



6,808 killed in rain, cyclones in the country in the past three years



Govindacharya asks SC to revive his petition into snooping issue

Toll in massive jumps to 724

Rahane, Puiara revive innings as India finishes the day at 181 for six page 13





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earthquake in Haiti page 11

**NEARBY** 



₹5 lakh for information on judge's death case

The CBI has announced a reward of ₹5 lakh for anyone sharing "information of importance" on the alleged killing of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, who was hit by an autorickshaw on July 28, officials said on Sunday

### 2 held for threatening to attack JNU on I-Day

**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 8

NEW DELHI Two men were arrested on Sunday for allegedly threatening to attack Jawaharlal Nehru University on Independence Day. They had uploaded a video on Facebook, the police said. The accused have been identified as Vikas Sehrawat and Raja Kumar, both residents of Uttam Nagar. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

### Jessica Lall's sister Sabrina passes away

Sabrina Lall, who had fought a long battle to bring the killers of her sister Jessica Lall to book, passed away on Sunday evening, her brother Ranjith said. Sabrina, in her early fifties, was suffering from cirrhosis of the liver. Her condition deteriorated at home on Saturday. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

**EDUCATIONPLUS** ▶ PAGE 5

# Afghan President Ghani leaves country as Taliban reach Kabul

Insurgents say they will soon declare an 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Ashraf Ghani left Afghanistan on Sunday, joining his fellow citizens and foreigners in fleeing the advancing Taliban and signalling the end of a 20year Western experiment aimed at remaking the country.

The Taliban entered the capital Kabul earlier in the day, and an official with the militant group said it would soon announce the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from the presidential palace - a return rich in symbolism to the name of the country under the Taliban government ousted by the U.S.-led forces after the 9/11 attacks. The insurgents pushed

through a city gripped by panic, where helicopters raced overhead throughout the day to evacuate personnel from the U.S. Embassy. Smoke rose near the compound as the staff destroyed important documents. Several other Western missions also prepared to pull their people out. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken rejected comparisons to the U.S. pull-out from Vietnam, as many watched in disbelief at the sight of helicopters landing in the Embassy to evacuate diplomats.



Safe passage: A U.S. helicopter flying over Kabul after evacuating American nationals. • AP

Taliban could reimpose the kind of brutal rule that all but eliminated women's rights rushed to leave the country, lining up at cash machines to withdraw their life savings. Commercial flights were later suspended after sporadic gunfire erupted at Kabul International Airport, two U.S. military officials said. Evacuations continued on military flights.

"The former President left Afghanistan, leaving the country in this difficult situation," said Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council. "God should hold him accountable."

Afghans fearing that the MORE REPORTS > PAGE 11

# Air India flight brings 129 people from Kabul

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The situation in Kabul is "extremely fluid and unpredictable", said officials here on Sunday as Air India operated a commercial flight that evacuated 129 passengers.

The aircraft, AI 243, faced difficulty while landing in Kabul and had to circle over the Afghan capital for some time as countries raced against time to evacuate their citizens. Earlier in the day, Air India sources said they planned to send a similar flight on Monday morning for the evacuation of Indian nationals.

Sources here refused to confirm if India will shut down its Embassy in Kabul even as South Block continued to review the security situation. They also confirmed that New Delhi has kept a military aircraft on standby for quick mobilisation in case a larger evacuation is required.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8 **TAKEOVER SURPRISING ▶** PAGE 8

# Next 25 years crucial for India's development: PM

Everyone should strive for it, says Modi in I-Day speech

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In his eighth consecutive address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for making the next 25 years, in the run-up to the centenary of India's Independence, a glorious one with "new thresholds, aspirations and dreams".

He coined the phrase "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" (With all, development for all, the trust of all, the striving of all).

"There comes a time in every nation's life where it defines anew what development means for it, and resolves anew on how to reach its goals, that moment for our country is now," he said.

Mr. Modi termed the next 25 years an "Amrit Kaal" (glorious period) for achieving the goals.

Referring to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Modi recalled those who passed away and lauded the "untiring and committed" work of doctors, nurses, sanitation workers, scientists and entrepreneurs who helped fight the pandemic and were assisted by the development of indigenous vaccines.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8



Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting people from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Sunday. • PTI

# 115-foot-high flag masts installed at 5 spots in city

They'll remind all of love for nation: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate 75 years of Independence, the Delhi government on Sunday installed five 115-foot-high flag masts to fly the Tricolour at different locations in the city and promised similar flag masts at 500 locations by the next Republic Day.

Inaugurating a flag mast at East Kidwai Nagar in the New Delhi Assembly constituency, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said: "When we see the Tiranga (Tricolour), we get goosebumps and our hearts are filled with love and pride

towards the nation. If you see the Tiranga even once during your commute to work, then the patriotism and love towards the country would be reignited. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we often forget about our country. Now these Tricolours would act as a constant reminder of the love and devotion towards the nation," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The other 115-foot-high flag masts have been installed at Kalkaji, Patparganj, Rani Bagh and Dwarka.

**DESHBHAKTI & YOGA ▶** PAGE 3

# <sup>+</sup> CJI rues 'sorry state of affairs' in lawmaking

'Ambiguity in laws triggering litigation and causing inconvenience to citizens'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Sunday lamented the "sorry state of affairs" of lawmaking and Parliamentary debate in the country, saying there was "a lot of ambiguity in laws" which was triggering litigation and causing inconvenience to citizens, courts and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day celebrations held at the Supreme Court lawns, Chief Justice Ramana rued how the standards of lawmaking had fallen over the years.

"Now it is a sorry state of affairs. There is a lot of ambiguity in the laws. We don't know for what purpose they are made. They are causing a lot of litigation and inconvenience to the people, courts..." Chief Justice Rama-

The observations by the CJI follow closely after Parlia-

DINAKAR PERI

Where there's a will there's

with disabilities embarked

upon a journey to trek the

Independence Day. They

will attempt a world record for the largest group of

people with disabilities to

scale the highest battlefield

Virendra Kumar flagged off

the expedition, which is

being executed by 'Team

CLAW', a group of armed

towards empowering people

"The team will drive via

forces veterans working

Manali to Leh and will

with disabilities.

Minister for Social Justice

a way. A team of people

Siachen Glacier on

in the world.

and Empowerment

NEW DELHI

Now it is a sorry state of Now it is a sorry affairs. There is a lot of ambiguity in the laws. We don't know for what purpose they are made. They are causing a lot of litigation and inconvenience to the people, courts

ment cleared the Tribunal's Reforms Bill of 2021, which dence of the judiciary.

The Bill has also revived in a judgment.

has sought the abolishment of as many as nine appellate tribunals, including the Film Certificate Appellate Tribunals, despite the Opposition charge that the legislation undermined the indepen-

provisions of tenure and serwhich were earlier struck

Trekking the highest battlefield in the world

**Show of support:** Union Minister Virendra Kumar with members

being inducted into the

Siachen Base Camp for the

final expedition," he said.

expedition from Siachen

Base Camp to Kumar Post,

at an altitude of 15,632 feet,

15,632 feet

The final leg of the

of the expedition team in New Delhi. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

prepare for the Siachen

expedition," said Major

Arun Prakash Ambathy

three stages of

(retd.) of CLAW Global. "It

shall subsequently undergo

acclimatisation, training and

medical screening before

Glacier world record

vice of members of tribunals down by the Supreme Court

A team of people with disabilities begins journey to the Siachen Glacier

The CJI, in his speech on Sunday, mentioned how lawyers had led the nation, right from the struggle for

Independence to being the first legislators of the coun-

'Constructive debates'

"Then the debates and discussions in the House were constructive. They could elaborately discuss the legislation taking place... Laws used to be discussed and deliberated... Unfortunately, over a period of time... you know what is happening in the House. In the absence of quality debate, courts are unable to fathom the intent and object of the new laws," the CJI addressed an audience of judges and la-

wyers. He said the lack of intellectual heft witnessed in the House could be remedied if more lawyers actively participated in public life rather than confine themselves to their legal practice and homes.

He said the leaders of the Independence struggle were lawyers, such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Neh-"They sacrificed not only

their professions but also their families and property for the struggle..." the CJI exhorted.

The contributions of the Supreme Court to democratic rights enshrined in the Constitution had been immense over the years, he

Chief Justice Ramana also noted that the fundamental right of access to justice was evident from the fact that India's legal services aid machinery catered to 75% of its total population.

will commence on

Ambathy added.

September 1, 2021, Major

This is the land world

record expedition part of

'Operation Blue Freedom

undertaken, CLAW Global

undergo all the three stages

Siachen base camp (Stage 2)

said. Those selected will

of acclimatisation and

training at Leh (Stage 1),

and North Pullu (Stage 3)

expedition team would be

in January 2019 by Major

Vivek Jacob, a retired Para

Special Forces officer, with

to adventurers and people

with disabilities.

the aim of teaching life skills

CLAW Global was set up

after which the final

selected.

Triple World Records' being

# RS ruckus: Ministers seek action against Opposition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of seven Ministers met Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday and demanded action against some Opposition members for what the government described as "unprecedented, extreme and violent acts" in the House on August 11, the concluding day of the mon-

soon session of Parliament. The meeting came just a day after Mr. Naidu visited Parliament House to review video footage of the proceedings, including the alleged scuffle between the Opposition members and the marshals while the General Insurance Amendment Bill, 2021, was being passed.

The delegation submitted a memorandum to Mr. Naidu. It alleged that the Opposition members prevented the marshals from discharging their duties, threw House papers, Minutes book and other items, abused the Chair and also obstructed the House from performing its duties, said a source in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Mr. Naidu is learnt to have told the delegation that he "will examine the matter for deciding on the appropriate course of action".

Deputy Chairman Harivansh was also present along with Mr. Naidu. The delegation consisted of Leader of the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Labour Minister Bhupnder Yadav and Ministers of State Arjun Ram Meghwal and V. Muraleedharan.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

# Meghalaya Minister quits after I-Day violence +

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui resigned after mob violence and arson in Shillong on Independence Day forced the local authorities to enforce an indefinite curfew and suspend

Internet services for 48 hours in four districts.

The killing of former extremist leader Cheristerfield Thangkhiew by the police on Friday triggered the unruly situation that climaxed during his burial on Sunday

"...Considering the gravi-

ty of the situation, I would request you to relieve the Home (Police) Department from me with immediate effect." Mr. Rymbui wrote in a letter to Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.



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**Environment** 

Dr. Jayesh Khaddar: **History, Art & Culture** and IR

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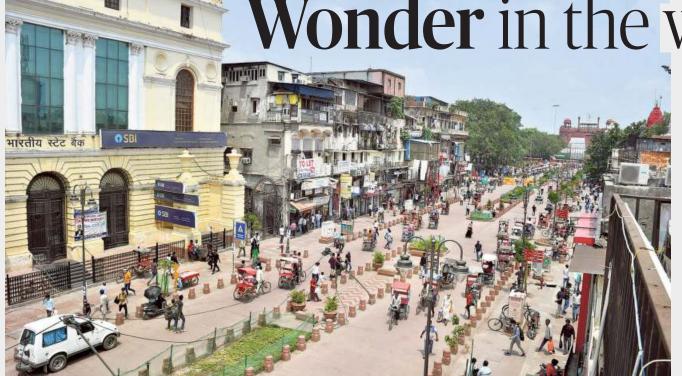
making efforts to complete the pending works of the beautified Chandni Chowk stretch, expected to be inaugurated soon.











Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi is awaiting inauguration. Keeping the Mughal-era architectural style intact, the 1.3 km stretch from Red Fort crossing to Fatehpuri mosque is being turned into a vehicle-free zone, much to the relief of shoppers

PHOTOS: USHIL KUMAR VERMA







# in sight for parking at **Sadar Bazar**

ASHOK KUMAR

t could be a long wait before the parking woes of the shoppers ▲thronging the congested Sadar Bazar and the neighbouring market areas in the Old City might finally

Hit by the COVID-induced lockdown, legal tangles and tussle over land transfer, all the three multilevel parking projects of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram are running behind schedule and the fate of the largest of them, the 8,332-sq m six-storey parking lot with a multiplex and a commercial space, hangs in the balance.

Though the Letters of Award (LoA) have been given for all the three projects - near Jama Masjid off Old Railway Road, at Kaman Sarai, and behind the post office in Sadar Bazar - the construction is yet to kick off at two of the sites. As per the contract, all the three lots are to be constructed in two years' time.

### **Completion time limit**

The work for the 3,186 sq m parking lot near Jama Masjid began in August last with a delay of over a year due to COVID-induced lockdown, but the project is not likely to be completed within the mandatory 24 months. An official, not willing to be identified, said that only 25% of the work was completed so far and going at the present pace, the construction could not be completed within the time frame fixed in the

"This year, too, a lot of time was lost due to the lockdown restric-



Corporation of Gurugram are running behind schedule. • ASHOK KUMAR

tions. Besides, carrying out construction in a congested market area throws up many challenges. The work is carried out round-the-clock and the casting job is done mostly after 10 p.m.," said the official involved with the construction project.

# **Total capacity**

The six-storey parking lot with three basements has a total capacity of 260 four-wheelers and 154 twowheelers and would mostly cater to the shoppers visiting Sadar Bazar, Bhuteshwar Mandir market, Jama Masjid market, and the shops along the Basai Road and Jail Road.

Ramesh, running Bharat Handloom House, near the parking lot expressed hope that the project, once completed, would meet the parking needs in the area to a large

extent. "There is no parking space in this area, expect two small open parking lots near Sohna Chowk with a capacity of hardly two dozen of them. The motorists are forced to park their vehicles on the roadside, slowing down the traffic movement and adding to the congestion. This parking lot will be a big relief," said Mr. Ramesh, who deals in bedsheets, wallpapers and mattress covers' business.

The work for the second and the bigger parking lot behind the postoffice – measuring 3,840 sq m – and catering mostly to those coming to the Sadar Bazar has been hit due to delay in transfer of land from the Public Works Department to the Municipal Corporation of Guru-

The LoA for the project, with a capacity of 368 four-wheelers and

Hit by legal tangles and tussle over land transfer, construction is yet to start for two parking lots; the third one is also affected by COVID-induced lockdown





144 two-wheelers, was given to M/s Nonu Ram and Sons on February 12, 2020, but the work is yet to start. The parking lot will have five storeys and three basements.

### Legal problem

However, the most ambitious of the three, one at Kaman Sarai, has landed in a legal soup over the demolition of shops and some houses forming the facade of the parking lot with the capacity to hold 1,000 fourwheelers and 195 two-wheelers.

The shopkeepers, around a dozen in number, and a family of seven brothers, claiming to be staying on the land for around a century, moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court last year over the matter and the court has directed the municipal commissioner to give them a hearing. Naresh Chawla, one of the

shopkeepers, said that they had held meetings with the previous and incumbent municipal commissioners, but there was no solution in

"We have been running these shops since 1960s and provided the proof to the commissioner. It is about our livelihood. We are only a dozen shopkeepers. We have demanded that the municipal corporation allot us shops in the front in the upcoming parking lot-cum-commercial complex," said Mr. Chawla.

Raj Kumar Chawariya, the eldest of the seven brothers, claimed they had won against the Haryana Urban Development Authority and the Department of Town and Country Planning trying to displace them from their houses.

### Only on condition

"The corporation came into being in 2007, but we have been staying here since 1925. We also own seven shops. We are ready to vacate the land, if the government offers us houses in return," said Mr. Chawariya, lying in a cot in his house recovering from an illness. The local unit of the Congress also owns an office on the site.

Meanwhile, the proposed site at Kaman Sarai dug up by the municipal corporation has turned into a pond inundated with rainwater attracting pigs and strays and is a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases in the monsoon season

# 2 held for threatening to attack JNU on I-Day

They had uploaded a video on Facebook

NEW DELHI

Two men were arrested on Sunday for allegedly threatening to attack Jawaharlal Nehru University on Independence Day. They had uploaded a video on Facebook, the police said.

The accused have been identified as Vikas Sehrawat (30), who can be heard making the threatening statement in the alleged inflammatory video, and Raja Kumar, both residents of Ut-

According to the police, Sehrawat was arrested earlier for allegedly threatening and using foul language on senior Delhi Congress leader and former MLA Alka Lamba in a video.

## VHP association

He told police that he has been associated with the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) since 2018. The police, however, said they are verifying his credentials.

Sehrawat has no association with JNU and made the video to seek attention, the police said. Kumar is the owner of the phone from which the video was uploaded.

"We received a PCR call from a JNU student on Sunday at 1.51 a.m. at Vasant Kunj (North) police station stating that a video has been uploaded on Facebook page 'Mahakal Youth Brigade' alleging that the university would be attacked," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh said.

After receiving the call, police personnel were deployed in plain clothes at all gates. A few other calls were also received in this regard,

the police said. "The students came to the police station and filed a complaint. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students'

The campus is safe.

We celebrated the 75th Independence Day today [Sunday]. There is absolutely nothing to fear

M. JAGADESH KUMAR

Union (JNUSU) office-bearers wrote a similar complaint where they alleged that the video promotes disharmony and enmity, using inflammatory language and also openly issuing threats of physical hurt," the DCP

said. Later in the day, JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar said the campus was safe and there was nothing

"The campus is safe. We celebrated the 75th Independence Day today [Sunday]. There is absolutely

nothing to fear," he said. Whenever such things happen, security is ramped up, the V-C said. "I myself went around the campus to see the situation and everything is normal," he

added.

In its police complaint, the JNUSU said an "open call to gather and march into the JNU campus on August 15 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., to hoist the saffron flag" was given in the videos.

A case registered against the threat video under sections of the Indian Penal Code, the police said, adding that an investigation is under way.

### Last year's violence

On January 5 last year, a mob of masked miscreants had stormed the campus and targeted students.

While clamour grew for the V-C's removal after the incident, the Delhi police faced criticism for inaction when the mob was running riot on the campus.

A ND-NDE



SITES CONDUCTING INOCULATION

59,73,243 35,13,886 20,32,931

Government

**VACCINE TYPE** 

Covishield

87,53,894

**VACCINATION BY AGE** 

Private Total

Sputnik V 49,790

### Timings **DELHI**

MONDAY,	AUG. 16	
RISE	05:52	SET 19:00
RISE	13:33	SET 00:00

TUESDAY, AUG. 17 RISE 05:52 SET 18:59 RISE 14:40 SET 00:18

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 18 RISE 05:53 SET 18:58

RISE 15:46 SET 01:10 max min

Delhi City Safdarjang **Delhi Palam Today** 

37°C Dry and warm weather would continue with occasional partly cloudy sky and light

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 38°C Another warm day with partly cloudy sky and light

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# CM stresses on Deshbhakti, yoga in I-Day speech

Kejriwal says govt. working towards fulfilling budget promises to make Delhi a modern and world-class city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

During the Independence Day celebrations at the Delhi Secretariat on Sunday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal India's freedom thanked fighters, the bravehearts who kept the freedom intact for 74 years and the doctors, nurses, and paramedics who put their lives at stake to serve the people of this during country pandemic.

Also, Mr. Kejriwal announced a host of measures, including the introduction of Deshbhakti curriculum in government schools, making yoga a mass movement, innovation in governance and shared a vision for Delhi's future in his address.

"As we celebrate the 75th Independence Day, should also prepare for the Delhi we want to see on the 100th Independence Day. I seek a pledge from all the people of Delhi that together we will make it the most liveable city all over, and from all the people of the country



CM Arvind Kejriwal unfurls the Tricolour to mark the 75th I-Day celebrations on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

...we extended the same policy to doctors and front-line workers and are providing a Samman Rashi of ₹1 crore

that we will make India the number one country in the world," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that the government was working towards the promises made in the budget presented in March, which was to make the per capita income of Delhi equal

any rote-learning involved. It be activity-based, through which, emotions will be developed among children. They will be told the history of this country and its bravehearts and made to realise their duty towards this country. This curriculum will train children to contribute to the development of the nation and also make sacrifices for the country in times of need," Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that "if we are able to guide the kids to the right path today, we will be able to ensure a bright future for our country.'

country. "This won't have

Yoga classes from Oct. 2 He said the Delhi government is going to start yoga classes all over the city from October 2. Mr. Kejriwal added that preparations need to be made to start winning 70 medals at the Olympic games and that the newly established Delhi Sports University would help to identify and nurture talent to achieve the goal.

Speaking about the pandemic, Mr. Kejriwal expressed his gratitude to the medical fraternity and said the Delhi government did not consider their duty to be any way less than that of a soldier.

"The Delhi government maintains a policy of providing a Samman Rashi of ₹1 crore in case a soldier martyrs on duty; we extended the same policy to doctors and front-line workers and are providing a Samman Rashi of ₹1 crore to all such doctors, nurses, paramedics and front-line workers who martyred on duty, he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said because of the dedication of the people. Delhi has become a laboratory of finding new ways of governance and the digitisation of the transport office that happened last week will be extended to all other departments.

"Delhi has given a model to the country. I hope this model of governance can be implemented all over the country," Mr. Kejriwal said.

# \*TILL 8 P.M. ON AUGUST 15 | SOURCE: COWIN.GOV Govt. to reserve 70% vaccination slots for first dose recipients

City sees 53 new cases in past 24 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TOTAL VACCINATION DOSES 1,15,20,060\*

VACCINATION -

Male 66,20,104

Female 48,97,348

DOSE 2

32,66,945

To ensure more people get vaccinated, the Delhi government on Sunday said it will be reserving 70% of vaccination slots of Covishield and Covaxin at State-run facilities for those receiving the first dose.

"First dose proportion of Covishield may be increased from 40% to 70% of the total slots being created. The first dose proportion of Covaxin may be increased from 50% to 70%...," the order said.

It added that private CO-VID vaccination centres can continue to administer both doses of the vaccines but are advised to factor in-stock availability for the second dose while planning and publishing the slots for the two

According to the vaccination bulletin, the Capital has 2,85,550 doses of Covixin and 4,57,230 doses of Covishield available, which is enough to last for six days.

The health bulletin released on August 15 said 1,57,709 beneficiaries were vaccinated in 24 hours, of which 90,210 were given the first dose. The total number vaccinated so far stands at 1,14,99,675, of which 32,64,684 have received both doses.

The bulletin added that 53 positive cases and zero deaths were recorded in the city in 24 hours. A total of 65,007 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 0.08%. There are 513 active cases in the city out of which 169 are under home

# DSEU to give on-the-job training to its students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) on Sunday announced that it has introduced Graduate Apprenticeship Programmes in three of its degree courses that will provide students with an opportunity to earn while

they learn on the job. The three courses where apprenticeship embedded programmes will be offered are BBA Retail Management, BMS Land Transportation, and BMS E-Commerce Oper ations. DSEU Vice-Chancellor Neharika Vohra said the programme is a step towards ensuring our students gain relevant and adequate exposure as per the requirement of the industry.

"Under the programme, students will undergo onthe-job training [OJT] while applying classroom-based learning during the threeyear degree course. The cur-

shall run in a hybrid model with requisite academic portions aligned as per the UGC credit system for degree programmes. This way students will be granted credits for the training and + work experience in the real work environment," Ms. Vohra said. The university said dur-

riculum for these courses

ing the 3-year degree programme BBA in Retail Management, the students will undergo a 21-month long apprenticeship period. Similarly, in BMS Land Transpor tation and e-Commerce Operations, the students will be exposed to the industry during the first two years via internships, live projects, and field visits, and in the third year of the programme, a yearlong apprenticeship will be

uates in the course. Admissions for the first academic session of the skill varsity are currently open.

