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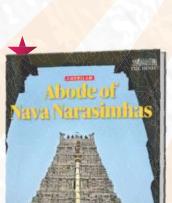


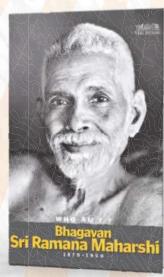


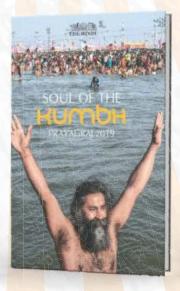
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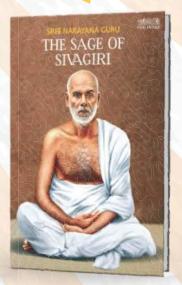
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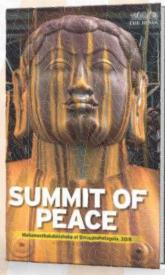


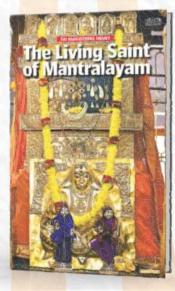


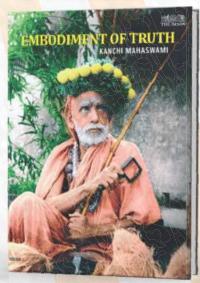


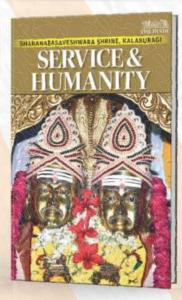














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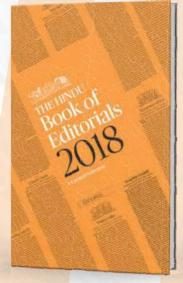


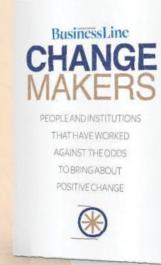


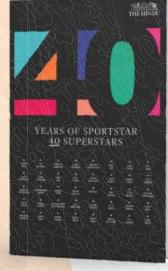


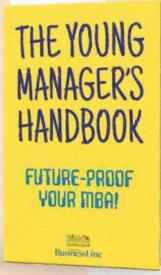




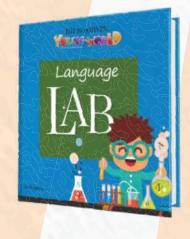


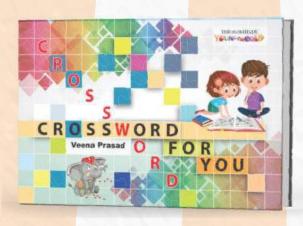


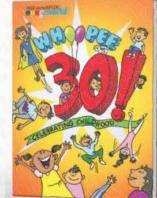






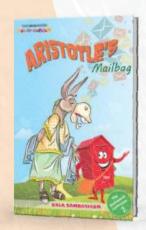








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#### **Jantar Mantar incident:** police identify 10 persons

The Delhi police have identified 10 persons involved in the incident wherein inflammatory slogans were raised at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. Raids are being conducted to nab them, said police sources. "There are also others whose names we have received. We will ask them to join the probe to ascertain their roles," an officer said. CITY ▶ PAGE 2

#### 'Cow slaughter in secret doesn't stir public order

An act of slaughtering a cow in the secrecy of one's own house in the early hours probably because of poverty, lack of employment or hunger – may be described as a case involving law and order but not a matter affecting public order, the Allahabad High Court has noted. The court made the observation while quashing a detention order dated August 14, 2020 under the National Security Act against three men in Sitapur district of U.P.

# 'Outsiders brought inside House to manhandle MPs'

#### Opposition MPs march to Vijay Chowk

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A day after dramatic scenes were witnessed in the Raiva Sabha during the passage of the General Insurance (Amendment) Bill on the last day of the monsoon session, top Opposition leaders on Thursday charged that "outsiders" were brought in - in the guise of marshals – to "manhandle" MPs, including women members.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, however, denied the allegation, and sources told *The Hindu* that Parliament

# Bunch of lies, says Goyal

Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goval on Thursday called the Opposition's charges on Wednesday's Parliament proceedings "a bunch of lies", and said the latter

were deployed, with their

number being scaled up

passage of the insurance Bill. "I think it is a big blot on them," the Minister said at a CII conclave. ▶ PAGE 9 security staff of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha

behaved like violent

hooligans in India's "temple

of democracy" to stop the

from 14 to 42 as the intensity of the protests increased. The day saw intense political activity as Opposition leaders first gathered at the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, and then marched from the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Parliament complex to Vijay Chowk, next to the Parliament building, where the leaders addressed mediapersons.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 9

# Kabul offers to share power

Proposal comes even as Taliban militants seize strategic cities of Ghazni & Herat

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DOHA/KABUL

Afghan government negotiators in Oatar have offered the Taliban a power-sharing deal in return for an end to fighting, a government negotiating source said on Thursday.

"Yes, the government has submitted a proposal to Qatar as mediator. The proposal allows the Taliban to share power in return for a halt in violence in the country," the source said.

The Taliban seized the strategic city of Ghazni on Thursday, just 150 km from Kabul. Later in the day, the Taliban claimed that they had captured Herat, Afghanistan's third largest city.

In a week, the militants have overrun 11 provincial



Free run: Taliban fighters patrolling the city of Ghazni in Afghanistan on Thursday. • AP

capitals. The Interior Ministry confirmed the fall of Ghazni, which lies along the major Kabul-Kandahar highway and serves as a gateway between the capital and militant strongholds in the south. "The enemy took control," spokesman Mirwais Stanikzai said in a message to media, adding later that the city's Governor had been arrested by the Afghan security forces. Pro-Taliban Twitter feeds showed a video of him being escorted out of Ghazni by Taliban and sent on his way in a convoy, prompting speculation that the government was angered with how the provincial administration capitulated.

As security forces retreated across the country, Kabul handed the power-sharing proposal to Taliban negotiators. A second negotiator, Ghulam Farooq Majroh, said the Taliban had been given an offer about a "government of peace", without providing more specifics.

The conflict has escalated since May, when the U.S.-led forces began the final stage of a troop withdrawal due to end later this month following a 20-year occupation.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

# GSLV-F10 fails to put satellite into orbit



The GSLV-F10 was launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A technical anomaly preventing the ignition of the GSLV-F10 rocket's cryogenic upper stage spelt disappointment for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday as the national space agency could not accomplish the mission to launch earth observation satellite EOS-03 into the intended orbit.

Though the lift-off at the scheduled time of 5.43 a.m. from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, some 100 km from here, was successful, the anomaly was realised after a few minutes.

"The performance of the first and second stages was

normal. However, cryogenic upper stage ignition did not happen due to a technical The anomaly. mission couldn't be accomplished as intended," the ISRO said in a statement. It did not elaborate any further.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

# Kinnaur landslip toll rises to 14; 16 missing

VIKAS VASUDEVA BHAWANAGAR

It has been a grim morning for Karam Singh outside the Community Health Centre at Bhawanagar in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district. Sitting on a low wall outside fated Himachal Road Transport Corporation bus that was hit by the landslip on National Highway 5 at Nigulsari on Wednesday.

With four more bodies recovered on Thursday, the toll has gone up to 14. Thirteen while 16 are still missing.

Singh and his father rush towards it to identify the body. Both of them take a thorough look, and see the clothes and other items of the victim. "It's not him," says Mr. Singh. Both move to the wall again, resuming their vigil for the next ambulance.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 **RELATED REPORT** ▶ PAGE 8

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम

Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi

# SDM acts against rules, draws court's ire

Officer sent notices to families of interfaith couple, HC says he committed contempt

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

ken exception to the action of a marriage officer who, against the rules, dispatched notices to the residences of an interfaith couple who had applied for registration of their marriage under the Special Marriage Act.

Following the notice sent by the officer – a Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) - the father and brother of the woman, a Muslim, detained her and restrained her from con-

eases to

NEW DELHI

5.6% in July

2020 begin to fade.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

tacting the man, a Hindu. "The issuance of notice is

The Delhi High Court has ta- in clear breach of this court's directions dated April 08, 2009. Prima facie, the court is of the view that the respondent (SDM) has committed contempt of court," Justice Nazmi Waziri said.

#### Show-cause notice

"Issue notice to the respondent (SDM) to show cause why contempt proceedings be not initiated against him for obstructing the administration of justice and for com-

mitting contempt," the court seeking to solemnise their said in its August 10 order.

In its April 2009 judgment, the High Court had stressed, "Unwarranted disclosure of matrimonial plans of two adults entitled to solemnise it may, in certain situations, jeopardise the marriage itself. In certain instances, it may even endanger the life or limb of one or the other party due to parental interference." The court had ordered all marriage officers not to dispatch notices to the residence of applicants

marriage under the Act.

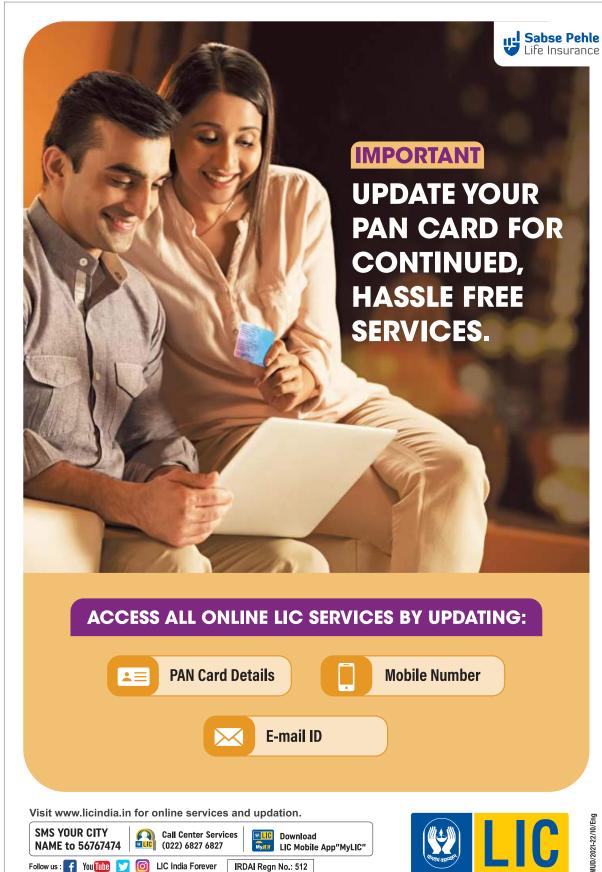
It, however, said the marriage officer can display the notice on the office board.

The interfaith couple had applied for registration of their marriage in February last year. After the woman was restrained from contacting the man, he moved a habeas corpus petition before the High Court seeking direction to produce the woman before the court.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

#### the Centre, he has been trypeople have been rescued ing to calm his anxious father as they wait for news of his As an ambulance ferrying brother, who was on the illbodies approaches, Mr. **EXPLAINER** ▶ PAGE 10





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**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

es prices are kicking in.

per the latest RBI survey.

#### IN BRIEF

'No parking facility for a few hours due to I-Day'

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Thursday said: "Parking facilities will not be available at the Delhi Metro stations from 6 a.m. on Saturday (August 14) to 2 p.m. on Sunday (August 15) in view of the security measures adopted on the occasion of Independence Day." The DMRC, however, said metro services will continue to operate.

# Gupta gives ₹5 lakh to Trilokpuri victim's family

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

State BJP president Adesh Gupta extended financial help of ₹5 lakh to the Trilokpuri rape victim's family on Thursday.

He said such incidents are a blot on society and assured the family that the party is with them in this hour of crisis.

'Case in fast-track court' "Full justice will be done in this case. We also ask the police for an impartial probe into the matter. It is a matter of great shame...We demand that the case be run through a fasttrack court..." Mr. Gupta added.

# 'Trilokpuri accused had sexually assaulted 9-year-old girl in 2019'

He had given money to victim's parents in previous case, alleges 6-year-old's aunt

A crowd gathered outside Mayur Vihar police station

following the rape of a 6-year-old girl. • HEMANI BHANDARI

HEMANI BHANDARI

A day after a 6-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a neighbour in east Delhi's Trilokpuri, her family and the locals alleged that the accused committed a similar crime over a year ago but the matter went unreported.

Staging a demonstration outside Mayur Vihar police station, the girl's paternal aunt said the accused had allegedly sexually assaulted a 9year-old girl in 2019.

"When the matter to came to light, his [accused] maternal uncle – cable operator in the area – sorted the matter by offering money to the victim's family. The matter wasn't reported to the police," she claimed.

The 6-vear-old's neighbour, Pramila, said if the earlier crime was reported, then this one would not have happened. "It was a 9-year-old then, now it's a 6-year-old... what if tomorrow he does the same with an infant," she asked.

The 6-year-old's father is lodged in jail in a theft case and mother works as a house help in south Delhi, her aunt said. She has two brothers aged 3 and 9. The four of them reside in Khichdipur. Another neighbour said: "When her mother goes to work, she leaves the children with their grandparents in Trilokpuri. Should parents

stop working and stay at

home worrying for their chil-

dren's safety?" The crime happened on Wednesday when the girl had gone outside to play with her friends at 2 p.m., her aunt said, adding: "An hour later, she returned home. She was bleeding profusely from her private parts. When I asked her what happened, she said she had fallen down while playing. I asked her again when she told me the truth," the aunt said

The aunt then rushed outside and saw "a man

year ago. His photographs were circulated on social meidentified him.

okay," the aunt said.

The locality – where the incident happened - is mostly dominated by those from Tamil Nadu. The locals are a worried lot now.

A 55-year-old local, Mani Ajay, said: "The accused is a local cable operator and often visits several houses. We are now very worried about our children roaming outside. This man deserves to be harshest the given punishment."

A neighbour of the accused said she saw the man

The family said the girl is

dia. When the police showed the photo to the victim, she

Her family alleged that the police were trying to hush up the matter. "A female officer told us not to move forward with the case. She said this would ruin her image... she suggested that we get her married in a few years and assured that she would be

beating his pregnant wife two months ago. "I had yelled at him at that time. What kind of a man does that? She does not stay with him anymore. I am worried about my tenant's 3-year-old daughter," she said.

hospitalised but stable.

# 10 persons identified, manhunt on in Jantar Mantar incident

Got other names as well, we will call them for probe: police

Ashwini Upadhyay was

arrested on Tuesday.

called to demand the end of

'colonial era laws' by Su-

preme Court advocate and

former Delhi BJP Spokesper-

son Ashwini Upadhyay. The

event was attended by sever-

went viral wherein a group

led by a man wearing a saf-

fron t-shirt could be heard

raising anti-Muslim inflam-

Subsequently, a video

al right-wing organisations.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The police have identified 10 persons involved in the incident wherein anti-Muslim inflammatory slogans were raised at Jantar Mantar on Sunday. Raids are being conducted to nab them, said police sources.

The identified persons include Uttam Malik, who appeared in the viral video where hate slogans were raised, and Pinki Chaudhary, founder of a religious organisation called Hindu Rakha Dal. Other members include those from similar religious organisations.

"There are also others whose names we have received. We will ask them to join the probe to ascertain their roles," an officer said.

On Sunday, a rally was

The police registered a case on charges of promoting enmity and for flouting DDMA guidelines as the organisers didn't seek permission for the event and also COVID-19 flouting guidelines.

On Tuesday, six persons, including Mr. Upadhyay, Save India Foundation's Preet Singh alias Sundar Pal, Hindu Force's Deepak Singh. Hindu Raksha Dal's Deepak Kumar, Sudarshan Vahini's Vinod Sharma, and one Vinit Bajpai were arrested.

#### Bailed, not bailed

A Delhi court granted bail to Mr. Upadhyay and two others while it rejected pleas of Preet, Vinod and Deepak Kumar on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

# Criminals killed in police encounter

The two were hiding in Shri Ram Colony; ₹1L, weapons recovered

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Two wanted criminals were killed in a police encounter in north-east Delhi's Khaiuri Khas, the police said on Thursday.

DCP (North-East) Sanjay Kumar Sain said the accused have been identified as Amir Khan and Ramjan who have seven and five criminal cases levelled against respectively.

Begumpur police station staff tipped Khajuri Khas police station staff about the presence of the two criminals in Shri Ram Colony on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. The two men were hiding inside a room on the second floor of a building in the densely populated During cross-firing, constable Sachin Khokar, constable Kalik Tomar, and the two criminals received bullet

injuries

POLICE OFFICER

"A joint operation was conducted by teams of Khajuri Khas and Begumpur police stations. When our teams reached the spot, they asked the men to open the door but instead, they threatened them," Mr. Sain said, adding that the police asked them to surrender but they refused to open the door. Instead, they opened fire at the policemen. A family residing in the adjoining room was evacuated along with other residents of the building, the DCP said. After over an hour, the policemen managed to break the door. The accused started firing indiscriminately and the officers retaliated in selfdefence, an officer said. During cross-firing, constable Sachin Khokar, constable Kalik Tomar, and the criminals received bullet injuries, an of-

ficer said. The injured were immediately shifted to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital, where both the accused persons were declared brought dead.

The police said two automatic pistols, four magazines, a huge quantity of ammunition with live rounds and ₹1 lakh cash were recovered from their possession.

# Nangal, Trilokpuri rape cases to be heard in fast-track courts: MHA

Police to file chargesheet in the court within 30 days of registration of cases for early start to trial

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Thursday said the Nangal rape and murder case of a minor girl as well as the Trilokpuri rape incident will be heard in fast-track special courts in Delhi. The Ministry reviewed the two cases with the Delhi Police here.

"As per the directions of the Union Home Minister Shri @AmitShah, Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed the rape and murder case of a girl child in Nangal area of Delhi and rape of a girl child in Mayur Vihar with @Delhi-Police [sic]," a Home Ministry Spokesman tweeted.

Delhi Police is committed to file the chargesheet in the court within 30 days of

the registration of the cases, so that the trial of these cases can start at the earliest. Both the cases will be heard in fast-track special courts in Delhi," the spokesperson said in another tweet.

The victim allegedly told

the family that two people

had taken her to the first floor

of a building, which is next to

her grandparents' on the pre-

text of buying her a toffee.

The accused tied her, raped

her and threatened not to tell

A case was lodged under sec-

tion 376 AB (punishment for

rape) of the IPC, 6 Protection

of Children from Sexual Of-

fences Act and relevant sec-

tions of SC/ST Act. During

probe, the police arrested 34-

When the word spread,

the girl's family was informed

about a man who had com-

mitted a similar crime over a

anyone about the incident.

**Accused arrested** 

vear-old Sammugan.

The Delhi Commission for

Women on Thursday issued a notice to the police seeking a detailed action taken report in the Trilokpuri case. The women's panel said it has been informed that the girl was kidnapped and raped on August 11.

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**TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090** 

# NGT plea alleges illegal activities on forest land

Gurugram civic body told to file report

Following a plea alleging construction work and nonforest activities being carried out near the Delhi-Gurugram border on a forest land, the National Green Tribunal directed the divisional forest officer and Gurugram civic body to submit a factual report on the same.

An NGT Bench said: "Even though from the copy of [documents] annexed, it

Description of work

appears that Panchayat Chalu is the owner of the land in question, learned counsel for the applicant states that the ownership is now vested with the Municipal Corporation Gurugram and thus it is under an obligation to ensure that no non-forest activities take place on its forest land."

The Tribunal directed authorities to furnish the factual report within one month.

Earnest Time

#### Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag \*\*\* NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER \*\*\*

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2.	Remodeling of Lift Irrigation Scheme Giana in G.P. Giana in Tehsil Arki Distt. Solan (HP) (SH:- Providing Laying and jointing of HDPE pipe of various dia in distribution system, Construction of RCC out lets 8 Nos., Repair of Pump House, L/J of 125mm dia G.I. Pipe (Medium Class) for rising main and Supply and Errection of Centrifugal Pumping Machinery with allied accessories).	15,56,	442/-	30,900/-	Six Months	400/-
3.	Improvement & retrofitting of LWSS B.A Mangal in G.P. Mangal to provide FHTC in Tehsil Arki Distt. Solan (HP) (SH:- Laying & jointing of GI Pipe (Light Class) 15 mm dia for providing 260 Nos. Balance house hold connections of various Villages ) (Under Jal Jeevan Mission)	8,01,3	60/-	16,050/-	Three Months	250/-
Key	dates:-					
Ī	Date of online publication.		11-08	-2021 at 1	0:00 AM	

Bid submission Start date and time. From 11-08-2021 at 10:00 AM. Bid Submission end date and time. Up to 18-08-2021 at 11:00 AM Earnest Money and Cost of tender 18-08-2021 at 11:00 AM document submitted online. Date of opening Bid i.e eligibility criteria 18-08-2021 at 11:30 AM VI Date of opening of financial bid Shall be intimated separately Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering 18-08-2021 up-to 11.00 AM and will be opened on 18-08-2021 at 11.30 AM. The tender forms and other detailed

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Telephone No. 01796-220774. Email:ipharki@gmail.com HP / 3287/21-22

# Court acquits 2 men in robbery case for 'false implication', raps police

Police chief told to look into the probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A Delhi court on Thursday acquitted two men in a robbery case, saying that their false implication cannot be ruled out, and asked the Police Commissioner to look into the manner in which the probe was conducted.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav acquitted Ishwar and Nonu by giving them the benefit of doubt while noting the delay in registration of FIR, improper investigation, and false implication.

'Shrouded with doubts'

"False implication of accused persons in the matter cannot be ruled out. The prosecution story is apparently shrouded with doubts and contradictions," ASJ Yadav wrote in an 18-page long judgment.

