on Sunday





Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh passes away



Three Jaish terrorists killed in encounter in J&K's Pulwama



Suicide bombings cast doubt on China's Pakistan projects

Amit wins silver in 10,000 m race walk at world u-20 athletics page 14

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#### Punjab police seize 41 kg of heroin on border

The Punjab police on Saturday said they had foiled a major bid to smuggle drugs from Pakistan and recovered 40.81 kg of of heroin, estimated at about ₹200 crore in the international market, in the Panjgraian border outpost area of Amritsar. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 6

### **Arunachal Inheritance**

Bill faces stiff opposition The draft Arunachal Pradesh Marriage and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021, envisaging land rights for girls, has met with stiff opposition. Various student organisations said they would not allow the Bill to be passed in the Assembly.

**NEWS** ▶ PAGE 6



MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ PAGE 4

# 80 Indians evacuated; 150 miss flight as Taliban intercept them

IAF aircraft shifts evacuees to Dushanbe; likely to bring them to Delhi today

SUHASINI HAIDAR

At least 80 Indian nationals were airlifted from Afghanistan capital Kabul to Dushanbe in neighbouring Tajikistan on Saturday aboard an Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft. However, more than 150 others failed to get past the Taliban guards blocking access to the Hamid Karzai International Airport in time for the flight.

The airlift was part of the ongoing efforts of the government to bring back hundreds of Indian doctors, teachers, engineers and others who have been unable to leave the country since the Taliban took over more than a week ago.

#### Dropped in Doha

The group of 80 Indians, who managed to enter the airport perimeter on Thursday, boarded the special plane late on Friday night, and are due to return to Delhi by Sunday morning. A third, smaller group of Indians was able to board a NA-TO-operated charter which dropped them in Doha. They are expected to return to India by commercial flights.

On Saturday, the U.S.-led NATO forces guarding the airport in Kabul sealed sev-



Tense moments: Afghans waiting to get evacuated at the airport in Kabul. • AP

eral entry points due to the large rush of people clamouring to get in, and had to fire several rounds in the air to stem the crowds.

Visuals on international channels showed an unconfirmed number of bodies of Afghans who died in stampedes and from severe dehydration. Others reportedly died in the violence and firing by the armed militia on crowds outside the airport.

Officials coordinating the movement of the second group of 150 Indians said the convoy spent the entire day trying to enter the airport, and some of them were briefly detained by the Taliban forces outside the airport to have their documents checked.

Despite being released and allowed to proceed subsequently, the group had been unable to reach the airport gates, at the time of going to press.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6 **INFILTRATION BIDS** ▶ PAGE 7 **BARADAR IN KABUL** PAGE 9

# 14 arrested

for pro-Taliban

posts in Assam

The police in Assam have arrested 14 people, including a medical student, for "objectionable" pro-Taliban posts on social media platforms. They have been booked under Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the IT Act and the CrPC. ▶ PAGE 7

### Assam gets 45 days to finish detention camp work

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has given the Assam government 45 days to complete the construction of a standalone detention centre for declared foreigners at Matia in Goalpara district.

The court also sought the shifting of 177 inmates from the existing detention centres, now called transit camps

Hearing a petition, Justice Kalyan Rai Surana directed the State's Secretary of Home and Political Department to file the updated status report after 45 days from August 11.

#### 'In a month'

"...The State envisaged that the construction of detention centre at Matia, Goalpara, would be completed by September 2021. In this regard, the learned Advocate General has submitted although he has received specific instruction from the concerned authorities of the Home Department that expeditious steps are being taken to complete the construction work of the detention centre within a period of one month...'

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

### Lalu faces tough test as sons feud over RJD

Tej Pratap and Tejashwi are both MLAs

AMARNATH TEWARY

For Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) patriarch Lalu Prasad, who has been recuperating from multiple health issues at the residence of his daughter in Delhi, the tussle between his two sons is posing new challenges to his health, family and the party.

The siblings – Tej Pratap Yadav and younger brother Tejashwi, whom Mr. Prasad has already declared as his heir apparent – are currently locked in a fierce fight for control of the party and have thrown the ball in their father's court to resolve the discontent between them.

Mr. Tej Pratap, MLA from Hasanpur in Samastipur district, has religious leanings and is considered to have a colourful and happy-golucky personality.