Liquor addict

murdered in

Ghaziabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Police here have arrested

the operator of a drug de-

addiction centre for the

murder of a liquor addict,

an official said on Sunday.

at the defence colony near

Bhopura, where Bharat

Bhushan, also called Shan-

ky, a resident of Sadar Ba-

zar in Delhi, was admitted

by his father Prem Chand

on July 18. The operator of

the centre, Saurabh Tyagi,

killed Shanky in a fit of rage

after he demanded liquor.

The centre is being run

GHAZIABAD

offered to all undergrad-

# Sisodia inaugurates archival exhibition on freedom struggle

'It showcases the great fight put up by the freedom fighters'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

An archival exhibition on the freedom struggle in Delhi was inaugurated at the Secretariat as part of programmes to celebrate India's 75th year of Independence. Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia inaugurated the exhibition, which has been put together by the General Administration Department in collaboration with the Department of Delhi Archives, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. He said: "The exhibition is a showcase of the vibrant history Delhi has, and the great fight put up by our freedom fighters for an independent India. The path to



Manish Sisodia at the event in Delhi Secretariat on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

peace and non-violence enshrined by Mahatma Gandhi will continue to be a great learning for all of us for

The exhibition showcased events of India's freedom struggle in Delhi starting from the first war of Independence in 1857 up to 1947. The displays take visitors on a journey from the genesis of the freedom struggle in Delhi and the rising dislike for the East India Company's rule. The exhibition displays the history of Delhi, showcasing the works of freedom fighters, especially Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for peace and non-violence.

The visuals showcase the role played by teachers, students and women from Delhi in the freedom struggle and the religious unity during the period. It also showcases how students from St. Stephen's College, Hindu College and Indraprastha Girls College were a part of

# Colours of India

to Singapore and every per-

son will have a high standard

of living. The other promise,

he said, was to make Delhi

modern with world-class in-

frastructure and public ser-

vices so that it can bid to host

which will be taught in all

Delhi government schools

from September 27, the birth

anniversary of Shaheed-e-

Azam Bhagat Singh, Mr. Kej-

riwal said the curriculum is

designed to motivate chil-

dren to take pride in the

about the

Curriculum,

the 2048 Olympic games.

Speaking

Deshbhakti



An illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan to mark the 75th Independence Day in New Delhi on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

# Minor girl among two dead as fire breaks out at hotel in Dwarka



A police team outside the hotel in Dwarka where a fire broke out on Sunday morning. • v.v. KRISHNAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Two persons died after a fire broke out at a hotel here on Sunday, police said. The incident took place in south-west Delhi's Dwarka around 7.30 a.m., they said, adding one of the deceased has been identified as Deepak, a resident of Bagdola in Sector-8, Dwarka.

Police refused to reveal the identity of the minor girl, who lost her life in the tragedy.

We received information regarding the blaze in the four-storey hotel building at 7.40 a.m. and eight fire tenders were rushed to the spot," said Atul Garg, Director of Delhi Fire Service.

According to police, the building is owned by Sidharth and Karuna from Ranchi but the hotel was being run by Sunil Gupta, who further sublet it to Harshit from Dashrath Puri.

"When our team reached

the spot, no hotel staff was found there. Subsequently, FSL and crime team were also called to the spot. After extinguishing the fire, two bodies including that of a woman were found on a staircase. Both the bodies were shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital," a senior pol-

ice officer said. During an inquiry, it was found that the same hotel had been prosecuted under relevant sections of the Delhi

Police Act twice earlier and a case was also registered against it under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the officer said.

Lokesh (21), an eyewitness, told police that there was a short circuit around midnight and the power came back around half-anhour later.

A case was registered against the hotel.

# Young athletes inspired by India's show at Olympics

Encouraged by the record medal haul, more youngsters are now hitting the training ground running

ADARSH TRIPATHI

After India's best-ever medal haul in the Olympics, there is a buzz around the local training grounds. There is renewed energy and motivation among the youth.

At a stadium in Gurugram, the brisk morning air has an edge to it, and every athlete is striving to live the Olympics motto - 'Citius, Altius, Fortius'. "A lot of children that come here to train are like mausami mendhak (fair-weather frogs). They will train as long as they are in their comfort zone, but when the going gets tough, they disappear.", Akhil Kumar, boxing coach at the Nehru Stadium in Gurugram said about the young athletes that he trains. The ones that remain, he went on, are like rough diamonds.

Boxing as a sport gained immense popularity in India after Vijender Singh's historic bronze medal at the



Athletes maintaining fitness at the Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi. • R.V. MOORTHY

2008 Beijing Olympics. Sahil Bansal, now a State level boxer, is one such athlete. "Do I want to go to the Olympics someday? Woh toh jaana hi hai!! [That is the objective!]," he says. As the talk turns to the Olympics, he says that he really enjoyed watching the games, even though his favourite boxer, Amit Panghal did not win a

For others like Aditya Chauhan, a State-level table tennis player, India's performance at the Olympics was a source of inspiration. Despite both Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra exiting the games in the third round, the performances were extremely encouraging. "Sharath Kamal's match

versus Ma Long, the third

best player in the world, was

one of the best games of the Olympics for me," Mr. Aditya says.

**Shift in mentality** Coaches say that the shift in mentality of young athletes is extremely heartening, as they are no longer content with just being at the Olympics. The objective now is to win medals.

The pandemic affected

Olympics as well, particularly in gymnastics. "It [our performance in the Olympics] was good, but not that good for gymnasts," said Kanika Chaudhary, a 12-year-old national level gymnast. "It was really difficult to practice alone at home with lack of proper equipment, and the most we could really do was maintain our fitness levels as much as possible. Our coaches sent us training routines and diet charts on WhatsApp to help us during the lockdown."

Taking up challenges As the threat of the third wave of the pandemic looms large over the country, young athletes are ready to take the challenges head on. Coaches and trainers have adopted technology, be it through Zoom training sessions or WhatsApp conversations to train athletes so that the fight for international success will continue even if stadiums and facilities are shut.

# Jessica Lall's sister Sabrina passes away

She was the one who fought legal battle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Sabrina Lall who had fought a long battle to bring the killers of her sister Jessica Lall to book passed away on Sunday evening, her brother said.

Sabrina, in her early fifties, was ailing for long and was suffering from cirrhosis of the liver. "She was not keeping well and had been in and out of hospital. Yesterday [Saturday], her condition deteriorated at home and we took her to hospital. Today, in the evening, she passed away," her brother Ranjith Lall said.

Last year, in an interview, Sabrina had spoken about her plans to start a foundation in memory of her sister to aid women in similar situations to get justice.

Jessica Lall was murdered in 1999 at a upscale restaurant in the national capital.

Calling Jessica her closest friend, Sabrina had said she missed her sister's presence in her life every day.



She was not keeping well and had been in and out of hospital. On Saturday, her condition deteriorated and we took her to hospital. Today she passed away

RANJITH LALL

"She was jovial and positive in life. It is not just birthdays and death anniversaries that I miss her, it is every day. I have lots of pictures of hers in my home and not that I need them to miss her, but they are there to remind me of her," Sabrina said.



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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 194 This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel @Thehindu000

India's tryst with the

# More tickets to the youth in polls: Sidhu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu on Sunday said during the upcoming Assembly polls, youths will be given more tickets than they got during the last

Mr. Sidhu also trained guns at the previous SAD-BJP regime accusing them of 'patronising' mafias in Punjab. Without naming anyone, he also took potshots at the AAP, claiming that they were after him to join their party.

Mr. Sidhu was addressing the Youth Congress workers at the Congress Bhawan here. A march was also taken out by the Youth Congress workers on the occasion of the Independence Day. He promised youths that he would honour the merit and added that he wanted vouths to get opportunities.

# Won't tolerate any aggression from Pak., says Amarinder Singh

47 Pakistani terrorist modules and 347 modules of gangsters busted: Punjab CM

nation".

deportation.

Capt. Singh said since his

government took charge, 47

Pakistani terrorist modules

and 347 modules of gang-

sters have been busted.

Some key gangsters have

been deported from Arme-

nia, the UAE and other coun-

tries while more are awaiting

In his address, the Chief

Minister also spoke about

the legal efforts made by his

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday vowed to protect the State against the "nefarious designs" of Pakistan and said "we want peace but will not tolerate any aggression or attack on our territory".

Any threat to Punjab will mean danger to entire India,

Addressing the people of Punjab after unfurling the Tricolour here on the occasion of the country's 75th Independence Day, Capt. Singh also pledged to continue fighting with the farmers for the repeal of the Centre's farm laws.

Calling for extreme vigil against Pakistan, he said, "We want peace but will not tolerate any aggression or at-



tack on our territory. We will teach them (Pakistan) the lesson of their lifetime if they try to be adventurous."

On the use of drones by Pakistan to smuggle arms and drugs into Punjab, Capt. Singh warned that Pakistan will not let go of any opportunity to take advantage of of the State's

Stressing the need to enlege cases back from the sure peace in the State to promote the development of Central Bureau of Investigaindustry and the progress of tion. Since taking over the its people, he said his gocases from the CBI, the Punvernment will not tolerate jab police has filed chargeshany threat, including those eets in four of these cases from gangsters and terroagainst 23 people, 15 police rists. "We will deal with personnel have been suspended, 10 people have them squarely," he said, adding "any threat to Punjab been arrested and 10 chalwill be a danger to our entire lans presented, he said.

### Farm laws

Later, during an informal interaction with mediapersons on the sidelines of the Independence Day function, Capt. Singh expressed concern about the continuing farmers' agitation against the Centre's agricultural laws. He said he raised the issue recently in his meetings with the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister.

# Assam employees to get an extra week's leave annually

CM announces 'geriatric care' leave as I-Day bonus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Assam government has decided to grant an extra week's leave to its employees every year to spend time with their elderly parents. The special leave will come with a condition - the employees cannot use it for any other purpose.

Announcing the "geriatric care" leave as an Independence Day bonus, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the employees can avail the leave at any given time. "I understand that we need to work hard to run the family but can't the government employees spend seven days with their aged parents? The government will grant the leave," he said in his I-Day speech on Sunday

"We have to resolve that we won't keep our parents



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma presenting a certificate to a NCC cadre in Guwahati on Sunday. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

in old age homes. In the Indian ethos, nothing is more disturbing and shameful than to see elderly parents in old age homes," he said.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the traders to take a week's break from business and to accompany their parents on pilgrimag-

The proposal for leave came a week after the government linked geriatric care to the employees' pay by pushing through the Assam Employees' Parent Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring Amendment Bill. This will make it mandatory for the employees to take care of their parents or face deduction from their pay that would be used for their pa-

# Farmers hold 'Tiranga Yatra'

Tricolour-mounted tractors, bikes march across Haryana

GURUGRAM

A large number of farmers, including women, took out processions across Haryana riding tractors, motorcycles and on foot holding Tricolours to observe the 75th Independence Day as "Kisan Mazdoor Azadi Sangram Diwas" on the call of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha. In most of the places, however, the processions were held as "Tiran-

Convoys of tractor-trollies full of men, women, youth and children and bikes mounting national flags took out marches across the State and hoisted the Tricolour at various places including toll plaza protest sites. At four sub-divisions in Jind, hundreds of vehicles, mostly tractors, took out "Tiranga Yatra" along all the main roads. Five places witnessed processions Bhiwani.

Led by khap leaders, farm-



Farmers during the 'Tiranga Yatra' in Haryana on Sunday.

ers took out "Tiranga Yatra" in Charkhi Dadri. Holding Tricolours, the farmers walked through the roads of the district raising slogans. Several tractors with Tricolours tied in their front were also part of the procession causing a traffic jam like situation. Addressing the farmers at Kitlana toll plaza on the conclusion of the procession, Dadri Independent MLA and Sangwan khap president Sombir Sangwan said farmers and their soldier sons and daughters were the true guards of Tricolour.

Taking a dig at the BJP's State-wide "Tiranga Yatra", farmer leader Raju Maan said it was aimed at creating differences between the communities, but the farmers' yatra had lent strength to brotherhood. In Yamunanagar, a huge procession was taken out. A massive show of strength was on display in Hisar with 2,000 tractors and unaccounted bikes, said an SKM statement, adding that there were celebrations in Palwal, Sirsa, Gurugram, Panipat and Karnal, besides at Singhu and Tikri borders.

# In Mahatma's footsteps



Bhubaneswar on Sunday. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

# **Boulders** block highway in Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Manali-Leh highway in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district was blocked on Sunday after boulders came tumbling down the mountainside, a State disaster management official said.

Disaster Management Director Sudesh Kumar Mokhta said according to the information received from the Lahaul-Spiti District Emergency Operation Centre, boulders came down near Killing Sarai in Lahaul valley, blocking the Manali-Leh National Highway-3. A team of the Border Roads Organisation has been deployed, he said.

# Health card to bear treatment cost in Odisha

The Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana will enable each family to get up to ₹5 lakh p.a.

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday said Odisha would provide smart health cards to 3.5 crore people in the State under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), which would enable each family to get treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per an-

Odisha is said to be the first State to provide such smart health cards.

Addressing the State-level 75th Independence Day celebrations here, Mr. Patnaik said, "All the people of Odisha are my family. The news of people selling land, jewellery or stopping sending children to school to manage their treatment costs pains

ROC/2021/2022/1583

me. Therefore, I decided that people should get hassle-free quality treatment at best available health care facilities.'

The BSKY was redesigned to provide smart health cards to people that would work as a debit cards for a certain amount, he said.

According to the relaunched BSKY, each family can avail treatment cost up to ₹5 lakh per annum while women members can avail this benefit up to ₹10 lakh every year. The health scheme is meant for 3.5 crore people in 96 lakh families.

Stating that the initiative would transform health service delivery system, Mr. Patnaik said the beneficiaries could avail services in more

than 200 hospital chains of the country, including Odisha. "This card will be given to all the beneficiaries phase wise. Beneficiaries of national and State food security schemes, Annapurna and Antodaya, will get this card," said Mr. Patnaik.

**Hockey medal** 

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the Indian men's hockey team winning a medal at the Olympics after a gap of 40 years. Stating that investment in youth was an investment in the future, he assured all help would be extended to make the team the best again in the world.

Under 5T (team work, technology, transparency, transformation and time li-

mit) action plan, 1,072 schools had been transformed in the first phase, said Mr. Patnaik. Similarly, more than 5,00,000 alumni had come forward to develop 32,000 schools under 'Mo School' campaign.

Describing COVID-19 as the biggest health crisis in the world history, the Chief Minister hoped that the human race would surely succeed in tackling the pandemic. He said Odisha was proud of helping in saving a lot of precious lives by supplying medical oxygen to 17 States for two months

There has been no untoward incident reported during the Independence Day celebrations in the left wing extremism-affected districts.

# Sikkim relaxes COVID curbs to attract tourists

Shops, businesses allowed to remain open till 8 p.m.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Sikkim government on Sunday relaxed the COVIDrelated restrictions, allowing tourists who have got one dose of vaccination to enter the State, officials

The government also allowed shops, commercial establishments and other businesses to remain open till 8 p.m., instead of 5 p.m., they said.

The government also exempted tourist vehicles and two-wheelers from the oddeven scheme.

Private vehicles and taxis ferrying locals will have to comply with the odd-even regulation, officials said.

**RT-PCR** test

However, those who are coming to the State with a single-dose vaccination will have to produce a COVID negative certificate of RT-PCR test conducted within 72 hours, they said.

Those who have taken both doses would not need any test certificate, they added. Those below 18 years will

have to show COVID-negative certificate of RT-PCR test, officials said.

The government also allowed casinos in hotels for in-house customers.

# Centre too stubborn, says Gehlot

rents' welfare.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday accused the Centre of being too stubborn to heed anyone else, including the Opposition. Counselling the Centre to shun the 'arrogance' "which does not last in politics", Mr. Gehlot said people will teach it a lesson at an appropriate

"There is a place for dissent in a democracy. When they were in the Opposition, they criticised us," Mr. Gehlot said after hoisting the Tricolour on the Independence Day here. "They are such people who are determined to rule the country stubbornly without bothering to hear anyone," he added.

The remark prompted State BJP president Satish Poonia to take a dig at Mr. Gehlot and other Congress leaders. "Mr. Gehlot is the first Chief Minister who proudly says he did not venture out of his home during the nandemic " he said. Referring to the next Assembly elections, he said, in 2023, the people of Rajasthan will "quarantine" Congress out of power.

Earlier during the day, I-Day was celebrated with much fervour with the Chief Minister hoisting the flag at Jaipur's Sawai Man Singh Stadium and inspecting the guard of honour.

While talking to reporters, Mr. Gehlot also accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being the "sole PM in the last 75 years who hesitates in taking the name of Jawaharlal Nehru". He also accused the Centre of keeping various institutions democratic and investigative agenciesunder its pressure and misusing them for political purposes.

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Sd/-(D. B. Bagul) **Executive Engineer,** P.W. (Tribal) Division, Dhule

# Assam villagers tell wetland's tragic tale through photos

Rural guards honoured with artwork depicting elephants negotiating a killer railway track

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

About six years ago, dairy farmer Pramod Kalita felt he needed to document the deterioration of the wetland that sustained his forefathers and ensured ample food for herds of elephants that would troop past his village Chakardeo.

His informal group of 25 members pooled money for three digital single-lens reflex cameras and went about clicking the elephants, trees, birds, boats, a massive garbage dump and warehouses and a "killer railway track skirting Deepor Beel, a freshwater lake on the south-western edge of Guwahati".

Designated a Ramsar Site in 2002 and an Important Bird Area for sustaining a range of aquatic life forms besides 219 species of birds, the beel has shrunk 35% since the 1990s. Its official area



for green activism. • RAHUL KARMAKAR

now is 4,014 hectares of 15.5 square miles.

As India marked the 75th I-Day on Sunday, a row of trees separating the southern edge of Deepor Beel from a road turned into a photo exhibition gallery. A few feel-good pictures aside, the show told the tragic tale of a once-rich and much larger wetland.

"Fewer elephants come to the

ago because the wetland has lost or is losing at least five aquatic plants and reeds the animals gorged on. The number of fishermen has come down from 850 to some 100 because the water is contaminated," Mr. Kalita said. To make things worse, picnic

wetland than two-three decades

spots, snacks shops and eateries along the road have contributed to the littering of the wetland. Five green groups - Midway Journey, Earthful Foundation. Fridays for Future, Climate Front

India, North East Development Agency and Xondhan - got together to clear and segregate the trash around the photo exhibition 'gallery' on Sunday. They honoured some "haati bondhus" (friends of elephants),

elderly residents of villages in the vicinity, who keep a watch on the pachyderms during their movement between the elevated Rani Reserve Forest and Deepor Beel. Romila Boro, Hareswar Tu-

mung and Bijoy Rabha were each given a framed artwork depicting elephants negotiating the killer track. "The drawings were by chil-

dren of an institute," said Bijoyinee Sarma of Earthful Founda-



# We won't back off from Fulfil ideals of founding Mekedatu: Bommai

Will utilise Cauvery Tribunal allocation, says Karnataka CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Sunday that Karnataka would implement the Mekedatu drinking water project despite opposition from neighbouring States.

"The State government is awaiting the approval of the Centre on the Detailed Project Report on the Mekedatu drinking water project to utilise the additional water allocated by the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Supreme Court," he said in his Independence Day address after hoisting the Tricolour here. "We will implement the Mekedatu project despite opposition from the neighbouring States. Our government will not back off from this project, which is necessary for drinking water and power generation."



Basavaraj Bommai arriving to flag off a cycle rally during the Independence Day celebrations in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

The State has resolved to make the efficient use of river water allocated to Karnataka by faster implementation of irrigation projects, Mr Bommai said. He, however, said the State was committed to having a cordial relationship with neighbours under the federal system based on the Constitution.

"Our commitment to the protection of land, water, language, and culture of our State is unquestionable. We will take all steps under the law to use our rightful share of water." He added that the government was capable of protecting Kannada, Kannadigas, and the pride of

# fathers, says Pinarayi

'Constitutional bodies must work in line with principles'

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Urging the nation to introspect on whether it has remained faithful to its founding ideals, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the country could achieve independence in the truest sense only when parliamentary democracy and Constitutional bodies functioned in line with their fundamental principles.

The nation must also remain steadfast to the dream of its founding leaders to progress as a secular, socialist and pluralistic society, he said in his address after unfurling the national flag during the 75th Independence Day celebrations at the Central Stadium on Sunday.

'Ecology an investment' The Chief Minister also used the opportunity to lay stress



Pinarayi Vijayan inspecting the guard of honour at the Independence Day parade in Thiruvananthapuram.

on environmental protection. Pointing out that biodiversity conservation was equally important as national security, he emphasised on the need to consider ecology as an investment for the

The greatest challenge

faced in environmental conservation is carbon emission from industries and vehicles. Considering the various hazards including climate change and pollution, the State government has focused its efforts on achieving carbon neutrality. Priority was being ensured to protect nature even while undertaking developmental initiatives, Mr. Vijayan said.

Pointing out that the platinum jubilee of the country's Independence coincided with the 25th anniversary of the People's Plan campaign in the State, the Chief Minister said Kerala had succeeded to a great extent in ensuring public participation in governance.

After delivering his address, Mr. Vijavan interacted with some of the COVID-19 front line warriors who were invited to the event.

# RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

				•			
Agartala		33.8	27.4	Kozhikode	8.1	31.0	23.4
Ahmedabad.		34.8	25.7	Kurnool		32.6	24.2
Aizawl		28.1	–	Lucknow		36.5	27.8
Allahabad		–	–	Madurai		36.0	26.2
Bengaluru		28.0	20.0	Mangaluru	16.6	23.8	24.4
Bhopal		31.6	21.9	Mumbai	24.6	28.1	23.6
Bhubaneswai	r	33.9	25.2	Mysuru		26.9	22.0
Chandigarh .		35.6	26.8	New Delhi		37.0	27.0
Chennai		32.6	27.7	Patna		–	
Coimbatore.		31.3	21.6	Port Blair	7.0	29.2	24.1
Dehradun		–	–	Puducherry	20.4	34.4	22.3
Gangtok	2.3	20.5	17.8	Pune	5.2	25.9	20.7
Goa		31.1	25.6	Raipur		32.5	26.2
Guwahati	0.3	33.0	25.4	Ranchi	56.6	31.2	22.7
Hubballi		–	–	Shillong	19.8	24.6	19.3
Hyderabad	0.2	32.6	23.6	Shimla	38.5	25.0	15.5
Imphal		29.1	22.0	Srinagar		29.7	15.8
Jaipur		–	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram.		31.8	24.3
Kochi	7.0	29.6	24.0	Tiruchi	0.4	35.4	25.8
Kohima		25.2	18.0	Vijayawada		–	
Kolkata	1.9	35.0	27.7	Visakhapatnam	0.1	34.0	27.6

### (Rainfall data in mm: temperature in Celsius)

## ....23 ..- .52 .36 ..141 .202 ....10 ...23

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

# Surendran booked for 'disrespecting' Tricolour

He hoisted it upside down for a few feet

STAFF REPORTER THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The police have booked Kerala BJP president K.