It was the case of the prosecution that the duo robbed one Ram Parkash at gunpoint on April 30, 2016, in Yamuna Vihar. They were arrested for offences such as robbery and extortion.

The judge directed the copy of the judgment be sent to Delhi Police Commissioner "with a request to look into the manner in which the FIR was registered and the kind of investigation which was conducted by the investigating officer".

"It is also reminded to him that Delhi Police claims itself to be a premier investigating agency based in the Capital of India having important seats like Parliament, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and other premier offices of the Central and State governments," the court remarked.

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH** Jal Shakti Vibhag NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

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2 Bid submission end date and time 20.08.2021 Up to 11 AM 3 Opening of Cover 1 20.08.2021 3:30 PM

4 Opening of Financial bid Date and place to be notified separately Terms and Conditions:-Tender documents. Term and conditions and other instruction can be downloaded or

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# DELHI

#### FRIDAY, AUG. 13

RISE 05:50 SET 19:03 RISE 10:18 SET 22:17

SATURDAY, AUG. 14 RISE 05:50 SET 19:02 RISE 11:21 SET 22:53 SUNDAY, AUG. 15

RISE 05:51 SET 19:01 RISE 12:26 SET 23:34

**Delhi Weather** max Delhi City Safdarjang 26

Delhi Palam Today 36°C Dry weather likely over the area with occasinal partly cloudy sky and gentle winds

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

#### THE HINDU

#### IN BRIEF

#### Delhi to host State-level skill competition

Delhi Skills and **Entrepreneurship University** will host the first ever state-level skill competition, the Delhi government said on Thursday. "Individuals from over 20 States will be participating. The winning team will represent India in World Skills Competition, popularly known as the 'Olympics of Skills' being hosted in Shanghai in 2022," an official statement said. The DSEU will be hosting 33 skills ranging from plumbing and heating to cloud

computing to mechatronics.

# 'Forming panel to probe oxygen deaths'

Tell L-G not to block inquiry committee to ascertain fatalities due to oxygen shortage: Sisodia to Centre

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said that he has written a letter to Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviva that the Delhi government is again forming a committee to ascertain the deaths due to oxygen shortage during the second wave. He also said that the Central government-appointed Lt. Governor of Delhi should not block it.

"When the Delhi government had formed a high-level committee to inquire into deaths due to oxygen shortage, the Central government cancelled it through the L-G. How will you get the data? The data will come only from an inquiry," the Deputy Chief Minister said durpress 'digital a conference'.

Questions from the media



A COVID-19 victim being taken away from Batra Hospital. ■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

were not allowed during this digital press conference.

"Today, I have written to the Union Health Minister that we want to make this committee to do the inquiry. We will resend the file to the L-G. An authentic inquiry is necessary. The Central government should allow the committee to be made and

allow the inquiry. I hope that we will get the Central government's support on this," he said.

The Minister said that it would be wrong to assume that there were no deaths due to lack of oxygen during the second COVID-19 wave in the Capital. It has to be admitted that there have been

deaths due to lack of oxygen in Delhi, he said.

So far, about 25,000 people have died due to CO-VID-19 in Delhi, but it is not known how many deaths occurred due to the lack of oxygen," he added.

On April 24, Jaipur Golden Hospital, a private hospital, said that 20 critically ill patients had died overnight, and the hospital "linked" the deaths to oxygen crisis.

However, the Delhi government submitted a report to the High Court in May stating the deaths were not due to oxygen shortage.

Don't want to debate

Mr. Sisodia said that right now he does not want to debate whether the Central government had asked Delhi to give data on deaths due to oxygen shortage by August

"The Central government said that States did not send data on deaths due to oxygen shortage and we said that data should be asked first. Now, [we] got to know that data was asked till August 13. The debate whether [we] received the letter [to submit the data by August 13] or not is very small, so I'm leaving it. We will talk about it later. You will say that it was sent, and we will say that we didn't get it, but I'm not getting into it now," Mr. Sisodia

On Wednesday, Mr. Sisodia had said in a statement that it was "never mentioned" that the data can be submitted by August 13. "If there is any such letter that says so, then it must be shown by the Centre. In any case, the Delhi government will soon submit a report to

# the Centre," he had said. Over 80% of ICU beds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

occupied: BJP

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Thursday alleged that despite claims by the AAP government that most of the ICU beds in the Capital were empty, nearly 80% of these were actually occupied.

The BJP leader sought to advise the Delhi government to focus on dealing with the situation rather than "accusing the Centre everything" termed "unfortunate" that

Central government.

The Delhi government is set tory using the card and pato implement a world-class tients will be able to take ap-Health Information Managepointments from home. ment System (HIMS) soon in "The Delhi government is line with its bid to bring a transformation in healthcare system of the

Arvind Keiriwal reviews the Health Information Management

healthcare system: CM

System project on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HIMS will transform

AAP govt. to implement it by 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kej-

riwal dubbed the HIMS a

"monumental step" towards

getting the people of Delhi "freedom from their pro-

blems" and said the project

will bring about a revolution

in the healthcare infrastruc-

ture of Delhi making health

management seamless and

levelling it with the stan-

dards of developed nations.

mented by next year with

the Health Department hav-

ing completed vendor selec-

tion and the bidding pro-

cess. It is working to

streamline the project and

place it in front of the Delhi

Cabinet. The project was re-

viewed by Mr. Kejriwal on

The system will be imple-

NEW DELHI

Capital.

committed towards providing the best and the most modern healthcare facilities to the people of Delhi, HIMS is a monumental step in this direction, so we must be extremely serious towards its implementation and expedite the timelines," Mr. Kejriwal said.

mation. Doctors will be able

to see patients' medical his-

After the implementation of the HIMS, the government stated, people will "get freedom" from long queues of hospitals and be able to get a doctor appointment by accessing an online portal from the comfort of their homes

Patients will be designatcampaign.

# No COVID death for second consecutive day

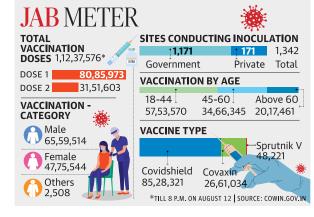
Health Minister inaugurates 300 ICU beds and telemedicine centre in Burari

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Health Minister Satyendar Jain inaugurated 300 ICU beds and a telemedicine centre at Sant Nirankari Ground COVID Care Centre in Burari on Thursday.

A total of 750 physicians of the British Association for Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) will provide knowledge support to the COVID Care Centre, the government said.

"This 800-bedded COVID Care Centre is being upgraded with more than 300 ICUs, ventilators and a telemedicine centre and will be one of the best and the most unique field hospitals in the world.



Many said this task was impossible, but we made it possible with our devotion and commitment to work for the people of Delhi," Mr. Jain

Meanwhile, the Capital reported only 49 new CO-VID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases released by the Delhi government. There was no death reported for the second consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at

to 14,36,938, as per a bulletin

A total of 71,348 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.07%. Of the total cases, 14,11,368 people have recovered and there are only 502

The COVID vaccine stock of the city on Thursday morning would last for eight days and there were 5,76,490 doses of Covishield vaccine and 3,37,670 doses of Covaxin, informed another bulle-

#### Health cards it was trying to level baseless allegations against the

Thursday.

As part of the project, health cards will be assigned to each citizen which will be a repository of medical infor-

ed a time frame to meet the doctor and will be able to get consultation as per it. According to the government, surveys across the city will be conducted soon to make sure every citizen can get their e-Health card made. The cards will also be made at hospitals and other dedicated centres and distributed through a door-to-door

# Fill up vacant minority + panel posts by Sept. 30

HC extends deadline given to Centre

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Thursday extended the deadline given to the Centre to nominate persons to all the vacant positions in the National Commission for Minorities by two months.

Justice Rekha Palli said the process, which was earlier directed to be concluded by July 31, be completed by September 30. The High Court's decision came after the Centre made a plea to extend the deadline by a period of three months.

#### **Efficient functioning**

The High Court had earlier directed that the nomination of all the vacant positions be filled on or before July 31 in order to ensure that the commission functions efficiently and the purpose of the commission as envisaged under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 is also fully given effect to.

The Centre had sought the extension on the account of the COVID-19 situation in the country during the months of April and

North body

licence fee hike'

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday claimed that the

BJP-ruled North Delhi Mun-

icipal Corporation has rolled back its "unjust" or-

der to raise licence fees af-

ter pressure from the AAP.

ers participated in a signa-

ture campaign launched by

the AAP against rising trade

and factory licence fees

and put pressure on North

body to take the order

back," AAP MLA Atishi said.

"More than 5 lakh trad-

rolls back

STAFF REPORTER

# Abhay Ratan Bauddh, in his petition, has said that only the post of vice-chairman of the commission was

functional since October 2020, while the remaining positions, including that of the chairperson and members from Buddhist, Christian, Parsi, Sikh and Jain communities remained

#### No action yet

The petition said that the posts started becoming vacant around April 2020 and since October 2020, only one post was functional.

It claimed that despite bringing the issue to the attention of the Ministry, the government has not done anything to fill up the posts.

#### Teams to request people to sing National Anthem

The New Delhi Municipal Council has deployed six groups, each consisting of a boy and a girl, at six different prominent locations in the NDMC area from August 11 to 15 to motivate people to sing and upload the National Anthem through mobile phones. "These groups would carry a smartphone and would motivate visitors to sing and upload the anthem in their own device or through the smartphone of the deputed person. All videos will be merged and shown on August 15," an official statement said.





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# Farmers will vote against **BJP: Akhilesh**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday took a swipe at the BJP for its plan to hold a programme to connect with farmers in Uttar Pradesh, saying the BJP is remembering them as elections are

Farmers, he said, will vote unitedly against the BJP in the next State polls.

"It is heard that the BJP, which cultivates talks, will hold a 'Kisan Sammelan' in Uttar Pradesh. When the time has come for the 'Annadata' to become a voter, the BJP remembered farmers. Farmers are not going to fall into the trap of BJP. In 2022, farmers will vote unitedly against the BJP," the former Chief Minister said.

The BJP is going to launch a farmer outreach programme from August 16

# Farmers protesting near Vij's residence detained

They were later released by police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The police on Thursday detained over 100 farmers who were protesting near the residence of Harvana Home Minister Anil Vij against the rounding up of a local farmer leader in connection with showing black flags to the convoy of the Minister.

However, the farmers were later released.

According to police, the Minister was coming back to his residence after attending a meeting in Chandrapuri Colony at Ambala Cantonment on Wednesday evening. When he was crossing the place, some of the protesting farmers showed black flags to his convoy. Stones were also thrown on one of the vehicles of the convoy, police said.

Police later rounded up farmer leader Navdeep



Haryana Minister Anil Vij 🛭

Singh in connection with the incident, following which a large number of farmers gathered near Vij's Ambala residence Thursday.

Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) senior leader Wajinder Kamboj said they were protesting in a peaceful way, but the police detained them at police line premises.

Later all the protesters, including Mr. Singh, were

# Rajasthan schools, colleges to reopen from September 1

CM Ashok Gehlot approves GoM recommendations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Rajasthan government on Thursday allowed reopening of schools from Classes IX to XII as well as the universities, colleges and coaching institutes with 50% capacity from September 1. The orders were issued after Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approved a Group of Ministers' recommendations to restart academic activities.

First jab must

The teaching and nonteaching staff as well as the drivers of buses, cabs and auto-rickshaws ferrying the students to and from schools will be required to get at least one dose of CO-VID-19 vaccine 14 days before the educational institureopen.



education will continue only for the students of I to VIII Classes till further orders.

According to the guidelines issued by the Home Department, no morning assembly will be allowed in the schools, while the standard operating procedure for preventing the spread of infection, including the maintenance of social dis-

tancing the hygiene, will be strictly complied with.

The coaching institutes will be allowed to reopen on fulfilling the condition of full vaccination, with both the doses, of their teaching

and non-teaching staff. They will also be required to upload the information of the number of students, seating capacity and vaccination on the official portal.

Second wave closure

The educational institutions in the State were closed during the second wave of pandemic earlier this year, when the lockdown was once again brought into force.

A Group of Ministers was subsequently appointed for deliberating on the reopening of schools and laying down new guidelines.

# Varsities merge for the first time in Rajasthan

State-funded Mohanlal Sukhadia University to absorb private Vedic university

IAIPUR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a first instance in Rajasthan, a private Vedic university has merged with the Statefunded Mohanlal Sukhadia University in Udaipur, with the transfer of all movable and immovable properties and human resources to the latter. The merger was claimed to be a step towards strengthening education in the traditional knowledge

The Kallaji Vedic Universi-

ty's campus, built on 50 bighas land near Nimbahera town in Chittorgarh district, will come under the control of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University following the merger. Officials of the two institutions discussed academic and legal aspects of the merger as well as the future plans under the new education policy earlier this week. Mohanlal Sukhadia Un-

Vice-Chancellor Amarika Singh said on Thursday that the merger would promote research in Vedic sciences, literature and culture and help create new employment opportunities in these domains. The officebearers of Kallaji Vedic University have since met Governor Kalraj Mishra, the Chancellor of State universities, and apprised him of the merger.

Prof. Singh said a "letter of dedication" had been submitted to the Governor, informing him of the approval of merger by Mohanlal Sukhadia University's Academic Council. A joint meeting of the boards of members of the two institutions has also given a go-ahead to the proposal.

**Constituent institute** 

Prof. Singh, who was earlier a professor of chemistry at the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Lucknow, said the Kallaji University would be known as a constituent institute of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University.

# Odisha to map stretches vulnerable to tidal surges

Govt. plans to raise embankments

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

The Odisha government has directed engineers of its Water Resources Department to prepare an action plan for the coastal stretches of the State, which are highly vulnerable to storm surges, within a month.

The State plans to raise saline and flood embankments along the coast to prevent tidal surges from inundating human habitations. As there is every possibility of increased frequency and intensity of the cyclones in the future, raising and strengthening of embankments has become vital.

While taking stock of the chances of coastal inundation in a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, the making of an action plan in consultation with local people to strengthen flood embankments was stressed. "Raising the height of the

embankments would save people from tidal surges and inundation in future," Mohapatra said.

The Chief Secretary also directed the identification of

CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT OVER BRIDGE

IN CONNECTION WITH DOUBLING PROJECT:

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-I

Western Railway, Ahmedabad for and on behalf of President of Union of India

nvites E-Tender for following work: E-

SUNR-RJT/03 (1) Name of work with its

**location:** Construction of Foot Over Bridge at Ramparda & Than stations

between Surendranagar-Daldi section in connection with Surendranagar-Rajko

Doubling projects. (2) Approx. cost o

work: ₹ 5,16,54,373.00 (3) EMD:
NIL. Bid Security Declaration to be

submitted. (4) Completion period: 6

(Six) Months (5) Date and time fo

submission of bid and opening of bid:

Submission: 02-09-2021 upto 15:00 Hrs., Opening: 02-09-2021 at 15:30 Hrs. (6) A

Certificate must be submitted by all tenderers as given in Annexure-V. Based on which eligibility of tenderers

for will be evaluated. (5) Website particulars Notice Board location

where complete details of tender car

be seen & address of the office: Office

of Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) I

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"at risk" areas from where permanent evacuation appeared to be the only scientific solution.

Cyclone-prone area

"With around 17% (480 km) of India's coastline, Odisha faces around 35% of cyclonic storms along with tidal surges. The State is the sixth most cyclone prone area of the world. There are also flat terrains with fertile agricultural land with dense population adjacent to the coastline," said Anu Garg, Secretary, Water Resources.

She said that as per the review, around 1,636 km of saline protection embankments, and 5,864 km of flood protection embankments, had been built in the last few years, mostly in districts such as Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak and Balasore.

In the last ten years, Odisha has faced seven very severe to extremely severe cyclones. The coastal belt witnessed tidal surges of 3.5 metres to 4.5 metres during cyclones, thereby causing large-scale saline inunda-

WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD

# Five killed as car rams truck in U.P.'s Basti

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Five members of a family were killed and two others injured when a car rammed a truck here on Thursday, police said.

The incident took place around 5.30 a.m. at Puraina crossing when the family was going to Jharkhand from Lucknow. The driver lost control over the vehicle and it rammed into a container truck, they said.

trapped in the car after the accident. While five among them died, two, the driver and a 13-year-old girl, were injured, police said.

HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P

on behalf of Governor of H.F

The occupants were

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSONS ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

complaint has been made before me that accused 1. Neeraj S/o Prithvi Raj, 2. Neelam Devi W/o Prithvi Raj & 3. Prithvi Rai. R/o KG-2/298. Vikas Puri. Delhi have Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 459/2016 u/s 354A/509/506/34 IPC dated 23.06.2016 has been registered at P.S. Vikaspuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said 1. Neeraj 2. Neelam Devi & 3. Prithvi satisfaction that the said 1. Neeraj 2. Neelam Devi & 3. Prithvi Raj has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused 1. Neeraj Prithyi Rai of FIR No. 459/2016 354A/509/506/34 IPC dated 23.06.2016 at P.S. Vikaspuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.09.2021 Ms Sadhika Jalan

MM(Mahila Court)-04 South West District, Room No. 311, 3rd Floor DP/509/WD/2021(Court Matter) Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

#### **SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED** General public is hereby informed



that one female namely Aarti Devi, W/o Sh. Jitender, R/o 13/290, Kalyan Puri, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Green colour Saree & Brown colour Sandle in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS

Kalyanpuri, Delhi since 28.07.2021. In this regard a DD No. 05A, dated 30.07.2021 has been registered at P.S. Kalvanpuri, Delhi.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi Ph.: 011-22772287, 22772251 DP/638/ED/2021

# SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Vinita, D/o: Sh. Brijpal, R/o: H.No. 13/65, Dhobi Ghat, Kalyanpuri, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 13.06.2021 at 10:00 am from the area of P.S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 116A dated 13.06.2021 has been registered at P. S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under:

Age: 20 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5'4", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Purple colour top, blue colour jeans and white colour shoe in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl kindly inform to the following.

DP/627/ED/2021

DIPK-6376/21

P.S. Kalyan Puri, Delhi Tel.No. 011-22772251, 8750871830

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 40 years, Height: 5'10", Wearing: Black coloured shirt, grey coloured pant and Nike sports shoes in feet, has been found dead on 08.08.2021



P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may

kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

**Executive Engineer** 

S&D Division Ist Srinagar

P.S. Hazrat Nizamudin, New Delhi Ph.: 011-24359989, 24355758 DP/206/SE/2021 Mob.: 8750870929

# Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No:Ist SULIMAN COMPLEX DALGATE SRINAGAR

**Notice Inviting e-Tendering** 

GIST of Short Term e-NIT No: 09 of 2021-22 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. and other State / Central Government for the followin

S. No	Name of Work		Est. cost (Rs. In lacs) Including Departmental Supply	Cost of T/doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion In days	Class of Contract			
1	2		3	4	5	6			
1	Laying of 300mm dia Sewer line RCC Spuincluding manholes at spots for shifting of sewer line at the proposed site for construction Facility centre (LHS) near Mortuary of Govt College Srinagar (Length=128M)	existing of Multi	12.51	700/=	20 Days	"C&D"			
	IMPORTANT DATES:								
Α	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10/	/08/2021						
В	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10/	0/08/2021 to 25/08/2021 up-to 4:00 PM						
С	Bid submission Start Date	10/	0/08/2021 from 4:00 PM						
D	Bid submission End Date	25/	5/08/2021 up-to 4:00 PM						
Е	Date & time of opening of bids (online)	26/	08/2021 at 11:00	AM or any c	other convenient date.				
Ten	der Receiving Authority:	Exec	utive Engineer	S&D Divisi	on Ist Sulain	nan			

Complex Dalgate Srinagar

# No: PW-DPD-CB-Tender/2020-21-12286-88

IP / 3303/21-22

#### 01905-272269 Fax:- 272862 **HIMACHAL PRADESH** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Email: ee-dhar-hp@nic.in **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** Dated: -11/08/2021

The Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division, HPPWD Dharampur, Distt: Mandi (H.P) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering systems from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table. Estimated Starting Date Earnest Deadline

No.	Name of Work	Cost (In Rs.)	for downloading Bid	Money	for submission of Bid		
1	2	3	4	5	6		
1.	Construction of Missing CD on Sari Garli road at RD 1/200 ( SH :- C/O Super Structure )	14,82,286.00	24.08.2021	30,000/-	31.08.2021		
2.	R/R Damages on Bakkar Khad to Garoru via Bhadred road Km 0/0 to 3/00 ( SH :- R.O.F.D & C/O R/Wall at various RDs )	522,840.00	24.08.2021	11,000/-	31.08.2021		
3.	R/R Damages on Sarkaghat Tihra Sandhole Road Km 59/00 to 101/0 ( SH :- C/O R/Wall at RD 81/015 to 81/033, 81/900 to 81/920 and 82/530 to 82/535)	546,876.00	24.08.2021	11,000/-	31.08.2021		
4.	C/O Chatryana Chaswal Answai road km0/0 to 3/930 (SH:- C/o PCC R/Wall and B/Wall in various RD's)	12,59,795.00	24.08.2021	26,000/-	31.08.2021		
	bidders are advised to note other details of tender ite <u>www.hptenders.gov.in.</u>	from the depart	ment	Executive Engineer, Dharampur Division,			

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

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# Six Maoists involved in 127 offences surrender

#### There was a reward of ₹16 lakh on them

STAFF REPORTER

Six important Maoist cadres, including two 18-year-old girls of the Andhra-Odisha Special Zonal Committee, surrendered before the Andhra Pradesh police.