#### **SPECIAL**

Sporting a chandan tikka (sandal dot on his forehead) and different coloured robes, he is a frequent visitor to the holy city of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh. He calls himself a devotee of Krishna and Shiva, and is said to be close to his mother and former Chief Minister Rabri Devi.

Mr. Tejashwi, MLA from Raghopur, is seen as close to his father. Unlike his younger



A file photo of Tej Pratap Yadav and Tejashwi, in white.

brother who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Mr. Tej Pratap is often in the news for his caustic remarks and rustic mannerisms, causing major embarrassment to the RJD and its leaders.

Matters seem to have come to a head after a faceto-face confrontation between the brothers earlier this week in Patna. On August 20, Mr. Tej Pratap visited 10 Circular Road, the official residence of Rabri Devi, where Mr. Tejashwi also lives, to discuss the differences between him and State RJD chief Jagdanand Singh.

"While, we started talking with each other Sanjay Yaday (close aide of Mr. Tejashwi) intervened and took Tejashwi away. He did not allow me to talk to my brother," Mr. Tej Pratap alleged while leaving the meeting.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 6

### Waterway



No entry: A waterlogged Minto Bridge remained closed to traffic till noon following heavy rain in New Delhi on Saturday. ■R.V. MOORTHY (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

### Markets, malls to stay open after 8 p.m. from tomorrow

City reports 19 cases, lowest in 16 months

STAFF REPORTER

Markets, malls, restaurants and bars in the Capital can stay open beyond 8 p.m. from August 23 with the Delhi government announcing on Saturday that restrictions are being lifted following the decline in the number of COVID-19 cases.

"In view of the coronavirus situation, the markets were presently allowed to stay open till 8 p.m. With the decline in COVID-19 cas-

es, this time limit is being day. The markets can stay open according to their nor mal timings," Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Delhi reported only 19 new COVID-19 cases over 24 hours, the lowest since April 15 last year, taking the tally to 14,37,293, said a bulletin released by the government. No new COVID-19-related death was reported and the toll stood at 25,079.

(With inputs from PTI)

### War of words over silence on Article 370

PEERZADA ASHIQ

A war of words erupted between Sajad Lone's People's Conference and Dr. Farooq Abdullah's National Conference on Saturday, a day after

position parties, chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, stayed silent on the issue of the reading down of

"How can J&K leaders justify position's stance?"

### Plea to be filed against ex-DGP Saini's release

Vigilance Bureau to move recall petitions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH Punjab's Vigilance Bureau has decided to file a recall petition in the High Court against the August 19 release orders of Sumedh Saini in a land fraud case. It will also petition against the court's interim bail order of August 12 in the disproportionate assets case against the former Director General of Police.

The Bureau will soon be moving the recall petitions in the two cases filed against Mr Saini, a 1982-batch IPS officer.

Mr. Saini was arrested on August 18 in the land fraud case when he went to the Vigilance Bureau (VB) office in connection with another case of disproportionate assets. He had gone to the VB office in accordance with the High Court order awarding him interim bail subject to him joining the investigation in the disproportionate assets case within 7 days of the grant of interim bail.

Ordering Mr Saini's interim bail, the court had, on August 12, stated: "For joining loose ends, if any, with



Sumedh Saini

regard to the documentary evidence or banking transactions, this court is of the opinion that custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required. The petitioner is granted interim bail subject to his joining probe within

one week from today." Pointing out that the ex-DGP had chosen to visit the VB office late in the evening on the last day of the 7-day period, an official spokesperson of the Bureau said Mr. Saini had thus failed to follow the HC orders in letter and spirit. "Saini intentionally exhausted the seven-day period during which he had to join the probe, and even then he arrived at the Sector 68 Mohali office of the Bureau without any prior intimation to the investing officer," said the spokesperson.