Surendran for allegedly disrespecting the national flag. During the Independence Day cele-

brations organised at the party's State committee office here on Sunday, Mr. Surendran hoisted the flag upside down for a few feet before

ing it down and hoisting it Following a complaint,

realising the folly and pull-

the police registered a case against him under the provisions of the Prevention of In-

sults to National Honour Act, 1971, that prohibits desecration of or insult to the country's national symbols.

Meanwhile, the Youth Congress sub-

mitted a complaint before the Cantonment police against the hoisting of the national flag close to the CPI(M) party flag at its headquarters, AKG Centre, here. The police are yet to register

# Karnataka to launch 13 Amrit schemes Prosperity of entire State is our

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

govt.'s aim: CM

BENGALURU

To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Indian Independence, the Karnataka government will launch a slew of special programmes in rural and urban development, health, sports, farming and social sectors, estimated to cost the exchequer over ₹720 crore.

Announcing this in his Independence Day address here, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai listed 13 special Amrith (Platinum Jubilee) programmes to be taken up by the government to mark the occasion and remarked that building of Nava (new) Karnataka had commenced.

Mr. Bommai, who out-

lined the measures initiated in the State, said prosperity of entire Karnataka was the priority of the government. "The growth of only Bengaluru is not enough. The tier-II cities too have to grow and the pace of growth seen in Bengaluru should resonate in district centres too. Regional imbalance should diminish. Therefore, the government will focus on not only mega projects, but also

mini projects." Acknowledging that he had a short tenure of 20 months before the elections, Growth of only Bengaluru is not enough. Tier two cities have to grow. Regional imbalance should diminish

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI

Mr. Bommai said that both long and short term plans would be set and development should centre around people. "Development is not only about figures. Every person's life should improve. In this regard, the Sakala programme will strengthened."

The 13 special programmes announced on Sunday are Amrith Gram Panchayat, Amrith Rural tions, Amrith Nirmala Naga-Amrith Anganwadi Centres, Amrith Self Help Micro Enterprises, Amrith Community Development programme, Amrith Health Infrastructure Upgradation programme, Amrith Skill Training programme, Amrith Startup programme and Amrith sports adoption programme.

Housing scheme, Amrith

Farmer Producer Organisa-

Besides, the State will take up Amrith Mahotsava Nagorothana as part of the third phase of Chief Minister's Navanagarothana project in the future. "We aim to upgrade the urban infrastructure in accordance with the increasing population," he said.

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THE HINDU

# EDUCATION PLUS

Language for SOCIAL **CHANGE** Why integrating global issues into English Language Teaching and going beyond the textbook is becoming increasingly

ALBERT P' RAYAN

important

Some actors use the medium to create awareness about social issues and make viewers think. Similarly, teachers too have a social responsibility. They teach not only a particular subject assigned to them, but also enable students to think and act.

# Versatile roles

There have been debates on whether English language teachers (ELTs) should teach only the language and thus enable students to become proficient in it, or whether they have a greater role to play – should teachers discuss real-world issues and help students become aware of what is happening around them? Should ELTs enable students to become

critical thinkers and, thus, agents of social change?Is it important to include various social and global issues in ELT? A few years ago, I found an

interesting article about human rights violation and thought that it would serve as a useful resource in the English classroom. I discussed including it in an English language coursebook with a group of teachers at a workshop. Most felt that it would help develop students' thinking skills and instil a sense of social responsibility.

In the past, English language teachers thought that their role was limited to teaching grammar, pronunciation, poems, essays, short stories, and preparing

**Teachers of English are not** just language instructors: they are educators with a responsibility to future generations

students for exams. The question of discussing real-world issues such as poverty, caste discrimination, human rights, and thus making students think beyond the textbook was never raised or considered important. Most of us who teach English as a second or foreign language now are products of such a pedagogical system. Now, the need is to focus on developing critical thinking skills, instilling a sense of social responsibility and

preparing students for life. The Global Issues Special Interest Group of the International Association of Teachers English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL) "provides a forum among ELT practitioners to stimulate awareness and understanding of global issues to exchange ideas on integrating peace education, human rights education, development education, and environmental education into English language teaching". The Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) also has an SIG called "Global Issues in Language Education" and publishes a regular newsletter.

The resource book, *Integrating* Global Issues in the Creative

English language Classroom: With reference to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, edited by Alan Maley and Nik Peachey covers topics such as poverty, food security, gender equality, climate change, access to justice, and inclusive and sustainable industrialisation. The objectives are to help students develop critical thinking skills and creativity, and increase awareness of various issues and thus help them become real global citizens.

# **Expert views**

Example Sentences
What is your opinion
on pet shops?
Do you Ahink it's crue
or do you don't core at

Recently, I contacted Maley and Peachey to ask about the role of ESL/EFL teachers in promoting global issues? Maley responded, "A growing number of ELT

believe that language teachers are more than just teachers of language. Through what they teach and their attitudes and practices, they have an enduring influence on the future attitudes and personalities of their students. Basically, teachers of English are not just language instructors: they are educators with a responsibility to future generations." Peachey agreed with Maley that "The future belongs to our students and they need to be able to develop their awareness and voice their views on issues, which will have a huge impact on their lives. The global dominance of English as a means of international communication can help students extend the reach of their voice and give them access to broader channels of information".

professionals have come to

Maley also felt that teachers could be role models for students "showing them, through their own actions and behaviours, how important these issues are and how even individuals can have an impact. They can also incorporate activities that involve students thinking critically about the world they live in and the human abuse of it. Given the abundance of material about global issues on the Internet these days, they can also engage students in small research projects using the internet as a resource."

Peachey says that teachers can look for content related to global issues and make students aware of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. "Teachers need to help students understand that they can have a voice in the future of their planet and show them ways that they can get involved in a responsible way."

The author is an ELT resource person, teacher educator and columnist. rayanal@yahoo.co.uk

# SCHOLARSHIPS

### **Nikon Scholarship Programme**

Nikon India Private Limited invites applications to support students from underprivileged sections of the society.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open for students (Class 12 passed onwards) pursuing photography courses of three-month or more. Annual family income should be less than ₹6 lakhs.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Up to ₹1 lakh

DEADLINE: September 01 APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/edge/NSP5 **Keep India Smiling** 

# **Foundational Scholarship**

**Programme** Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving financial aid to students to continue their education and proceed towards a career of their choice.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2020 board exams are eligible to apply for pursuing their higher secondary, three-year graduation, four-year engineering programme, Diploma and, one-year vocational course studies respectively. Annual Family income must be less than ₹5 lakhs per annum.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of up to ₹30,000 per year for up to three years depending on their current level of education.

**DEADLINE: August 31** APPLICATION: Online b4s.in/EDGE/KISSP01

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

# **Memories**

Remembering Partition by involving Pakistan and Bangladesh would have been more apt

rime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement, followed by a gazette notification, to mark August 14 as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" 74 years later has received mixed responses. With about two million killed in the most brutal ways, an estimated 1,00,000 women kidnapped and raped, and more than 15 million men, women and children displaced, Partition, the British Raj's parting shot to India, left an indelible mark in hearts and memories across the subcontinent. For India in particular, that lost its territory and its people to the west and the east, the decision was a painful cleaving that marred much of the joy felt in gaining Independence. The violence that was unleashed by the decision pitted Indians against Indians, Hindus and Sikhs against Muslims, with the worst of the horrors seen in Punjab and Bengal - States that were partitioned in the most mindless and thoughtless display of colonial insensitivity. These stories have remained in public memory, as India consciously chose to set aside its pain and greet Pakistan on its birth, and attempted to carve out a distinct secular identity as it sought to develop itself. The scars were not forgotten, but borne with fortitude and a desire to move on from them. Along the way, the two-nation theory based on religion alone – that Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah fought for so bitterly – disintegrated with the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. Other developments have also helped heal the wounds of Partition, not the least, India's successes over the past three-quarters of a century, including a growing economy, its technological prowess, and as a respected voice on the global stage.

There is no question that a nation cannot know itself without knowing its past, and that the horrors of Partition must be acknowledged, archived, mourned and commemorated. The concern over the naming of the day at this point, however, is that it forces the nation to look back on this traumatic time rather than looking ahead. Given that the trauma was felt not just in India but in three countries, an attempt to mark the day across the subcontinent might have been more inclusive. It is necessary too, to remember not just the violence of 1947 but also the colonial hand that wrought Partition, hold the British Empire to account, and educate successive generations on the perils of imperialism, arbitrary map-making and sowing religious divides in order to rule. The Prime Minister's reasoning, that the nation must be reminded of the "need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment", is welcome, but this is an effort to be practised every day, not just one day in the year.

# Black and white

TN needs to combine pragmatism, political vision while working on its financial health

y bringing out a White Paper on Tamil Nadu's finances, the DMK government has made a good start to right the loss of fiscal discipline. Subsequently, the government, in its maiden Budget, lowered the retail price of petrol by ₹3 a litre. Even though it only partly fulfils one of the DMK's important poll promises, it deserves praise for being implemented at a time of financial stress. That TN's fiscal indicators have not been in great shape, post 2013-14, is well known and even indicated in certain documents of the Union and State governments. The State's perennially loss-making power, water and transport utilities have only aggravated the situation. A serious financial crisis is waiting to unfold unless corrective steps are taken. This is what has been encapsulated in the White Paper, which has rightly identified the decline in the ratios of the State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and overall tax-GSDP as two key areas of concern, in view of the SOTR constituting around twothirds of the State's total revenue receipts. With ballooning revenue and fiscal deficits, the State has become overreliant on debt, estimated to be ₹2,63,976 per family. The White Paper has cited a lack of proper governance as the reason behind most of the problems.

By highlighting the crisis in the water, power and transport sectors, the document has already triggered a question on whether the government will hike taxes and user charges. As it also talks of "profound structural reforms" and "re-orientation of subsidies", it has signalled that the government favours a targeted approach in subsidy provision. The Budget echoes this by spelling out that the proposed scheme of ₹1,000 a month to women heads of families is for "the genuinely poor". But, in a set-up characterised by the tradition of competitive populism and a close relationship between economic decisions and considerations of electoral politics, it remains to be seen how far the new government can pursue such an approach. After having blamed the previous government for the fiscal situation, the government, through the Budget, could have made a beginning in fiscal consolidation. The explanation for not going for it is that the economy is still recovering from the impact of COVID-19. But an increase in a few taxes and expenditure reduction in some areas would have shown that the government means business. As and when the government chooses to increase utility tariffs, it should ensure that such measures are matched by an improvement in service quality and a simplified and reasonable tax structure. This is where Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's re-assurance, in a recent interview to *The Hindu*, assumes significance – of not going back on electoral promises for welfare. A rational approach with a human touch would help improve TN's financial health. The DMK government has time on its side to turn around the fortunes of the State.

# India's fate is tied to the rest of the world

It was through its global interactions that the country defined itself across its history as an independent nation



DHRUVA JAISHANKAR

₹ver since Independence, India's fate has been closely I tied to the rest of the world. In some sense, it had no choice. A large, newly independent, impoverished, and impossibly diverse country required active engagement with a variety of partners for its survival, security, and develop-

But a constantly evolving international environment presented India not just with opportunities but numerous challenges. Its frontiers were initially poorly demarcated and poorly integrated. India came to have two nuclear-armed neighbours with which it competed for territory. Several sources of domestic insecurity benefited from support from neighbouring countries. And India often found itself at odds with the great powers, ploughing a lonely furrow when it felt its greater interests were threatened, as on intervention in Bangladesh, nuclear nonproliferation, or trade.

### An overview

Today, the troubles may seem plenty leading with the raging CO-VID-19 pandemic and its adverse effects on economic growth prospects, especially when coupled with intensifying competition with China and turmoil in Afghanistan. At the same time, India has greater means to tackle them: it is by some measures the sixth largest economy in the world, boasts a welltrained and professional military, and has a growing network of international strategic and economic partners. This brief overview suggests that India's future, too, will remain intertwined with global affairs.

### The long and winding road

security posture even before August 15, 1947. Independence and Partition left behind a messy territorial legacy. India's first leaders opted for flexible and friendly relations with both the U.S. and the Soviet Union and their respective allies. In fact, India initially received the bulk of development and military assistance from the West; it was only from the mid-1950s onwards that the Soviet Union extended support. India also played an activist role in the decolonising world, extending diplomatic and (in some cases) security assistance to independence movements in Asia and Africa and sending military missions to Korea and the Congo.

India's early efforts were arguably successful in consolidating territorial gains, in accelerating economic growth, and in positioning itself in a leadership role in the post-colonial world. But all these efforts suffered following the 1962 war with China. Despite that immense setback, the world came knocking at India's door throughout the 1960s. Pakistani military adventurism picked up, resulting in the 1965 war. The question of Indian nuclear weapons acquired greater urgency following China's test, even as Indian forces pushed back against China in Sikkim in 1967. There were also important economic strides made, including the Green Revolution, undertaken with considerable foreign technical and financial assistance.

The 1970s and the 1980s presented India with a more contained canvas. The Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation and the Bangladesh war altered India's relations with both superpowers and shifted the dynamics of the rivalry with Pakistan. The Indian economy remained relatively closed at a time

India had to adopt a foreign and

when other Asian economies had begun to liberalise. This period saw security challenges come closer to home: the peaceful nuclear explosion, the annexation of Sikkim, competition with Pakistan over Siachen, a stand-off with China, an intervention in Sri Lanka, and a countercoup in the Maldives. Domestic security challenges also assumed an external angle, whether in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, or the North-east. Some efforts at resetting relations with the United States, liberalising the economy, and pursuing the nuclear option were made, but the outcomes were inconclusive.

After the Cold War The post-Cold War era, therefore, presented India with a range of challenges. The 1991 Gulf war resulted in a balance of payments crisis and the liberalisation of the economy. India then adopted a range of reforms to liberalise the economy, but it faced more than just economic turmoil. The assassination of Raiiv Gandhi, the 1993 Mumbai bombings, and the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir presented grave new security challenges. Yet, the period that followed witnessed some important developments under the prime ministership of P.V. Narasimha Rao: the advent of the Look East Policy and relations with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel; the signing of a border peace and tranquility agreement with China; initial mili-

tary contacts with the U.S., and preparations for nuclear tests.

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government built further upon these developments, conducting a series of tests in 1998, negotiating a return to normal relations with most major powers within two years, and concluding an important set of agreements with China in 2003. At the same time, efforts at normalising ties with Pakistan were frustrated by the Kargil war, the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to Kandahar (Afghanistan), and the 2001 attack on India's Parliament. These years also witnessed a rapid growth of the Indian economy, fuelled by a boom in information and communication technology companies, the services sector, and a rising consumer market.

After 2004, the Manmohan Singh government worked extensively to resolve the outstanding question of India's nuclear status. By eliminating barriers to 'dual use' technologies and equipment, as well as a host of associated export controls, India had the opportunity to establish robust defence relations with the U.S. and its allies. Yet, the global financial crisis in 2008-09 presaged a slight change in approach, whereby India sought to partner with China and other rising powers on institutional reform, financial lending, climate change, and sovereignty. Coupled with an economic deceleration after 2011, India's relations with the U.S. and Europe grew more contentious over the next three years

Beginning in 2013, a more assertive China began to test India on the border and undermine Indian interests in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Region. After the second such border crisis in late 2014, a more competitive India-China relationship emerged. With further stand-offs at Doklam and Ladakh between 2017 and 2021, India opted to boycott China's Belt

to Chinese investment, ban some Chinese technology, and consult more closely with other balancing powers in the Indo-Pacific. Security relations and understandings with the U.S. and its allies (Japan, France, Australia) accelerated after 2014. A greater emphasis on neighbourhood connectivity was adopted. While efforts were made to engage with Pakistan between 2014 and 2016, a series of Pakistani provocations resulted in a deep freeze in India-Pakistan relations, further reinforced by the terrorist attacks at Uri and Pulwama and Indian reprisals. Meanwhile, India's relations with West Asian partners assumed greater importance.

### An international India

India's objectives have been broadly consistent: development, regional security, a balance of power, and the shaping of international consensus to be more amenable to Indian interests. At the same time, India's means and the international landscape have changed, as have domestic political factors. This necessitated different approaches to international engagement between 1947 and 1962, between 1971 and 1991, and between 1991 and 2008.

As India enters its 75th year of independence, there are plenty of reasons for cautious optimism about its place in the world. Yet, the ravages of COVID-19 and growing international competition also underscore the difficulties that India will likely face as it attempts to transform into a prosperous middle-income country, a secure polity, and a proactive shaper of international norms. What is certain is that India will not have the luxury to turn inwards. In fact, it was through its global interactions that India defined itself throughout its history as an independent nation.

Dhruva Jaishankar is Executive Director

# Regional identity and being part of the mainstream

The country should be moving toward cooperative federalism, and not coercive federalism



**SIDDARAMAIAH** 

Tstarted my political-administrative career as Chairman of a **■** Kannada watchdog committee after being elected, in 1983, from Chamundeshwari constituency. Fighting for the regional identity of Karnataka has always been a part of my political and personal agenda. The question of regional identity, in the realm of nationalism, has become prominent since 2014. A myopic view of "nationalism" by certain sections needs to be countered effectively to protect our dignity and identity. Modern India is conceptualised on the idea of unity in diversity, and all our actions should be sensitive to pro-

tecting this beautiful idea. It is unfortunate that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has derived its political ideology from Veer Savarkar's Hindutva instead of the supreme Constitution of India. Its politics focuses on centralisation, with special attention to undermining the interests of non-Hindi States. The BJP government is intruding into the economic, political, cultural and educational autonomy of States. Modern India has evolved to be more than just the Union of States. We should be moving toward cooperative federalism and not coercive federalism. The policies of the BJP government are inconsistent with the vision of the Constitution drafting committee with respect to CentreState relations.

### Revenue deficit State Karnataka is one of the States most

harassed by the central government of the day. Karnataka has 5 seen a drain of wealth due to the inconsistent policies of the BJP. From being a revenue surplus State, it is now a revenue deficit State. Karnataka's share of tax devolution has been reduced from 4.72% in the Fourteenth Finance Commission to 3.64% in the Fifteenth Finance Commission due to a skewed preference to the 2011 population. Unfortunately, States such as Karnataka which gave special attention to population control, were and have been penalised severely. Special grants of ₹5,495 crore which were recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission for 2020-21 were denied by the Union Finance Minister. In 2019-20, Karnataka got just ₹30,919 crore as its share of central taxes instead of ₹48,768 crore as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission. In 2020-21, it got just ₹20,053 crore as share of central taxes instead of ₹31,180 crore as recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission. Karnataka contributes more than ₹2.2-lakh crore to central taxes but in return receives less than ₹30,000 crore. If the States get 41% share of the central taxes, Karnataka should have ideally got at least ₹70,000 crore -₹80,000 crore on a pro rata basis for its contribution.

It is a known fact that the South has been subsidising the north. Six States south of the Vindhyas contribute more taxes and get less. For example, for every one rupee



of tax contributed by Uttar Pradesh, that State receives more than ₹1.79. For every one rupee of tax contributed by Karnataka, the State receives less than ₹ 0.47. Karnataka has also been hit by a denial of Goods and Services Tax compensation cess as promised by the central government through the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017. Havng presented 13 Budgets, my heart is saddened to see Karnataka deviating from the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act – thanks to the step motherly treatment by the Narendra Modi-led BJP government.

### **Specific issues**

The problems are more than just the finances of State governments. Many issues of federalism are affecting the identity, social structure and political economy of our State. Our government had requested the central government to include the Karnataka flag in the schedule of the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, based on the recommendations of the committee for the Karnataka flag. It is unfortunate that the central government is still procrastinating over the recommendation without granting formal inclusion. Is the desire of the people of Karnataka to have a flag for their State, to give primacy to the Kannada language and to have greater say in the running of their own lives inconsistent with the objective of building a strong nation?

It is no more a secret that a conspiracy is being hatched by the leaders of certain regions to systematically prevent the selection of non-Hindi candidates to government posts and professional courses. A recent example of this can be seen in the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection notification where the examinations were notified to be conducted only in English and Hindi, thereby depriving lakhs of non-Hindi medium candidates an opportunity to apply. About 407 vacant posts in the notification were to be filled in banks located in Karnataka – this means 407 Kannada medium candidates will lose the chance to work in Karnataka.

### **Centralisation of education**

The National Education Policy is another tool of the BJP to proliferate Hindi in non-Hindi States and to take away the rights of the States by promoting centralisation with respect to education. The policy negates the spirit of the Constitution and is inconsistent with Article 246 of Indian Constitution. Under the new three-language formula, it is consequential for the students from the south Indian States to choose Hindi as the third language. Schools will not have enough resources to arrange for faculty to teach more subjects for third languages, which means Hindi will be the only choice.

It is important to recollect that in 1947. India was a young nation and we needed to be cautious of any divisive or secessionist tendencies. India, therefore, became a Union of States with a strong Centre. When Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel went about integrating the princely States into the Union, a strong Centre did make sense.

# A perspective

Today, over 70 years down the line, we have done admirably well as a nation. The Constitution of India has stood the test of time. We have also learnt useful lessons from turmoil in Tamil Nadu over Hindi language imposition and demands of autonomy from certain States such as Punjab and Assam. From a Union of states, we are evolving into a federation of

Therefore, I do not think the demands for greater federal autonomy and recognition of regional identity are inconsistent with our nation. Karnataka prides itself in its Kannada identity. The oldest written document (in stone) in Kannada found at Halmidi, Hassan district, dates back to the Second century AD. The oldest Kannada Kingdom under the Kadamabas of Banavasi ruled the State during the Fourth century AD. We have been using a red and yellow flag for decades. Yet, Karnataka, as our Poet Laureate Kuvempu said, is the daughter of Bharata, the Indian nation – Jaya Bharatha Jananiya Tanujathe.

Siddaramaiah is Former Chief Minister of Karnataka and Leader of the Opposition

# 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.

### Partition trauma day

Contrary to the avowed objective of reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions. disharmony, and further strengthening the spirit of oneness, the observance of a "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day", on August 14, henceforth coinciding with Pakistan's Independence Day, will do exactly the opposite digging into the wounds of one of the greatest tragedies in human history, with potential to ignite communal passions and

mutual distrust (Page 1, "PM: Aug.14 will be day to recall Partition trauma", August 15). The agenda behind this assiduously thought of decision is not only political but is also dangerously communally divisive. While Mohammed Ali Iinnah and the Muslim League have to bear the major share of the blame for their uncompromising stand on Pakistan, others too in the negotiations cannot escape their responsibility in failing to avert the catastrophe. Should we not put such

tragic events behind us and move forward addressing other more pressing issues affecting the lives of millions, without undermining the sufferings caused by Partition? The Prime Minister needs to demonstrate a certain degree of statesmanship, rising above political instincts for winning elections. S.K. CHOUDHURY,

# A breakdown

It is unfortunate that the Chairman of the Rajya

Sabha broke down in Parliament recently. This cannot be symptomatically analysed as institutional breakdowns, but as constitutional breakdowns which require an immediate remedial solution. Parliament is undoubtedly a constitutional instrument and the government of the day has to function within constitutional parameters whether within or outside Parliament. The situation today is such that people are wondering whether

there is a Parliament at all,

let alone the issue of the new Parliament, as most of the Bills in Parliament are (being) rushed through and passed without any effective debate or discussion merely because there is a majoritarian party. Unless the institutions adhere to constitutional and

democratic principles of debate and discussion with the Opposition, Parliament cannot effectively function. Therefore, the tears are largely the making of the powers that be. N.G.R. PRASAD.