They were produced before the media by Director-General of Police D. Gautam Sawang.

The six – two from Visakhapatnam and four from Chhattisgarh - were involved in 127 offences, including 17 murders, over the past decade and a half.

Mr. Sawang said the main reasons for the cadres to quit the Communist Party of In-

Amit Shah, wife offer

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah and wife Sonal offered

prayers at the Bhramaramba

Devasthanam at Srisailam in

Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, on

Thursday. They later visited

Three in custody over

Kerala Bank ATM fraud

The Kerala police have taken

three persons into custody in

connection with an ATM fraud

that allegedly preyed into the

"compromised cybersecurity

Tirupur in Tamil Nadu late on

Wednesday and another from

system" of the Kerala Bank.

The police nabbed two

Kasaragod natives from

Kozhikode on Thursday.

the Shivaji Spoorthi Kendram

prayers at Srisailam

Mallikarjuna Swamy



Facing the cameras: DGP D. Gautam Sawang producing the surrendered Maoists before the media on Thursday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

dia (Maoist) was dwindling support from the tribal population, lack of recruitment from among the tribal people and discrimination against tribal cadres by the top leadership.

They are: Chikkudu Chinna Rao, alias Sudheer, 32, divisional committee member of the Peddabailu-Korukunda division; Vanthala Vannu, alias Mahita, 25, area committee member; Madaka Somidi, 25, area committee member; Madakam Manglu, alias Deepak, protection team member; Poyam Rukini, alias Rinky, 18; and Sodi

Mahita and Somidi were part of the armed protection team of a top leader.

Sudheer alone was involved in 93 offences, including 14 murders, 11 exchanges of fire and seven landmine blasts. There was a reward of ₹16 lakh on the six cadres.

Sudheer had been with the party for 15 years, and Mahitha and Somidi were recruited 10 years ago. Deepak joined the party six years ago and Rinky three years ago. Bheeme was recruited when she was a 12-year-old.

Mr. Sawang said the Maoists were unable to sustain themselves due to a lack of support from the tribal population, and penetration of various government schemes into tribal hamlets through the volunteer

# Maoists suffer a setback with leader's surrender

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE

The banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) suffered another setback with the surrender of tribal leader Chikkudu Chinna Rao, alias Sudheer, before Director-General of Police D. Gautam Sawang in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Thursday.

Sudheer was a divisional committee member of the Pedabayalu-Korukonda area committee and his surrender is a big blow to the Maoist movement in the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee. He

was one among the few tribal leaders from the region who held a considerable sway among the locals.

#### Other leader

The only major tribal leader left in this region now is Kakuri Pandana, alias Jagan.

Sudheer had walked out of the Maoist movement immediately after the Koyyuru

He not only expressed his resentment but also strongly criticised the Maoist nontribal leaders for their disdaining attitude towards the other tribal cadres and

# Stop drawing Srisailam water, says Telangana

'Andhra is using more than allocation'

B. CHANDRASHEKHAR

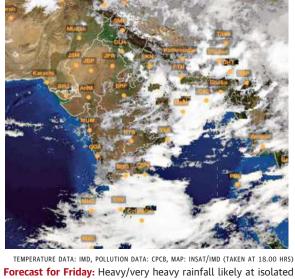
In the midst of efforts to operationalise the purview of the two river boards set up as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the Telangana government has addressed one more letter to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) to restrain Andhra Pradesh from drawing Srisailam water for "unauthorised" projects/systems.

The unauthorised withdrawal of water to the Muchumarri lift irrigation scheme (for supplementing the KC Canal in Kurnool district), Malyala pumping station (for the Handri-Neeva lift irrigation scheme) and Escape Channel (to feed KC Canal outside Kurnool district through Nippulavagu) was nothing but illegal di-

version of Krishna water to outside the basin (to the Penna basin), the Telangana government said in its letter to KRMB.

Engineer-in-Chief (General) of Irrigation C. Muralidhar wrote to the Chairman of KRMB, M.P. Singh, stating that Andhra Pradesh's unauthorised withdrawal was also denying Telangana its allocated water under the Rajolibanda Scheme (RDS). Drawal of water to the three systems -Muchumarri, Malyala and Escape Channel – was also in violation of the KWDT-I (Bachawat Tribunal) Award, he pointed out.

"It is one of the many components of deliberate neglect of Telangana region in the united Andhra Pradesh," the Telangana ENC



places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunder storm with lightning likely isolated places over West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	34.4	27.5	Kozhikode	12	30.5	23.9
Ahmedabad		34.5	26.4	Kurnool		35.0	26.5
Aizawl	–	27.0	20.5	Lucknow	1	32.4	27.7
Allahabad		31.8	26.9	Madurai	0.4	35.5	25.7
Bengaluru	1.6	27.0	21.3	Mangaluru	25.2	28.6	22.6
Bhopal		31.3	22.8	Mumbai	10	30.5	24.4
Bhubaneswar		35.6	26.6	Mysuru		31.0	21.2
Chandigarh		35.6	27.0	New Delhi		36.2	26.4
Chennai	11	34.0	27.0	Patna	8	30.6	26.6
Coimbatore	–	30.8	22.6	Port Blair	0.3	29.8	25.6
Dehradun		31.0	24.7	Puducherry	9.5	38.0	23.4
Gangtok	3.3	22.0	18.5	Pune	0.8	26.8	21.7
Goa	12	26.8	23.8	Raipur	38	33.0	24.0
Guwahati	4	33.9	26.9	Ranchi		30.0	23.6
Hubballi		28.0	22.0	Shillong	21.3	24.8	18.0
Hyderabad	–	33.9	24.2	Shimla		27.0	20.5
Imphal	7	30.8	22.4	Srinagar		32.2	19.8
Jaipur		34.2	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram.	3	32.2	23.2
Kochi	0.2	29.2	24.0	Tiruchi	3	33.8	24.8
Kohima		26.0	18.4	Vijayawada		36.6	27.2
Kolkata		33.9	28.9	Visakhapatnam		36.2	27.2
(Rainfall data	in mm;	temper	ature in	Celsius)			

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

....93

10 .56 72 ...155 .259 ..4 .73 24 ....37 ...69

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

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

# Cardinal has to face trial in land scam cases: Kerala HC

They pertain to sale of Syro-Malabar Church holdings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Cardinal Mar George Alancherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and head of the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, will have to face trial in the criminal cases booked against him in connection with a land scam, the Kerala High Court said on Thursday.

Justice P. Somarajan, who dismissed six appeals filed by the Cardinal and one by another accused against a trial court order, also asked the government to probe a 2007 settlement deed, about which the court harboured a "reasonable doubt" of manipulation. The settlement deed was executed by Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan, the



George Alancherry

power of attorney-holder of the Religious Congregation of Brothers of the Roman Catholic community, Aluva. It is to be probed whether the title deed of a government property was manipulated, the court ordered.

The scam pertains to the sale of various holdings of the Syro-Malabar Church, allegedly flouting the bylaws

of the Church and causing heavy financial losses. The sale deeds were executed without conducting a public auction or public sale with notice to all concerned. The deal was thus executed solely for the purpose of "giving the property to certain selected persons at a throwaway price capriciously and at the whims and fancies of the Cardinal," the court said. Meanwhile, close on the

heels of the Income Tax (I-T) Department directing the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese to remit ₹3.5 crore, citing capital gains the archdiocese made in land transactions, the Church has submitted an appeal before the I-T Appellate Authority, seeking a relook at the

# Recoveries outweigh fresh cases again in Maharashtra

Active COVID-19 tally dips to 62,000; State reports 208 deaths

Maharashtra reported a healthy 8,390 recoveries on Thursday as against 6,388 new COVID-19 cases as the State's active case tally declined further to 62,351. The toll continued to rise

with 208 deaths pushing the cumulative fatalities to 1,34,364. The case fatality rate stands at 2.11%. The number of cases has

reached 63,75,390 while its cumulative recoveries have risen to 61.75.010 with the recovery rate standing at "Of the 5,03,26,812 labo-

ratory samples tested thus far, 63,75,390 [with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 12.67%] have returned positive with over 2.10 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate.

Pune reported a big spike of nearly 1,200 cases taking its tally to 11,01,031 while 18 deaths pushed the toll over



People queue up outside a free vaccination camp at a school in Worli, Mumbai, on Thursday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

18,450. As per the district authorities, the active case tally stands at a little over

Mumbai adds 281 cases

Mumbai reported 281 cases to take its tally to 7,38,520 while the active count has declined to 3,208. Seven fatalities took the death count

Ahmednagar continued to see a rise in cases, reporting nearly 800 new ones and

three deaths, taking its cases to 2,95,535 of whom 6,307 are active. The district's cumulative death toll has risen to 6.307.

Satara also reported a big spike of 916 cases and 10 deaths to take the number to 2,26,151 of whom 6,537 are active, while the toll climbed to 5,481.

Sangli reported 662 cases and 19 deaths. The case tally stands at 1,92,877 with the active cases falling to 7,027.

# Local officials can decide on reopening schools: State govt.

STAFF REPORTER

It is up to local officials to decide, taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation in an area, whether physical classes should resume at Maharashtra schools. School Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad said on

Asked about the confusion following the government's announcement to resume more physical classes at schools from August 17, Ms. Gaikwad said the decision-making has been decentralised.

Days after the government announced it would allow schools to reopen for certain classes, it has decided against it after a meeting of the State COVID-19 Task Force held late on Wednesday. According to sources, the task force, worried about a possible resurgence, has advised against resumption of offline classes from August 17 without fully vaccinating students.

It was decided that while some schools in rural areas, where there was no threat

from coronavirus, would continue to function, all other schools, shut since March 2020, would not restart on August 17 as scheduled earlier.

"The task force members have expressed opposition to reopening schools on the ground that students below the age of 18 have not been vaccinated," said State Health Minister Rajesh Tope.

The State government's backtracking on the decision drew flak from the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Pravin Darekar, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, chastised the government for

dithering and lack of clarity. "Maharashtra Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad had said just a few days ago that classes V-VII would begin in rural areas and VIII-XII in urban areas. However, the decision was postponed due to objections from the State COVID-19 Task Force. Why didn't the government consult the task force before making a decision?" said Mr. Darekar.

(With PTI inputs)

# Pornography case: Mumbai court rejects actor's bail plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT actor threatened to destroy MUMBAI

The City Civil and Sessions Court on Thursday refused anticipatory bail to actor Gehana Vasisth in connection with the pornographic racket busted this year.

A complaint has been filed by a 21-year-old against Ms. Vasisth claiming that she was initially signed to do bold scenes in films but later forced by the accused to do nude and semi-nude scenes. The woman alleged that the her career if she did not do

The Mumbai Police argued that Ms. Vasisth lured many newcomers to the industry to act in obscene videos to be published on Hotshot app owned by coaccused Raj Kundra, currently lodged at Arthur Road Jail. The police opposed her plea and said many details of the case had been covered extensively in the media.

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1.	Eligibility Criteria • A valid date of birth proof is mandatory	i) Students who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission. ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/ quardians.	i) Students who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission. ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/guardians.	Class X pass-out students	Class XI Passed failed or after a gap of one year of passing class-X.
2.	Minimum age required	13 years as on 31st March 2021	14 years as on 31st March 2021		_
3.	Maximum Age	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction	No maximum age restriction
4.	Date of admission without late fee	16.08.2021- 24.09.2021	16.08.2021- 24.09.2021	16.08.2021- 24.09.2021	16.08.2021 24.09.2021
5.	Date of admission	27.09.2021- 14.10.2021	27.09.2021- 14.10.2021	27.09.2021- 14.10.2021	27.09.2021 14.10.2021

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**SECTION OFFICER** DIP/Shabdarth/0234/21-22 PATRACHAR VIDYALAYA

# 'Any political motive to merge Ranade institute will be thwarted'

Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant to discuss matter with protesting student outfits

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

With Pune's student fraternity up in arms against the proposed merger of the iconic Ranade Institute of Iournalism with the Pune University's Media and Communication Department, Minister of Higher and Technical Education Uday Samant on Thursday said the government would thwart any political ploy behind the move while assuring that he would visit the city over the

weekend to review the mat-

"This institute is a vital resource for journalists and has a rich history. News has been published in a number of media outlets to the effect that it would be relocated to the Pune University premises [merger with Pune varsity's communications department]. A number of student outfits have urged me to visit the Ranade Institute...I will accordingly be visiting it on August 14 to hear their problems. If this merger is a political ploy, then it will be quashed," said Mr. Samant.

The Minister, who belongs to the ruling Shiv Sena, earlier tweeted saying its Yuvasena had demanded the the institute.

Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) not relocate The institute, which operates out of a century-old British-era building, began its prestigious journalism

course in 1964. Considered

to be the crucible for Maha-

rashtra's budding journalists and communication experts, it is said to have opened new horizons for bright students from the rural hinterland. While the Journalism de-

partment became a fullfledged one under the Pune University in 1976 (being officially known as the Department of Communication and Journalism), its location away from the varsity's premises – in the heart of Pune city on the Fergusson Col-

ment-funded status ensured its distinct identity. A number of former and current students, who have

lege Road - and its govern-

come together to form the 'Ranade Bachao Kruti Samiti', have alleged the merger to be a sinister connivance between some senior authorities in the Pune Universitv's Senate and some senior journalists to sell off the prime land (where the institute is located) and partake a share of the proceeds.

# Another warning

Landslips in Himachal Pradesh point to the need for a new development paradigm

landslip has struck again in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh killing at least 14 people and burying several others, just over a fortnight after a similar disaster killed a group of tourists. This time, the catastrophe has been even more severe, with mud, rocks and debris raining down on vehicles including a State transport corporation bus on National Highway 5. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has said that 60 people may have been buried and multiple agencies including the ITBP, National and State Disaster Response Forces were frantically trying to rescue survivors. Himachal Pradesh, a picturesque western Himalayan State that has made progress on social developmental indices, faces rising instability from environmental factors such as climate change and heavy monsoon rainfall. Landslips have become a familiar feature, and seismic events threaten to increase their frequency and aggravate the impact. The same NH-5 was similarly blocked by falling rocks in the wake of heavy rain in August 2019, along with several other roads, and the season witnessed a significant loss of life, particularly in Kinnaur. There is considerable scientific literature now arguing that Himachal's mountain slopes are experiencing not just seismicity and rain-induced stresses but also manmade pressures to exploit hydropower and build more roads, and are being rendered even more fragile.

Much of Himachal Pradesh is in the high risk zone for landslips, calling for great caution in pursuing disruptive projects, particularly hydropower. The Landslide Hazard Zonation Map of India marks over 70% of the State as 'high risk' and 14% as 'severe' to 'very high risk'. The threat of earthquakes remains potent, as the mountains here are young in geological terms and therefore active, and about 32% of the State is categorised as a high damage risk zone for seismicity. A developmental model that prioritises heavily engineered structures such as dams and hydropower that involve rock blasting, tree felling and inundating large spaces clearly jeopardises the integrity of mountain slopes; roads developed along the slopes face the brunt of the impact, as the Kinnaur landslips show. In some cases, the roads themselves have been destroyed. A decade ago, the action plan on climate change published by the State identified some key hazards and wanted to take longterm remedial measures. It is time for an update, going beyond disaster management, and the recurring disasters only add to the urgency. There is wide support among local communities for sustainable tourism and an expansion of the farm-based economy, particularly apple growing. But these can progress only when environmental losses are halted. With greater rainfall and cloudburst activity, Himachal Pradesh is bound to face greater uncertainty. Maintaining the status quo can only make the ghastly episodes of falling boulders and lost lives a more frequent feature.

# Eye in the sky

ISRO must open itself to public gaze, and not shy away from sharing its successes, failures

nything that is related to space science, failure or success, is larger than life; for this is a new fron-Latier for achievement and conquest within the realms of science and technology. The recent attempt by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to place an earth observation satellite (EOS-3) in a geosynchronous orbit using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10) ended in failure due to a 'performance anomaly' - a malfunctioning of the trusted rocket launcher. All seemed to be well as the stage two and three separated as planned, but when the time came for the cryogenic third stage to light up, there appeared to be a failure and an ensuing deviation from the expected path, as seen in the control panel. There was an immediate disruption in the telecast which had been showing a view of the control panel, and the camera veered towards troubled faces, discussion and probably efforts to salvage the mission. Finally, Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman of ISRO, announced in a short sentence that the mission could not be accomplished. Speculation may run rife about the reasons for this unexpected failure, after many successful launches since 2017. ISRO had fewer launches during the pandemic in 2020 than it did in earlier years. This particular launch had originally been planned for March 5, 2020 and was called off because of a technical glitch a few hours before the launch. It is also to be mentioned that the cryo engine in question is of a Russian design originally, unlike that of the GSLV Mark III rocket, which is indigenous.

The failure of this mission is worrying not only because it breaks a long, successful run, but because there are several important missions in the pipeline: Aditya-L1, the sun watcher, and the Gaganyaan mission, which will carry humans to space, are slated for the coming years. Thursday's failure will increase the stress on IS-RO scientists to doubly make sure the chances of success in these missions. In the meantime, the impact of this failed mission is being kept away from interested citizens for now. For some time at least, there will be no official word on what actually happened and how the mission failed, and this owes in no small measure to the propensity of ISRO to cover up and enshroud events in mystery, especially mishaps. Admittedly, the stakes are high, in terms of investment and national pride, but scientists, of all people, should wear the belief that failure is as much part of the game as success. From a culture of warding off eyes, the organisation should embrace the limelight. ISRO indeed has many stories to tell of scientific endeavour, the method and the manner of progress; and as it opens its doors to the public gaze, it can only rise to the skies.

# Squaring up to India's education emergency

In making up for months of lost formal learning, there needs to be action on the education, health and livelihood fronts



SAJITHA BASHIR &

uring the COVID-19 pandemic, India enforced among the strictest, most generalised and continuous school and university closures creating in the process the largest education emergency in the world. Federal countries such as the United States and Brazil implemented a variety of school closures and remote/inperson education policies in different jurisdictions. Not so in India, where all States, irrespective of the pattern of evolution of the novel coronavirus disease, followed a uniform policy, with fewer varia-

#### Policy and indicators

The global Stringency Index, created by the Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker (https://bit.ly/3iHOp8y), has tracked the closure of educational institutions across all countries since the beginning of the novel coronavirus pandemic. This indicator is one of eight "containment and closure" indicators and a health information indicator used to calculate the index. Indicators are coded according to the level of strictness of the policy.

In India, the school closure indicator shows that of the 503 days. between March 5, 2020 and July 20, 2021, 404 days were characterised as being at the most severe policy response (requiring closure of all types of educational institutions); 62 at level 2 (with closure of some types of institutions) and only 37 days at level 1 (when closure was either only recommended or school opening was allowed with precautions). As a result, about 265 million schoolchildren have been taught exclusively through so-called "remote learning", the largest number in any country for the longest period of time.

This approach contrasted with the response in many other countries. Within a few months of the first lockdown of schools in March 2020, pandemic-hit Europe began resuming in-person schooling for certain groups of children or cer-

School Closure Indicator – Stringency Index
The table shows the level of strictness of school closures in selected countries, according to the Oxford COVID Government Response Tracker



	Total days from March 5, 2020 to July/August 2021 (latest date for which data are available)	'3' - require closing all levels of education	'2' - require closing only some levels or catego- ries, e.g. just high school	'1' - rec- ommen- dation of closing or all schools open with alterations	'0' - no measures
India	503 (July 20)*	404	62	37	0
Brazil	495 (July 12)*	406	77	0	12
Uruguay	516 (Aug. 2)*	140	127	240	9
Vietnam	510 (July 27)*	212	82	216	0

BASED ON DATA DOWNLOADED ON AUGUST 7, 2021 FROM | HTTPS://BIT.LY/3JMMLXF

tain localities. Evidence was mounting of the harm caused to children and young adolescents – learning losses as well as socioemotional stress – by prolonged school closures and of the ineffectiveness and inequalities of remote learning, even in technologically sophisticated environments.

The Oxford Stringency Index shows that less affluent countries such as Uruguay and Vietnam, also took a more measured approach, imposing the severest policy responses in education only for 140 and 212 days, respectively. (*Table 1*). India's education policy response was similar to that of Brazil – surprisingly so, as the severity of the pandemic outbreak was much less here during 2020 than in Brazil.

#### **Schooling strategies**

When "hybrid" schooling models (i.e., a combination of in-person and remote teaching) were introduced, countries prioritised children of younger ages, of essential workers and those with special needs, for in-person learning. When the school closure policy was relaxed in a few Indian States during January-March 2021, only high schools were allowed to function to conduct public exams.

By March 2021, 51 countries had resumed in-person education. In

another 90 countries, including many in Africa, multiple modalities, rotation of children for in-person classes and part remote/part in-person options were being offered. Similar strategies were not systematically tried in India, even when relaxations were made for public gatherings at festivals and elections, prior to the second wave of the pandemic. India is, therefore, less prepared for school re-openings than many other countries. The trauma of the second wave has generated even more fears of schools becoming the epicentre of the next wave, though the recommendations of the Indian Council of Medical Research to reopen primary schools from July 20, 2021 and the gestures of some of the States now are promising.

#### The Indian experience

During these hundreds of days of almost continuous lockout, the youngest and the poorest among Indian children – Dalits, tribals and others, and lacking devices and electricity – struggled with online classes. Attendance' data are neither available nor 'defined. Many have just given up – especially those who had learnt little in schools. Existing education in-

equalities will increase.

