, according to the CRISIL Report

APTUS VALUE HOUSING FINANCE INDIA LIMITED is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public issue of its equity shares bearing face value of ₹ 2 each ("Equity Shares") and has filed the red herring prospectus dated August 2, 2021 read together with the corrigendum to the Red Herring Prospectus - Notice to Investors dated August 4, 2021 (together, the "RHP") with the RoC and thereafter with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. The RHP shall be available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/itm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Edelweiss Financial Services Limited at www.edelweissfn.com and Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at www.investmentbank.kotak.com. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, see "Risk Factors" on page 25 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the Draft Red Herring Prospectus filed dated May 14, 2021 with SEBI for making any investment decision. The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur, and (ii) in the United States, to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act), pursuant to Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act.

CONCEPT