### **CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**

In the story titled "PM's move diversionary, divisive, says Opposition" (August 15, 2021), a quote attributed to CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury was erroneously reproduced as "... to relive the horrors of *Pakistan* to ... passions." It should have been "partition" and not Pakistan.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300;



# On August 15, 1947, where was Bapu?

How Mahatma Gandhi spent his day at the time of India's Independence



While Delhi, the national capital, was being decked up for the grand celebration of Independence and the transfer of power, and Indians geared up to celebrate Independence, where was the man who had helmed the fight for Independence? Where was Bapu?

### In Beliaghata

He was far away, in Calcutta, resolute in his efforts to bring peace and calm to a place that was burning with violence and hatred. The words and actions of Bapu doused the flames.

The historic events bear recounting as India celebrates a landmark anniversary of Independence. The conditions were anything but peaceful then; today, 75 years down the line, conditions are not far from reigniting the fires that burned then. This is then a day to reflect on how far we have travelled. Or have we travelled far?

On the evening of August 6, Bapu boarded the Calcutta Mail at Lahore; it would take him to Patna and then Calcutta from where he planned to leave for Noakhali (now in Bangladesh), where he had promised the minority community that he would shield them when Partition happened and East Bengal became East

Bapu arrived in Calcutta on August 9, 1947. A delegation of Muslims, led by the chief of Calcutta District Muslim League, Mohammad Usman, pleaded with Bapu to remain in Calcutta to ensure the safety of Muslims. Bapu told them he would delay going to Noakhali if they guaranteed the safety and wellbeing of the minority community in Noakhali. If, despite their promise, there was violence in Noakhali, he would go on an unconditional fast unto death.

On August 11, Bapu met with H.S. Suhrawardy, the former Premier of Bengal. Suhrawardy too voiced his concern about the safety of Muslims. Bapu asked him to stand guarantee for the safety of the Hindus in Noakhali if he wished for him to stay back



Gandhi at a prayer meeting at Calcutta Maidan on August 26, 1947 on the occasion of Id-ul-Fitr. • GETTY IMAGES

against the windows, shattering glass

panes and showering Bapu and the

occupants with fragments of glass.

The wooden shutters were hurriedly

closed. Finally, in order to pacify the

mob Bapu stood at a window and

spoke with them. When he felt that

he had calmed the mob, he called

Suhrawardy. Suhrawardy stood next

to Bapu, framed in the window illum-

inated by streetlights, Bapu placed a

hand on Suhrawardy's shoulder;

Suhrawardy unequivocally accepted

responsibility for the Calcutta kill-

ings and expressed his sincere re-

grets for the tragedy he had caused.

This had a profound effect on the

crowd. "It was the turning point," Ba-

occupied by Bapu and his tiny reti-

nue were cleaned. After spinning his

regulation quota of khadi yarn, his

daily bread labour, Bapu lay down to

At midnight on August 14-15, 1947,

Indians rejoiced. India was free. In

the Central Hall of Parliament, in a

grand ceremony, the British relin-

quished power and the interim go-

vernment took charge. India heard

the "tryst with destiny" speech made

by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, which

would be oft-quoted later in India's

history, a testimony to its soul-stir-

ring narrative of what India set out to

achieve. But the man who had made

that tryst possible was fast asleep, on

a thin mattress, in a dilapidated

home, in the densely populated poor

neighbourhood of Beliaghata in Cal-

cutta, oblivious to all the rejoicing

On August 15, 1947, Independence

Day, Bapu woke up at 3:45 a.m. He

and the celebration.

rest; soon he was fast asleep.

It was around 11 when the rooms

pu said. "It had a cleansing effect."

in Calcutta. Suhrawardy promised. Bapu told him, "I will remain if you and I are prepared to live together. We shall have to work till every Hindu and Mussalman in Calcutta safely returns to the place where he was before. We shall continue in our effort till our last breath..."

It was decided that Bapu and Suhrawardy would meet and live in Hyderi Mansion (now preserved as Gandhi Bhawan) in Beliaghata, the dilapidated and abandoned home of a Muslim family, in a densely populated neighbourhood of very poor

Bapu and Suhrawardy were greeted by an angry mob of young Hindu hotheads who were furious with Bapu for coming to the rescue of Muslims. Bapu tried to pacify them, but they persisted; their angry protest continued the next day, too.

Bapu told them, "I am going to put myself under your protection. You are welcome to play the opposite role if you so choose. I have nearly reached the end of my life's journey. I have not much farther to go. But let me tell you that if you again go mad, I will not be a living witness to it. I have given the same ultimatum to the Muslims of Noakhali, too; I have earned the right. Before there is another outbreak of Muslim madness in Noakhali, they will find me

Speaking at the prayer meeting at Beliaghata on the evening of August 14, Bapu invited everyone to observe a 24-hour fast and pray for the wellbeing of India and to spend the day hand-spinning.

After the prayers, Hyderi Mansion was again attacked. Stones crashed followed his usual daily routine. He received several messages of congratulations, but he was not celebrating. He was praying, fasting and spinning khadi. On Independence Day itself, a large crowd gathered around the Governor's mansion in Calcutta and laid siege to it, unmindful that now its occupant was an Indian, C. Rajagopalachari. The newly appointed Governor of Bengal was held hostage in the Raj Bhavan for several hours by Indians on Independence Day. Bapu sent a message to the minis-

ters of the cabinet of West Bengal. He wrote, "From today, you have to wear the crown of thorns. Strive ceaselessly to cultivate truth and non-violence. Be humble. Be forbearing. Now, you will be tested through and through. Beware of power; power corrupts. Do not let yourselves be entrapped by its pomp and pageantry. Remember, you are in office to serve the poor in India's villages."

### Together in joy

At the prayer meeting that evening, Bapu congratulated Calcutta for the camaraderie displayed by Hindus and Muslims. Muslims shouted the same slogans of joy as the Hindus. They flew the tricolour without the slightest hesitation. What was more, the Hindus were admitted to mosques and Muslims were admitted to mandirs. Bapu had hoped that Calcutta would be entirely free from the communal virus forever. Then, indeed, they need have no fear about East Bengal and the rest of India.

"Shaheed and I are living together in a Muslim Manzil in Beliaghata where Muslims have been reported to be sufferers. Now, it seemed as if there never had been bad blood between the Hindus and the Muslims. As I have said above, we are living in a Muslim's house and Muslim volunteers are attending to our comforts with the greatest attention... Is this to be called a miracle or an accident? I only ask myself whether the dream of my youth is to be realised in the evening of my life .... '

This is the wish with which Bapu ended his day, the day that India became independent in 1947.

Tushar A. Gandhi is a peace activist who heads the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation which is involved in advocating and spreading Gandhian values

### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# An act of hope

Despite the fast-changing politico-military situation in Afghanistan, women journalists there are refusing to give up



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

When things fall apart, can one hold on to optimism? For years, I have cited Isabel Allende to explain the purpose of writing in general and journalism in particular. In a short essay in Peace Review in 1993, she wrote: "I feel that writing is an

act of hope, a sort of communion with our fellow men. The writer of goodwill carries a lamp to illuminate the dark corners. Only that, nothing more – a tiny beam of light to show some hidden aspect of reality, to help decipher and understand it and thus to initiate, if possible, a change in the conscience of some readers."

### Threat to freedom

A tweet from Muska Dastageer, a lecturer of peace and conflict resolution, political theory, and gender studies at the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul, Afghanistan, shook that belief. Her tweet read: "Everything we worked for, everything we believed in, is disappearing before our eyes." It was a grim reminder that hard-won rights are not only vulnerable but perishable when there is a political tide of intolerance. Over the past two decades, multiple institutions and innumerable men and women invested their time and energy to create a free environment in Afghanistan. I was part of some of the editors' meetings that tried to create media institutions in Afghanistan as it was trying hard to come out of the darkness brought in by the Taliban and its associates. I wonder whether my sense of optimism was a form of delusion.

One wonders how the international community has become blind to the developments in Afghanistan. It turned a blind eye to Rwanda, the Balkans, and Myanmar. I was shaken to the core when I read the report 'Please pray for me' in The Guardian in which a woman journalist documents how she is being hunted by the Taliban. She wrote: "Last week I was a news journalist. Today I can't write under my own name or say where I am from or where I am. My whole life has been obliterated in just a few

0.15 0.25 0.35 0.45 0.55 0.65

days. I am so scared and I don't know what will happen to me. Will I ever go home? Will I see my parents again? Where will I go? The highway is blocked in both directions. How will I survive?"

### Giving voice to the vulnerable

However, the brave women journalists reaffirm my optimism and give hope another lease of life. For instance, Zahra Joya, a 28year-old reporter, launched Rukhshana Media in November 2020 to tell stories of Afghanistan's women, written by Afghanistan's women. Rukshana, a young Afghan woman,

met with a tragic end. In 2015, she was accused of adultery and stoned to death.

The idea behind Rukshana Media is the idea behind anv credible media organisation: to give voice to the vulnerable. In its short existence Rukshana Media has covered crucial subjects such as women's reproductive health, domestic and sexual vio-

lence, and gender discrimination. Ms. Joya was tired of either Afghan men or the international media representing Afghan women. In an interview she said: "At Rukhshana Media, we are trying to define the story from the perspective of Afghan women."

The fast-changing politico-military situation in Afghanistan is posing a major challenge to initiatives such as Rukshana Media. Ms. Joya is acutely aware of the fact that female journalists are at greater risk of assassination due to the issues they cover and their public role. Women journalists are increasingly using pseudonyms to conceal their identity but refuse to give up.

I was moved by Ms. Joya's determination to continue with her journalism against all the odds. She told The Guardian recently that she would keep her media house going as long as she can. She said: "I see it as a source of hope for many women. Afghanistan may not have much but it is our voice [of the media], and we must preserve it."

When I started the countdown series to my tenure as the Readers' Editor I wanted to document the potential of journalism in transforming people's lives. The agency to act against injustice can happen only when citizens have trustworthy and credible information. Journalists from Afghanistan are showing us that journalism continues to be an act of hope, which cannot be obliterated by any menacing force.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

# An oath in whose name?

The allegiance of a person holding a constitutional post should be only to the Constitution

FAISAL C.K.

Some Cabinet Ministers in Karnataka who took oath recently stood out from the rest. Prabhu Chauhan took the oath in the name of Gaumata and 'Seva Lal'. Murugesh Nirani took oath in the name of God and farmers. Anand Singh took oath in the name of Vijayanagara Virupaksha and Bhuvaneshwari. All these oaths run against the spirit of the Constitution.

### **An agnostic Constitution**

During the Constituent Assembly debate on October 17, 1949, the last item to be debated was the Preamble. B.R. Ambedkar proposed the Preamble, "We, the people of India...". H.V. Kamath moved an amendment to the Preamble, "In the name of God, we. the people of India...". To this proposal, another member, A. Thanu Pillai, said, "If Mr. Kamath's amendment is accepted... would not that amount to compulsion in the matter of faith?... It affects the fundamental right of freedom of faith. A man has a right to believe in God or not, according to the Constitution... This amendment should be ruled out...".

Another member, Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, said, "What does Bande Mataram mean? It means an invocation to a Goddess... We who belong to the Sakthi cult protest against invoking the name of God alone, completely ignoring the Goddess... May I move an amendment to that of Shri Kamath that instead of 'in the name of God', would he be pleased to accept 'in the name of Goddess'?'

H.N. Kunzru opposed Kamath's amendment stating, "I do not see why in a matter that vitally concerns every man individually, the collective view should be forced on anybody. Such a course of action is inconsistent with the Preamble which promises liberty to thought, expression, belief, faith and worship to everyone... We invoke the name of God, but I make bold to say that while we do so, we are showing a narrow, sectarian spirit, which is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution...".

In the end, the President of the Assembly put Kamath's amendment to vote. The amendment was defeated, thereby excluding 'God' from the Preamble. Thus, our founding fathers gave us an agnostic Constitution. Constitutional oaths should be sec-

ular. Abhinav Chandrachud, in Republic of Religion, pointed out that public officials who took office under the Government of India Act, 1935 had to take oath which had no mention of God. However, the framers of the Constitution rejected this conception of secularism and brought 'God' back into the Constitution by giving office-holders an option to swear in God's name if they so wished. This was a regressive step.

The U.S. Constitution contains no reference to God. While it is customary for the U.S. President to utter the words: "So, help me God..." at the end of the oath, the Constitution does not require it.

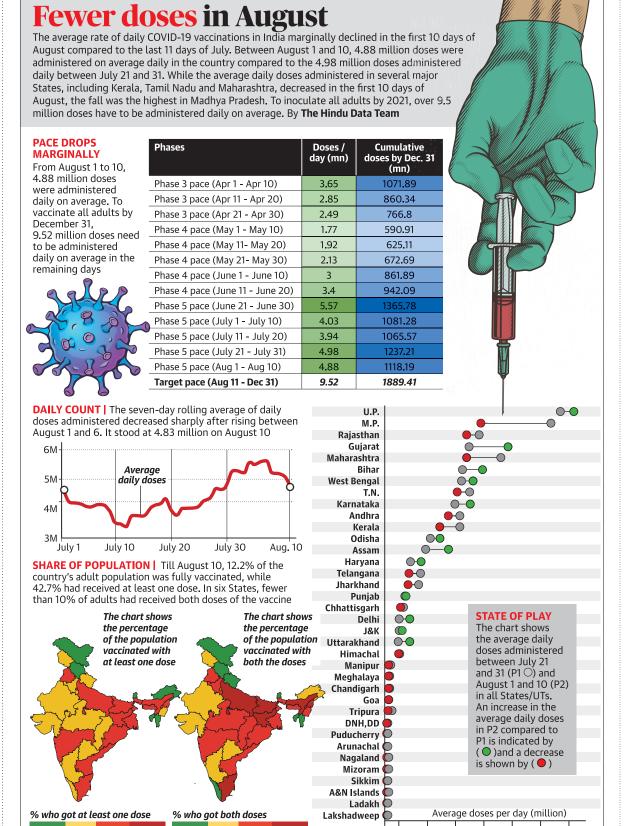
### Calling for an amendment

The Supreme Court of India observed in 2012 that the oath by an elected representative should be taken "in the name of God" if the person is a believer or should be "solemnly affirmed" if the person is a non-believer. The case pertained to an MLA, Umesh Challiyil, whose oath had been declared void by the Kerala High Court. Mr. Challiyil had taken oath in the name of Sri Naravana Guru, whom he said he considers and believes as God. Mr. Challiyil challenged the High Court order. While taking up the matter, the Supreme Court said that the oath of an elected representative should be in strict compliance with the wordings of the Constitution. In the light of this verdict, the oaths of the Karnataka Cabinet Ministers would be null and void.

The allegiance of a person holding a constitutional post should only be to the Constitution. Once such a person takes the oath in the name of a God affiliated to a particular religion or caste, citizenry cannot expect the absence of affection or ill-will from him. As the Republic belongs to all the citizenry, irrespective of whether he is a theist, atheist or agnostic, and irrespective of his caste or religion, a person occupying a constitutional post should take oath in the format of 'solemnly affirm". The Constitution should be amended accordingly.

Faisal C.K. is Under Secretary to the Government of Kerala. Views are personal

### **DATA POINT**



### The Man Kindu.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 16, 1971

# English is China's second language

Hong Kong, August 15: The study of English in East Asia is likely to get a boost following the remark by the Chinese Premier, Mr. Chou En-lai to Mr. James Reston of the New York Times recently that English has become the second language in China. Until about three years ago, Russian was the favoured foreign language in mainland China. The confrontation with the Russians had the effect of cutting off contact with all things Russian – including the language. But Mr. Chou also told Mr. Reston that he did not approve of this linguistic discrimination. The study of English in mainland China was intensified even before the birth of "ping pong" diplomacy. There was quite a change from the anti-English purge during the Cultural Revolution four years ago when all vestiges of English - and things foreign - were removed, even to the extent of street signs.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 16, 1921

### Of Tamil Women

Mr. Gandhi writes in "Young India": A friend writes from Tirupati: - The greatest obstacle in the way of success of our movement in Madras are our women. Some of them are very reactionary and a very large number of the high-class Brahmin ladies have become addicted to many of the western vices. They drink coffee not less than three times a day and consider it very fashionable to drink more. They have given up the homely cheap cloth and are running after costly foreign cloth. In the matter of jewels, Brahmin ladies excel all others. Among Brahmins, Shri Vaishnava ladies are the worst sinners. When men are trying to return to a purer life, our ladies are becoming extravagant. While going to temples to worship God, they cannot think of a plain, simple dress. They should wear the costliest jewels available and still more costly laces.

I am loth to think that what the friend who is himself a non-cooperating Vaishnava pleader, says is all true. And I am inclined to disbelieve the statement that the Tamil sisters are worse than the rest in the matter of love of gaudiness. All the same, his letter ought to serve as a warning to the Tamil sisters. They must revert to the original simplicity and certainly God will be better pleased with those who wear the spotless Khadisadi as a symbol of the inner purity than with those who are gaudily dressed. Our temples are not meant for show but for expression of humility and simplicity which are typical of a devotional mood.

>20% 15-20% 10-15% 5-10%

>70% 50-70% 25-50% <25%

### FROM PAGE ONE

# Air India flight brings 129 people from Kabul

Over the past few days, a large number of Afghans have reached out to the Embassy of India seeking visa to get out of the Afghan capital. But officials here said that smooth functioning of any kind of consular service is difficult because of the chaos on the ground in Kabul.

India had been planning a similar evacuation process over the past few days and an Air India aircraft flew out citizens from Mazar-e-Sharif last Tuesday. Officials here indicated that they are focused on ensuring safety of the Indian citizens and diplomats stuck in Kabul and will ensure that they are brought back safely.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs last Thursday had declared that India will ensure safety of the Hindu and Sikh citizens of Afghanistan. Civil society initiatives have also come forth with Vikramjit Sahney, International President of World Punjabi Organisation, volunteering to send chartered aircraft to Kabul to evacuate Hindu and Sikh citizens of Afghan-

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar travelled to New York for a visit from August 16-19 to chair two sessions of the UN Security Council on peacekeeping and terrorism. The visit was scheduled earlier, but is expected to see him participate in consultations on the developing situation in Afghanistan as well, and he will also have bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of other UNSC members on the sidelines of the two sessions.

"The first event on August 18, 2021 will be an Open Debate on 'Protecting the Protectors: Technology and Peacekeeping' while the second event on August 19, 2021 will be a high-level briefing on 'Threats to International Peace and Security caused by Terrorist Acts," said an MEA statement, adding that he would preside over a briefing session on the six-monthly report of the UN Secretary General on the threat posed by ISIL/ Da'esh, which is also likely to focus on Afghanistan and regional security.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

majority of Indian farmers

were small and marginal

and his government had

Giving the slogan of

become India's

farmers

'chhota kisan bane desh ki

(small

pride)', Mr. Modi said 80%

of India's farmers had less

in mind, the government is

implementing the Pradhan

Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

(PM-KISAN) under which

more than ₹1.5 lakh crore

has been transferred into

the bank accounts of over

10 crore farmers,"

**Reservation ensured** 

Mr. Modi also said reserva-

tion was being ensured for

Dalits, STs, backwards and

general category poor, and

emphasised that the hand-

holding of deprived com-

defence sector's efforts un-

der "Make in India" includ-

ing the trials of INS Vikrant,

lopment of Jammu and

Kashmir as well as Ladakh

was under way as was the

work of the delimitation

commission in I&K, and

would be held in the Union

Territory sooner rather

He also lauded the Olym-

pic contingent, which was

present at the Red Fort, and

said their performance en-

couraged the youth of the

than later.

Assembly election

Mr. Modi said that deve-

the aircraft carrier.

He expressed pride in the

munities was necessary.

"Keeping small expenses

than two hectares of land.

should

prioritised their interests.

# Next 25 years crucial for India's development: PM

He also mentioned that while celebrating independence, "Indians had taken an emotional decision to mark August 14th as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day" for all those who had lost their lives and loved ones in the Partition of 1947.

His speech, nearly 90 mi-

nutes in all, went over the efforts of his government to simplify laws, make government less intrusive, invest in infrastructure, including the ₹100 lakh crore "Gatishakti initiative", the master plan for which would be unveiled soon. He pointed out to India's commitment to the environment and its climate change goals by stating that the country was committed to "circular economy"

ne said nis government was committed to the goal of 100% coverage of all welfare schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission of tapped drinking water connections to all homes, Ujjwala cooking gas scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana for housing and Jan Dhan bank accounts for everyone.

He also announced the admission for girls in all Sainik Schools across the country and that the use of fortified rice across all government nutrition programmes would also be undertaken.

In a nod to the fact that his government has been dealing with long-running protests by farmers groups and Opposition parties on the three contentious farm laws, he asserted that the

# RS ruckus: Ministers seek action against Opposition

The Chairman also separately met Biju Janata Dal member Sasmit Patra, who is on the panel of Vice-Chairman and was presiding over the proceedings when the ruckus took place.

The events of August 11 in the Rajya Sabha has become a flash point between the government and a united Opposition. While the government accused the Opposition of "violent behaviour", a united Opposition alleged that "outsiders in the guise of marshals" were brought in to assault Opposition members, including

On Thursday, a 14-member delegation, including Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar, met Mr. Naidu to complain about the

treatment of the Opposition members

"A very large number of security personnel, who were not part of the regular part of the Watch and Ward staff of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, were deployed. They used unacceptable force and physically manhandled Members of Parliament, including women members," the Opposition leaders said in a joint memorandum. "Opposition MPs were prevented from registering their protest against the General Insurance Amendment Bill on which there was a wide consensus that it should be referred to a Select Committee. The Opposition strongly condemns the authoritarian attitude and undemocratic actions

# Rapid Taliban takeover is surprising, say Indian officials

Govt. planning to operate more flights to bring back stranded people

AMIT BARUAH

India's security establishment was taken by surprise at the rapid pace with which the Taliban has taken over control of Afghanistan, a senior government source said on Sunday.

"We were surprised at the rapid gains made by the Taliban," the source said, even as a second source stated that India would operate more flights to Kabul to bring back stranded citizens in Afghanistan.

American officials had previously conveyed to the Indian side about the training and advances made by the Afghan National Army, but the collapse in the face of Taliban advances was not expected, the first source stat-

"We are monitoring the situation closely and will Uncertain times: An Afghan national is surrounded by mediapersons as he arrives at the Indira Gandhi International airport by an Air India flight from Kabul, in New Delhi on Sunday. • AP take all necessary steps to

maintained. As late as Thursday, the Reuters news agency, in a re-

stranded in Afghanistan,"

second

our nationals

port, cited a U.S. defence official as saying that the Taliban could take over Kabul in 90 days. In actuality, the advance was rapid and U.S. officials were way off the mark.