The national Digital Infrastruc-

ture for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) portal of teacher resources claims that usage increased to 3.17 billion "learning sessions" and 37.85 billion "learning minutes", by the end of May 2021. The educational significance of these metrics is not clear. Meanwhile, many studies and reports from the field by numerous nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and individuals engaged with the recently formed National Coalition on the Education Emergency indicate that teachers, unprepared for remote teaching, forward social media links to their hapless students. Children are expected to submit homework and assessments also through WhatsApp or text.

Kerala provided basic access to remote learning by June 2020 to its four million students through the KITE VICTERs educational TV channel, which broadcast classes for all subjects in each grade. It was made clear that such 'digital classes' are not an alternative to regular classes, but to bridge the academic gap. It mandated further continuous follow-ups by teachers. The State leveraged investments made over the last two decades in information technology for schools, including capacity building of teachers and teacher developed digital content. Nevertheless, the universal switch to 'online' mode has proved challenging.

The Brazilian State of Sao Paulo gives some clues about the possible impacts of remote learning on India's locked out children. A recent study published by the Inter-American Development Bank concludes that students in the State "had learned only 27% of the inperson equivalent under remote learning". The risk of dropout increased by a factor of 2.5. Significantly, however, even a partial reopening of some high schools to allow in-person classes for a few weeks increased students' test scores by 20%, relative to a control group.

Tragically, for tens of millions of Indian children, the difficulties of remote learning may be the least of their troubles. With families ravaged by disease and job losses, teenagers are caring for the sick and younger siblings, or working for pay.

Interruptions in child health ervices, early nutrition and mid-

day meals have affected the growth and development of young children. Ironically, closed schools are seen as a commitment to children's safety, while the higher risk of disease transmission by working children or the increase in malnutrition is ignored.

As schools reopen, offering a few standardised "bridge" courses and "remedial classes" may seem like a facile antidote to the months of lost formal learning. Resuming the teaching of "the syllabus" – even a watered down version – and pushing children through to the next grade means kicking the can down the road. In designing appropriate programmes, the experiences of stakeholders will be invaluable.

#### A complete change is needed

India's education emergency demands action on the education. health and livelihood fronts. It requires focusing on every child as an individual. Each school should prepare a safe school opening and child support plan, and should receive technical help for this. Teachers must be prioritised for vaccinations. Local adaptations and flexibility are essential. An 'Education Emergency Room' should be set up in every district to coordinate, implement and monitor local plans. Many activities have to be coordinated: develop health and sanitation measures in schools and protocols for public transportation; encourage children who were not engaged with schools over the last year to come back; develop tools to help teachers make quick diagnoses of students' learning gaps; train teachers to use this as a guide to support children's recovery; offer additional classes or activities: implement school health and nutrition; develop tools to accompany the educational trajectory of each student. Technology should be deployed safely for such purposes that identify and respond to children's needs.

After months of lockout, will India's children now luck out?

Sajitha Bashir is former Adviser and Manager in the World Bank's Global Education Practice. She is part of the National Coalition on Education Emergency. Anvar Sadath is CEO of Kerala Infrastructure & Technology for Education (KITE), Government of Kerala. The views expressed are personal

# Parliament is abdicating its oversight role

The monsoon session which has ended is another example of Parliament being quite ineffective in all its functions



M.R. MADHAVAN

The monsoon session of Parliament which ended on Wednesday was a disappointment in several ways. This was the fourth straight session that ended ahead of the original schedule - other than the cancelled winter 2020 session. This meant that many important issues had not been discussed such as the CO-VID-19 response and strategy, the Chinese incursion into Ladakh, the economic situation, rising prices of many essential items, and farmers' problems, to name a few. And of course, the news of snooping using the Pegasus system broke out just ahead of the

#### Shrinking work time

But Parliament hardly functioned. Both Houses were frequently disrupted as the Government and Opposition parties could not agree on the topics to be debated. The Lok Sabha worked for just 19% of its originally scheduled time, and the Rajya Sabha for 26%.

The Government pushed through 20 Bills, mostly without any discussion. Of the 18 Bills passed by the Lok Sabha, only one saw discussion over 15 minutes. While the Rajya Sabha crossed this low bar for most Bills, only two

Bills were discussed for over an hour. In 15 of these Bills, not even one member of the Lok Sabha spoke; each Bill was passed after a short statement by the respective Minister. The Lok Sabha proceedings show one Bill – the Scheduled Tribes (Order) Amendment – as being discussed for 10 minutes within which seven members spoke, two Ministers intervened, and the Minister replied.

Every Bill introduced during the session was passed within the session. This means that there was no time for any scrutiny by members. While we have seen such behaviour in State Assemblies (in 2020, 91% of all Bills in 19 Assemblies were passed within five days of introduction), this is a new development for Parliament. In the period of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha (2009-14), 18% of the Bills were passed within the same session. This rose to 33% in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha and is at 70% halfway through the current Parliament.

#### No scrutiny

None of the Bills was referred to a parliamentary committee for examination. These committees provide a forum for parliamentarians to engage with experts, stakeholders and government officials to understand the implications of Bills. They deliberate on the consequences of various provisions, and recommend amendments. In recent years, we have seen significant changes made in Bills such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill as a result of the recom-



mendations made by parliamentary committees. There has been a sharp downward trend in Bills being referred to them – from 71% in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha to 27% in the Sixteenth, and 12% in the current one till date.

There was an amendment moved in the Rajya Sabha to refer the Tribunals Reform Bill to a select committee of that House, and the motion was rejected by 79 votes to 44. Given that there are currently 232 members, this indicates that nearly half the members were absent during the vote.

Thus, we see that Bills are being passed without any serious examination by parliamentarians. They are most often not being referred to committees, there is hardly any discussion on the floor of the House, and in most instances, Bills are passed within a few days of introduction.

#### Crucial Bills

There were some important Bills passed this session. The Constitution was amended to allow States to identify backward classes (i.e., Other Backward Classes) for the purpose of providing reservations. A recent Constitution Amendment

has converted the National Commission for Backward Classes from a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament to a constitutional body. That amendment also specified that the President of India shall specify the list of OBCs. Recently, the Supreme Court of India had interpreted this provision to imply that the State government cannot issue the list of backward classes. The Amendment passed this session clarified that States have the power to do so.

In 2012, the Income Tax Act was amended with retrospective effect from 1961 to cover certain transactions. A Bill passed this session reversed this provision of retrospective taxation. Famously, Vodafone was required to pay a large sum under the now repealed provision.

The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation insures all bank deposits against default (currently up to ₹5 lakh). The Act was amended to require an interim pay-out within 90 days if a bank was going through a liquidation or reconstruction. The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act was amended to enable the Government to bring its shareholding in general insurance companies below 51%.

panies below 51%.

The Tribunals Reforms Bill was passed. The Bill replaced an ordinance which specified the process of appointment of members and their tenure and service conditions. It retained two provisions struck down last month by the Supreme Court: the four-year tenure which the Court changed to five years, and a minimum age of 50

years for judicial members which the Court revised to allow lawyers with experience of 10 years. It would be interesting to see whether the Act is challenged in court, and how the Court reacts.

and how the Court reacts.

There was no discussion in Lok Sabha on any policy issue. The Rajya Sabha had just one such discussion on the management of CO-VID-19 which lasted nearly five hours. The supplementary demand for grants for ₹23,675 crore was passed by the Lok Sabha without any discussion.

#### Course correction needed

To sum up, Parliament appears to be quite ineffective in all its functions. The reason for having a legislature separate from the executive is to have a check on executive power. This session, the Government got every Bill that it introduced passed as an Act, without any debate, and without any scrutiny by committees. Question Hour hardly worked. There was just one debate in the Rajya Sabha and none in the Lok Sabha on policy issues. A large supplementary Budget was passed in less than 10 minutes without even one member speaking on it.

Parliament will have its 70th anniversary next year. Parliament also plans to move to a larger building. We will see many speeches celebrating these occasions. They will be just empty words in a brand new building unless parliamentarians get their act together.

M.R. Madhavan is President of the PRS Legislative Research, New Delhi

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.

#### Warning on warming The letest IDCC report

The latest IPCC report, while being gloomy, is elusive on some inevitable questions. With the club of emerging markets expanding and the global population booming, it is inevitable that the demand for energy and resources

International Energy Agency (IEA), India's energy consumption is pegged to double by 2040. While the developments in green energy, including the Indian-led International Solar Alliance, offer some respite, the fact remains that renewables alone may not cater to this massive

demand. In order to avoid a difficult trade-off between development and climate change, our leaders need to be pragmatic and kinder to other solutions.

PAUL JOM,

■ In the absence of national

ins pav al wit

the world will have to and have been focusing on solving climate problems on their own, like 'working to build flood defences, installing water-permeable pavements to better deal with floods and storm water, and improving water storage

policy direction, cities and

local communities around

and use'. We must think globally and act locally. R. SIVAKUMAR Chennai

# White Paper

Fiscal management is going to be difficult for the Tamil Nadu government as tough measures would make the

online, scan the QR code

Chennai

It should concentrate on "extravagant expenditures", incurred by the State.

Measures to promote fiscal discipline must not restrict the operational efficiency of the government.

RAMEEZA. A. RASHEED,

will skyrocket. As per the not cater to this massive or international climate and improving water storage new government unpopular.

# Could India have performed even better at the Olympics?

Mervyn Fernandis

was a member of

the 1980 Moscow

Olympics Indian hockey team which

Ronjan Sodhi,

a double-trap

shooter, is a

two-time world champion and

recipient of the

Major Dhyan Chand

Khel Ratna Award

Scan the QR code to

listen to the full

interview online

Building champions from the school level is what India should aim to do

*The Tokyo Olympics is over and the* euphoria generated by India's best haul of seven medals at the Games a gold, two silver and four bronze – is beginning to fade away. Before the country's largest-ever contingent of 127 athletes left for Tokyo, there was talk of a double-digit medal tally. That didn't happen and India's performance placed it 48th among the 93 medal-winning nations. Could India have performed better? Mervyn Fernandis and Ronjan Sodhi discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Rakesh Rao. Edited excerpts:

What were your expectations of India in terms of medals and what do you think of the

Mervyn Fernandis: I expected at least eight to nine medals, though many projected double digits. I expected us to get medals in shooting and archery. Seeing the performances of the players in the World Cups and other world tournaments, I thought we would get eight to nine medals. We have fallen short by about two-three medals. We could have got more. Wrestling was also part of the double-digits projection.

Ronjan Sodhi: Shooting has probably been the biggest disappointment of the Games. We drew a blank not only this time but even in the 2016 Rio Games. There are lots of reasons why this happened. And I think a lot of introspection has to be done. Why could we not win a single medal? We had players who were World No. 1, World No. 2, but these are what I call fake rankings. There was a World Cup held where only a few nations participated [Most of the leading shooters did not participate in the World Cup]. It was mostly Indians participating. You win a gold medal there and become World No. 1? That's not how it

Let me call a spade a spade. It's a horrible story. The coaches let us down again. The shooters are young, they have a promising future. But the whole coaching scenario has to be changed. See hockey, look at the support staff they had.

They had more foreigners. In shooting, you have a coach, you're giving him €6,000 and he doesn't go to the Olympics. Why? You've given him a house, a car with a driver. And he watches everything on TV? All this has to be changed. I saw the professionalism in hockey. Neeraj Chopra and some other players also did well, even the wrestlers.

not equipped with the mindset that it takes to make a champion. Let's start with Jaspal Rana, a shooter who participated at the Atlanta Olympics in 10-metre pistol. He didn't win a medal. All his medals were at the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, that level. Then you have Mansher Singh, who is a trap shooter but who went with the skeet team as a coach! Suma Shirur once came eighth at the Olympics. And she's got one Asian Shooting Championships medal where she scored the maximum of 400 points and set a world record, I understand that. Ved Prakash – you look for him on Google and you won't find his name easily. They're not capable because they have not won any gold medals. There's no psychologist or physiotherapist with the team. There was one girl, very young, from OGQ (Olympics Gold Quest) who didn't really know what to do and what not to do. There was nobody with the team. I think people should be more mindful of all this. I think it's time for the National Rifle Association of India President Raninder Singh to take note of this and change what has transpired in the last few years. I read a tweet the other day which mentioned that they (coaches) are dealers, which is true. There are dealers of cartridges and guns. They have their own interest in everything. A total revamp has to happen.

There are some initiatives being taken to build Olympic champions. What  $\bar{do}$  you think

RS: Let's talk about OGQ. What are they doing? Are they building champions? You qualify for the Olympics and then they sponsor you. Have they taken anybody from the grassroots level to make a champion? No.



We need to focus at the

will be very difficult to

structures across disciplines?

MF: I understand some national-le-

vel sports are being held, but in a ve-

ry haphazard manner. We need to

focus at the grass-roots level or else,

it will be very difficult to scale up.

We have a good number of junior

players, but it has to be a continu-

ous process. If you want to build

champions, you have to start at the

school level. I see it happening in

Since you mentioned hockey

earlier, what did you both think

of India's hockey performance

where many say India exceeded

**MF:** Everybody knows that we have

been going to every Olympics with

the hope of winning a medal. But

we didn't qualify for the semi-finals

for over four decades. This time, In-

dia did extremely well by entering

the semi-finals and then clinching

the bronze. It is very important for a

team to win a medal. We have peo-

ple who always underrate our teams

because they don't win medals. Ho-

wever good you may be, if you don't

win a medal, nobody remembers

you. So, this Olympics the men have

this time? That's one sport

wrestling.

expectations.

process.

grass-roots level or else, it

scale up. We have a good

number of junior players

but it has to be continuous

They're just buying champions, not

Look at the state of sports in our universities and look at America. Stanford University has won over 20 some university who has won a me-

And we all did what we did because of the financial help we had from our parents. When I saw Aditi Ashok's mother caddying for her, I was reminded of my dad. He would carry my gun. Nobody helped me then. It was just the support from my family. Now look at the budget, at the amount of money these youngsters are getting. In spite of that they are not winning medals

What about the Target Olympic

**RS:** Those who are running TOPS are naïve. They go on the Internet, collect the data, give it to XYZ and say these people should be supported by SAI [Sports Authority of India] or TOPS. That's not what is required. We don't have the acumen in coaching and training. That's why hockey has done well today. Look at Neeraj Chopra. Look at his coach, his support staff.

Do you think the focus should be more on our domestic

won a medal and will be remem-Looking back at the barren years,

I can recollect that in 1984, we were very close to qualifying for the semifinals. It was the same case in 2000. It was heartbreaking. Nothing succeeds like success. Not reaching the semi-finals is the biggest problem that we have faced. And this time, too, it was very important. Earlier, only two teams from each pool qualified for the semi-finals. Now, they've changed the format - four teams qualify for the quarter-finals, so it gives you a better chance compared to the past. And that's what India did. They qualified for the quarter-finals. And they won against Great Britain and entered the semifinals for the first time after 1972. That's a real long time. But Ronjan will agree with me - once you enter the semi-finals of an Olympic event, there is every chance of you winning one of the three medals. So, this happened at this Olympics.

**RS:** Hockey is something which is very, very dear to me. Coming from Punjab, hockey is something I have grown up seeing. The team this time trained very well in Bengaluru. They trained in isolation, in the bubble. Not only the men's team, the women's team, too, played so well. They haven't won a medal, but I can hold my head high and go on and on for the next three years till the Games in Paris. This was just fantastic. This is going to change the entire scenario. And I can see people talking about the youngsters getting into the sport and so forth. So, I think this is incredible. And [in javelin], what Neeraj Chopra has done is absolutely amazing.

Mervyn, how do you look at ways of building on these gains for hockey from Tokyo?

MF: Not many would remember that we did not directly qualify from the Asian Games for the Tokyo Olympics. We lost to Malaysia, which in turn lost to Japan in the final. And now, we have won a bronze. When we go to the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games next year, what should we expect? The country will expect India to return with the gold medal, which we last won in 2014. You'll be surprised, there will be so many other teams vying for that position. Also, let me tell you that let nobody get fooled by thinking that we are Olympic bronze medalists and the Asian Games will be a cakewalk. No, it's not going to happen that way. You know, now that people are watching the Games, watching the standards of each team, they have realised it's difficult even to qualify for the Olympics.

About the areas of improvement, we have to start getting a goalkeeper and a drag flicker. Jugraj Singh was the first guy to start drag flicking in our country. We have to realise that without the short-corner specialist, you cannot perform well at the international level. Besides the goalkeeper and the drag flicker, there are four or five places which you need to be taking care of. [Goalkeeper] Sreejesh cannot be expected to go on. I had mentioned somewhere that Sreejesh is the guy who they [Hockey India] should utilise the services of for all sub-junior camps. I'm not talking about junior, I'm talking about the sub-junior level. Sreejesh should be the guv teaching the youngsters so their basics are strong.

There is also a general feeling in hockey circles that many members of the present team do not speak English and therefore they find it difficult to understand instructions. In my view, it doesn't matter as long as he or she is able to express himself or herself. That is important. Again, if past players can share even five or six things with the present sub-junior campers, some of that [advice] will hold the youngsters in good stead throughout their lives. And that will get passed on from generation to generation and they will feel, 'Oh, this is going to make a difference to my abilities on the

Drag flickers is what we want to build for 2024 and 2028. A man like Jugraj or Harmanpreet can contribute a lot. I remember Jugraj's drag flicks and the angle he used to change at the last minute. Some slight changes in the technique go a long way in attempting direct scoring (off penalty corners).

Imagine a Savita Punia or a Rani Rampal going to these coaching camps that are there for the juniors and just spending three days or four days and sharing with them little things. It will make a big difference.



building them. That's not what we need.

medals at the Tokyo Olympics. Show me one (Indian) athlete from

and that is shameful.

Podium Scheme (TOPS, a Government of India initiative which has apparently spent ₹1,100 crores in the last five years supporting our athletes

# **DATA POINT**

Mood of the nation at 74 Independence day, a majority of Indians felt that there would be some form of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities created in the next one year. However, more than two-thirds of them said that corruption in the country would increase Nearly three-fourths of the Only 20% of the respondents felt that there

(All values in %) The survey also documented responses regarding the country's preparedness for a potential third wave of COVID-19. More than one in three respondents had very little or no confidence in India's preparation to tackle it

How do you foresee India's growth and prosperity happening in the next one year? Growth and prosperity for all Growth and prosperity for none Can't say

How do you foresee economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19 in the next one year? Will recover completely and surpass pre-COVID-19 (2019-20) GDP level Will recover completely but not surpass pre-COVID-19 (2019-20) GDP level Will recover significantly but not completely Will have limited recovery Will not recover at all Vill deteriorate further Can't say 10

Given the efforts post the second COVID-19 wave, how confident do you feel about India's preparation for the third COVID-19 wave in the period of August-December 2021?

# The many shades of intolerance

Intolerance in India is discussed mostly within the framework of religion and not caste

SHAIKH MUIIBUR REHMAN

The Pew Research Center report, 'Religion in India: Tolerance and Segregation' (June 2021), has provoked several critical articles, which mostly present its findings as being about Hindu-Muslim relations. The survey, however, presents comparative data pertaining to four other major religions: Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism. Its conclusion, according to these articles, broadly confirms the growing influence of Hindutva politics on India's social fabric. According to the report, "India's concept of religious tolerance does not necessarily involve the mixing of religious communities. While people in some countries may aspire to create a 'melting pot' of different religious identities, many Indians seem to prefer a country more like a patchwork of a fabric with clear lines between groups." However, interrogation of the conceptual foundations on which the report is premised could lead to a vastly different understanding of tolerance in India.

#### Falling into a trap

For instance, the notion of tolerance employed primarily relates to interreligious issues. In Indian debate, the concept of tolerance has earned great presence ever since the lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq in 2015. In recent years, in discussions on prejudices or violence between Hindus and Muslims, the word 'tolerance' seems to have increasingly replaced the word 'communal', which dominated public discussions since the early part of the 20th Century, particularly since the Bengal Partition. Despite a considerable overlap in the connotations of these two terminologies, they are not the same. In the noisy political discourse around the Hindu Right, the erstwhile communalists have become the new nationalists - specifically, Hindu nationalists. An old communalist now calls himself a nationalist without shedding the skin of prejudices that he has been wearing all along. This has been possible owing to the well-oiled propaganda machine that the Hindu Right has been able to operate since the 1920s. Surprisingly, secularists of various shades have fallen into this trap. They have also accepted the deployment of the word 'tolerance' as completely normal.

India has historically been a tolerant country, it is further argued, and is now increasingly turning into an intolerant one, particularly after 2014. Since Indians were tolerant in the past, they must remain so now and in future. According to liberals, this is the most persuasive way to convince Indians about the virtue of tolerance. The Pew Survey endorses this line of reasoning.

#### **Untouchability in India**

But has India been a historically tolerant country? Untouchability has been practised for ages in India and it remains widespread in both urban and rural areas. We may ask: what is the relationship between untouchability and tolerance? By all accounts, untouchability is an act of extreme intolerance. That being the case, how can it then be argued that India has been historically tolerant? Strangely, the issue of tolerance is not seen in connection with caste and is argued exclusively in the context of inter-religious communities. But the ideas of caste and intolerance are deeply entertwined - empirically, conceptually and historically. The socially dominant group in Hindu society that practises intolerance towards Muslims or Christians has been practising the same against Dalits in an organised way as a custom. The latter is justified on the ground that Dalits are historically inferior, whereas Muslims are historically oppressive, violent and disloyal. The truth is that caste is the enduring source of intolerance and segregation, and the rest emanates from it. So long as this connection is not recognised, any effort to make sense of India's growing intolerance would be shallow and misleading. The Pew Survey seems to make this fatal mistake. In the limited space it offers to caste, it neither recognises this connection nor introduces it to its theoretical framework that helps formulate its profound findings. And, strangely, it finds that a majority Indians do not experience

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at Jamia Central University and is the author of the forthcoming book, Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims

widespread caste discrimination.

# The Mindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1971

#### Fight to stop big underground test

Washington, August 12: Conservatives and anti-war groups are pressing a last-ditch fight to stop the largest underground nuclear test ever planned by the United States - a blast they say can lead to earthquakes, tidal waves and indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife. The battle ground is Amchitka Island, a barren volcanic rock in the Aleutian chain off Alaska. A five-megaton detonation equivalent to five million tons of TNT, is to be set off there in October in a test of the Spartan anti-missile missile. The issue is now in the courts as the opponents of the test seek a restraining order against the A.E.C. They claim the blast could violate the partial test ban treaty of 1963, as well as damage the environment if it vents radiation into the air and carries it beyond the Soviet border 1,100 kilometres away. The test is known as Cannikin – the name given to a hydrogen device to be buried and exploded in one of the deepest, widest, and most expensive holes ever dug. The cost of constructing the site and exploding the device is unofficially estimated at about \$120 millions (Rs 90 crores). Critics of Pentagon and A.E.C. spending call it a needless experiment claiming that the Spartan warhead part of the safeguard anti-missile system, is already obselete and that the test is a waste of money and resources.

#### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1921 The Washington Conference.

The problem of the Pacific is going to be a knotty and delicate one. There seems to be good ground for the misgivings of those who think that the proposed conference is likely to do as much harm as it will do good. The position of Japan, in particular, is very indefinite. She has expressed her readiness to discuss the possibilities of disarmament, but is apparently indisposed to talk around the Washington table about what she deems to be her special interests in the Far East. Her attitude seems to imply the adoption of a sort of new Monroe Doctrine in regard to all matters affecting the Western Pacific. Consequently the drawing up of the Conference agenda will be a task of considerable difficultv. Then there are the peculiar interests of India and the Dominion Governments to be reckoned with. The position of India will require special consideration, but the Dominions are already putting forward claims to separate representations at the Conference. The United States Government is not disposed to regard this demand with favour, for it raises one of the points which kept the country out of the League of Nations.

or remain unchanged in the next year. The responses are excerpts from the recent "India at 75" survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform. The survey received 75,000 responses from 280 districts. The survey was conducted online, and the participants were verified citizens registered with LocalCircles respondents said that the country's social stability (ability of citizens of different castes and religions to live with each other in harmony and peace) would growth and prosperity for worsen or remain the same in the next year all in the next one year How do foresee India leveraging its demographic dividend by creating enough employment or entrepreneurship opportunities in the next one year? Will create only some new employment but many small entrepreneurs Will create lots of new employment and entrepreneurship opportunites Will see shrinking of employment as well as number of small entrepreneurs Will be unable to create new employment nor small entrepreneurs Can't say 20 Given the current scenario, how do you foresee bribery and corruption situation in India changing in the next one year? Can't say How do you foresee India's social stability (ability of citizens of different castes and religions to live with each other in harmony and peace) changing in the next one year? Deteriorating Can't say 40

### FROM PAGE ONE

# 'Outsiders brought in to manhandle MPs'

After the protests, a 14member delegation of senior Opposition MPs called upon Mr. Naidu to hand over a memorandum on the manner in which the General Insurance (Amendment) Bill was passed. The delegation also flagged the issue of Rajya Sabha TV blacking out Opposition protests.

The joint protest march earlier was a show of strength by the Opposition parties against the curtailment of the monsoon session.

At the subsequent presser, the leaders accused the Narendra Modi government of not allowing the Opposition to raise issues such as snooping by Pegasus spyware, the farmers' agitation, price rise and the economic situation among others.

"For the first time in Rajya Sabha, MPs were beaten up, after bringing people from outside," former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi told reporters. "It is the Chairman's and Speaker's responsibility to run the House," he added.

The voices of the 60% of

the country [represented by the Opposition parties] has been "crushed and humiliated", Mr. Gandhi said.

Alleging that the Opposition was not allowed to speak inside Parliament, Mr Gandhi said, "this is nothing democracy".

In a joint statement, signed by leaders of the Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena, SP, DMK, CPI-M, CPI, RJD, IUML, RSP, and Kerala Congress (M), Opposition parties accused the government of having 'scant' regard for democracy, 'derailing' the Parliament session and reiterated the allegations of 'outsiders' assaulting MPs.

"Without any provocation from the Opposition, outsiders who were not part of Parliament security, were brought in to manhandle the Opposition leaders and members, including women Parliamentarians who were only protesting against the Government's conduct. high handedness and muzzling of the voice," the state-

# Retail inflation eases to 5.6% in July

"While off the highs, inflation has stubbornly remained north of the 4% midpoint target since late 2019, driven by a mix of sticky drivers during and after COVID-19 spells. As the States ease restrictions, there is likely to be a shift away from goods to servicesled inflation, with firmer demand to also encourage producers to increasingly pass on higher input prices," she

The government and the Reserve Bank of India have spurt as 'transitory', although the latter has raised its forecast for 2021-22 to 5.7% from 5.1%. ICRA chief economist Adi-

labelled the recent inflation

ti Nayar said it was increasingly difficult to characterise inflationary pressures as transitory in nature, as inflation was expected to remain sticky in the 5%-6% range over the next three quarters.

"A small disruption could push inflation back above the 6% threshold," she noted.

# + GSLV-F10 fails to put satellite into orbit

The EOS-03, intended to be MCC as the graph on the positioned in the geostationary transfer orbit initially, was supposed to reach the final geostationary orbit. It was ISRO officials were seen disected to provide near real-time imaging, which could be used for quick monitoring of natural disasters, episodic events and any short-term events. The mission life of the satellite was 10 years.

Soon after the 51.70 metretall GSLV-F10's went up, a live telecast on Doordarshan showed scientists in the Mission Control Centre (MCC) eagerly waiting and hoping for its smooth and successful functioning.

The launch resembled a routine affair until the rocket's second stage, some five minutes after the lift-off. A sense of suspicion and uncertainty descended upon the screens showed a slight deviation of the rocket's path. A few minutes later, some

K. Sivan. After a few rounds of discussions, the Range Operations Director announced: "Performance anomaly [was] observed in the cryogenic stage. [The] mission could not be accomplished fully."

Mr. Sivan too made a formal announcement that the mission could not be accomplished, "mainly because it is a technical anomaly observed in the cryogenic stage." GSLV-F10 was ISRO's eighth flight with indigenous cryo, 14th GSLV flight and 79th launch from Sriharikota. A 4-metre diameter Ogiveshaped payload fairing was flown for the first time in this

# Kinnaur landslip toll rises to 14; 16 missing

Mr. Singh and his father are among the hundreds of people at the Health Centre, anxiously waiting for the ambulances that have brought in the victims of the devastating landslide. The rescue, being carried out jointly by the National Disaster Response Force, ITBP, police and home guards, resumed

at 6 a.m. on Thursday, State Disaster Management Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur who visited the site of the disaster, said the State government will provide ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of the dead.

(With PTI inputs)

# SDM acts against rules

When the woman was produced before the court on March 19, 2020, she categorically conveyed to the presiding judges that she wanted to marry the man and live with him as his wife.

After she made the statement, the High Court interacted with her father and counselled him about the fact that both the man and his daughter were adults and entitled to take their

decisions. The father then assured create any hindrance or give any threat to the couple. The woman told the court that she did not want to return to her parental home and proceed with the man from the court itself.

The High Court then directed the police to ensure a safe passage for the couple from the court to the residence of the man. It also directed the Station House Officer of the local police station to ensure strict vigil and to provide protection to the couple.

the court that he will not

# Landslips in Himachal Pradesh cause concern

Erosion, geological forces make the region prone to disasters, and the worry is that they may be part of a larger climate shift

ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ NEW DELHI

The story so far: A bus accident killed at least 14 following a landslip in Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday. It was the second landslip this month, raising concern that they are part of a larger climate shift.

How vulnerable is Himachal Pradesh?

The mountainous terrain of Himachal Pradesh means that erosion and geological forces will always be at work making the region particularly prone to natural disaster. Between July and the first week of August, the State has experienced four

#### **EXPLAINER**

major natural disasters and over the past three months, at least 200 have lost their lives to natural disasters, according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment.

In 2012, the State Environment Division prepared a State Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as part of



Anxious wait: Family members waiting outside the health centre in Bhaba Nagar. Four more bodies were recovered from the landslip site in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday. • v.v. KRISHNAN

the National Climate Change Action Plan. "Deforestation, landslips, land degradation, desertification and Glacier Lake Outbursts Floods (GLOF) are some of the common but critical environmental issues in the Himalayan regions. The major challenges currently faced

by the Himalayan environment are the escalation of such issues through atmospheric as well as man-made interferences," the report noted.

"Himachal Pradesh, though a small Himalayan State, is nevertheless playing a very crucial role in sustaining the livelihoods of downstream areas.

'The conservation, sustenance of these ecologically fragile regions is the biggest challenge being faced at the moment, which can get further aggravated due to financial constraints and limitIs climate change to blame for the landslips?

Attributing single events to climate change is hard because the latter refers to a broader shift in the average weather over a region.

The most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) while pointing out that a global rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius (from pre-Industrial times) was inevitable in the next two decades, it also references studies that show rising temperatures would lead to increased glacier melt as well as snowlines (the portion of mountain tops that are perennially snowy) rising higher. This ties into forecasts of

extreme events being on the rise - that is longer, more intense bouts of droughts as well as short, intense spells of rain. This implies that activities such as road-building, heavy-concrete constructions at higher elevation are all at increased risk at being besieged by natural disasters and will have knock-on effects on people Have impacts of climate change manifested in Himachal Pradesh?

The environment report has already noted such effects. The temperature in the north-west Himalayan Region has risen by 1.6 degrees Celsius in the last century. The warming rate of Shimla was higher from 1991 to 2002 as compared to earlier decades. About 17% decrease in rainfall in Shimla was observed from 1996 onwards. The decreasing trend in seasonal snowfall in Shimla has been very conspicuous since 1990 and it was lowest in 2009. Monsoon discharge in the Beas has shown a significant decrease. Winter discharge in the Chenab too has shown a significant increase. The Sutlei is showing an increasing trend in winter and spring discharge

The quality of apples, a major crop, has been affected and cultivation has shifted upwards. Areas that traditionally grew apples are being diverted to vegetables due to rising temperature. Incidence of pest and disease had also increased.

IN BRIEF

# CRPF jawan, 2 civilians hurt in Kulgam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

One CRPF jawan and two civilians were injured in an encounter that broke out after militants attacked a BSF convoy in Kulgam on Thursday afternoon.

Police officials said the militants, likely two, took shelter inside a multi-storey building "forcing the security forces to slow down the operation".

"The two trapped terrorists were still alive. We are taking all precautions for lesser collateral damage as target building is huge," IGP Vijay Kumar said.

According to the police assessment, the militants are affiliated to the LeT.

Earlier in the day, IGP Kumar said terrorists had fired upon a BSF convoy on the national highway in Kulgam's Mir Bazaar area. Eyewitnesses said the firing was fierce and people were seen running for

# Merit should come first: Nariman

On his last day as SC judge, he recalls his term as the most difficult years of his life

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, the Supreme Court judge whom Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana described as "one of the lions guarding the judicial institution", has said that merit should be the predominant factor in judicial appointments.

Justice Nariman, who retired on Thursday, agreed with the Supreme Court Bar Association president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, that the time had come for more direct appointments to be made from the Bar to the Supreme Court Bench.

Justice Nariman himself was only the fifth lawyer in the court's history to be directly appointed as apex court judge from the Supreme Court Bar

The judge said nobody, according to him, should nurse a "legitimate" expectation from the Supreme Court to be made a judge. In fact, the only "legitimate expecta-

I believe there is a legitimate expectation in the people of India and the litigating public to get a certain quality of justice from this final court. For that, it is very clear, merit must predominate, subject of course to other factors. But merit always comes first

tion" should be that of the people to get quality justice from the Supreme Court.

"I believe there is a legitimate expectation in the people of India and the litigating public to get a certain quality of justice from this final court. For that, it is very clear, merit must predominate, subject of course to other factors. But merit always comes first," Justice Nariman said in his address at the Supreme Court lawns.

Justice Nariman said lawyers should not hesitate when called to the Bench. They should give back to the institution after having

"reaped" so much from it. The judge, who delivered

around 350 judgments and disposed of nearly 13,565 cases, recalled his tenure as the "most gruelling, difficult years of my life, though I certainly enjoyed writing judgments".

"I have mixed feelings today as I leave this fantastic institution. Relief because there won't be a pile of briefs waiting for me at 6 a.m. tomorrow. I can wake up tomorrow at six and do what an ordinary citizen does," Justice Nariman said.

The judge, who the CII said has left an "indelible mark on the jurisprudence of the country", bid his farewell, saying, "God bless the Supreme Court, now and always."

Chief Justice Ramana, in his address, said little is known about the sacrifices judges make or the hours they put in.

The CJI said there is a popular misconception that judges don't work and only enjoy their holidays and perks. On the contrary, Chief Justice Ramana said, judges burn the midnight oil or wake up early to read and study the piles of cases before them

"When false narratives are created about the supposed easy life led by judges, it is difficult to swallow. We cannot defend ourselves. It is the duty of the Bar to refute these false narratives and to educate the public about the work put in by judges with the limited resources given to them," Chief Iustice Ramana said.

Four injured in explosion at BJP leader's house

gets one-year extension

Union Home Secretary Ajay

Thursday, beyond his present

week, according to an official

tenure that was to end next

order from the Personnel

batch IAS officer of

October last year. PTI

Ministry. Mr. Bhalla, a 1984

Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was

appointed Home Secretary in

August 2019. His tenure was

extended till August 22 in

Kumar Bhalla was given a

one-year extension on

At least four persons were injured in an explosion at the residence of a BJP leader in the Jammu province's Rajouri district on Thursday. reuminary reports suggest that four to five persons were

injured in the grenade explosion," Inspector General of Police Mukesh Singh told The Hindu. The explosion took place at the house of BJP leader Jasbir Singh. It was not immediately known whether the explosion took place inside the house or some one tossed a grenade

#### Governor in charge of Manipur sworn in

Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad was sworn-in on Thursday as the Governor in charge of Manipur at the Durbar Hall in the Raj Bhavan here. Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court P.B. Sanjay Kumar administered the oath of office. Chief Minister N. Biren, some Ministers, MLAs, and some high-ranking civil servants and police officers were present. The number of invitees was slashed in view of COVID-19 protocol. Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla has been on leave and is retiring on August 20. It is not immediately known if she will return to her office before her retirement.

#### J&K prepares to scale up I-Day celebrations

Governor's administration has

The J&K Lieutenant

made elaborate preparations to scale up the celebrations on the 75th Independence Day this year, and directed schools, courts, hospitals, government offices and Panchavat Ghars to unfurl flags and sing the national anthem on the occasion. Though educational institutions remain closed in the Union Territory due to the ongoing pandemic, the administration has decided to lift the restriction on assembly of more than 25 people for staff members and students on August 15.

# Will ensure safety of Afghan Hindus, Sikhs'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India will take all necessary steps to ensure safety of Hindu and Sikh minority community members in Afghanistan, said an official of the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday.

Addressing the weekly media interaction, official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India was keenly watching the unfolding situation in Afghanistan, and argued that "external malign influences" should be stopped from taking over the country. "We have facilitated the return of a large number of members of the Hindu and Sikh communities last year. Our mission continues to remain in touch with them and we will ensure the provision of all necessary assistance to them," said Mr. Bagchi, who reiterated that Indian nationals in Afghanistan should return home.

Mr. Bagchi also maintained that reports of India considering shutting down the Embassy in Kabul were

On the draw



# Cow slaughter in secret does not affect public order, says HC

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

An act of slaughtering a cow in the secrecy of one's own house in the early hours probably because of poverty, lack of employment or hunger - may be described as a case involving law and order but not a matter affecting public order, the Allahabad High Court has noted.

"...an act of slaughtering a cow in the secrecy of one's own house, would perhaps only involve a law and order issue and could not be said to stand on the same footing as a situation where a number of cattle have been slaughtered outside in pu-

blic view and the public transport of their flesh or an incident where aggressive attack is made by the slaughterers against the complaining public, which may involve infractions of

public order," the court said. The court made the observation while quashing a detention order dated August 14, 2020 under the National Security Act against three men in Sitapur district

of Uttar Pradesh.

A Division Bench of Justices Ramesh Sinha and Saroj Yaday ordered the forthwith release of the accused unless they were wanted in connection with some other crimiAn FIR was lodged under

Sections 3, 5, 8 of the U.P. Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1955 and Section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 against five accused persons Parvez, Irfan, Rahamtullah (petitioners), Rafi and Kurban at Talgaon police station in Sitapur. Detainees Parvez and Irfan were arrested on the same day of the incident July 12, 2020, while Rahmatullah was attested a day later. Another FIR under the U.P. Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986 was later lodged against the accused.

# Muslim man assaulted, made to chant Jai Shri Ram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Muslim e-rickshaw driver was paraded through a street, assaulted and allegedly forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" by a group of men in Kanpur on Wednesday.

An FIR was lodged at the Barra police station against five named persons and eight to 10 unidentified persons for rioting, criminal intimidation and voluntarily causing hurt. Three of them, Ajay, Rahul Kumar and Aman Gupta, were arrested. A video of the incident was widely shared on social media. Afsaar Ahmad is seen being paraded through a street and being heckled

and assaulted by the group and forced to chant "Jai Shri

Some of the miscreants are seen wearing saffron scarves. His young daughter is seen clinging on to him as she pleads with the assailants to spare him.

In his police complaint, Mr. Ahmad said he was driving around 3 p.m. on Wednesday when the accused persons started abusing and beating him.

He said he was saved by the police. Mr. Ahmad says he was

assaulted over an old dispute by people living in the same locality near Ramgopal Chauraha.

## Mamata flags question in **CAPF** test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday raised strong objection to reports of a question asked at the CAPF (Central Armed Police Force) recruitment examination on "poll violence in West Bengal", and accused the BJP of using Central forces to serve its political

"I was shocked to see that politically motivated questions were asked in an exam conducted by the UPSC. It shows how the BJP has politicised the Central forces to serve its political interests," she said.

The Chief Minister went on to allege that the CAPF was used to "capture booths and kill people at Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar during the Assembly poll in West Bengal".

"This is too much and completely unacceptable. What is the message the Union government is trying to send out?... That if you want to work in the Central forces, you have to be a yes man of BJP and believe whatever canards they are spreading," Ms. Banerjee asked.

# Union Ministers demand action against Opposition MPs

They complain to Rajya Sabha Chairman over violation of House rules

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after the monsoon session of Parliament was adjourned amid scenes of chaos over the pushing through of the General Insurance Bill, senior Ministers in the Union government on Thursday demanded that Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu initiate strong action against Opposition MPs who, they said, violated rules on the floor of the

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav and others addressed a joint press conference, castigating the Opposition for what they termed obstructionist behaviour and alleged manhandling of the marshals.

"The Opposition's approach of 'my way or highway' is extremely condemnable," said Mr. Goyal, adding that the group of Mi-



Arjun Ram Meghwal, Bhupendra Yadav, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Piyush Goyal, Pralhad Joshi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Anurag Thakur and V. Muralidharan at a press meet. • SANDEEP SAXENA

nisters met Mr. Naidu and Deputy Chairman of the House Harivansh, and made an earnest appeal that the strongest possible action be taken against the Opposition MPs for deplorable behaviour and manhandling the

Mr. Thakur said "the Secretary-General's table in the Rajya Sabha is not meant for dancing and protesting", referring to an incident when an Opposition leader was seen atop a table inside the Upper House.

'We demand that Rajya Sabha Chairman should take stringent action against those Opposition MPs who broke rules," Mr. Joshi said, alleging that it was "pre-decided by the Congress and its friendly allies" that they would not allow Parliament to function. Mr. Thakur alleged that

"anarchy from streets to Par-

liament" was the Opposition's only agenda during the monsoon session. He said the Opposition should apologise to the nation for what happened in

A group of Opposition leaders also met Mr. Naidu and complained against the alleged heckling of MPs, in-

cluding women members. Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Naidu broke down over the huge ruckus in the House, and equated the act of some Opposition MPs to "sacrilege in the temple of democracy". The monsoon session was later cut short by two days.

Leaders of several Opposition parties on Thursday held a rally in protest against the government on several issues, including Pegasus snooping, farm laws, and alleged manhandling of their MPs in the Rajya Sabha, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying the voice of people was crushed in Parliament and democracy was "mur-

# Opposition anti-people and anti-development, says Goyal

Minister says govt. bringing laws for the good of the nation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal on Thursday called the Opposition's charges about Wednesday's Parliament proceedings "a bunch of lies", and said the latter had behaved like violent hooligans in India's "temple of democracy" in a bid to block the insurance amendment Bill's passage.

Blaming the "arrogance' of some Opposition leaders who had showed "their mindset in Parliament over the past few days", Mr. Goyal said their obstructive approach to legislative business was just driven by the need to "try and prove a point and make the session a washout".