"It's also possible that this

has been agreed upon in advance with the Americans at the Doha talks. We will have to wait and watch how this turns out," a third official, who also preferred anonym-

# ₹5 lakh for information on judge's death case

CBI investigating Uttam Anand case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The CBI has announced a reward of ₹5 lakh for anyone sharing "information of importance" on the alleged killing of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, who was hit by an autorickshaw on July 28, officials said on Sunday.

A notice said if anyone had any information of importance, it could be shared with the special crime team of the CBI at the CSIR Satkar guest house in Dhanbad on 7827728856, 24368640 and 24368641.

"A cash reward of ₹5 lakh will be given to the person who will give worthwhile information relating to the crime," it said.

The CBI has taken into custody autorickshaw driver Lakhan Verma and his accomplice Rahul Verma, who are accused in the case.

The 49-year-old judge was allegedly mowed down

by a heavy autorickshaw while he was on a morning jog in Dhanbad.

CCTV footage showed that he was jogging on one side of a fairly wide road at the Randhir Verma Chowk when the autorickshaw veered towards him, hit him from behind and fled the scene.

The CBI has recreated the accident scene, while experts of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) have also collected evidence from the spot.

The case was handed over to the CBI by the Jharkhand government. The Central agency had dispatched a 20-member team led by V.K. Shukla to probe the matter. The Jharkhand High Court and the Supreme Court are keeping an eye on the case.

A High Court Bench had directed the investigating agency to initiate a probe at the earliest.

# Meghalaya Minister quits after violence on I-Day

evacuate

Indefinite curfew imposed in Shillong

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Meghalaya Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui resigned after mob violence and arson in Shillong on Independence Day forced the local authorities to enforce an indefinite curfew and suspend Internet services for 48 hours in four districts.

The killing of former extremist leader Cheristerfield Thangkhiew by the police on Friday morning triggered the unruly situation that climaxed during his burial at about 1 p.m. on Sunday.

...Thangkhiew was killed following the raid of police at his residence exceeding the tenets of the law. Considering the gravity of the situation, I would request you to relieve the Home (Police) Department from me with immediate effect," Mr. Rymbui wrote in a letter to Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma.

The resignation, he said. was needed for a free and fair probe. "I propose judicial enquiry be conducted,"

Mr. Rymbui represents the regional United Democratic Party, a minor ally of

Mr. Sangma's National People's Party. The BJP is also

one of the ruling allies.

Tension in Shillong began brewing from Saturday evening when miscreants attacked a police vehicle. It snowballed after Thangkhiew's burial as members of his family termed his death a "cold-blooded murder".

Masked protesters vandalised a number of vehicles, including police and tourist cars, and indulged in stone-pelting, arson and They also seized a police

vehicle along with weapons and drove around the localities, wielding the weapons they snatched before setting the vehicle on fire.

East Khasi Hills Deputy Commissioner Isawanda Laloo issued an order clamping "total curfew" from 8 p.m. on Sunday. In another notification,

the Home Department said mobile Internet/data services have been suspended for 48 hours in East Khasi Hills, of which Shillong is the headquarters, West Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts.

# Bihar Deputy CM says State can hold caste-based census

BJP leader Renu Devi rules out such enumeration by Centre

The Bihar government, like

Karnataka, is free to hold a

caste-based census in the State

but the Central government will

not accept any proposal for

this as its policy decision is

AMARNATH TEWARY

Amid repeated demands from the Opposition parties in Bihar and with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar joining their calls for a caste-based census in the country, senior State BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi has said that as in Karnataka, the State government is free to conduct it.

Ms. Devi has also made it clear that the Union government will not accept any proposal for such a census in the country because of its policy decision.

Karnataka example "The Bihar government, like

Karnataka, is free to hold caste-based census in the State but the Central government will not accept any proposal for this as its policy decision is not to conduct a caste-based census," told presspersons on the sidelines of the BJP's Sahyog (community help) programme at the party headquarters on Saturday.

In 2015, the Karnataka government conducted a "socio-economic and educaenumerated population percentages of different castes

not to conduct such

a census

Earlier, on August 4, after meeting Bihar Opposition leaders on the issue, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking an appointment to discuss holding a caste-based

Opposition leaders have repeatedly demanded a caste-based census, and urged Mr. Kumar to lead a delegation to meet Mr Modi on the issue. After 10 days, the Chief

Office on Saturday. Tejashwi stand Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and RJD MLA Teiashwi Yadav said, "If need be, we all should sit on

a dharna at Jantar Mantar in

Delhi over the issue "

Minister's Office received an

acknowledgement of the let-

ter from the Prime Minister's

Mr. Yadav demanded that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister should make an announcement of a castebased census in the country on the occasion of 75th Inde-

# Two MPs attacked: TMC

A CORRESPONDENT

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday alleged that its two women MPs - Dola Sen and Aparupa Poddar were attacked allegedly by BJP-backed people at two locations in south Tripura. It said an aide of the MPs was seriously injured. The MPs accompanied by State leaders went to Thairung to inaugurate a party office and attend a flag hoisting programme. Several bikeborne people arrived and beat up the leaders and supporters with sticks and stones, the TMC said.

# Body of pilot recovered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The mortal remains of Lt. Col. A.S. Baath, one of the two pilots who went missing in the helicopter crash in Ranjit Sagar (Thein) reservoir were retrieved on Sunday, the Army said. "Mortal remains of A.S. Baath retrieved from a depth of 75.9 m at 18:19 hrs from the Ranjit Sagar Lake," the Army said in a

# 6,808 dead in rain, cyclones in 3 years

West Bengal tops the list with 964 fatalities caused by flash floods, landslips

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Nearly 6,800 people lost their lives in the country over the past three years due to hydro-meteorological calamities such as flash floods, landslips and cyclones, and West Bengal has recorded the highest deaths among all

The details were provided by the Home Ministry in response to a question by Congress MP from Tamil Nadu, Su. Thirunavukkarasar, earlier this month in the Lok

As per the reply, the country recorded 6,808 deaths (2,400 in 2018-19, 2,422 in 2019-20 and 1,986 in 2020-21). West Bengal recorded 964 deaths (383 in 2018-19, 227 in 2019-20 and 354 in 2020-21), which amounts to 14% of deaths due to hydro meteorological calamities.

According to the Ministry, hydro-meteorological calamities and hazards include flash floods, cloudburst and landslips. During the monsoon period (April-October mainly; in Western Ghat terrains from April to December, including the phase of the northeast monsoon), incidents occur in almost all landslip-prone areas, some of which are disastrous, leading to loss of lives, the reply pointed out.

"In most cases, these are triggered by extreme rainfall events or cloudbursts. These



Amphan in West Bengal. • AP

types of fatal landslip events are common almost every year, mainly in the Himalayan States, in the Western Ghats, and Konkan areas," the statement tabled in the Lok Sabha said.

M.P., Kerala affected

Other than West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh recorded 833 deaths, followed by Kerala 708 in the same period. In both the States, the spike in the casualties has been caused by floods. For instance, Kerala recorded 455 deaths in 2018-19 due to 2018 floods. Madhya Pradesh recorded 674 deaths in 2019-20 caused by floods.

"What the figures tell us about West Bengal is that for

the three consecutive years the deaths due to natural calamities are high. The reason could be the geography of the State where there are both mountains and coastline. The State is susceptible to both landslides, cyclones and floods," said Tuhin Ghosh, Director of the School of Oceanography, Jadavpur University.

Prof. Ghosh, an expert on disaster management, said that under the Disaster Management Act, States were empowered to take action to prevent deaths due to natural calamities. Among the other States

which recorded high causalties due to hydro meteorological calamities are Maharashtra - 571 deaths - in the same period. Assam, a State that faces regular floods, has recorded 303 deaths, Tamil Nadu 201 casualties and the coastal State of Odisha, 145 deaths in the same period.

**Funds allocation** 

In terms of funds released by the Centre under State Disaster Response Funds, highest funds were allocated to Maharashtra, ₹1,288.80 crore, followed by Uttar Pradesh ₹773.20 crore and Madya Pradesh ₹728 crore. For West Bengal, the funds released by the Centre under State Disaster Response Funds was ₹404.40 crore.

Experts also point that over the past three years, West Bengal had braved four tropical cyclones - Fani (May 2019), Bulbul (November 2019), Amphan (May 2020) and Yaas (May 2021).

In response to another question in the Lok Sabha, the Home Ministry's reply suggests that the damage caused by cyclone Yaas, which made a landfall in north Odisha in May 2021, was more to West Bengal than in Odisha. While in Odisha about 18,094 huts and houses were damaged or destroyed, the number in West Bengal was about three

In West Bengal, crops were affected over 1,70,891 hectares and in Odisha, 5,672.99 hectares were hit.

# Assam tea quality rides on bicycle balls

System used to separate fine leaves

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The tilinga (bell) of a bicycle and the power of its pedal have been woven into popular, romantic Assamese

songs.

The ball bearings in the rear wheel of the common man's mode of transport are now helping infuse quality into the cup of tea that often brews romance or business in Assam.

The 110-year-old Tocklai Tea Research Institute in eastern Assam's Jorhat had in the 1950s developed the ballometric method for separating fine tea leaves from the coarse ones to ensure quality. While many of Assam's 803 major tea estates have been following this method, the unorganised sector has largely avoided it.

The ballometric system entails weighing 100 grams of freshly plucked tea leaves from the withering trough in a factory.

The weights on the scale are 100 steel balls from the rear wheel of a bicycle, each weighing 1 gram.

Every 100 grams of tea leaves is then separated into fine and coarse leaves. "Fine leaves mean the

standard two leaves and a bud (unopened leaf), a leaf and a bud or a banji (sterile leaf) at the tip of a stem of the tea bush. These are sorted from the more mature



being used to separate fine ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

leaves and the stems that are categorised as coarse leaves," Tocklai's Director A.K. Barooah said.

The sorted fine leaves are put back on the scale and weighed again with the steel balls. If the weight of a bunch of such leaves is equivalent to 55 balls, the percentage of fine leaves for processing is taken to be

Tea industry captains said the ballometric method has been back in focus because small tea gardens (STGs), which now account for more than 52% of the average annual tea production of 692 million kg in Assam, need to be sensitised for insuring against a dip in quality. In July, the STGs had in a meeting with the Tea Board of India and other stakeholders agreed to supply at least 40% fine leaf to the tea factories. This arrangement will be in force until the Board comes up with a new minimum benchmark.

A ND-NDE

of the Government," the

memorandum added.

# Jungle Raj' has ended, says J&K L-G Sinha

He says successful conduct of DDC polls is testament to this

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Amid tight security, J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, in his Independence Day address in Srinagar on Sunday, said "Jungle Raj in the Union Territory (UT) has come to an end." All Independence Day functions passed off peacefully, and Internet and mobile services were not snapped, unlike in the past.

"Violence-free and successful District Development Council (DDC) polls in 2020 saw a record number of participation of people. With it, the 'Jungle Raj' in J&K has ended forever," Mr. Sinha

He praised the August 5, 2019 decision to revoke J&K's special constitutional position, saying "It has marked the new beginning in I&K".

Describing militancy as a hurdle in the path of development and progress, the L-G said, "Whoever is trying to mislead the young people through proxy war shall be given a befitting reply."

He said the next 25 years would see a new wave of development and peace. "A collective approach will be

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A day after several organisa-

tions in Nagaland observed



National flag fluttering on the Hari Parbat Fort during the 75th Independence Day celebration in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

put in place to achieve new targets and goals till 2045,"

In an indirect reference to migrant Kashmiri Pandits, Mr. Sinha said this was also the time to heal the old wounds.

"The administration has decided to constitute a mechanism to provide justice to those families, whose properties have been illegally bought under pressure or encroached upon by certain elements."

### Flags unfurled

Nagaland is an integral part

of India, says Governor Ravi

coincided with a 24-hour

shutdown called by an apex

Naga civil society organisa-

tion across the Naga-inhabit-

Most government buildings, including around 30,000 educational institutes, hoisted the Tricolour and sang the national anthem in J&K. A viral video online showed Muzaffar Wani, father of slain militant 'commander' Burhan Wani, unfurling the Tricolour at a school in Tral. Mr. Wani is a principal in a government school. The killing of Burhan fuelled fivemonth-long street protests in 2016, which left some 100 civilians dead.

No violence was reported during the functions held in all districts in the Union Territory. For the first time since 2003, the police decided not to snap mobile and Internet services. "There is neither Internet shutdown nor restrictions," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said. Security agencies had put in place an antidrone system and a drone-

of our Independence, a na-

tion pays homage to all the

heroes of Nagaland. Unfor-

tunately, except for a few

Similar to last year, the celebrations were subdued with fewer people invited to attend the event.

Schoolchildren, who form brations, were missing from this year's event too, though nearly 500 NCC cadets from various schools across the

After delivering his

# A day of champions at the majestic Red Fort

Gold winner Neeraj Chopra says it was an honour to attend the celebrations at the historic arena

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

The presence of Olympics winners, including javelin thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, at the 75th Independence Day celebration on Sunday at the Red Fort led to much delight and inspiration for many of the attendees at the function.

This year, in the Tokyo Olympics, India recorded its best-ever medal haul by bagging seven medals - one gold, two silver and four

Apart from gold medallist Chopra, silver medallists Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Kumar Dahiya, and P.V. Sindhu, Baj rang Punia, Lovlina Borgo hain and the hockey team members, who won bronze, were seated at the Red Fort rampart.

"It was an honour to attend the Independence Day celebrations at the historic Red Fort today. As an athlete and a soldier, my heart is full of emotion when I see the national flag flying high. Jai Hind," Chopra tweeted after the event.

As many as 240 Olympics participants including boxer Mary Kom, support staff and SAI and sports federation officials were also invited to grace the Gyan Path in front of the ramparts of the Red

### **Subdued celebrations**

an integral part of the celecountry attended the event.











Nation's pride: (clockwise from top) A view of the Red Fort; celebrations at the Srinagar stadium; the women's hockey team in Delhi; a unity rally at the Jagannath temple in Ahmedabad; and Neeraj Chopra at the function in Red Fort and the triservices march-past. • NISSAR AHMAD, VIJAY SONEJI AND PTI

After the end of the event, many of the NCC cadets and the guests at the event were seen attempting to click pictures and selfies with the sportspersons.

For the first time ever, flower petals were showered by two Indian Air Force helicopters in an Amrut Formaand cheers.

Wing Commander Baldev Singh Bisht and Wing Commander Nikhil Mehrotra commanded the choppers.

Corona warriors' due To honour the corona warriors who played a vital role my, a separate block was created on the south side of A huge wall of shipping

containers, which was erected by the Delhi police at the main gate of the Red Fort for reasons, adorned with pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh,

Sardar Patel, Rani Lakshmibai, along with other syminnovations achievements.

containers were placed after protesters driving tractors entered the Red Fort on January 26 and hoisted a religious flag. The police had put a multi-layered se-

### Naga Independence Day, Goed areas to protest an order like Rani Gaidinliu, they are speech, Prime Minister Navernor R.N. Ravi said Nagaby the government in adjoinlargely nameless. Their land has been and shall ever ing Manipur to hoist the Trinames shall be pulled out of rendra Modi, who sported a remain an integral part of Incolour in all villages on the the forgotten pages of histosaffron headgear with red ry and suitably installed to patterns, interacted with the Independence Day. His statement on Sunday

# No new grand scheme in Modi's Red Fort address Old schemes find fresh voice with

SANDEEP PHUKAN NEW DELHI

infra plan

In his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a ₹100 lakh crore "Gati Shakti" infrastructure plan with great fanfare. He made no mention of the fact that the same scheme has turned up in his last two Independence Day speeches as well.

In fact, several initiatives announced on Sunday seem to be a rehash of previously launched schemes, some as old as two years ago.

"In the near future, we are going to launch the National Master Plan of Prime Minister 'Gati Shakti' which will be



national flag at Red Fort. ■PTI

a huge scheme and fulfil the dreams of crores of countrymen," Mr. Modi said on Sunday.

"This scheme of more than 100 lakh crores rupees will result in new employment opportunities for lakhs of youth. Gati Shakti will be a National Infrastructure Master Plan for our country which will lay the foundation of holistic Infrastructure.

### **Echoes of past**

Back in 2019, similar words issued from the ramparts of Red Fort: "We have decided to invest 100 lakh crore rupees for modern infrastruc-

## **NEWS ANALYSIS**

ture in this time period. This will generate employment; will develop new systems and various aspirations will be met.'

In 2020, Mr. Modi had reiterated the same plan, offering more details: "The National Infrastructure Pipeline Project will play an important role in this endeavour. ₹110 lakh crore will be spent on this project."

It was a similar story with some other announcements on Sunday as well. The Prime Minister said he had "good news to share today" that the Sainik Schools would admit girls. The decision to make all Sainik Schools co-educational by 2021-22 was announced by the Defence Ministry back in October 2019.

"I am announcing the National Hydrogen Mission today with this Tricolour as a witness," the Prime Minister said on Sunday. However, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced this mission during her Budget speech in February.

The plan to fortify rice with iron and vitamins before distributing it in ration shops and at schools was also announced by then Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan in 2019. The resolution to make

India energy independent before the 100th anniversary of Independence also puts a deadline on a long-time ambition.

Previous Independence Day speeches from Mr. Modi have included grander ambitions. The schemes to electrify all villages, end open defecation through Swachh Bharat, provide taps in all rural households through Jal Jeevan, put a human in space by 2022, double farmers income by 2022 and double the economy to \$5 trillion over a five-year period were all announced from the Red Fort during previous August 15 speeches.

"It has been two years since August 15, 2019. At least, the 100 lakh crore figure could have been changed," said a tweet from Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA** 

ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE Online Tenders are invited through E-Procurement Mode for the following, from reputed Firms in India Description: "Reservoir Sedimentation studies of Major and Medium projects in Telangana State" for nine

reservoirs under National Hydrology Project. Display and Sale of Tender Documents Period: 16/08/202

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26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e- Procurement) - 2nd Call

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra

Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 11 invites tender from eligible

https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.08.2021 and the

last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is

(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept /

reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for:-

**DISPOSAL OF BIO MEDICAL WASTE SERVICES** 

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from:

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS

Detailed Invitation for Bid is available on www.tender.telangana.gov.in

DIPR RO NO: 2086-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22

No. SGITO/e-Tender/BMW/36/2021-22

31.08.2021 upto 4.00 PM.

### Tender Reference No. Proj/T. No. 16/Furniture Park, Thoothukudi/2021, Sealed tenders are invited in Two Cover System (Technical bid and Price bid) from reput Preparation of Detailed Master Plan for setting up a Furniture Park in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. Tender Inviting Authority The Managing Director, SIPCOT, 19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathy Road, Egmore, Chennai - 8. for setting up a Furniture Park in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu Fender document can be downloaded from 16-08-2021 to 16-09-2021. The tender document could be downloaded from www.sipcot.tn.gov.in / and www.tenders.tn.gov.in at free of cost Rs.23,600/-(including GST) Rs.2,00,000/o Diad security 1324-08-2021 at 3:30 pm (via Video Conference) 7 Due Date, Time & Place of 16-09-2021 up to 3.00 PM at the address mentioned in SI.No (1) above submission of the tender 16-09-2021 at 4.00 PM at the address mentioned in Sl.No (1) above. Date, Time and Place of

# **ODISHA POLICE, STATE HEADQUARTERS, CUTTACK**

Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police Odisha, Cuttack

RFP is invited from reputed bidders in respect of the "RFP" (Request for Proposal) for Selection of Agency for Fleet Management of Dial 112 Emergency Response Support System during the Current final year, 2021-22.

	The details schedule of the RFF	is as follows :-
SI. No.	Event	Tentative Schedule
1.	Hiring of Vehicle	106 nos.
2.	Publication of advertisement in newswspapers. (if applicable)	15/08/2021
3.	Display of Tender documents in Odisha Police Website and available of Tender Document from Odisha Police HQ, Cuttack	16/08/2021
4.	RFP Document Fee	Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) only
5.	EMD Amount (in RS.), to be deposited by NEFT/RTGS to DG & IG of Police Odisha Bank account	Rs.24,00,000/-(RupeesTwenty four lakh) only
6.	Start date for submission of Techno commercial bid and price bid	16/08/2021
7.	Last date & time to accept pre- bid queries through email (aig.provisioning@gmail.com)	23/08/2021 10.00 AM
8.	*Virtual/Pre-Bid Meeting (is to be communicated to interested bidders)	23/08/2021 3.30 PM
9.	Publication of Corrigendum to RFP (if any) in the website of Odisha Police	25/08/2021
10.	Last date & Time for submitsion of Techno commercial bid at the office of AIG - Provision, State HQ, Odisha Police, Cuttack	03/09/2021, 05.00 PM
11.	Opening of Techno Commercial Bids	04/09/2021, 11.00 AM
12.	Technical demonstration by the qualified bidder before the Tech. Committee.To be communicated later	on any date between 06/09/2021 to 07/09/2021
13.	Announcement of Technically Qualified Bidders	07/09/2021
16.	Opening of Financial Bids of Technically qualified bidders	07/09/2021
19.	Issue of LOA	To be intimated later

The above schedules are tentative. Any change to the above schedule shall be notified or the Odisha Police website. Interested parties are advised to regularly check the website. Interested bidders are requested to regularly visit the Odisha Police website as all subsequent addendum / corrigendum / change of above schedule of events of RFP shall

Sd/- A.I.G. of Police (Prov.), Odisha, Cuttack OIPR - 12029/11/0017/2122



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# Sonia hoists Tricolour in front of G-23, reclaims centre stage

Her action is seen as a subtle message on leadership issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Unfurling the national flag at the Congress headquarters on Sunday to mark the 75th Independence Day, Congress president Sonia Gandhi sought to subtly assert her leadership in the presence of 'detractors'.

Among the senior leaders present were prominent members of the Congress's 23 dissenters or G-23 - who had written to Ms. Gandhi last August, seeking inner party reforms and a 'visible leadership' among other issues - including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Anand Sharma.

While Mr. Antony had unfurled the Tricolour last year during the first phase of the corona pandemic, Ms. Gandhi doing the honours this



year carries a distinct, asser-

tive political message. In the backdrop of party leader Kapil Sibal – also a

member of the G-23 – hosting a dinner last week that was attended by Opposition heavyweights, Ms. Gandhi's public engagements have been markedly different. For the first time since the

pandemic broke out, she attended the monsoon session Prime Minister Narendra Amit Shah.

Next week, on August 20, Ms. Gandhi will also be hosting a virtual meet of top Opposition leaders

of Parliament for a couple of days and shared space with Modi and Home Minister

DIPR/1171/2021-22

Chief Administrative Officer, **Tender Inviting Authority** 

# Rising judicial vacancies pose challenge

The SC has said that the government's 'recalcitrant attitude' has affected resolution of important cases

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Justice Rohinton Nariman's retirement and the entry of Justice L. Nageswara Rao into the five-judge Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, come at a crucial time when judicial vacancies in the Supreme Court are set to climb to 10 with the retirement of Justice Navin Sinha in three days.

The present Collegium of Chief Justice Ramana and Justices U.U. Lalit, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud and Rao will remain intact for about 10 months and could even script history by appointing a woman judge who could one day be India's first woman Chief Justice of

Justice Rao, a direct appointee from the Bar, may evince interest to have more direct appointments from the Supreme Court Bar to the Bench of the highest court, given the exhortations from the Bar. Justice Rao will also be the first to exit the Collegium with his retirement in June 2022, followed by Justice Khanwilkar in July and Chief Justice Ramana himself in August the same

The recommendations take months and years to reach the Collegium and thereafter months and years no decisions are taken post the Collegium... the judicial institution of the High Courts is manned by a number of judges where it will become almost impossible to have an early adjudication even on important issues JUSTICES SANJAY KISHAN KAUL AND HRISHIKESH ROY

Justice Lalit will then take over as the top judge as per seniority. His tenure as the Chief Justice of India will, however, be of just a little over two months till November 2022. Justice Chandrachud, again as per seniority, will succeed Justice Lalit as CJI till November 2024.

### Frozen since 2019

Judicial appointments to the Supreme Court have remained frozen since September 2019. That year saw 10 appointments to the Supreme Court in three batches. Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Sanjeev Khanna were appointed in January 2019. Justices B.R. Gavai, Surya Kant, Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna were appointed in May 2019. The last batch of Supreme Court appointments in September 2019 were of Justices Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat, V. Ramasubramanian Hrishikesh Roy. The oldest vacancy is that of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, who retired in November 2019.

The tenure of Chief Justice S.A. Bobde did not see a single judicial appointment to the Supreme Court, though frequent discussions were held by the Collegium.

The present Collegium can remedy the drop in judicial strength in the Supreme Court. Proportionate representation from the High Courts and seniority, though only conventions and not constitutional or legal mandates, carry weight during the appointment process. Merit a dominant criterion.

According to the Law Ministry records of August 1, in the top court. There will be no representation from the Patna High Court in the Supreme Court after the exit of Justice Navin Sinha on August 18. Jharkhand Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan's parent High Court is Patna.

### Women judges

the senior-most Chief Justic-

es of High Courts, as per

their initial appointments in

2003, 2004 and 2005, are

Karnataka Chief Justice A.S.

Oka in 2003, followed by

Delhi Chief Justice D.N. Patel

and Tripura Chief Justice

A.A. Kureshi. Both Chief Jus-

tices Patel and Kureshi share

the same date of initial ap-

pointment – March 7, 2004.

Gujarat Chief Justice Vikram

Nath was initially appointed

in September 2004 while Ut-

tarakhand Chief Justice R.S.

Chauhan, Punjab and Harya-

na Chief Justice Ravi Shanker

Jha and Sikkim Chief Justice

J.K. Maheshwari were all in-

itially appointed in 2005.

The parent High Courts of

these judges, except in the

cases of Chief Justices Jha

and Maheshwari, are already

represented in the Supreme

Court. The parent High court

of the two judges is Madhya

On the criterion of pro-

portionate representation,

according to the Ministry re-

cords, Patna Chief Justice

Sanjay Karol's parent High

Court of Himachal Pradesh is

not represented in the Su-

preme Court. Similarly, Ra-

jasthan Chief Justice Indrajit

Mahanty's parent High Court

of Orissa is not represented

Pradesh.

Telangana Chief Justice Hima Kohli is the sole woman High Court Chief Justice now. The name of Justice B.V. Nagarathna from the Karnataka High Court was reported some months ago to be under consideration to replace Justice Indu Malhotra's vacancy in the Supreme Court.

An equally serious issue is the fading judicial strength in the 25 High Courts. Ministry figures of August reveal 455 judicial vacancies in the High Courts where the total sanctioned strength is 1,098.

A few days ago, a Supreme Court Bench led by Justice S.K. Kaul lashed out at the Centre's delay, for years on end, to act on the recommendations of the Collegium and appoint judges to High Courts. The Bench said that the government's "recalcitrant attitude" has affected the adjudication of important cases, especially highstake commercial issues.

# Pegasus: Govindacharya asks SC to revive his 2019 petition

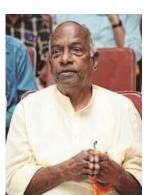
Former RSS ideologue had sought an investigation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue K.N. Govindacharya has asked the Supreme Court to revive his 2019 petition seeking a court-monitored investigation into the Pegasus spyware case and lodging of an FIR against Facebook, WhatsApp, the NSO Group and others involved in the "illegal surveillance".

Mr. Govindacharya said the Pegasus surveillance amounted to "cyberterrorism" and was punishable under the Information Technology Act. He said the entities involved should be brought to book for violating the privacy and personal liberty of citizens.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana is scheduled to hear 10 petitions, including one filed by senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, who are also seeking a direction from the court to direct the Centre to come clean on whether it had used the military-grade Pegasus technology, created by the Israelibased NSO Group, to spy on



K.N. Govindacharya

dissenters, activists, parliamentarians, Ministers, lawyers and journalists.

Mr. Govindacharya chose to withdraw his petition in 2019. He had sought a National Investigation Agency probe into the snooping

Seeking a revival of his case, he said his was the first petition filed when the Pegasus snooping allegations came to the fore.

Recently, the Chief Justice of India had asked in open court why people had been silent for two years about the Pegasus surveillance and chosen to approach court in 2021 only.

Mr. Govindacharva said he was an apolitical person and was "not swayed by shades of politics that surround the subject of privacy".

He said he "always had the national interest in

### Illegal surveillance

"The targeted nature of Pegasus has caused huge fear in the minds of the public. This illegal surveillance presents the biggest threat to life and personal liberty... A fair, impartial and responsible investigation is required to ascertain the magnitude of the use of Pegasus in India, and the entities responsible for the same," he submitted in an application filed by advocate Sachin Mittal.

Mr. Govindacharva said the protection of fundamental rights was essential to the rule of law.

"Privacy of crores of Indians cannot be curbed without following the procedure established by law, and any such instances is violative of Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution," he submitted.

# In I-Day greetings, Biden lauds ties

'Friendship will continue to flourish'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WASHINGTON

Guided by Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence, achieved its long journey towards Independence, U.S. President Joe Biden said on the country's 75th Independence Day, asserting that the commitment to respecting the will of the people through democracy continued to inspire the world.

Greeting Indians, Mr. Biden said that in this moment of great challenges and opportunities, the partnership between India and the United States was more important than ever.

"On this day, August 15, 1947, India achieved its long journey toward independence, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's message of truth and non-violence," Mr. Biden said in a statement on Saturday.

"Today, that foundational commitment to respecting the will of the people through democracy continues to inspire the world and is the basis of the special bond between our two nations. Over the decades, the ties between our people, including a vibrant community of more than four million Indian-Americans, have sustained and



strengthened our partnership," he said.

Mr. Biden pointed out that in the past one year, the two nations have come together in new ways as they tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, including working in partnership with Japan and Australia – through the Quad grouping - to expand global manufacturing of safe and effective COVID-19

"Together, we must show the world that our two great and diverse democracies can deliver for people everywhere. And as we do, the friendship between our nations will continue to flourish and grow," Mr. Biden said.

"I wish all those celebrating today, in India, in the United States, and throughout the world, a safe and happy Indian Independence Day," he said.

# Tram turns into museum on freedom struggle

Mamata calls for strengthening voices against forces that stifle liberty

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

Commemorating the 75th Independence Day, West Bengal's Transport Department on Sunday launched a mobile museum on the freedom struggle and the partition of Bengal by turning two trams into galleries. This museum on wheels

has been curated by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust in collaboration with the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC). It will be on display at

Esplanade in the heart of the city till December. It will move to other parts of the city from January 1. Two tram cars have been

used to put together the museum. The first car highlights the rising resistance against the British Raj from the 1900s and key moments during from 1900 to 1947. The second car focuses on the mass migration and rehabilitation that took place post-Partition.

The museum was inaugurated by Minister of Transport and Housing Firhad Hakim. "The museum on wheels beautifully depicts the efforts of our freedom fighters and also the impact of the division of Bengal and



Posters and photographs on display at the museum on wheels in Kolkata. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Punjab on the national psyche," Mr. Hakim said.

Transport Secretary Rajesh Sinha said there will be no entry fee to visit the museum. Rajanvir Singh Kapur, Managing Director of the WBTC, who has been instrumental in other novel initiatives like curating Tram library and Tram world, said, "We are reviving the importance of trams and reshaping its use to go beyond just a mode of travel to rich cultural space in the

SCAN TO PLAY

modern context. This is a great way for people to learn about one of the most defining events in the subcontinent's history."

The exhibition tells the story through newspaper reports and documents and archival & personal photographs.

A 7,500-sq. feet national flag was unfurled at the Victoria Memorial Hall here.

Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee hoisted the tricolour at the Red Rod

here. In a social media post, she called for strengthening the voices against forces that stifle freedom. "On the 75th

Independence Day, let us all come together to strengthen our voices against all forces that aim to stifle our freedom. We must never forget the sacrifice of those who fought a long and hard battle for this day. Warm wishes to all my brothers and sisters. Jai Hind!" Ms. Banerjee tweeted.

# Diaspora group protests in London

It seeks PM Modi's resignation

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has imprisoned a large number of dissenters amidst a global pandemic, South Asia Solidarity, an Indian diaspora organisation said on August 15, launching a protest on the Westminster bridge in London demanding Mr. Modi's resignation. The group spearheading the event alleged that under the current government, India had normalised violence against religious minorities and the

"As India's 75th Independence Day dawns, the country's secular Constitution lies in tatters. Communal and caste violence stalk the land. Thousands of political prisoners languish in CO-VID-infected prisons, and hundreds of thousands of people are grieving the loss of their loved ones as a result of the callous negligence and mismanagement of the coronavirus crisis", Mukti Shah of South Asia Solidarity said in a written statement.

The organisers pointed out violence against the Muslim community, sexual violence against Dalit women and girls, corporate dominance of agriculture,



crackdown on dissenters. and tampering with EVMs and ballot boxes as some of the features of the rule of Mr. Modi.

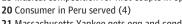
"We, a group of diaspora members and friends standing in solidarity with the people of India, are demanding the resignation of Narendra Modi, the chief architect of this violence, injustice, and criminal negligence," said South Asia Solidarity.

The protest began early in the morning in London with the giant banners bearing "Resign Modi" placed on the bridge. Before that the protesters held a candlelight vigil outside the Indian High Commission.

In recent months, London has witnessed several protests critical of the present Indian government on issues such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens among others.

# TH CROSSWORD+ 13327

19 Musical composition for first couple in opera by American (4)



21 Massachusetts Yankee gets egg and condiment (4) 22 Goods carried? Soapy dal porridge (8)

24 At last Neeraj Chopra leads to visible excitement launching Indian spear (7)

Stay on the grid. We are digital.

Come, solve online.

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

27 Installation in August in front of river (9)

30 Naming profession (7) 31 English in island load (6)

32 Picking up fish having one foot (7)

# DOWN

1 No MIT band played sport (9) 2 Over-state small number retired (4)

### 3 Punching carton with gin cocktail (6) 4 Fastener on hand? (4)

5 Clutch government file (5) **6** A fighter gets ring for friend in Mexico (5)

**7** Asians pace about large water body (7,3)

8 Decapitate insects and snakes (4) 12 Head office captain at main game (6) 14 Rent valued veil in entertainment (10)

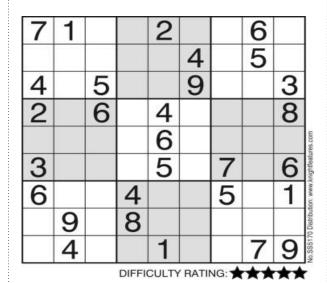
15 Caustic chemical from rural Kalimpong (6) 16 Prohibit, in olden days, electronic post distribution (5) 18 Grappling with remaining plant (9)

23 Exit computer session of golf play (3,3) 24 Mechanical device in a pack of cards? (4)

25 Leaning back and spinning tales (5) **26** Thing misplaced in dark time (5)

28 Part of Virginia Wolf's missing (4) 29 Wandering Romanian left Oman with queen (4)

# **SUDOKU**



### Solution to puzzle 13326 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

S	L	П	Ρ	Ρ	Ε	R	Υ		Α	L	W	Α	Υ	S	2	1	6	R	3	7	1	q	5
О		Z		R		Е				0		Ν		Т	_		U	U	U	,	-	0	J
R	П	S	K	-	Е	S	Т		J	Α	В	В	Ε	R	8	9	5	1	4	2	7	6	3
11		U		Z		С		Т		Ν		R		1	7	4	0	0	0	_	4	0	0
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S	Ρ	Ε	Ν	Д	S		D	Ε	F	Ε	С	Т	Ε	D	6	3	1	4	5		9	8	2

# **FAITH**

# Rama a role model

Valmiki Ramayana gives us the essence of Visishtadvaita, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. Merely explaining Vedantic doctrines will not help people understand the full import of concepts like Saranagati. But when they come across practical demonstrations of it in the Ramayana, they realise the significance of Saranagati. Rama too, through the way in which He lived his life, shows that the rules given in the scriptures are not so difficult to follow, if one is determined to follow them. So, we learn how to conduct ourselves in life, by observing Rama's conduct. Rama becomes a role model for all of us.

The Rama-Sita relationship represents the Paramatma-Jivatma connection. Sita is representative of the Jivatma, and Rama is the Paramatma. Ideally, the jivatma should be close to the Paramatma, serving Him always. But because of the ten indriyas, the jivatma gets pushed into samsara and moves away from the Paramatma. Sita should have been with Rama, but the ten-headed demon Ravana abducts Her and separates Her from Rama. The ten heads are symbolic of the ten indriyas, which keep us from getting close to the Supreme One. Asoka Vana, where Ravana keeps Sita captive, is symbolic of this world, where we take birth repeatedly. In Asoka Vana, Sita is guarded by fierce demonesses. They are like relatives, who do not always wish us well, and from whom it is best to keep a distance. And yet, even among these demonesses is a good person, and that is Vibhishana's daughter Trijata. She is symbolic of the devotees of the Lord, whose company is beneficial to us. The Lord sends Acharyas to guide jivatmas. In Sita's case, the Acharya sent by Rama is Hanuman. He reassures Her that Rama will soon rescue Her, and his words are a comfort to Her.

ACROSS 1 Good! In France, our boy is in for American whiskey (7) 5 Look good by 24 (6)

9 A lassie travels giving alternative names (7)

10 Awkwardly binds male in 'Jaws', perhaps (9)

11 Fears partiality after initially playing hard with ball (7) 13 Steer not available by six at entrance (8)

**17** Fire-bag (4)

# Afghans fear a return to brutal Taliban regime

There are indications of going back to the harsh version of Islamic rule the people lived under from 1996 to 2001

ISTANBUL

As the Taliban mass at the gates of Kabul, they are promising a new era of peace in Afghanistan, with amnesty for those they have been battling for two decades and a return to normal life.

But Afghans who remember the Taliban's brutal rule and those who have lived in areas controlled by the Islamic militants in recent years have watched with growing fear as the insurgents have overrun most of the country while international forces withdraw.

In a stunning rout, the Ta liban seized nearly all of Afghanistan in just over a week, despite the billions of dollars spent by the U.S. and NATO over nearly two decades to build up Afghan security forces.

On Sunday, the insurgents entered the outskirts of Kabul but initially remained outside of the city's downtown. Meanwhile, Taliban



At the ready: Members of U.K.'s 16 Air Assault Brigade arrive in Kabul to assist with evacuation of British nationals. • AF

negotiators in the capital discussed the transfer of power, said an Afghan official who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. The official described the discussions as "tense."

The fall of Kabul marks the final chapter of America's longest war, which began after the September 11, 2001, terror attacks masterminded by al-Qaeda's Osama bin Laden, then harboured by the Taliban government. A U.S.-led invasion dislodged the Taliban.

The negotiators on the government side included former President Hamid Karzai, leader of Hizb-e-Islami political and paramilitary group Gulbudin Hekmatyar and the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council Abdullah Abdullah, who has been a critic of President Ashraf Ghani, who has reportedly fled the country.

Mr. Karzai himself ap-

peared in a video posted onlin, saying he remained in Kabul. "We are trying to solve the issue of Afghanistan with the Taliban leader-Government ship peacefully," he said.

'They sold the country' Afghanistan's acting Defence Minister, Bismillah Khan Mohammadi, didn't hold back his criticism of the fleeing President

"They tied our hands from behind and sold the country," he wrote on Twitter. "Curse Ghani and his gang."

The Taliban tried to calm Kabul residents, insisting their fighters wouldn't enter people's homes or interfere with businesses. They also said they'd offer an "amnesty" to those who worked with the Afghan government or foreign forces.

"No one's life, property and dignity will be harmed and the lives of the citizens of Kabul will not be at risk," the insurgents said.

But there have been re-

ports of revenge killings and other brutal tactics in areas of the country the Taliban have seized in recent days.

offices, shops and schools are still shuttered in areas recently captured by the Taliban, with many residents either lying low or fleeing to the capital, Kabul. But already there are indications of a return to the harsh version of Islamic rule Afghans lived under from 1996 until 2001.

Many fear the Taliban will roll back two decades of gains by women and ethnic minorities while restricting the work of journalists and NGO workers. An entire generation of Afghans was raised on hopes of building a modern, democratic state dreams that seem to have melted away.

As the insurgents reached the capital early on Sunday, a photo circulated on social media showing the owner of a beauty salon painting over posters depicting women. Young men raced home to change out of their jeans and tee-shirts and into the traditional salwar kamiz outfit.

Last month, after capturing Malistan district of Ghazni province, the insurgents went door to door looking for people who had worked with the government, killing at least 27 civilians, according to Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. After capturing Herat, the insurgents paraded two alleged thieves through the streets with black makeup on their faces.

These days, the Taliban leadership says it is open to women's education, but rights groups say the rules vary depending on local commanders and the communities themselves.

Fear is running high among the ethnic Hazara minority, Shia Muslims who were persecuted by the Taliban and made major gains in education and social status over the past two decades.

Ghani says left

Kabul to avoid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Afghan President Ashraf

Ghani said that he had fled

the country on Sunday to

Mr. Ghani, who did not

say where he had gone,

said he believed "countless

patriots would be mar-

tyred and the city of Kabul

would be destroyed" if he

had staved behind. "The

Taliban have won... and

are now responsible for the

honour, property and self-

preservation of their coun-

trymen," he said in a state-

ment posted to Facebook.

flood

bloodshed

"prevent

bloodshed".



People outside the Petit Pas Hotel, destroyed by the earthquake in Les Cayes, Haiti, on Saturday. • AP

# After quake kills 724, Haiti looks for survivors

'At least 2,800 people injured'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PORT-AU-PRINCE

The death toll in Haiti's powerful earthquake jumped to over 700 on Sunday as crews desperately dug through collapsed buildings for survivors in the Caribbean nation still reeling from its president's assassination.

At least 724 people were killed in the 7.2-magnitude tremor that struck Saturday about 160 km to the west of the densely populated capital Port-au-Prince, which was devastated in a massive 2010 quake.

Churches, businesses, schools and homes crumbled in Saturday's quake that trapped hundreds of victims under rubble and left at least 2,800 people injured, the country's civil protection agency said in an update.

Heavy damage was reported in the center of the city of Jeremie, home to around 2,00,000 people and composed primarily of single-story buildings. The damage in Les Cayes also appeared to be significant, including the collapse of a multi-story hotel.

Amid ongoing fear of aftershocks, virtually the entire population of that city spent on Saturday night out-

doors, sleeping in front of their homes - or what was left of them.

Rescue efforts could be hampered by Tropical Storm Grace, which is expected to bring heavy rainfall and possible flash floods to Haiti from late Monday, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.

The U.S. and other nations immediately pledged support, with President Joe Biden approving "immediate" aid efforts.

USAID head Samantha Power tweeted on Sunday that her agency had deployed an urban search and rescue team to join its earthquake disaster response team in Haiti.

Some 1,500 buildings were destroyed and over 5,000 damaged, trapping hundreds under rubble and leaving at least 2,800 people injured, the country's civil protection agency said in an update.

Haiti's neighbour the Dominican Republic said it was shipping 10,000 food rations and medical equipment. Cuba and Ecuador dispatched medical search-and-rescue teams.

And Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Venezuela also offered help, as did the United Nations.

# Kabul airport closed to commercial flights

U.S. Embassy tells Americans to take shelter, says airport reportedly taking fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senior U.S. military officials say Kabul's international airport has been closed to commercial flights as military evacuations continue.

The suspension of commercial flights cuts off one of the last avenues to escape the country for Afghans fearful of Taliban rule. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing operations.

Scenes of chaos played out at the airport earlier, as Afghans rushed to get on the last flights out of the country. Videos circulating online

**ELSEWHERE** 

resignation today

Yassin will offer his

his 17-month-old government. He urged the

him in exchange for

Malaysia's PM Muhyiddin

resignation to the king on

potentially spelling an end to

Opposition MPs to support

institutional reforms. The

A fuel tank blast in Lebanon

people and injured nearly 80,

authorities and medics said.

The military said a fuel tank

the Army to distribute to

citizens" exploded. AFP

that "had been confiscated by

early on Sunday killed 28

offer was rejected. AFP

Lebanon fuel tank

explosion kills 28

Monday, a Minister said,

KUALA LAMPUR

showed airport personnel struggling to coral crowds boarding a plane on the tarmac, while a man with an injured leg lay on the ground. In the background, a U.S. Air

Force plane was landing. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul said on Sunday that the security situation at the airport in the Afghan capital was changing quickly, and that there were reports of gunfire as U.S. troops aided the evacuation of U.S. personnel.

"There are reports of the airport taking fire; therefore we are instructing U.S. citizens to shelter in place," the Embassy said.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Three Japanese Cabinet Mi-

nisters visited a shrine seen

by neighbouring countries

as a symbol of Tokyo's past

militarism on Sunday, the

anniversary of the nation's

World

It came after two Cabinet

members, including De-

fence Minister Nobuo Kishi,

visited Yasukuni Shrine on

The shrine in central To-

kyo honours 2.5 million war

dead, mostly Japanese, who

have perished since the late

19th century. But it also en-

shrines senior military and

political figures convicted of

war crimes by an interna-

Around 200 people parti-

cipated in the ceremony,

tional tribunal.

Second

Friday.

surrender.

Japan Ministers visit

controversial shrine

China, S. Korea register their protest

A source familiar with the situation could not confirm reports of firing there.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken had said earlier on Sunday that Embassy staff were leaving the diplomatic compound and moving to the airport as Taliban insurgents entered Kabul.

Diplomats were being ferried by helicopter to the airport, where U.S. troops were providing security amid an exodus of Americans and allies and other foreigners.

More U.S. forces had been sent in to get U.S. officials out of the country "in a safe and orderly fashion" while main-

People outside Yasukuni

■ REUTERS

Shrine in Tokyo on Sunday.

which usually gathers 6,000

and was scaled back be-

On Friday, Beijing ex-

pressed "strong dissatisfac-

tion and firm opposition" to

Defence Minister Nobuo

South Korea summoned

the Japanese Embassy's de-

puty chief of mission to

Kishi's visit to Yasukuni.

protest Friday's visits.

cause of the coronavirus.

taining a "core diplomatic presence," he added.