The Minister was addressing the national conclave of

the Confederation of Indian Industry on Thursday after-

"If Parliament is not allowed to function, if our temple of democracy is converted into a platform for hooliganism and violence, I think it is a big blot and a shame for people who have used our temple of democracy to play out very petty politics and a mindset which is anti-progress, anti-development and anti-people," said the Minister in charge of Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribu-

Stating that the government was pushing through laws for "the good of the nation and people at large", Mr. Goyal said the changes introduced in the session would help children, small

itors in troubled banks such as PMC Bank, "The biggest issue that they (Opposition) were literally fighting for, was to block a Bill which would have given our insurance companies power to serve the people better," he "We saw such unsavoury

enterprises and bank depos-

instances being played out in Parliament. And to top it off, the bunch of lies that were played out today on television. Really, one feels ashamed how a very poor leadership over the past many decades, largely revolving around a few people and their families, has actually killed Indian enterprise and Indian animal spirits," Mr. Goyal said, adding he does not know how the mindset of such 'negative thinking'

# Twitter blocks Cong. official handles, leaders' accounts

Last week, it removed a tweet and blocked Rahul's account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A war of words erupted between Twitter India and the Congress on Thursday after the social media platform blocked the party's official handle and the accounts of several senior leaders. It also blocked the party's Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra handles, besides that of the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee and the Daman & Diu Congress Committee.

The move comes just days after Twitter blocked former Congress president Rahul Gandhi for posting a photograph of the parents of a nine-year-old girl who was allegedly raped and mur-

dered in Delhi. In defiance, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra changed her display picture to Mr. Gandhi's, while others like Youth Congress chief B.V. Srinivas changed both his display picture as well the name of his handle to Rahul Gandhi.

By Thursday evening, prominent leaders whose handles had been suspended by Twitter for violating its policy included Randeep

Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Sushmita Dev, Bhanwar Jitendra Singh and Lok Sabha member Manickam Tagore among others.

All these leaders' as well as the Congress's handle had shared the same photograph solidarity with Mr. Gandhi.

Breaking his silence on the Twitter episode, Mr. Gandhi said on Instagram, "If fighting for justice for murder and rape victim is a crime, then I am guilty. They can lock us out on a platform but they can't lock our voice for the sake of the people."

Last week, Twitter removed Mr. Gandhi's tweet along with the photo, as sharing of photos of a victim or her relatives is barred under the Indian Law.

However, the Congress targeted Twitter for adopt-"double standards", since functionaries of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) had shared similar photos with the parents of the victims but no action was taken against them.

Is Twitter following its own

policy for the suspension of

Congress leaders' accounts or the

Modi government's? Why hadn't it

that had tweeted similar photos

before any of our leaders did

locked the account of SC commission

Ms. Vadra said on Twitter, "Is Twitter following its own policy for the suspension of Congress leaders' accounts or the Modi government's? Why hadn't it locked the account of SC commission that had tweeted similar photos before any of our leaders did? By locking Congress leaders' accounts en masse, Twitter is blatantly colluding with the stifling of democracy by the BJP government in

Replying to a query on the development, a Twitter spokesperson said the 'Twitter Rules' were enforced judiciously and impartially for everyone on its service.

India."

# 'Modi must emulate Manmohan, Gowda'

O'Brien cites ex-PMs' vote in House

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Two former Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and H.D. Deve Gowda came to vote on the Constitution Amendment Bill, popularly referred to as OBC Bill, in the Rajya Sabha, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "absconding", the Trinamool Congress said on Thursday.

At a press conference a day after the General Insurance Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha amid a scuffle between members and the marshals deployed in the House, party leader Derek O'Brien said the Opposition had no choice but to protest vociferously.

"What option did the Opposition have in a parliamentary democracy where the government crosses all limits? Do we still sit on our seats and suck lollipops? They must remember that

we represent more than 60% of the people of India. The BJP had got 37% of vote in the 2019 election and the remaining people voted for the Opposition parties," Mr. O'Brien said.

The entire Opposition wanted a debate on the internal security, but Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah were missing, he said. Mr. Modi has only made one appearance each in both Houses at the beginning of the session to introduce his expanded Cabinet.

Mr. O'Brien said both Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah should learn parliamentary etiquette from the former Prime Ministers.

"Why has the Prime Minister of India not answered a single question on the floor of Parliament for the last four to five years. Don't ask us why we disrupted Parliament. It is you who disrupted Parliament with your boorish behaviour," he

# New Union Ministers to tour 212 LS constituencies

BJP's Jan Ashirwad Yatra to underline inclusive Cabinet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Newly sworn-in Ministers in the Narendra Modi government and those elevated to Cabinet status will be covering 212 Lok Sabha constituencies and travel over 19,567 km in what is being termed as a "Jan Ashirwad" (People's Blessing) Yatra to be organised by the BJP from August 16.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unable to introduce his Council of Ministers to Parliament at the start of the monsoon session as is customary because of the Opposition's protests on the Pegasus snooping scandal and the three contentious farm laws. At that time, Mr. Modi had decried the fact that his newly inducted Ministers, who hailed majorly from marginalised communities, were not being given



Narendra Modi

the usual courtesies by the Opposition.

Soon after that, the BIP decided that a "Jan Ashirwad Yatra" to "introduce" these Ministers directly to the people would be undertaken. According to party sources, a schedule has been drawn up for each Minister and the area he or she will have to cover.

"For example, in western

Uttar Pradesh seats, we will have B.L. Verma, S.P. Singh Baghel, in Kanpur, Bhanu Pratap Verma, and in Awadh, Ajay Mishra and Kaushal Kishore. The Kashi area will have NDA ally Anupriya Patel, Gorakhpur will have a yatra by Pankaj Choudhary," a source said. The idea is to create a

buzz around the fact that the new Council of Ministers has 27 Ministers from the Other Backward Classes, 12 belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, eight from tribal communities and 11 women, and that these Ministers were not accorded even the usual courtesies by the Opposition.

The party hopes that with the Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, the Ministerial appointments and identity issues will get a boost in public perception.

# Sonia to talk to top Oppn. leaders

After the virtual interaction on Aug. 20, a physical meet is likely in Sept.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi will hold a virtual interaction on August 20 with top Opposition leaders like West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin among others, a senior Congress leader said on Thursday.

Other invitees include NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, CPI general secretary D. Raja and CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

Though the agenda is not known, the senior leader said Ms. Gandhi wanted to keep the momentum going in terms of Opposition unity, and the virtual meeting was likely to be followed by a physical meeting in September, either as a dinner or a lunch get-together. The meeting is a signal that the



Sonia Gandhi

Congress is keen to be a rallying point for the Opposition parties in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha

Sibal's dinner meeting

Her virtual interaction with Opposition leaders comes in the wake of a dinner hosted by senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal, one of the Congress's group of 23 dissenters who had asked Ms. Gandhi for reforms within the Congress.

Though Mr. Sibal's dinner on August 9 was meant to celebrate his 73rd birthday, an impressive line-up of heavy weights gave it distinct political flavour. Among the leaders who attended it were Mr. Pawar, Rashtriya Janata Dal patriarch Lalu Yadav, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, Mr. Yechury, Mr. D. Raja, Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena, Pinaki Misra of the Biju Janata Dal, Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress, Tiruchi Siva of the DMK and Naresh Gujral of Akali Dal.

In political circles, Mr. Sibal's dinner was being interpreted as a challenge to the leadership of the Gandhis, as at least two members were reported to have been critical of the Congress leadership.

The Congress president's interaction with the Opposition heavyweights would add to the party's efforts to keep the Opposition flock together.

# Kargil leaders to fight for Article 370 in SC

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Three top leaders from Ladakh's Kargil district, who challenged the Central government's August 5, 2019 move in the Supreme Court earlier this week, on Thursday said the leadership of the region had decided "to launch a legal battle against the dilution of Article 370 and express desire to see the pre-August 5 position". Sajad Kargili, one of the petitioners, said the Kargil Democratic Alliance, a grouping of regional parties and local seminaries, had always held that the 2019 decisions were "illegal and unconstitutional".

"The Kargil leadership has now decided to start a legal fight in the Supreme Court, as a false narrative is being woven that the people

of Ladakh are happy with the status of Union Territory (UT). We are hopeful the court will do justice. We desire for the pre-August 5 position," Mr. Kargili told The Hindu.

KDA leaders, during a meeting with Union Minster of Home G Kishan Reddy on July 1 last, conveyed the stand on the revocation of special provisions of Article 370 and 35A.



# **Sundram Fasteners Limited**

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#### STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED (STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED) FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2021

(₹ in Crores)

			Standalone		Consolidated				
SI.	Particulars	Quarte	r ended	Year ended	Quarte	Year ended			
No.	Faiticulais	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.03.2021	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.03.2021		
		(Unau	dited)	(Audited)	(Unau	(Audited)			
1	Total Income from Operations	938.81	276.73	3,065.03	1,112.43	373.17	3,644.29		
2	Net Profit / (loss) for the period (before tax)	151.13	(31.40)	438.11	163.22	(31.95)	485.70		
3	Net Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax)	112.55	(23.48)	328.14	120.49	(25.43)	362.71		
4	Total Comprehensive Income / (loss) for the period [Comprising Profit / (loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	115.68	(23.03)	343.42	129.98	(22.15)	382.08		
5	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01		
6	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.) (a) Basic (b) Diluted	5.36 5.36	(1.12) (1.12)	15.62 * 15.62 *	5.69 5.69	(1.27) (1.27)	17.10 * 17.10 *		

\* Annualised

Place : Chennai

Date : August 12, 2021

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website
- 2 The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the guarter ended June 30, 2021 and have issued an unmodified report thereon.

For Sundram Fasteners Limited Sd/-Chairman

M ND-NDE





Over 1,200 villages in U.P. affected by floods

The number of villages in Uttar Pradesh affected by floods doubled over the past 24 hours from 605 to 1,243 across 23 districts, affecting the lives of over 5.46 lakh persons, officials said on Thursday. Of these, 104 villages remain cut off, while in 361 villages, both residents and farming were affected, said the U.P. Disaster and Relief Department.

#### Doctor gets ₹83.43 lakh aid after NHRC steps in

NEW DELHI The National Human Rights Commission said on Thursday that the Delhi government had reimbursed a contractual doctor his COVID-19 treatment cost of ₹83.43 lakh after the commission intervened. Hired on contract as a senior resident (paediatrics) at Satyavadi Raja Harishchandra Hospital, Dr. Amit Gupta had not been extended any financial assistance after contracting

# Stressed healthcare workers turn to NIMHANS helpline

At least 13,451 calls were received from this group from March 2020 until now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In over a year after it was established, the Health Ministry's COVID-19 mental health helpline number, set up through the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS). Bengaluru, received 13,451 calls from healthcare workers up to July 2021.

The Health Ministry told Parliament that the 24x7 helpline was set up in March 2020 to provide professional psychosocial support to those in need.

Counselling services through this helpline are beprovided in nine languages.

A report by NIMHANS says that the facility was set up anticipating the impact that COVID-19 may have on the mental health of people, including doctors.

Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said in her written reply, "The said psychosocial sup-



Under pressure: Healthcare workers have had their hands full during the pandemic. • VIJAY SONEJI

targeted different groups, namely children, adults, elderly, women and healthcare workers. In addition, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, has also issued detailed guidelines for hospitals for 'Mental Health in the times of COVID-19 Pandemic - Guidance for General Medical and Specialised Mental

She added that health was a State subject and the primary responsibility of engagement for different categories of healthcare workers, including doctors, and the terms and conditions for such engagement, including wages/ remuneration and working hours, is that of States and Union Territories. Her statement added,

"The Central Government, on its part, supplements the efforts and extends financial support towards wages of different categories of healthcare workers including doctors under different schemes like the National Health Mission (NHM)."

#### Vaccine update

On the COVID-19 vaccine drive, the Health Ministry on Thursday said that more 54.04 (54,04,78,610) vaccine doses had been provided to stakeholders so far through all sources, and a further 1,09,83,510 doses were in the pipeline.

The Ministry's statement said, "Of this, the total consumption, including wastage, is 52,00,96,418 doses (according to data available at 8 a.m. on Thursday). More than 2.55 crore (2.55,54,533) balance and unutilised CO-VID vaccine doses are still available with the stakeholders and private hospitals."

rights with other countries,

grammed.

# Satellite mission: two stages completed but third failed

Deviation from plan appeared 352 seconds after launch

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

The story so far: India's attempt to place a geoimaging satellite (GISAT-1) with its GSLV-F10-EOS-3 mission did not succeed. The GSLV-F10 rocket, which blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on Thursday, with the purpose of launching the Earth Observation Satellite EOS-3 into space, failed in its mission due to a "performance anomaly".

What caused the failure of the mission?

According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), GSLV-F10 launch took place at 5.43 a.m. as scheduled. Performance of the first and second stages was normal. However, the cryogenic upper stage ignition did not happen due to a technical anomaly.

Chris Bergin of NASASpaceFlight.com tweeted that the mission suffered a major failure in the third stage: "2-3 sep looked fine but the third stage started to roll after ignition and then it progressively worsened. Then the telemetry lines diverged." It appears that while the first two stages separated without a hitch, the ignition of the third stage did not take place as pro-

According to a video of the Doordarshan presentation posted on YouTube by RocketGyan – a channel that posts details of all rocket launches – the deviation from plan appears to have taken place around 352 seconds after launch, after the separation of the stages two and three, at an altitude of about 139 km.



Thursday but could not put the satellite into orbit. •ISRO/PTI

What was the supposed function of the satellite that the rocket was about to

EOS-3 was the first state-ofart agile Earth Observation Satellite which would have been placed in a geo-synchronous orbit around the

#### **EXPLAINER**

The objectives of the Earth Observation Satellite were to provide real-time imaging of large areas of the planet; to monitor natural disasters from its position in the sky and to provide warnings for natural disasters, observe cyclones, cloudbursts, thunderclouds etc.

What do we know about the GSLV rocket? The GSLV Mark II is the lar-

gest launch vehicle built by India. The GSLV expands to geosynchronous satellite launch vehicle. As its name suggests, it can launch satellites that will travel in orbits that are synchronous with the Earth's orbit. These satellites can weigh up to 2,500 kg and are first launched into transfer orbits that have a distance from Earth of 170 km at closest approach and about 35,975 km at furthest approach which is close to the height of the geosynchronous orbit. From this transfer orbit, the satellite is set free into a geosynchronous orbit.

# Quad officials discuss holding leaders' summit

Health Care Settings'."

#### MEA declines to comment on date

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Senior officials of Australia, India, Japan and the U.S. met in a video conference on Thursday for the first Quad meeting since March, when the leaders of the grouping had decided on a number of initiatives including cooperation on countering the CO-VID-19 pandemic. As The Hindu had reported earlier, an "in-person" Quad Foreign Ministerial meeting, as well as the possibility of a Quad summit involving Prime Minister Narendra Modi, U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga are being discussed for September this year.

"The [officials] welcomed the opportunity to continue regular consultations at the ministerial, senior official, and working levels and to hold a second Leaders' Summit this fall," a U.S. State Department statement said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson declined to comment on the



The four heads of the Quad countries had held talks in March. • FILE PHOTO

date of the meetings. Diplomatic sources confirmed that all four leaders are expected to attend the UN General Assembly meeting in New York this year, and discussions are under way for

them to meet in Washington during that visit, but their travels and the summit is contingent on the COVID situations in each of the four

#### **Regional issues**

During the meeting, Quad country officials talked about the decision to launch working groups on other areas of emerging technologies and climate change, and "exchanged views" on regional issues such as East and South China Seas, where the Chinese Navy has had conflicts over territorial

North Korean actions, and military rule in Myanmar. Making a particular men-

tion of the Quad as a grouping of "four democracies", the U.S. statement said officials discussed "strategic challenges confronting the region, countering disinformation, promoting democracy and human rights", and, in a veiled reference to China, said they would "support countries vulnerable to coercive actions in the Indo-Pacific region". The officials also discussed plans to cooperate on COVID vaccines.

# <sup>+</sup> At least 6 from extremist group in Manipur dead

Infighting among cadres suspected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

At least six members of a Manipur extremist group have been killed in a factional fight in Myanmar, officials

The decision of some cadre to desert with weapons led to the infighting, in which "six to eight" members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) were killed and three injured, a spokesperson of a security agency confirmed.

The infighting happened on August 10 near the Nanyang Wakathan camp of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang-Yung Aung) in the Sagaing

region of Myanmar. The camp is across the Pangsau Pass in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

confirmed the deaths with the family members of three of the cadre killed. The three were from Kakching and Thoubal districts of Manipur," the spokesperson said.

According to intelligence officials keeping tabs on the extremist groups, trouble had been brewing within the PLA for some time because of pressure from the Myanmar Army to either pay for lying low in the country or join the soldiers in fighting the pro-democra-

# Common survey to count elephants and tigers Estimation methods will

be harmonised

TACOR KOSHY NEW DELHI

From December, India will move to a system that will count tigers and elephants as part of a common survey. The tiger survey is usually held once in four years and elephants are counted once in five years.

According to the most recent 2018-19 survey, there were 2,997 tigers in India. According to the last count in 2017, there were 29,964 elephants in India.

Environment Bhupendra Yadav on Thursday, which is marked as World Elephant Day, made



Jungle book: Asian elephants are listed as "endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. ■FILE PHOTO

public the population estimation protocol to be adopted in the all-India elephant and tiger population survey

At a meeting, he said there had been a "pressing need to improve and harmonise the population estima-Minister tion methods along more scientific lines in various States across India" to estimate animal numbers.

Since 2006, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, which is affiliated to the Environment Ministry, has a standardised protocol in place that States then use to estimate tiger numbers. Based on sightings in camera traps and indirect estimation methods, tiger numbers are computed.

Elephant numbers, said Qamar Qureshi, wildlife

scientist at the WII, largely rely on States directly counting the number of elephants. In recent years, techniques such as analysing dung samples have also been deployed to estimate birth rates and population trends in elephants.

#### Saving costs

"Given that 90% of the area occupied by elephants and tigers is common, and once estimation methods are standardised, having a common survey can significantly save costs," Mr. Qureshi told *The* Hindu.

In 2017, the Union Environment Ministry reported that there were 27,312 elephants on average in the country, according to figures collated from 23 States, a decline from the 29,576 elephants recorded as the mean figure in 2012.

However, in 2019, it emerged that Kerala may have under-counted almost 2,700 elephants in the latest elephant census and the up dated 2017 figures showed 29,964 elephants on average, or a slight increase from the mean of 2012.

This was because Kerala initially relied on a direct count method and then switched to an indirect method when the count showed a decline in its elephant population.

Asian elephants are listed as "endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. More than 60% of the world's elephant population is in India, said a statement from the Environment

# Arabia begin naval exercise

India, Saudi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The maiden bilateral naval exercise between India and Saudi Arabia named 'AL-Mohed AL-Hindi' got under way on Thursday, the Navy said.

"The sea phase of the exercise began on Thursday," a Navy officer said. The Indian Navy's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was set rolling with the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet (FOCWF), Rear Adm Ajay Kochhar, visiting the Fleet Cdr of Royal Saudi Navy's Eastern Fleet, Rear Adm Majid Al Qahtani, on August 10, a statement issued by the Na-

# TH CROSSWORD+ 13325



17 Careless one having mild fun partying (9) 21 Framework for software development provided by Supreme

Display keystrokes of genius.

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

22 Stylish Sophia carrying short wand, on TED (13)

24 Used a wool (with a hole in the middle) fabric (5)

26 Key to last door; payment to be refunded (4)

DOWN

1 Press release on one music performance on stage, perhaps (10)

**2** A Man used first amendment to a sickening degree (2,7)

**3** Rubbish in portal; some method of execution (7)

**5** Move to reverse hike primarily; *The Hindu* article on petroleum (7)

8 Backpack has some lime and fertilizer, perhaps (4)

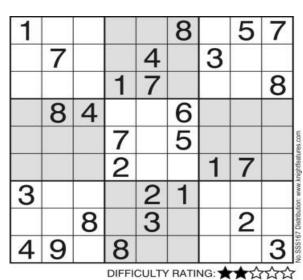
9 Expedition to South Africa, touch off wandering (6) 13 Comment critically on maidservant, sloppy dropping spoons

16 Cross a road, first reaching a bar (9)

18 Check plexus, half gone with other body part (6)

20 Most flexible article in inventory (7)

#### **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to puzzle 13324 Solution to vesterday's Sudoki

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# **FAITH**

# He washes away sins

In his Varadaraja Stavam, Kooratazhvan gives niravadhi and niramha as qualities of Lord Varadaraja of Kanchi. Niramha means absence of undesirable qualities. Nirvadhya means He has no doshas. So both niravadhi and niramha mean the same. So why did Kooratazhvan use two different words to describe the same quality? He was a great scholar, and unless the two words could be explained differently, he would not have used them, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a dis-

Niravadhi means Varadaraja is blemishless. Niramha means that those who worship Him also end up blemishless. In his Meivrata Mahatmyam, Vedanta Desika records Brahma's reaction upon seeing Lord Varadaraja. Brahma said he could no longer find his terrible sins (kadu vinaikal) the moment he saw Varadaraja. So, the moment one sees Varadaraja, one's sins vanish. Kooratazhvan attributes to Varadaraja all qualities of the Supreme One, thus indicating that Varad-

Kooratazhvan uses the word 'sadaa' (always) in verse 12, while describing His qualities, and sadaa can be prefixed before every quality of His. So He is sadaa niravadhi, sadaa niramha and so on. The Supreme One is unchanging, in terms of appearance and qualities. Varadaraja too is unchanging in any respect. Those who have witnessed His festivals know this. Suppose a regular visitor to temple is unable to go to a festival one year, he can visualise the entire procession, for he knows that nothing will vary. The alankara of the deity for each day remains fixed. So, if He is on the hamsa vahana, the absent devotee knows He will be clad in white, with the crown made by His devotee Venkatadri. Decorations remain the same every year, and so here we find changelessness.



**6** Waded through water to a corner in the morning (4) 10 Rights for small joint procured after new alteration carried by men (9)

11 One good scene at last, writer finally got with exasperation (5) 12 Marital disturbance in playing areas? Have trials in military (5-8)

**14** Bernie censured, arrested a relative (5)

15 Empty tractor rider's not dead on the way (9)

Court? Strange (5)

25 Fine rendition, story is too sacred to be uttered (9)

27 Final scene's over; soppy sentimental episode (10)

4 A cherry in box? Hear they are packed (7)

**7** Salary by first week; authority advances dollars at the end (5)

essentially (10)

19 Language of heartless father is close to Scotsman (7)

21 A large amount of pounds moved to South end, acknowledgement received by San Francisco university (7) 22 Divide silently, one half of beer to mingle (5)

23 Heartless traitors pick one king for another (4)

# Afghans should save themselves: U.S.

Pentagon official says no potential outcome, including the fall of Kabul, 'has to be inevitable'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan government forces are collapsing even faster than U.S. military leaders thought possible just a few months ago when President Joe Biden ordered a full withdrawal. But there's little appetite at the White House, the Pentagon or among the American public for trying to stop the rout and it probably is too late to do so.

Mr. Biden has made clear he has no intention of reversing the decision he made last spring, even as the outcome seems to point toward a Taliban takeover. With most U.S. troops now gone and the Taliban accelerating their battlefield gains, American military leaders are not pressing him to change his mind. They know that the only significant option would be for the President to restart the war he already decided to

The Taliban, who ruled the country from 1996 until U.S. forces invaded after the 9/11 attacks, captured three



Common sight: A Taliban flag flying at a square in the city of Ghazni, Afghanistan, on Thursday. • AP

more provincial capitals on Wednesday and two on Thursday. They have captured 11 provincial capitals in a week that has given them effective control of about two-thirds of the country. The insurgents have no air force and are outnumbered by Afghan forces, but they have captured territory with

John Kirby, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said the Afghans still have time to

stunning speed.

save themselves from final defeat.

potential outcome has to be inevitable, including the fall of Kabul," Mr. Kirby told reporters. "It doesn't have to be that way. It really depends on what kind of political and military leadership the Afghans can muster to turn this around."

Mr. Biden made a similar point a day earlier, telling reporters that U.S. troops had done all they could over the Trump blames Biden for 'unacceptable' Taliban surge AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Former president Donald Trump blasted his successor Joe Biden on Thursday for putting no conditions on the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and said that a

violent Taliban surge in the war-torn country was "not acceptable."

"If I were now President,

The U.S. continues to sup-

port the Afghan military with

limited air strikes, but those

have not made a strategic dif-

ference thus far and are

scheduled to end when the

U.S. formally ends its role in

the war on August 31. Mr. Bi-

den could continue air

strikes beyond that date, but

given his firm stance on end-

nation," he said.

the world would find that our withdrawal from Afghanistan would be a conditions-based withdrawal," Mr. Trump claimed in a statement.

"I personally had discussions with top Taliban leaders whereby they understood what they are doing now would not have been acceptable," he said.

past 20 years to assist the Afing the war, that seems unghans. "They've got to fight likely. for themselves, fight for their

Senior U.S. military officials had cautioned Mr. Biden that a full U.S. withdrawal could lead to a Taliban takeover, but the President decided in April that continuing the war was a waste.

Meanwhile, the U. S is sending additional troops into the country to help evacuate some personnel from the Embassy in Kabul, an of-

# China governance blueprint signals continuing crackdown

'Efforts to curb unjust interventions in micro-economic activities'

ANANTH KRISHNAN

A new government blueprint issued by China to promote "rule of law" has called for "more legal and institutional efforts" to tighten what it called "unjust" micro-economic activities, signalling the ongoing crackdown on a number of sectors is likely to continue.

The document was issued jointly on Wednesday by the Communist Party of China's Central Committee and the State Council, or Cabinet, of the Government, and called for "building a rule of government" during the current five-year plan period (2021-25). It called for "strengthening the Party's leadership for the building of a government based on the rule of law".

The new blueprint suggests the recent regulatory crackdown aimed at tightening control over some industries is likely to continue. Late last year, regulators launched investigations into alleged monopolistic prac-



Chuxing ride-hailing app on his smartphone. • AFP

tices of top tech companies, including Alibaba and Tencent, and took the unprecedented step of stopping at the last minute what was set to be a record-breaking IPO for Alipay, the financial payments arm of Alibaba.

This year, crackdowns have followed targeting ridesharing app Didi Chuxing and the entire private education sector. The moves have wiped out close to \$1 trillion in value for leading Chinese tech and education companies, according to estimates.

"Identifying promoting the rule of law for government as the main task in ad-

vancing law-based governance in all areas, the document highlighted the guiding philosophies, principles, and overall goals of this cause for the next five vears," the official Xinhua news agency reported, adding the document "urges improving government functions in various fields, including economic adjustment, market supervision, social management, public service, and environmental protection."

It called for "more legal and institutional efforts" to "curb unjust interventions in micro-economic activities", as well as "concrete efforts to prevent the administrative power eliminating stifling competition.

The document also called for "strengthened enforcement of anti-monopoly and anti-unfair competition laws" and highlighted as key areas "national security, biosecurity, infectious diseases prevention and control, and

# 'U.S. sees Pak. useful only for clearing Afghan mess'

Imran says Washington prefers India when it comes to 'strategic partnership'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taking a dig at the U.S., Prime Minister Imran Khan has said Washington sees Pakistan "useful" only for clearing the "mess" it has left behind in Afghanistan after 20 years of fighting and prefers India when it comes to "strategic forming partnership".

Afghanistan has seen an uptick in violence by the Taliban after U.S. President Joe Biden's announcement of the withdrawal of American and NATO troops by August 31. "Pakistan is just considered only to be useful in the context of somehow settling this mess which has been left behind after 20 years of trying to find a military solution when there was not one," Mr. Khan told foreign journalists at his home here on Wednesday.

Mr. Khan said that since the U.S. decided to have a "strategic partnership" with India, Washington was treat-

tion" of the new settler

homes, saying they contrad-

icted "the clear American

position" President Ioe Bi-

den expressed in a call with

lis have moved into settle-

ments that most of the inter-

Palestinians hope the ter-

ritories will become part of

community

Mr. Biden is reportedly to

Mr. Abbas.

Opposition.

national

regards as illegal.

a future state.



ing Pakistan differently, according to a journalist present at the meeting.

Islamabad is unhappy that Mr. Biden has not spoken to Prime Minister Khan since

'Hamas rockets

he assumed the presidency in January.

'Other options'

Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf recently expressed disappointment over President Biden's reluctance to contact Prime Minister Khan despite considering Islamabad as an important country in some issues Afghanistan.

Mr. Yousuf also said Islamabad has other "options" if the American leader continues to ignore the country's

The U.S. State Depart-

ment, however, had assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and wants Islamabad to play that role.

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin spoke over the phone with Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa this week and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. After the call, the Pentagon said the U.S. was having conversations with the Pakistani leadership about the need to shut down the safe havens for Taliban militants along the Afghan-

# Despite Chinese pressure, Taiwan, U.S. Coast Guards meet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officers from the U.S. and Taiwanese Coast Guards have met to discuss improving cooperation and communication despite efforts

by China to isolate the selfgoverning island democracy. The virtual meeting held on Tuesday came amid moves by the U.S. and others to defy Beijing's pressure

campaign aimed at compell-

ing Taiwan to accept its view that the island is part of China.

China on Tuesday recalled its Ambassador to Lithuania and expelled the Baltic nation's top representative to Beijing over its decision to allow Taiwan to open an office in Lithuania under its own name.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has increased diplomatic, economic and military pres-

dents overwhelmingly reject Beijing's demand for political unification with the mainland. China has long blocked Taiwan from taking part in the UN and other international organizations and has stepped up such pressure since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016. Ms. Tsai was re-elected last year by a strong majority.

sure on Taiwan, whose resi-

# + 'Israel to approve 2,000 new homes for settlers'

Palestinians oppose the proposed plan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Israel is to approve 2,000 new homes for Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank, defence sources said on Thursday, despite opposition from dovish members of the governing coalition.

The Palestinians swiftly condemned the latest settlement expansion plans, the first of Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's administration.

A security source told AFP the permits for Jewish settlements would come alongside approvals for hundreds of Palestinian homes in the large swathe of the West Bank known as Area C, where Israel exercises military and planning control.

"There is an expectation to approve about 1,000 housing units for Palestinians in Area C next week and 2,000 housing units in the Jewish communities," the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

fired at Israel a war crime' ASSOCIATED PRESS The office of Palestinian

President Mahmud Abbas expressed its "strong rejec-

A prominent international human rights group on Thursday accused Hamas of committing war crimes during a recent 11-day conflict with Israel by indiscriminately firing thousands of rockets toward Israeli population centers.

meet with Mr. Bennett in the In its report, Human Rights Watch also said it near future, although his office did not specify a date. had concluded that a misfired rocket launched by Mr. Bennett, a former director of the Yesha Council Hamas killed seven Palestisettler lobby, faced criticism nians when it fell short in the Gaza Strip. In a sepafrom dovish partners in his coalition, as well as from Israte development, a UN raeli settler advocates in the agency said it had uncovered militant tunnels near Israel seized the West one of its facilities and that Bank and East Jerusalem Hamas had taken over one from Jordan in 1967. Since of its schools, undermining then, nearly 700,000 Israe-

the agency's neutrality. The rights group has repeatedly come under fire by Israel and its supporters over reports accusing Israel of war crimes against the Palestinians as well as apartheid and persecution.

China dismisses Canada's protests

over harsh sentencing of Spavor

Entrepreneur's trial lacks transparency, says Trudeau

# Pakistan successfully test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pakistan on Thursday successfully test-fired a nuclearcapable surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can strike targets up to 290 kilometres, the Army said in a

The successful training launch of ballistic missile 'Ghaznavi' was aimed at ensuring operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command, besides re-validating technical parameters of the weapon system, the

ASSOCIATED PRESS

of the relations.

Israel's Foreign Minister on

Thursday inaugurated the

country's diplomatic repre-

sentation in Morocco, a

symbol of the normalisation

Israel opens diplomatic

mission in Morocco

army said in a statement.

The training launch was hammad Ali, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, senior officers from Strategic Plans Division, Army Strategic Forces Command, Scientists and Engineers of the strategic organizations, it said.

As per the military's media wing, missile Ghaznavi is capable of delivering multiple types of warheads up to a range of 290 km.

The Army Strategic Forc-

Yair Lapid's visit is the

first to the country by an Is-

raeli Minister since 2003. It

comes less than a vear after

Israel and Morocco reached

a deal to establish formal

ties under the U.S.-brokered

"Abraham Accords."

es Command appreciated the excellent standard of witnessed by Lt. Gen Mutraining, handling of the weapon system and execution of launch mission in the field by troops, the statement said.

President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Service Chiefs have congratulated all ranks of Army Strategic Forces Command, the scientists and engineers on successful conduct of today's launch, the Army said.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** 

C-DAC invites Expression of Interes

(EOI) from Indian Companies for the

Transfer of Technology (ToT) of

"Adaptive Traffic Control System-

Software Composite Signal Control

Strategy - Enhanced Version

For details visit www.cdac.in

"CoSiCoSt-EnV".

सी डेक

# Wildfires rage as Algeria marks day of mourning

Blaze has claimed 69 lives so far

AGENCE FRANNCE-PRESSE

tional day of mourning for dozens of people killed in the latest wildfires to sweep the Mediterranean.

The North African country has been in the grip of devastating fires since Monday that have claimed 69 lives – 41 civilians and 28 soldiers.

lunteers have joined firefighters on multiple fronts in the effort to extinguish the

In Tizi Ouzou district, the area with the highest casualty toll, an AFP journalist reported entire sectors of forest going up in smoke as far as the eye can see.

Villagers forced to evacuate in order to escape the flames began trickling back to their homes, overwhelmed by the scale of the

Soldiers and civilian vo-

damage.

(A Unit of SPMCIL, Wholly owned by Govt. of India)
Tel.: (033) 2401-4938, Fax : (033) 2401-0553,
e-mail : calmint@spmcil.com | CIN : U22213DL2006GOI144763 Sealed tenders from eligible and qualified bidders are invited by the undersigned for procurement of below mentioned items

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING) Tender No.

Hydraulic Stamping Press (400 Ton) 54/PT-128(19-20)/6000016413 For all other details including last date for submission of tender

INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT

ALIPORE KOLKATA - 700 053 (W.B.)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike



Indonesia's Army stops

JAKARTA Human rights groups welcomed Indonesia's decision to stop abusive "virginity tests" on female Army recruits seven years after the WHO declared they had no scientific validity. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Andika Perkasa said the Army will no longer subject women to invasive tests. He said applicants should only be assessed on their ability to take part in physical training and they will be checked for colour blindness, the condition of their spines and hearts to ensure they will not encounter life-threatening medical issues. AP

'virginity tests' on recruits

# ASSOCIATED PRESS

China on Thursday dismissed Canada's protests of harsh sentences handed down by Chinese courts to Canadians whose cases are seen as linked to the arrest in Vancouver of a top executive at Chinese tech giant Huawei.

The Foreign Ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Canada accused Ottawa of making unwarranted. groundless accusations that grossly interfered in China's judicial sovereignty."

"Such accusations are extremely unreasonable, extremely absurd and ex-

which we express our strongest condemnation," their statements said.

tremely arrogant, over

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday called the sentencing of entrepreneur Michael Spavor "absolutely unacceptable and unjust".

Mr. Trudeau cited a "lack of transparency in the legal process, and a trial that did not satisfy even the minimum standards required by international law".

"For Spavor, as well as for Michael Kovrig who has also been arbitrarily detained, our top priority remains securing their immediate release. We will continue working around the clock to bring them home as soon as possible." Mr. Spavor and former di-

plomat Mr. Kovrig were detained soon after Huawei's Meng Wanzhou was arrested December 1, 2018, at the request of the U.S., where she faces charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran. The Chinese Foreign Mi-

nistry denied Mr. Spavor and Mr. Kovrig were arbitrarily detained. Mr. Spavor was sentenced Wednesday to 11 years in pri-

son on national security

charges by a court.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD. Regd. Office :- PSEB H.O.Building, The Mall, Patiala Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813 Contact NO. 96461-18773

#### TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-1309/PO-C&S

Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for procurement of flat twin core LT PVC Cable i.e. 2Cx6 sgmm-21500 Km and 2Cx10 sqmm-7300 Km. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 12.08.2021 onwards. NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at

DPRPB 76155/12/397/2021/6728

# KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

C-ICMP (Supply), KMC invites Tender online in two Bid

Name of the work: Procurement of filter media (M.C. Sand) for the F/Y-2021-2022. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,34,70,000/-. Earnest Money : Rs. 2,69,400/-. Last date and time of submission of Bid: 06.09.2021 upto 02:00 P.M. The tender will be opened on: 08.09.2021 at 02:00 P.M. The bid forms and other details will be available on and from

# ABRIDGE NIT

systems for following work:-E-NIT No.: **KMC/C-ICMP(S)/22/A57/2021-2022** 

13.08.2021 after 1.00 P.M. from the website wbtenders.gov.in

#### Blazes raged across northern Algeria on Thursday as blazes. the country observed a na-

please visit ourwebsite http://igmkolkata.spmcil.com Any amendment or extension shall be notified on Website only.

The Chief General Manager

# BBMP Commercial Complex, 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru-30

No.: E.E/(BTM)/Je/e-proc/08/2021-22 Date: 11.08.2021 TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders for the following works on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or any Reputed Agencies, equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government

Organisations. Name of the Work

(Rs. in Lakhs) (Two Cover System) - 1st Call Construction of BBMP Offices and Corporator

Office in 5th Block Koramangala in Ward No. 151, Koramangala. Calendar of Events: (1) The Tender document may be

downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement website https:// eproc.karnataka.gov.in. (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: 18.09.2021 upto 4:00 p.m. (3) Pre bid meeting will be held on 01.09.2021 at 3:00 p.m. (4) Date of Opening of the tender document is on: 20.09.2021 at 4:30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Sd/-, Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing

M ND-NDE

Approximate

value of work

#### 74.06 86.92.. British Pound ....... 102.58. Japanese Yen (100) ... 67.03. 103.03 11.48 11.43 Swiss Franc Singapore Dollar ...54.80

..7468.70.

UltraTech Cement

China's GWM bags Indian trademark for Aure

The Registrar of Trade Marks recently granted a trademark to the Indian subsidiary of Chinese automobile company Great Wall Motor (GWM) for a mobility product Aure.

# Didn't seek an extra paisa from anyone for COVID fight: FM

'Buoyant revenues to help Centre pay States entire GST compensation this year'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government has not levied any extra taxes to manage the COVID-19 crisis, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Thursday, adding that revenues were now so buoyant that the Centre was confident of paying States their entire GST compensation dues this year.

"I want to highlight this point, even if I didn't intend to say it I will say it nevertheless: COVID [crisis management] has not been financed by taxation," the minister told industrialists at CII's national conclave. "Individual tax assessees have not been asked for one additional paisa... nor has industry been



**Self reliant:** Neither industry nor individuals were taxed to help govt. fight the pandemic, says FM. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

taxed. We have not asked one extra paisa from anybody for us to manage the coronavirus pandemic," Ms. Sitharaman added.

While there was no direct reference in her speech to fuel taxes and cesses, Ms.

she said. be "paying through our nose for fossil fuels" if the country

was unable to become selfreliant in energy through a greater push for renewables. Stressing that inflation had only crossed the upper tolerance threshold of 6% occasionally due to seasonal

# ed India's economic recoverv had not vet reached a level where liquidity support measures could be rolled

some other countries. "I am glad that the RBI has that understanding that too quick [a] sucking out of liquidity from the economy may not give the necessary stimulus that is required,"

back as was happening in

The minister said the focus on plugging tax loopholes had bolstered revenues so much that "we are sure that this year, the GST compensation will be paid to all the States in time so that they have money... to undertake all the developmental activity they need to take."

# Goyal chides industrialists, urges them to introspect

'Can't seek market access and protection at the same time'

VIKAS DHOOT

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged India's private sector to take more risks and make fresh investments, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal tore into industry leaders for failing to help smaller Indian firms, structuring deals to circumvent rules and demanding protection in trade negotiations.

'Should not be petty'

The government, he said, would protect Indian interbut shouldn't be petty and seek easy access for the raw materials they need from abroad, along with protection for their finished goods.

"I want the U.S., U.K. and



Piyush Goyal •PTI

Canada markets, but don't let threads, clothes, wines and automobiles come in from abroad. If this is your approach, then industry has no future. Then forget about FTAs and market access, wherever you can sell your product, just manage it," Mr. Goyal chided industrialists in a session on governmentbusiness synergy at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) national conclave.

'Fix industry synergy'

"Our synergy may happen later, but CII, Assocham, PHD Chambers of Commerce, FICCI should meet and get some synergy of their own. Let us have synergy in Indian domestic industry at least," the Commerce and Industry Minister said.

And reacting to a request for government measures to help smaller firms hit hard by COVID-19, Mr. Goyal asked the participating CE-Os: "Tell me, how many of you are willing to pay your MSME [vendors] on day three of supplies. You have no constraints, them."

## IT sector must eye at least 500 ₹5,000-cr. units

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The technology sector in India should aim to build 500-600 companies with revenues of ₹5,000 crore or more in the next threefive years, from about 25-30 such firms presently, Union Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Thursday.

The Minister said during the CII annual meeting that the two attributes of trust and competitiveness had become important for all large clients around the world as they sought a new strategy in the post-COVID world. "I think that is the trigger for the Indian tech sector to suddenly expand their ambitions, expand their appetites," he said.

# July passenger vehicle wholesales rise 44.6%

Surpasses July 2019 level by 39%: SIAM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Wholesale dispatches of passenger vehicles (PV) in the domestic market rose 44.6% in July amid a challenging and uncertain business environment, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said on Thursday. Data shared by the indus-

lakh units last month from about 1.82 lakh units in July Last month's sales were also 39% higher than the

try body revealed that PV

sales grew to more than 2.64

pre-COVID July 2019 sales of about 1.9 lakh units. Among PVs, car sales grew 26% to about 1.3 lakh

units while sales of utility

**BIGGEST SIGNINGS BY PREMIER LEAGUE SIDES SO FAR THIS SUMMER** 



vehicles and vans increased 73.7% to more than 1.24 lakh units, and 19.5% to 10,305 units, respectively.

Two-wheeler sales, however, fell a little more than 2% to 12.53 lakh units, mainly due to a decline in motorcycle sales. The data showed wholesales of scooters rose 9.5% last month to 3.6 lakh units, while motorcycle sales declined almost 6% to 8.37 lakh units.

# NCLT orders liquidation of Siva Industries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Chennai, has rejected a one-time settlement offer made by the erstwhile promoters of Siva Industries and Holdings Ltd. to its lenders, citing that the proposal was not in conformity with the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

The tribunal also ordered liquidation of the company.

The settlement proposal given by the erstwhile promoters appears to be more like a corporate business restructuring plan and resolution plan rather than a settlement simpliciter, the

# Sundram Fasteners turns a profit on higher sales

'Cost improvement, efficiency helped'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. returned to the black with a standalone net profit of ₹112.55 crore for the quarter ended June. It had posted a loss of ₹23.48 crore a year earlier. Total revenue from oper-

ations rose 3.3 times to ₹939 crore, it said in a filing with the exchanges. Domestic sales rose to ₹560 crore (₹133 crore) and export sales grew to ₹356 crore (₹135 crore).