"We're working to make sure that our personnel are safe and secure. We're relocating the men and women of our Embassy to a location at the airport," Mr. Blinken

Sources had told Reuters that most U.S. staff were expected to be evacuated from Kabul in the coming day or

Germany on Sunday moved its diplomatic personnel in Kabul from the Embassy to the airport ahead of an evacuation planned from Monday.

France will dispatch two military transport planes to the UAE during the night and on Monday for the evacuation of French citizens in Afghanistan.

A NATO official said the group was maintaining its diplomatic presence in Kabul and helping to keep the airport running.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said nobody should bilaterally recognise the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan, adding it was clear that there would be a new administration in the country soon. (With Reuters inputs)

# Hong Kong

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pro-democracy group that organised some of the biggest protests during the political upheaval in Hong Kong in 2019 is dissolving, the group said on Sunday.

Earlier this week, the city's largest teachers' union disbanded in light of what it said were drastic changes political the environment.

Hong Kong last year.

# democracy group disbands

The Hong Kong Civil Human Rights Front said it could no longer operate. The decision comes as the group faces a police investigation for possible violation of a national security law, according to local me-

The crackdown follows Beijing's imposition of the national security law on

# Give your child the right building blocks for their future! After helping hundreds of students and winning generous appreciation from parents, STEP LIVE Junior is back! **Classes on all Tuesdays** Batch begins 31st August

# Israel condemns Poland restitution law

It recalls top envoy over legislation that restricts rights of Holocaust survivors

ASSOCIATED PRESS WARSAW

Israel on Saturday condemned Poland's approval of a law that restricts the rights of Holocaust survivors or their descendants to reclaim property seized by the country's former communist regime and announced it was recalling its top diplomat in protest.

The move ignited a diplomatic crisis between Israel's government and the nationalist conservative government in Poland. After years of close ties under former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's new government, which includes top officials who are the children of Holocaust survivors, has taken a far more confrontational approach.

Polish President Andrzej Duda earlier in the day signed the law, which ad-



Survivors and guest walk past the barracks at the former concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland. • REUTERS/FILE

dresses appropriations done by the communist government that ruled Poland from the end of Second World War until 1989.

The law itself says nothing about the Holocaust or Second World War. Instead it establishes that any administrative decision issued 30 years ago or more can no longer be challenged, meaning that property owners who had their homes or business seized in the communist era can no longer get compensation.

**International pressure** 

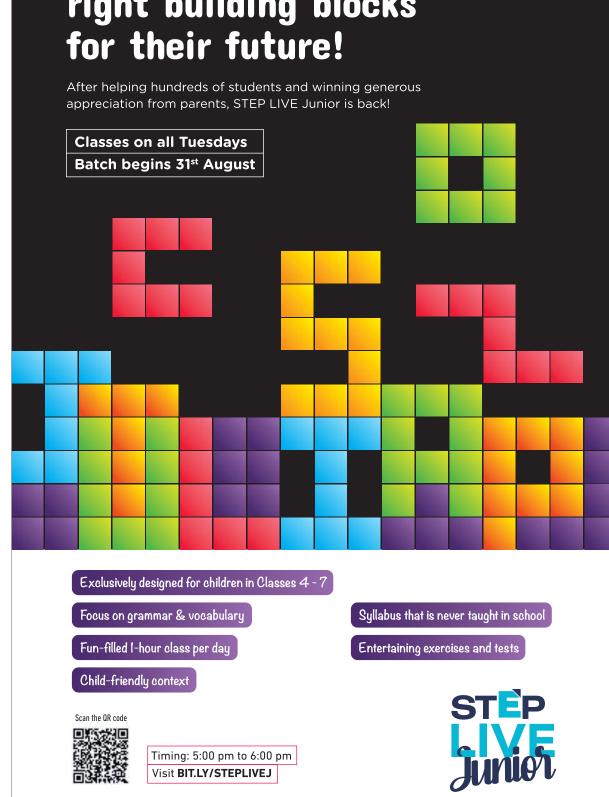
It is expected to cut off for all time the hopes of some families – both Jewish and non-Jewish – of reclaiming property seized during that era.

Both the U.S. and Israeli governments had strongly urged Poland not to pass the law and Israel had warned it would harm ties. Israeli Prime Minister Naf-

tali Bennett called Duda's signing of the law "a shameful decision and disgraceful contempt for the memory of the Holocaust" and said "Poland has chosen to continue harming those who have lost everything."

Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said that he had instructed Israel's charges d'affaires in Warsaw to return home immediately and that the new Israeli Ambassador to Poland, who was scheduled to leave for Warsaw, will remain in Israel.

The Israel Foreign Ministry also said it was recommending that the Polish Ambassador, who is on vacation



# ASK US

Q. I am a senior citizen having pension and interest income. Recently, I redeemed some mutual funds possessed by me from 2017 onwards. Since I possessed them for more than 3 years, I presume the income generated comes under long-term capital gains. Please clarify my doubts.. 1) If the long-term capital gains exceed ₹1 lakh, what will be the amount that will come under LTCG and will add up to my taxable

income? 2) If the LTCG is not derived from equity-oriented funds, what is the rule to consider it as income? 3) Among the mutual funds I redeemed, there were 2 funds giving dividends monthly. But I converted them to growth funds after about two-and-a-half years and redeemed them after about 11 months. Under which category would the income from them fall?

A. 1) In case of long term capital gains (LTCG) for equity-oriented funds, LTCG up to ₹1 lakh is not taxable; any amount over and above ₹1 lakh will be taxed at 10% plus cess. For the purpose of total income, LTCG amount minus ₹1 lakh will be considered.

2) In case of debt mutual funds, the holding period is 3 years. Any redemption prior to 3 years is be considered as short-term capital gains and will be taxed as per your slab rates. Redemptions post 3 years is considered long-term capital gains and is taxed at 20% plus cess. However, for debt funds, the assessee is given the benefit of indexation in case of holding period above 3 years and respective long-term capital gains/loss be computed in such manner.

3) Switch between mutual fund schemes are treated as 'transfer' as defined in the Income Tax Act, 1961, and the respective capital gain is to be computed at the time of transfer. In your case, you are to compute the capital gains at the time of switch between mutual funds and also at the time of redemption post 11 months of the switch. Holding period of 11 months in any mutual fund scheme will be treated as short-term capital gains. In the case of equity-oriented gains, it will be taxed at 15% plus cess and in the case of others, it will be taxed at your

Q. I am a retiree from a Central Public Sector Enterprise and a senior citizen. The company does not have any pension scheme to be offered directly. A portion of contributory PF amount has been annuited to the EPFO, which disburses a monthly pension amount as family pension. Please clarify the following: 1. Is this covered under 'employer pension' by terminology, to be eligible for a standard deduction? 2. Does the LIC pension scheme get any eligibility under 57(iia) 3) Does the PM pension scheme offered as LIC Bavishya Bhima Pension Scheme get any eligibility under 57(iia)? Kindly provide clarification on the above

A. 1) Annuity received from EPF is taxable under the head 'Income from Salaries'. Thereby you may claim standard deduction also while computing the taxable income.

2) and 3) Pension received from annuity schemes from insurance companies are taxable under the head "Income from Other Sources" and is fully taxable. Standard deduction is not applicable and it cannot be treated as family pension; there will no benefit by way of Section 57(iia).

Q. I have just completed 80 years of age. I have been filing income tax returns for more than 50 years and am also paying a nominal amount towards tax. Kindly help clarify on the points below:-

1) Any concessions for super senior citizens (above 80 years)?

2) I am now getting a pension of ₹32,000 p.m. from the central government. My pension will be enhanced by 20% as I have completed 80 years. I am getting total interest from all sources of nearly ₹3 lakh. I am depositing ₹1.5 lakh per year in the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme in the Post Office. I am covered under the CGHS scheme, though I do not make use of it . Please advise me as to how I can reduce or avoid payment

3) I had invested nearly ₹4 lakh in shares during the period 1997 to 2005. These are in paper form, filed in a box file. I could not get these shares dematerialiseed, as the brokers told me all these companies do not exist now. I have a demat a/c with Kotak Securities Ltd. and I have invested about ₹5 lakh. Sometimes I buy and sell shares; am not very active. Can I show this full loss of ₹4 lakh over a period of say 3 to 5 years or so and adjust/avoid payment of the nominal tax

that I have to pay. K.V. ANANTHANARAYANAN

A. 1) Basic exemption limit for super senior citizens is ₹5,00,000. In other words, ₹5,00,000 of your taxable income is taxed at

2) You have exhausted the deductions under Section 80C and are already covered under CGHS. You may claim deductions towards donations, if any, made by you as per the conditions laid down in Section 80G, you may claim deduction under 80GG if you are in rented premises and satisfy the conditions laid down in the provision.

3) In order to trigger the provisions of the head 'Capital Gains', a transfer as defined by the Income Tax Act, 1961 is to be carried out. As you have not transferred any of the securities in the paper form, you cannot claim the loss that you notionally incurred to the Capital Gains that arose in the current

(N. Sree Kanth is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

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

# Pick the parent over overpriced Indian unit

As a company increases in size, growth tends to slow down due to problems in scaling

ANAND SRINIVASAN SASHWATH SWAMINATHAN

ndian subsidiaries of foreign parent compa-■nies listed on Indian stock exchanges are unanimously considered titans of quality and "value buys" for the long term. Their high P/E valuations are a testament to their widespread reputation in the investing world. However, the perception that they serve to be compounding wealth ma-

chines is questionable. A company such as Hindustan Unilever, with brands like Dove, Lifebuoy, Kissan, etc., has excellent brand recall and is undoubtedly a fantastic business with zero debt. This

might lead one to believe that it makes for a good investment, but as Howard Marks says, "no asset is a good investment at all prices."

Despite having solid fundamentals, HUL makes for a poor investment due to its extravagant valuations compared with its prospective investment return. As of August 11, HUL is trading at a price-toearnings ratio of 68.55, with a dividend yield of 1.3%. The argument many investors make to buy HUL at this valuation is its supposed growth prospects and brand recognition. At most, HUL has The subsidiary is made to pay problems in scaling.

a 'royalty' to the parent aside from a profit share. This is a losing trade for the retail investor

shown a compound average growth rate of 14% from 2010-2021.

A P/E ratio of 68.55 is a valuation equivalent of a high-growth tech company. It is safe to say that HUL will not be able to post growth rivalling a high-growth technology company due to many reasons. The principal one is that as a company increases in size, growth

tends to slow down due to

Moreover, the problem

with HUL and other foreign subsidiaries which are listed in India is that the dividend payout ratio is high. The consequence of a high payout ratio is made apparent when the parent company Unilever owns more than 60% of

with minimal capital expenditure, which is necesfurther than just a high dividend payout ratio and a high P/E ratio. The subsi-This is a losing trade for This problem includes all

the company. The subsidiary (HUL) is a way for the parent (Unilever) to extract profits as dividends sary for maintaining growth. Unfortunately, the problem stretches diary is also made to pay a 'royalty' to the parent aside from a profit share. the retail investor, who loses out a portion of his EPS in royalty expenses.

principal foreign subsidi-

aries listed in India such

as Nestle, P&G, and

**Stark Contrast** The difference in P/E ratio and the dividend yield between the parent and subsidiary companies (as of 11/08/2021)

•				
Company	Parent company yield	Parent company P/E ratio	Subsidiary company yield	Subsidiar company P/E ratio
Unilever	3.53%	23.71	1.30%	68.55
Nestle	2.43%	26.07	1.10%	79.22
P&G	2.45%	25.93	0.85%	59.89
Colgate- Palmolive	2.29%	24.72	2.29%	42.13

SOURCE: BSE, NSE, YAHOO FINANCE

Colgate-Palmolive. Nonetheless, there is a way for retail investors to invest in these wonderful businesses while avoiding the problem mentioned earlier. An investor could invest in the parent company Unilever listed on the London Stock Exchange. The RBI has allowed retail investors to purchase stocks from foreign exchanges. Further, financial firms and brokerage houses have made it possible for retail investors to purchase these

Unilever trades at a much more modest P/E valuation of 23.71 and offers a greater dividend yield of

Additionally, the retail investor will be able to capture the supposed high-growth prospects of its unit HUL due to Unilev-

er's majority stake. In

retaining growth prospects is a bargain. This disparity in value is not restricted to only HUL. Also, after accounting for the depreciation of the rupee, the retail investor makes a hefty return in the long run as he invests in the dollar/pound, which gains in value. The dollar has appreciated

contrast to a P/E ratio of

68.55 and a meagre yield

of 1.3%, a P/E ratio of 23.71

and a yield of 3.53% while

more than 60% over a period of 10 years from 2011 to 2021. If the retail investor does not wish to invest abroad, he can invest in a low-cost passive NIFTY index fund to compound his wealth over the long term, while remaining diversified in over 50 large companies. Thus, it is prudent for the retail investor to avoid these overpriced units favouring their parent companies.

> (The author can be reached at anand.s.srinivasan@ gmail.com)



THINK INVESTOR: GOAL OR LONG TERM?

# Thinking long term doesn't help achieve one's goal

It is logical only when you are investing surplus cash without a specific goal

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

Like many, you may believe that equity investments should be held for the long term. But do you truly invest in equity for the long term? Or do you think long term when your investments perform badly? If you invest for the long term, why do you take profits when you earn sizeable gains in the short term? Also, why do you continually follow the market if your objective is to hold for the long term? In this article, we discuss the behavioural aspects that drive us to think long term.

Loss vs gains

We like gains. But the fact is we hate losses more than we like gains. That is, a loss of 10,000 gives us more pain than a gain of 10,000 can give us happiness. It is, therefore, natural that we want to avoid losses. That is possible only if you invest in stable-income products



Your brain's coping mechanism to alleviate the pain from unrealised losses is to think long term. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

such as fixed deposits. The issue is that post-tax returns on deposits are low. You must, therefore, save more if you want to achieve your goal with bank deposits. And that may not be possible, given that you must maintain your desired standard of living and save some to achieve your life goals. So, investing in assets that generate higher expected returns such as equity becomes a necessity.

But with equity comes the uncertainty in the investment outcome, and the regret when your investment turns into a loss. Your brain's coping mechanism to alleviate the pain time to pay for the house. from unrealised losses is to think long term. It certainly helps when everyone around you talks long term. So, even if you were to believe that long term is an illusion, you may fall in line with others. Call it social conformity if you will, but it feels safe to typically join the crowd then to take a contrarian

Goals vs long term

Long term has no relevance when it comes to achieving a life goal. Here is why. Suppose you are investing to accumulate money to make a down payment for a house in 10 years. If the equity market tanks in the seventh year, thinking 'long term' is unlikely to help to meet your goal in the tenth year. What matters is whether you can recover your unrealised losses on your equity investments and make some gains to accumulate enough money in

Most of the time, we are investing for some purpose. Staying focused on the goal helps you to manage your equity investments better. Suppose the expected annual pre-tax return on your equity investments is 12%. If you earn returns greater than 12% in any year, you can take the excess profits and move the proceeds into bank fixed deposits.

In any subsequent years, when your equity investments perform poorly, you can move the buffer accumulated in these bank deposits back to your equity investments.

And if you still fall short, you can explore avenues to bridge any shortfall in the portfolio to achieve the goal. Importantly, focusing on the goal prevents from getting caught in the longterm illusion.

We think long term when we

carry unrealised losses. We live in the short term when we have unrealised gains. This behaviour to take profits quickly can be attributed to our fear of losing unrealised gains; we are risk-averse when managing gains, and risk-seeking when

managing losses. Your time horizon is clearly defined when you are investing to achieve a life goal. Thinking long term is logical only when you are investing surplus cash without a specific goal. Even then, most individuals prefer to invest surplus cash to capture short-term fluctuations in the market. In any case, we must survive short-term market turbulence to achieve long term returns.

As Keynes famously said in a different context, in the long term we are all dead.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals for managing their personal investments)

Lite ins	urance term p	ıan prem	lum			Heat	th insurar	ice premium			
Male: 30 Years, Sum	Insured - ₹1 crore, Cover	up to - 70 Years		Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium (₹)	Insurer name	Key features	Plan names Pr	emium (₹)
Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹	Care Health	Day Care Treatments Family Floater option Health Checkups	NCB Super Premium Care Care with unlimited recharge	9,092 8,265 8,885	Digit Healthcare Plus	Hospital Room Eligibility Day Care Treatments Family Floater Option	Option 1 - Maxima Restore Supe Option 2 - Early Cover Option 3 - Super care	7,985 7,541
LIC OF INDIA	Tech Term^	80	14,122		Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	NCB Super Premium with UAR	9,712		Hospital Room Eligibility	Option 4 - OPD Cover	11,806
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	85	12,998	Max Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Health ReAssure Health Pulse Enhanced	9,590 10,696	Bajaj Allianz General	Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option	Individual Health Guard	12,213
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114	wax bupa Heatti	Family Floater option Alternate Medicine	Health Companion Go Active	9,862 <b>11,747</b>	SBI General Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Arogya Premier	11,074
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10911		Family Floater option	Medi Classic	9,661		Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home		
Bharti AXA	Premier Protect Plan	75	11092**	Star Health	Restoration of cover Wellness Benefits	Star Comprehensive Young Star Gold Plan	11,476 8,389	Royal Sundaram General	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Lifeline supreme	8,578
Canara HSBC OBC	iSelect Star Term Plan	99	11,605			Young Star Silver Plan	7,133		Hospital Room Eligibility Alternate Medicine		
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601	Addiso Dida Haalila	Day Care Treatments	Activ assure Diamond Activ Health Platinum Enhanced	7,919 9,074	TATA AIG	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Medicare	9,820
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15628	Aditya Birla Health	Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Diabetes ) Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )	13,170		Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home		
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260		Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Hyperten Activ Health Platinum Essential	7,474	Universal Sompo General		Complete Healthcare Priviledge	12,241
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558		Day 1 coverage Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Essential ( Diabetes ) Activ Health Enhance ( Asthma )	11,240		Alternate Medicine Hospitalization at Home	Health QuBE Basic	4,947
Max Life insurance	Smart Term Plan	85	11800***		Day 1 coverage	Activ Health Enhance ( Hyperten		Raheja QBE	Restoration of Cover Hospital Room Eligibility	Health QuBE SuperSaver Health QuBE Comprehensive	4,011 <b>5,787</b>
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan Plus	99	12,272	Kotak General	Hospital Room Eligibility  Pre and Post Hospitalisation	Kotak Health Care-Premium (incl optional pack 1)	8,738		Day Care Treatments	Edelweiss Health Insurance- Gol (Health 241 Add-on)	10,916
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012		Coverage Day Care Treatments			Edelweiss General	Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility	Edelweiss Health Insurance Gold	8,733
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070		Day Care Treatments	Flexi Health	7,807		Alternate Medicine Day Care Treatments	Basic	9,579
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980	Chola MS General	Hospital Room Eligibility Hospitalization at Home			Liberty General	Hospitalization at Home Hospital Room Eligibility	Elite Supreme	10,777 <b>11,337</b>
^Maximum policy term is 40 yea ***Max life offers additional 5% c	s   **Bharti AXA coverage up to 65 for iscount for 1st year	age 30	-	Data as on August 10, 20 Source: LIC of India, www		For a 30-year-old male, non-s of ₹10 la	moker, for sum insured kh living in a metro city	Oriental Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Individual Mediclaim Policy	12,684

# Pujara and Rahane revive India before Wood and Moeen strike

The visitors, wobbling at 55 for three, finish the day at 181 for six; Rahul, Rohit and Kohli dismissed cheaply; the speedster scalps three and the off-spinner two

### **INDIA IN ENG**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Speedster Mark Wood and off-spinner Moeen Ali struck late on the fourth day to leave the second Test between England and India intriguingly poised heading into the final day. Kohli's men were 181 for six in their second innings, a lead of 154, when bad light forced an ear-

The penultimate day saw fortunes fluctuate.

In the morning, Wood had removed the in-form K.L. Rahul and Rohit Sharma.

### **Bigger trouble**

India was in bigger trouble when Sam Curran captured the prize wicket of captain Virat Kohli to leave the side tottering at 55 for three.

Cheteshwar Pujara (45) and Ajinkya Rahane (61), both of whom had previously struggled for runs in this series, checked England's progress albeit it took them 59 overs to add 100 for the fourth wicket.

### The slide

However, from 155 for three, India lost three wickets for 20 runs. Wood dismissed Pujara before Moeen removed Rahane and the dangerous Ravindra Jadeja.

Pujara's 206-ball vigil ended when a Wood delivery



Partners in progress: Rahane and Pujara were involved in a 100-run stand for the fourth wicket. • GETTY IMAGES

leapt off a length, the edge lobbing gently to Root at second slip to leave India at 155

Rahane was caught behind by Jos Buttler trying to cut Moeen; Jadeja was done in by a superb delivery that turned and bounced to clip the top of the off-stump.

recalled after Stuart Broad suffered a potentially series-ending calf injury, had figures of three

But, worryingly for England, Wood also had a shoulder injury that would need to be assessed after he dived headlong into an advertising board while saving

gloom, even though the floobrought back in place of Dan dlights were on. Lawrence to an attack missing star all-rounder Ben England, however, did not Stokes and fast bowler Jofra

Shortly before play ended, the umpires appeared to suggest that the game could not proceed if England took the new ball in the gathering

Archer, had two for 52 in 20

want to risk conceding runs in those circumstances, with Rishabh Pant unbeaten on 14 and Ishant Sharma on four.

Play resumed on Sunday with England 27 runs ahead following captain Joe Root's superb 180 not out in his

# Trapping the ball, or tampering with it?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

The England team caused a flutter when two players tried playing football with the red Dukes ball during the post-lunch session on the fourth day of the second Test at Lord's on

A footage from the official broadcaster showed an England player passing the ball to another who used his spikes to

trap it, raising a storm as accusations of ball tampering flew thick and fast.

The incident happened in the 35th over of India's second innings, bowled by Ollie Robinson. The footage didn't show

the face of the players.

The umpires didn't

change the ball. The issue has not escalated as nothing has been confirmed so far and the Indian team hasn't

**SCOREBOARD** 

lodged an official complaint with match referee Chris Broad.

When an Indian fan asked Stuart Broad on social media if playing football was intentional, the injured England seamer replied: "Of course, it wasn't."

Broad said the umpires should have checked the ball after the incident to ensure nothing has happened.

# side's first innings total of

The Indian openers, Rahul and Rohit, had provided the bulk of the runs in its first innings score of 364, scoring 129 and 83 respectively.

But Rahul fell for five on Sunday when, having left the ball so well this series, he edged a 93mph (150 kph) delivery from Wood straight to

### Falling for the pull Rohit pulled a 91mph ball

from Wood for six. But, trying to repeat the shot just three balls later even though three fielders were waiting for it, he was caught low down by Moeen, running in from deep

square-leg, for 21.

INDIA - 1st INNINGS 364 in 126.1 overs **ENGLAND-1st INNINGS** 

K.L. Rahul c Buttler b Wood 5 (30b), Rohit Sharma c Moeen b Wood 21 (36b, 2x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara c Root b Wood 45 (206b, 4x4), Virat Kohli c Buttler b Curran 20 (31b. 4x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Buttler b Moeen 61 (146b, 5x4), Rishabh Pant (batting) 14 (29b), Ravindra

391 in 128 overs

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

India was effectively zero for two at that stage.

Kohli, who had battled it out in the company of Rahul in the first innings, survived Curran's review for lbw.

But, he was still on 20 when he edged a Curran deJadeja b Moeen 3 (5b), Ishant Sharma (batting) 4 (10b); Extras (b-2, lb-5, nb-1): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 82 overs): 181.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-18 (Rahul, 9.2 overs), 2-27 (Rohit, 11.6), 3-55 (Kohli, 23.1), 4-155 (Pujara, 72.4), 5-167 (Rahane, 75.6), 6-175 (Jadeia, 79.1),

ENGLAND BOWLING Anderson 18-6-23-0, Robinson 10-6-20-0, Wood 14-3-40-3, Curran 15-3-30-1, Moeen 20-1-52-2, Root 5-0-9-0.

livery angled across and was caught behind, sparking a joyful run and celebration

from the bowler.

Pujara and Rahane dug in before Wood and Moeen sent both back in quick succession and set up an exciting finale.

# Rohit needs to be a little more selective with his shots: Rathour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India batting coach Vikram Rathour on Sunday said that Rohit Sharma needs to be a "little more selective" with his shots after the opener fell to a pull shot for the second time in the Test series against England.

"There will be an analysis every time they get out... we will have a talk about what happened and what they were thinking when they played that shot," said Rathour at the virtual conference after the fourth day's play

"As far as Rohit is concerned, I think he has made it clear that this is the shot which fetches him runs and he is going to play those



shots... we back him to play those shots, but the only thing he needs to do is to be

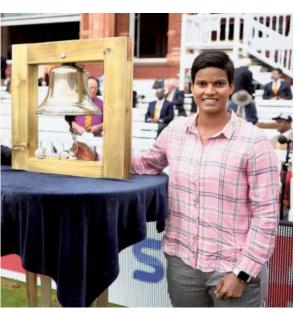
According to Rathour, skipper Virat Kohli, who was dismissed on 20, was done concentration.

"It was just a lapse in concentration for Kohli today... I don't think any old weakness is coming back," said Rathour.

"It will be a typical fifth day Test wicket where the ball will go up and down, and will also turn. If we can take the target close to 200, it won't be easy for England," he felt.

jadeja was accurate in the first innings. If he gets turn, he can create problems for the batsmen, and our pace attack is bowling well

# Let's play!



**Proud moment:** India all-rounder Deepti Sharma was given the honour of ringing the 'five-minute' bell to mark the start of play at Lord's on Sunday. • TWITTER/HOMEOFCRICKET

# Seales scalps five, Windies need 168

### PAKISTAN IN WI

REUTERS

Jayden Seales became the voungest West Indies bowler to claim five wickets in a Test innings as Pakistan was dismissed for 203 on the fourth day of the first Test at Sabina Park on Sunday.

West Indies, needing 168 to take a 1-0 lead in the twomatch series, was 114 for six with left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi picking up three wickets.

### The collapse

Seales, 19, finished with five for 55 as Pakistan lost its last five wickets for 43 runs after resuming on 160 for five.



Jayden Seales. • AFP

overs (Abid Ali 34, Babar Azam 55, Mohd. Rizwan 30, Kemar Roach 3/30, Jayden Seales 5/ 55) vs. West Indies 253 & 114/6 in 38 overs (Jermaine Blackwood 55. Shaheen Afridi 3/30).

# Will be out for many months: Federer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Roger Federer said on Sunday he will undergo further knee surgery and admitted he "will be out for many months", a decision which casts more doubt on his future in the sport at the age of 40.

"I will be on crutches for many weeks and out of the game for many months," said Federer in a video posted on his Instagram account.

The decision rules him out of the US Open, which begins in two weeks' time.

# TV PICKS

England vs India: 2nd Test. day 5, Sony Six & Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

# Narayanan finishes runner-up

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

S.L. Narayanan (7 points) finished runner-up after a draw with Israel's Ilia Smirin in the ninth and final round of the RTU Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia, on Sunday. Germany's Alexander Donchenko won with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

The results (involving Indians): Ninth round: Ilia Smirin (Isr, 6.5) drew with S.L. Narayanan (7); M. Karthikevan (7) bt Nikita Meshkovs (Lat, 6); Tomas Laurusas (Ltu, 7) bt Arjun Erigaisi (6); Gergley Kantor (Hun, 7) bt D. Gukesh (6); Nihal Sarin (6) drew with Arjun Kalyan (6.5); S. P. Sethuraman (6.5) bt Raja Harshit (5.5); Luka Budisavljevic (Srb, 6) drew with Aravindh Chithambaram (6); Kirill Chukavin (Est, 5.5) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (6.5).

### Mendonca fares better

Leon Mendonca came up with an improved showing, scoring two points from four rounds, to occupy the 14th spot after 12 rounds of Kramnik Challenge online rapid chess tournament on Saturday.

With three rounds to go, USA's Awonder Liang headed the table with 9.5 points.

# Son fires Spurs past Man City

## **EURO LEAGUES**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Son Heung-min made up for the absence of Harry Kane by scoring a second-half winner to give Tottenham a 1-0 win over defending champion Manchester City on Sunday in its opening game of the Premier League

With Kane left out of Tot-

tenham's team altogether amid continued speculation about a pending move to City, Son led the attack instead and showed that Spurs still have a top-class scorer to

The results: Premier League: Newcastle 2 (Wilson 5, Murphy 40) lost to West Ham 4 (Cresswell 18, Benrahma 53, Soucek 63, Antonio 66); Tottenham 1 (Son 55) bt Manchester City O. Bundesliga: Mainz 05 1 (Niak-



On the job: Son Heung-min made Harry Kane's absence a non-issue for Spurs with this strike. • REUTERS

hate 13) bt RB Leipzig O. LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 59pen) lost to Atletico Madrid 2

(Correa 23, 63). Saturday: Premier League: Norwich O lost to Liverpool 3 (Jota 26, Firmino 65, Salah 74). La Liga: Cadiz 1 (Alfonso Espino 90+7) drew with Levante 1

(Morales 39). Mallorca 1 (Olivan Herrero

25) drew with Real Betis 1 (Juanmi 59): Alaves 1 (Joselu 65-pen) lost to Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 48, 62, Nacho 56, Vinicius Junior 90+2); Osasuna O drew with Espanyol O. Bundesliga: Borussia Dort-

mund 5 (Reus 23, T. Hazard 32, Haaland 34, 70, Reyna 58) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Passlack 27-og, Hauge 86).

Legendary Germany and Bayern striker is the all-time top scorer in Bundesliga

'Der Bomber' Gerd Muller passes away

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gerd Muller, the Bayern Munich and former West Germany forward known as Der Bomber (The Bomber) for his scoring-prowess, has passed away. He was 75 and had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Muller scored 566 goals for Bayern between 1964 and 1979, helping the team to four German titles, four German Cup wins and three European Cup victories in that

### **Prolific**

He still holds the record for the most goals scored in the Bundesliga with 365, scored in 427 league games.

Muller also helped West Germany win the European



Unstoppable: Gerd Muller scores the decisive third goal for Germany during the World Cup quarterfinal against England

the World Cup two years later, when he scored the winning goal in the final against the Netherlands.

Altogether he scored 68 goals in 62 appearances for

The World Athletics un-

scheduled to begin in Nairo-

bi on Tuesday, has been

postponed by a day and will

start on August 18. However,

there is no change in the

teams travelling and logistics

of moving vital equipment

around the world have pro-

"The impact of COVID on

closing date (August 22).

championships,

STAN RAYAN



Championship in 1972, then

West Germany. It was a national record only surpassed in 2014 by Miroslav Klose, who needed 129 appearances to match him. Müller made 607 competitive appearances for Bayern and his



record of 40 goals scored in the 1971-72 Bundesliga season was only beaten last season, when current Bayern forward Robert Lewandowski scored his 41st in the last minute of the last game.

# Golden day for Indian recurve archers

SPORTS BUREAU

Indian recurve archers celebrated Independence Day in style by collecting multiple gold medals in the World Youth archery championships here on Sunday.

The cadet men's team, comprising Bishal Changmai, Amit Kumar and Vickey Ruhal, beat France 5-3 to emerge as the champion. Bishal joined hands with Tamanna to defeat Japan 6-2 for the cadet mixed team tit-

Choudhary and B. Dhiraj helped India rally to beat Spain 5-3 and win the junior men's crown. The Indian duo of Salunkhe and Komalika Bari got the better of Spain 5-3 to claim the junior mixed team gold.

le. Parth Salunkhe, Aditya

Komalika fought back to beat Elia Canales of Spain 7-3 and emerge victorious in the junior women's individual

The results: Recurve: Gold mematches: Cadet men's lost to Ukraine 1-5.

team: India bt France 5-3; Cadet mixed team: India bt Japan 6-2; Junior men's team: India bt Spain 5-3: Junior mixed team: India bt Spain 5-3: Junior women: Komalika Bari (Ind) bt Elia Canales (Spn) 7-3 Bronze medal matches: Cadet

women's team: India bt Germa-

ny 5-3; Cadet women: Manjiri Alone (Ind) bt Quinty Roeffen Cadet men: Bishal Changmai bt Dauletkeldi Zhangbyrbay (Kaz)

Dhiraj, Parth Salunkhe and 6-4: Junior women's team: India Aditya Choudhary. 

SPECIAL This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel @Thehindu000

The triumphant recurve

### ven to be a challenge," explained World Athletics. "However, the full athlet-

World u-20 athletics postponed by a day

Anxious moments for Indian participants at airport

ics programme will be accommodated across five days rather than five-and-a-

The Indians had some anxious moments at the New Delhi airport on Saturday night as they got ready to fly to Nairobi via Doha.

Officials of the airline, which was to fly the team to

"We have the invitation from World Athletics and every athlete has an individual QR code from the Kenyan

Doha, asked for a letter from

the Kenyan Health Ministry

to clear the athletes for the

Health Ministry but they were not accepting it," said a coach with the team. The matter was sorted out

and the team reached Nairobi on Sunday. A ND-NDE



# IOA honours Olympic medallists, others with cash rewards

Sports Minister announces expansion of Target Olympic Podium Scheme ahead of the next Games in Paris to accommodate more athletes















Honouring achievers: The Tokyo Games medal winners Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, Ravi Dahiya, Lovlina Borgohain, P.V. Sindhu, Bajrang Punia, and hockey team captain Manpreet Singh, at the felicitation function organised by the IOA and attended by the Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

### GENERAL

NEW DELHI

It was the turn of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to felicitate the medal winners and other members of the Indian Olympic contingent on Sunday.

Neeraj Chopra, the lone gold medallist, walked away with a reward of ₹75 lakh, silver medallists Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Dahiya received ₹40 lakh each while bronze medallists P.V. Sindhu, Lovelina Borgohain and Bajrang Punia were richer by ₹25 lakh each.

Each member of the bronze-medal men's hockey team received ₹10 lakh each while each member of the Olympic contingent was given ₹1 lakh.

In another first, each sports federation was richer by, at least, Rs.30 lakh.

Neeraj was present in spite of suffering from fever. Understandably, he received the loudest cheers.

Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Anurag Thakur urged the corporate sector to go beyond their contribution through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and to adopt one sport to prepare athletes for the 2024 and

2028 Olympic Games.

The Minister also announced the expansion of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) ahead of the next Olympics to accommodate more athletes.

The IOA president Narin-

der Batra hailed the medal winners and the efforts of the National Sports Federations for their work in India's best Olympic performance.

Besides the athletes, their coaches too were presented

Neeraj Chopra's coach was due to receive ₹12.50 lakh. Ravi Dahiya and Mirabai Chanu's coaches gained ₹10 lakh each. For the coaches of Sindhu, Bajrang and Lovelina, the reward was worth ₹7.50 lakh each.

### IN BRIEF



### **Brad Binder wins** Austrian MotoGP

SPIELBERG BEI KNITTELFELD (AUSTRIA) South African Brad Binder (KTM) won the Austrian MotoGP on Sunday after gambling not to change tyres when heavy rain began to fall in the closing laps. Unlike his rivals who pitted to change tyres, Binder opted to stay out on slicks and skilfully held off the field to win the 11th round of the MotoGP season. The Italian Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati) finished second, nearly 10secs behind with the Spaniard Jorge Martin (Ducati-Pramac) completing the podium. AFP



**Diego Costa joins Atletico Mineiro** 

SAO PAULO Former Atletico Madrid and Chelsea striker Diego Costa has signed for Brazilian league leader Atletico Mineiro, the Belo Horizonte-based club announced on Sunday. The 32-year-old arrives as a free agent after his contract with Diego Simeone's Atletico ended last June. Costa made just seven appearances last

season, scoring twice. AFP

### Shubhankar slips after a good start

India's Shubhankar Sharma was going great guns at 6-under through 17 holes and headed for a top-5 finish when he ran into a double bogey at the last hole of the third round at Cazoo Classic golf here. He ended the day at 4-under 68 and was 7-under through 54 holes and from tied-3 at one stage, slipped to tied-19 at the end of the day. Gaganjeet Bhullar, S.S.P. Chawrasia, Shiv Kapur and Ajeetesh Sandhu all missed the cut. Denmark's Rasmus Høigaard moved into a

Tvesa Malik slips to 67th DUMBARNIE LINKS (SCOTLAND) Tvesa Malik had a poor third

commanding three-shot



**GOLF ROUND-UP** 

Stumble: Shubhankar Sharma double bogey at the last hole of the third round at Cazoo Classic golf cost him dear. • FILE РНОТО

round carding 5-over 77 and slipped down to 67th place at the Trust Golf Women's Scottish Open after the end of the third round. Tvesa, who had two good rounds to start the week at 73-72 found the Links conditions hard to handle and had a nightmarish stretch in the

middle of the round as she triple bogeyed on Par-4 seventh hole and then had bogeys eighth, ninth and 10th holes.

### Lahiri tied-28th GREENSBORO (USA)

India's Anirban Lahiri left a few birdie chances but

# Tvesa Malik.

■ FILE PHOTO

finished bogey free with a card of 3-under 67 that saw him jump 13 places to tied-28th at the end of the third round of the Wyndham golf championship here. Russell Henley shot 1-under 69 on Saturday to take a three-stroke lead. PTI

# Alluring Silver wins Nizam's Gold Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer P. Shroff's Alluring Silver, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Nizam's Gold Cup (Gr.2), the feature event of Sunday's (Aug. 15) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poon awalla, Mr. Rishad Pandole & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole rep. Poonawalla Racing & Brdg, Mr Mukul Sonawala & Mr. D.R Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breed-

1. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): MUASER (Nakhat Singh) 1, N R I Sport (Uday Kiran) 2, Wallop And Gallop (Deepak Singh) 3 and Siri (B.R. Kumar) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 15.49s. ₹18 (w), 10, 81 and 26 (p). SHP: 456, THP: 57, FP: 1,115, Q: 1,081, Tanala: 5,295. Favourite: Muaser. Owner: Mr. Faiyaz Ali Khan. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Allahid Valsalyd.

2. BAKHTAWAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): HARD TO TOSS (Ashad Asbar) 1, Special Effort (Nathat Single) 2, Leon Lefests (II.S.) (Ashat Asbay) 1, Special Elbrit (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Reining Queen (Gaurav Singh) 4. 3, Nk and 2-1/2. Im, 14.41s. ₹43 (w), 13, 21 and 10 (p). SHP: 71, THP: 84, FP: 740, Q: 368, Tanala: 1,413. Favourite: Jean Lafette, Owners: Mr. Shailendra Singh & Mr. K S N Murthy. Trainer:

3. MICA EMPRESS PLATE (1,200m) rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): SCRAMJET (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Lagos (Akshay Kumar) 2, Lockhart (P. Gaddam) 3 and N R I Magic (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Hd, 8-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 12.50s. ₹15 (w), 10, 11 and 42 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 144, FP: 27, Q: 20, Tanala: 644. Favourite: Scramjet. Owners: United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: K S V Prasad Raju.
4. RAM TILAK PLATE (1,200m)

Maiden, 4-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): JUST INCREDIBLE (B.R. Kumar) 1, Moringa (P. Gaddam) 2, Fashion Universe (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Flying Jet (Santosh Raj) 4. Sh, 3/4 and 2. 1m, 14.16s. ₹28 (w), 14, 36 and 15 (p). SHP: 159, THP: 59, FP: 901, Q: 586, Tanala: 2,191. Favourite: Just Incredible. Owners: Mr. Ashok Rupani & Mr. Sunder Peshwani. Trainer: S.

Sreekant.
5. BROWN JACK PLATE (1,400m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MARK MY DAY (B.R. Kumar) 1, Good Connection (Zervan) 2, Siyavash (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Royal Pal (Nakhat Singh) 4. Not run: Starwalker. 1/2, 5 and 3. 1m, 26.21s. ₹151 (w), 18, 11 and 14 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 32, FP: 853, Q: 220, Tanala: 1,832. Favourite: By The Bay. Owners: Mr M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of

6. NIZAM'S GOLD CUP (Gr. 2) (2,000m) (Terms), 4-y-o & up-ward: ALLURING SILVER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Bisate (Neeraj) 2, Salazaar (Sandesh) 3 and North Star (P.S. Chouhan) 4, Nk, 1-1/2 and 2-3/4. 2m, 4.96s. ₹16 (w), 10, 16 and 12 (p). SHP: 61, THP: 60, FP: 160, Q: 84, Tanala: 240. Favourite: Alluring Silver. Owners: Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Ms. Delna Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Rishad Pandole & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole rep. Poonawalla Racing & Brdg, Mr. Mukul Sonawala & Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeders LLP. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. STAR HAVEN PLATE (1,200m), rated 25 (Cat. III): ALLURP'S PRIDE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Berkeley (Gauray Singh) 2, That's My Speed (B. Nikhil) 3 and Astronaut (P. Gaddam) 4. 1/2, Nk and 2-3/4. 1m, 15.71s. ₹19 (w), 13,15 and 52 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 206, FP: 92, Q: 63, Tanala: 3 144 Favourite: Alluri's Pride. Owner: Mr. Alluri Ajay Kumar. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹9,254 (41 tkts.) and 30%: 1,465 (111 tkts.); Treble: (i) 406 (117 tkts.), (ii) 1,944 (36 tkts.);

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cricket Australia (CA) has cleared the way for the country's leading players to return to the rescheduled IPL in the UAE starting next month ahead of the T20 World Cup.

CA has issued NOCs for the players to return to the IPL, while a planned T20 tri-series with Afghanistan and West Indies may be re-purposed as (T20) World Cup warm-ups, according to a report in cricket.au.com.

CA's clearance came after the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) confirmed the

postponement of a threematch ODI series between the two nations originally planned to be held in India in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup, the report said.

A mooted T20 tri-series also involving the West Indies was due to form an important part of the World Cup preparations for all three squads, and Afghanistan authorities are continuing efforts to secure a venue.

With the initial group stages of the T20 World Cup expected to be played primarily in Oman, the UAE venues could be free to host the

matches between the end of the IPL and the start of the World Cup's Super 12 stage. expected to begin on Octob-

Seven players who participated in the initial stage of this year's IPL -David Warner, Glenn Maxwell, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson and Daniel Sams - are now expected to retur.

Pat Cummins said he will miss the IPL reboot due the impending birth of his first child but has committed to Australia's T20 World Cup

PSG. fans give Messi a superstar welcome

# Aussies get CA's nod for IPL return Maximum points for Team MRF Tyres

Lindholm and Hämäläinen maintain good speed

### **MOTORSPORTS**

SPORTS BUREAU LAHTI (FINLAND)

Team MRF Tyres took maximum points with a win in the Ralli SM (Finnish Rally Championship) and the Top Building Ralli SM here this weekend.

The team of Emil Lindholm and Reeta Hämäläinen were strong over each of the nine stages and 110.45km of competitive action, finishing second overall but as the

leading driver was not registered for points, it meant a maximum haul for Team

# Two stage wins

Lindholm and Hämäläinen took two stage wins on Friday and a second-place to

lead into the night's service. Saturday's race saw two loops of three stages. Maintaining good speed, Lindholm and Hämäläinen were always inside the top five places in all stage times.



Brilliant: Hämäläinen and Lindholm of Team MRF Tyres were strong over each of the nine stages. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Niki Poonacha supports a social cause



**Ready for action:** Niki Poonacha is looking forward to competing in Tunisia and Egypt. • FILE РНОТО

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former National champion Niki Poonacha is finding time for a social cause amidst his tennis training.

The 26-year-old Niki, who had won the last ITF men's tournament here in April, is helping in organising a men's ranking tournament in Chennai in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Madras and the Tennishub.

"The tournament will be held at the PowerPak Tennis Academy from September 2

to 5. The winner and runner-up will get ₹10,000 and ₹5,000," said Niki. "All the funds raised from the event will be donated to Mahaishwar School for mentally challenged."

Niki has been training well for the international cir-

"I am looking forward to competing in Tunisia and Egypt soon," said Niki.

Registration for the tournament can be done on the https://forms.gle/ qXRkcSUgt1BKVuSi7.

# French club also parades its other key summer signings FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS

Lionel Messi got a first prop-

er taste of his new home on Saturday as he was presented to a full stadium of Paris Saint-Germain fans before watching his team-mates beat Strasbourg 4-2 in Ligue 1 with Kylian Mbappe playing a starring role.

Messi received a rapturous reception as he ran out onto the pitch along with PSG's other summer signings, with a 48,000-full house greeting the six-time Ballon d'Or winner despite the welcome ceremony taking place an hour before Messi joined fellow re-

cruits Sergio Ramos, Gianluigi Donnarumma, Georginio Wijnaldum and Achraf Hakimi on a stage set up on the turf at the Parc des Princes.

Argentine later watched from the stands alongside Neymar and An-



Pierre Gasly, French former

Olympic judo champion

gel di Maria – the trio not yet considered match-fit having enjoyed an extended break after playing at the Copa America – as Mauricio Pochettino's team survived something of a scare to beat Strasbourg. Among the spectators

were Formula One driver

Teddy Riner and NBA star Evan Fournier. All wanted to get a

glimpse of Messi, but the Argentine is not likely to make his Paris debut for another couple of weeks yet.

While Messi is the new This pdf was originally uploaded to Brills Express Official (https://t.me/The\_Hindu\_Express) before anyone else. Don't forget to join backup channel @Thehindu000

idol of the PSG support, those fans jeered when Mbappe's name was read out by the stadium announcer ahead of kick off.

The France striker is in the spotlight with speculation that he will seek a move away from PSG before the transfer window shuts.

# Vinesh sends her apology to WFI

May still not allow her to compete in the upcoming Worlds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Suspended wrestler Vinesh Phogat has sent her apology to the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), which had barred her from competitions on grounds of indiscipline during the Tokyo Olympics but the parent body may still not allow her to compete in the upcoming World Championship.

Vinesh, who exited from the Tokyo Games following her shock quarterfinal defeat, was suspended by the WFI for not staying and training with her teammates and for sporting the name of her personal sponsor on her singlet instead of the official sponsor of the Indian contingent.

A day after her suspension, Vinesh had revealed her physical and mental struggle during the Games where she did not have the



services of her personal The 26-year-old on Friday replied to the notice sent to

her by the WFI. "WFI has received the reply and Vinesh has apologised," a source, aware of the developments, said.

"But it is very much possible that despite apology, she may not still be allowed to travel to the World Championship," the added.