"The gradual opening up of the economy from Q2 helped create an upward trend in demand as OEMs ramped up their production levels," said Arathi Krishna, MD. "However, the second

wave of COVID-19 did cause pressure on the Indian automotive sector... This proved to be a challenge for several OEMs across the country, forcing them to cut production or suspend operations temporarily. Despite this, the cost and efficiency improvement measures enabled the company to sustain its operating and net margins," she added.

**SBL loss narrows** Sundaram Brake Linings

(SBL) reported a narrowing in standalone net loss to ₹1.32 crore from a ₹5.35crore loss a year earlier.

Revenue from operations more than doubled to ₹64 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing.

## **ALL Q1 loss** narrows to ₹282 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Commercial-vehicle manufacturer Ashok Levland Ltd. (ALL) said standalone net loss for the first quarter ended June narrowed to ₹282 crore from ₹389 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue from operations surged more than fourfold to ₹2,951 crore, the firm said in a filing.

"The supply of electronic control units continues to be a concern, owing to the limited availability of semiconductors," said Gopal Mahadevan, CFO.

"The industry is also feeling the impact of high raw material prices, especially steel. The management expects them to sof-

# Kane transfer saga could define season

City the overwhelming favourite; Chelsea, United, Liverpool the challengers

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The compact surroundings of the recently built, 17,250seat Brentford Community Stadium will usher in another Premier League campaign on Friday.

In reality, though, a season that will be marked by the return of capacity crowds for the first time in 17 pandemic-blighted months will only start in earnest once a summer-long, potentially title-defining transfer saga is settled one way or the other.

Harry Kane's "will-he, won't he?" move to Manchester City from Tottenham remains in the balance and may only be decided in the final days, perhaps even the final hours, of a summer transfer window that closes on August 31.

#### Depth and quality

If City, the star-studded defending champion, clinches a signing of the England captain – for maybe as much as \$200 million - many will view the title race as over before it barely started, such will be the depth and quality of resources available to City manager Pep Guardiola. After all, City, which won the league by 12 points last season, has already bought midfielder Jack Grealish for a British-record fee of £100

If Kane stays at Tottenham? Well, it's game on, given how City's rivals stack up this season.

Somewhat quirkily, the opening round of the Premier League, which starts with Brentford – a unheralded side playing top-flight football for the first time in 74 years – hosting Arsenal, is headlined by Sunday's meeting between Tottenham and



Man City.

Hoping Kane doesn't make the move north to Etihad Stadium – Tottenham aside, obviously - will be Chelsea, Manchester United and Liverpool, who are expected to be the main challengers to City.

#### **Much stronger**

Chelsea will be much stronger with striker Romelu Lukaku returning for a reported £97 million. United has bought England winger Jadon Sancho and will add France centre back Raphael Varane, too, after spending a combined \$150 million. Liverpool, the 2019-20 champion, crucially has star defender Virgil van Dijk back

City getting Kane, however, would leave Guardiola's team streets clear of them

Changes are being made to the way the VAR interprets offside decisions. which – according to referee chief Mike Riley – has "reintroduced the benefit of the

doubt to the attacking player."

day in the

last four

seasons

Four teams will have new managers this season. Rafa Benitez has been hired by Everton, leaving some fans unhappy because he was previously in charge of local rival Liverpool. Nuno Espirito Santo was hired by Tottenham despite clearly being down the club's list of targets.

Former Arsenal and France star Patrick Vieira will lead Crystal Palace in his first senior role in the league.

# Kepa is Chelsea's 'super' sub

Stonewall's Villarreal in penalty shoot-out triumph

#### **SUPER CUP**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELFAST Thomas Tuchel made the bold call, and Kepa Arrizabalaga made the big saves.

Brought on as a substitute with seconds remaining in extra time, Kepa kept out two spot kicks as Chelsea beat Villarreal 6-5 in a penalty shootout to win the UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

Tuchel, the Chelsea manager, has been informed by his team of statisticians that Kepa has a better record at saving penalties than firstchoice goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, so the substitution was made in the 119th minute of a match that ended 1-1 after extra time.

Kepa had already saved a penalty from Aissa Mandi when he dived low to his right again and parried out Raul Albiol's attempt in what proved to be the final kick of the shootout at Windsor Park in Northern Ireland.

As Chelsea's players sprinted from the halfway line to celebrate with Kepa, one of the first to reach him was Mendy.



Star of the show: Kepa Arrizabalaga saves the final shot to hand Chelsea the UEFA Super Cup. • AP

"It's fantastic how Edu accepts it," Tuchel said.

"We needed to do what's best for the team. ... There is proof that Kepa is better in this discipline."

#### **Another trophy**

Less than 10 weeks after Chelsea's 1-0 win over Manchester City in the Champions League final in Porto. Cesar Azpilicueta was again lifting a European trophy to the backdrop of fireworks and tickertape.

Among the players celebrating on the podium behind him was Hakim Ziyech, who had his right arm in a sling after a suspected dislocated shoulder in the 40th minute – 13 minutes after putting Chelsea into the lead by converting a cross from Kai Havertz.

That was cancelled out by Gerard Moreno in the 73rd for the Spain international's record 83rd goal for Villarreal - breaking the record he shared with U.S.-born former Italy striker Giuseppe Rossi.

Moreno exchanged a onetwo with Boulaye Dia before lifting his shot over Mendy and into the top corner.

The result: Chelsea 1 (Ziyech 27) drew with Villarreal 1 (Gerard Moreno 73) (after extratime. Chelsea win 6-5 on penal-

# Bopanna-Dodig pair in quarterfinals

Ankita beats doubles partner Zarazua to advances in singles

# INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Rohan Bopanna and Ivan Dodig of Croatia beat Simone Bolelli and Maximo Gonzalez 6-4, 6-3 to reach the doubles quarterfinals of the \$3,487,915 ATP tennis tournament here on Wednesday. In the \$100,000 ITF wo-

men's event in Landisville, US, qualifier Ankita Raina beat her doubles partner Renata Zarazua of Mexico 6-3, 6-2 in the singles first round.

\$3,487,915 ATP, Toronto: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):

Ivan Dodig (Cro) & Rohan Bopanna bt Simone Bolelli (Ita) & Maximo Gonzalez (Arg) 6-4, \$100,000 ITF women, Lan-

disville, US: Singles (first round): Ankita Raina bt Renata Zarazua (Mex) 6-3, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir,

Agarwal 6-4, 7-5.

Tunisia: Singles (first round):

round): Jazmin Ortenzi (Arg) bt Bhuvana Kalva 6-3, 6-4; Anastasia Nefedova (US) bt Smriti Bhasin 6-1. 6-1. Doubles (pre-quarterfi-

Women: Singles (first

nals): Kariann Pierre-Louis (US) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Shria Atturu (US) & Smriti Bhasin 6-2, 7-6(5); Noelia Bouzo Zanotti (Esp) & Vasanti Shinde bt Ganna Poznikhirenko & Mariya Pyrozhenko (Ukr) 6-0, 6-2; Daria Zelinskava (Rus) & Renne Singla bt Feryel Ben Hassen (Tun) & Lina Qostal (Mar) 6-3, Aziz Dogaz (Tun) bt Rishab 2-6, [14-12].

## SA's key players to miss Sri Lanka ODIs



Pretorius. • FILE PHOTO

REUTERS JOHANNESBURG

South Africa will be without a number of key players for its three ODIs in Sri Lanka next month, but expects its big guns to return for the T20 series that follows as it builds towards the World Cup in the UAE.

South Africa plays three ODIs in Colombo from Sept. 2-7, but will be without Quinton de Kock (rested), David Miller (hamstring injury) and Lungi Ngidi (personal reasons).

All-rounder Dwaine Pretorius will return to the squads for both series after an injury lay-off that saw him miss successful tours to West Indies and Ireland in recent months.

The squads: ODIs: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Junior Dala, Beuran Hendricks, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, George Linde, Janneman Malan, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Anrich Nortje, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne and Lizaad Williams. T20Is: Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Beuran Hendricks, Reeza Hendricks, Klaasen, Linde, Maharai, Sisanda Magala. Markram, David Miller, Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Nortje, Pretorius, Rabada, Shamsi, van der Dussen and Williams.

# Ton-up Rahul and Rohit put India in control on day one at Lord's

After getting off to a promising start thanks to their 126-run opening stand, India reaches a comfortable 276/3 at close; Anderson picks up two wickets

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The talented K.L. Rahul scored one of the most technically accomplished hundreds after the gifted Rohit Sharma oozed elegance, putting India in a comfortable 276/3 against England on the opening day of the second Test here on Thursday.

Virat Kohli would certainly thank his stars as it turned out to be a good toss to lose on a good batting track and his openers did what was expected of them.

#### Perfect blend

Rohit (83, 145b) led the charge, blending top-notch defensive game with dollops of grace that set the tone, pushing the English bowlers on the defensive and then left the stage for Rahul (127 batting, 248b) to make it his

Rahul, whose innings during the first session and a half was about grit quotient, took charge once Rohit left after the 126-run opening stand.

From defending doggedly and scrapping his way to 20 from the first 100-odd deliveries faced, Rahul suddenly gave charge to Moeen Ali, hitting him over long-off for a six and cover-drove James Anderson at the stroke of

He never looked in hurry as he added another 117 runs with skipper Kohli (42, 103b), who also looked like playing himself in before Ollie Robin-



Sublime batting: While it was Rohit Sharma's fluent 83 which set the tone for the innings, K.L. Rahul went a step further and achieved the feat of notching up a coveted century at the 'home' of cricket. • AP, AFF

son got his prized scalp at the fag end of the day with a regulation slip catch.

Rahul has scored five Test hundreds before this but he would certainly cherish this one purely on the basis of how he planned and executed this innings of precision and high calibre. The square drives seemed as if he is still playing in Nottingham and few of England's fastest bowler Mark Wood's (16-1-66-0) deliveries were caressed to the boundary.

The shot that put his name on the prestigious 'Lord's Honours Board' was a backcut off Wood towards thirdman to complete the hundred. As if to celebrate his hundred, there was a picturesque cover drive off Robinson and a back-foot punch off Anderson when the second new ball was taken. In all, Rahul hit 12 fours and a six.

However, the story of the day was as much about Rahul as it's about Rohit, who hit 11 boundaries and a six.

It needed a magic delivery from veteran James Ander-

son, who got a 43-over old

Asian Games gold next target: Sreejesh

Manuel Fredericks presents ₹1 crore to the goalkeeper

Dukes to jag back viciously and literally cut the batsman into half, ending Rohit's dreams of a maiden Test hundred in a SENA country.

There is something about Rohit's defensive game that is breathtakingly beautiful. There are players if they defend, the dressing room starts shivering that there could be demons in the track but when Rohit defends he in a sense of calmness.

It was an enticing first hour but the Indian openers displayed impressive tech-

nique and, more than anything else, appreciable temperament to tackle Anderson (20-4-52-2) and Robinson's (23-7-47-1) testing new ball spells.

#### **Different inswingers**

Anderson bowls two different inswingers without any apparent change of wrist position. The first one with a wobbly seam and other with an upright seam and fingers widened which looks to be shaping away but nips back in. Both Rohit and Rahul battled their minds to leave

most of the deliveries on the 'fourth off-stump' channel. Both didn't fiddle much with those incoming deliveries and knew where their offstump was and covered the swing.

If Rohit left it alone at times not offering any stroke, Rahul would present a dead bat but keep it close to his body, which ensured that he negated the maximum chance of getting a

The first boundary came in the 13th over bowled by Sam Curran. The moment

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### INDIA – 1st INNINGS

Rohit Sharma b Anderson 83 (145b, 11x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul (batting) 127 (248b, 12x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Puiara c Bairstow b Anderson 9 (23b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Root b Robinson 42 (103b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane (batting 1 (22b); Extras (b-8, lb-5, nb-1): 14; Total (for three wkts. in 90 overs): 276.

the left-arm seamer drifted on pads, Rohit flicked one

Having done all the hard work during that first hour, **FALL OF WICKETS** 

1-126 (Rohit, 43.4 overs), 2-150 (Pujara, 49.6), 3-267 (Kohli, 84.4).

#### **ENGLAND BOWLING**

Anderson 20-4-52-2, Robinson 23-7-47-1, Curran 18-1-58-0, 16-1-66-0,

13-1-40-0. Toss: England.

Rohit understood the urgency to get a move on in the scoreboard and, in Curran's next over, smashed four boundaries to open the floodgates

#### TV PICKS

England vs India: 2nd Test, day 2, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. TNPL 2021: Qualifier 2, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)



Neerai Chopra rises to

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has gained 14 places to become World No. 2 in the latest world rankings after his gold-medal winning show in the Tokyo Olympics. The 23-year-old, with 1396 points, is now behind Germany's Johannes Vetter who has a 1396 score as per the latest update issued by World Athletics. ANI



Tokyo silver medallist **Ujah suspended for** alleged doping

British sprinter C.J. Ujah, who won an Olympic silver in the 4x100m relay in Tokyo, was on Thursday suspended for an alleged anti-doping breach, the Athletics Integrity Unit announced. If the case is proven, the team will be stripped of the silver it won behind Italy. AFP

## Proud champions: The 1972 Munich Olympics hockey goalkeeper Manuel Fredericks, left, and current India custodian P.R. Sreejesh show off their bronze medals. • THULASI KAKKAT UAE-based chairman and HOCKEY STAN RAYAN As a junior with a hockey

club in Thiruvananthapuram many years ago, goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh had gone to Kannur to play a tournament. Manuel Fredericks, then Kerala's lone Olympic medallist with his hockey bronze at Munich 1972, had gone to meet the youngsters.

"Fredericks had brought his medal to the ground-...that was the first time, we saw an Olympic medal," said Sreejesh in a function to fete him here on Thursday. This time Fredericks, also

a goalkeeper, had a close look at Sreejesh's hockey bronze which came in Tokyo. Fredericks had brought his bronze too and for the first time, Kerala had a look at its only two Olympic medals in history.

Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, the

managing director of VPS Healthcare, had announced a ₹1 crore cash award for Sreejesh and he had brought Fredericks – who hails from Kannur but who mostly lives in Bengaluru – to present the cheque to the star goalkeeper. There was a pleasant surprise for Fredericks as he was presented with ₹10 lakh

#### for his 1972 show. **Qualify for Paris**

Sreejesh said the hockey team's next big goal was to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

"Definitely, we have to win the next Asian Games (in 2022, in China), that is the easiest way to get into the Games," Olympic said Sreejesh.

"That is the first target, then we are going to host the 2023 World Cup in Odisha. The last time we played the World Cup, we couldn't qual-

#### ify for the semifinals."

#### **Improve facilities**

Both Fredericks and Sreejesh spoke about the need to improve basic facilities to improve the hockey scene in Kerala.

"Both of us are Olympic medallists and goalkeepers too...we need to offer more facilities for hockey in Kerala," said Fredericks, now 73.

"There is only one astroturf for hockey in Kerala, in Kollam. That too had been converted into a COVID-care centre and for nearly one and half years, it has probably not been watered.

"If we start private academies, and if VPS Healthcare supports us, we will have more children in hockey."

VPS Healthcare's India head Hafiz Ali Ullat and corporate communications and CSR head Dr. Rajeev Mangottil also spoke during the

Komalika, Sakshi, and Priya in finals

# Pakistan 34/2

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KINGSTON

Kemar Roach and Jayden Seales struck early for the West Indies as Pakistan reached 34 for two in a rain-shortened morning session after it was put in on the opening day of the first Test of the two-match series at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Thursday.

The scores: Pakistan 34/2 in 17 overs (at lunch) vs West In-

Toss: West Indies.

# WBC India Committee formed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to offer a pathway for domestic championship success for aspiring professional boxers, the World Boxing Council (WBC) has announced the formation of the WBC India Committee in collaboration with the Indian Boxing Council.

The WBC will also put an emphasis on safety and implement a ranking system for both male and female boxers, according to a press

# Chavan on top

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Ajinkya Chavan topped the 50-metre free pistol open event in the shooting National selection trials on Thursday.

The results: 50m free pistol: Open: 1. Ajinkya Chavan 548; 2. Vikash Kumar 546; 3. Harsh

#### Six Indians in second spot hind Armenia's Aram Hako-**RTU OPEN CHESS**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Six Indians - Nihal Sarin, S.L. Naryananan, R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh and N.R. Visakh were among those in the second spot at 3.5 points be-

byan (4) after four rounds of the RTU Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Wednesday.

Leading results (involving Indians): Fourth round: Arjun Erigaisi (3.5) drew with Nihal Sarin (3.5)

Paulius Pultinevicius (Ltu, 3.5) drew with S.L. Narayanan (3.5); Aram Hakobyan (Arm, 4) bt Abhimanyu Puranik (3). Aravindh Chithambaram

(3) drew with Arjun Kalyan R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5) bt Sergey Pavlov (Ukr, 2.5);

D. Gukesh (3.5) bt Benjamin Haldorsen (Nor, 2.5). Kristaps Kretainis (Lat, 2.5)

lost to N.R. Visakh (3.5).

# Indian team given a warm send-off

Mariyappan to be the flag-bearer at the opening ceremony

#### **PARALYMPICS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A 54-member Indian team for the upcoming Tokyo Paralympics was on Thursday accorded a warm send-off by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and the national governing body, with high hopes that the country will return with its best ever performance. The players were part of the event virtually as

The team has some of the brightest medal prospects like Devendra Jhajharia, seeking his third Paralympics gold (after 2004 and

they are in strict bio-bubble.



Devendra Jhajharia. ■ FILE PHOTO

Mariyappan Thangavelu.

2016) in F-46 javelin throw, Mariyappan (T-63 high jump) and world champion Sandeep Choudhary (F-64 javelin throw).

India will compete in nine

Mariyappan, who had won a gold in the last edition in Rio, will be the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony on August 24. The Tokyo Paralympics will end on September 5.

"The ambition and selfconfidence of our para-athletes give inspiration to 1.3 billion Indians. In front of their courage, the biggest of challenges bow," Thakur

said in a video message. India achieved its best-ev-

er performance in the Paralympic Games in the 2016 Rio Games with two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

PCI president Deepa Malik, who herself had won a silver in shot put at Rio 2016 Games, said, "We are going to see a record haul of medals as our athletes are in prime form."

secretary-general Gursharan Singh will be the chef de mission of the Indian

Badminton will make its debut at the Paralympic Games, which will feature seven Indian shuttlers.



Sandeep Chaudhary. ■ FILE PHOTO

# National sports awards function pushed back

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The National sports awards function, which is held on August 29 every year, has been pushed back since the government wants the selection panel to consider the performances of the athletes competing in the Tokyo Paralympics, to be held between August 24 and September 5.

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said the selection panel for picking the award winners has been formed but it would prefer to wait for some more time before going ahead with the selection process. "The National sports award committee has been formed for this year but Paralympics are yet to be held. We want to add winners from the paralympics also. "I hope and wish they will

perform really well," Thakur said during the National Youth Awards function. Like the last time, the

sports awards function could be held virtually.

# **ARCHERY**

SPORTS BUREAU

Komalika Bari and Sakshi Chaudhary reached the women's individual finals of the recurve junior and compound junior categories respectively at the World youth archery championships here on Thursday.

Komalika defeated Japanese Juri Shibuya 6-4, Kazakh Ziyodakhon Abdusattarova 6-0 and Japanese Mao Watanbe 6-5 (8-7) before beating American Casey



Kaufhold 6-4 in the semifi-

nals. Sakshi got past Kazakh Aizhan Seidakhmetova 142-141, Iranian Bita Asheghzadeh Oskouei 147-142, Mexican Dafne Quintero 147-145 and American Anna Scarbrough 144-142 to make it to the final. Rishabh Yadav, who lost

to Robin Jaamta of Estonia 147-146 in the semifinals of the compound junior men's individual event, will face Sebastian Garcia of Mexico in the bronze medal match. Priya Gurjar defeated Hal-

lie Boulton (Great Britain) 149-140 to set up a gold medal match with Selene Rodriguez (Mexico) in the compound women's cadet individual event. Parneet Kaur, who lost to Selene 142-141, will compete with Hallie for the bronze medal.

# JSW Group announces cash rewards for Tokyo medallists lists Bajrang Punia, Lovlina

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The JSW Group on Thursday announced cash awards for India's Tokyo Olympic medallists and their support staff. Neeraj Chopra, who won the javelin gold, will be awarded ₹1 crore with his coach Klaus Bartonietz and physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha getting ₹10 lakh each.

Silver medallists Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Dahiya would be given ₹20 lakh each while bronze medalBorgohain and P.V. Sindhu will get ₹15 lakh each. The coaches and support staff of these medallists will get ₹5 lakh each. The hockey team members will get ₹2 lakh each along with head coach Graham Reid, head physio and assistant coach.

#### Byju's gesture

Earlier, edtech major Byju's had announced ₹2 crore for Neeraj Chopra and ₹1 crore each to the other individual

"Sports has a critical role to play in nation building and it's time that we celebrate our Olympic heroes, not just once in four years, but every single day," Byju's founder and CEO Byju Raveendran said.

"We hope this small gesture will help them in their journey going forward to win more laurels for the country and also encourage many more youngsters to dream big.'

THE HINDU FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 202

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- According to the second second
- Around three times increase in installed RE capacity in the last 7 years.
- Seventeen times increase in installed solar capacity in the last 7 years.







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