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the virtual meeting of 19 Op-

Article 370

Taking on the NC and Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Demotheir presence in the meeting if they could not convince the leaders to talk about Article 370. What is the national Op-

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> Live-online classes will be provided till offline classes resume. **Economics**

Note: In case offline classes are suspended due to COVID conditions then,

**Mathematics** 

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Commencing from 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2021 (Timing: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM)

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• N-Batch: 5<sup>th</sup> August'21 (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)

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under, Patanjali IAS) 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 (Offline classes)

**Current Affairs for CSE Prelims (CAP) 2021** 



CSAT for CSE 2022 Commencing from 5th September, 2021



Offline Mock Interviews for CSE 2020 are being conducted at Pusa Road, Old Rajinder Nagar Centre

27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station, New Delhi-60 

Delhi received 138.8 mm of rainfall over 24 hours — the most for a day in August since 2007; light rain with possibility of 'severely bad weather' forecast for today

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The national capital received 138.8 mm of rainfall over 24 hours (from 8.30 a.m. on Friday to 8.30 a.m. on Saturday) - the highest for a single day in August since 2007.

Sunday is expected to be generally cloudy with light rain, said the India Meteorological Department.

all-time highest amount of rainfall on a single day in the month was 184 mm on August 2, 1961.

Saturday's reading is the ninth highest in the list.

Safdarjung observatory, which is considered as representational data for the city, recorded 138.8 mm of rainfall, The Ridge observatory registered 149.2 mm of rainfall over 24 hours.

Narela station recorded 11 mm of rainfall.

The minimum temperature on Saturday was recorded at 23.8 degrees Celsius, three notches below average, while the maximum temperature was 32.6 degree celsius, a notch below normal.

Delhi's air quality on Saturday evening was in the 'satisfactory' category.

The IMD had issued an 'orange' alert for Saturday, a warning for extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and drain closures and interruption of power supplyand. A 'yellow' warning has been issued for Sunday, indicating severely



Familiar sights: Two buses stalled under a railway bridge near Welcome metro station in northeast Delhi: (below) vehicles stuck in the water at Azadpur underpass in north Delhi following heavy rain on Saturday. • R.V. MOORTHY, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Ph. No. 01907-266245

HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175018
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

# Waterlogging complaints flood PWD

Drainage system buckles under deluge, traffic crawls on most major stretches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Public Works Department received over 334 complaints of waterlogging between midnight on Friday and throughout Saturday as all critical points identified by the agency were flooded for the most part of the day.

#### **Guard electrocuted**

According to Delhi Police officials, a 60-year-old guard died on Saturday due to electric shock in east Delhi's Anand Vihar area allegedly due to waterlogging.

Medicines at a State-run hospital in Rohini were allegedly damaged as the rainwater entered the pharmacy, a government official said.

According to data from the three civic bodies, at least 14 incidents of tree felling were reported in the city.

Meanwhile, commuters had a harrowing experience as vehicles crawled on important stretches across the city. Vikas Tyagi, a commuter, said it took him over four hours to reach Burari from Hapur due to waterlogging. The trip usually takes two hours, he added.

Traffic movement was also disrupted on the Mehrauli-Badarpur road in south Delhi. People were also seen



Heavy waterlogging near Shahdara railway station; tree uprooted in Jahangirpuri during the downpour. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA, SUSHIL KUMAR

wading through waterlogged streets across the Capital.

According to a senior PWD official, Minto Bridge, which was cordoned off by the traffic police on Saturday morning, was among the first points to get flooded.

The situation there was, however, brought quickly under control as water was pumped out and the stretch was reopened to traffic.

"The PWD control room began getting complaints of waterlogging as soon as rain

started lashing the city on Friday. Most of the vulnerable and critical points around the city got water-

logged," said a PWD official. Most complaints of waterlogging came from Azadpur, several points on the Ring Road, Pul Prahladpur underpass, Lajpat Nagar, ITO, Mathura Road, and more.

The average rainfall that the drainage network of the city can cater to is 50 mm per day but Delhi received 138.8 mm of rainfall in 24 hours, the PWD said.

(With inputs from PTI)

HP / 3500/21-22

website WWW.hptenders.gov.in.

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-mail: ee-sun-hp@nic.i. **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the

WOII	detailed in the table.				
Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Starting date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Micro surfacing Type-III on MDR-76 Shimla Mandi road via Tattapani KM 135/0 to 146/0 (SH: Providing and laying Micro Surfacing Type-III inKm 140/0 to 144/0).		26.08.2021	Rs. 75,500/- only.	09.09.2021
The	hidders are advised to note other details of tenders from	the denartme	nt	Execut	ive Engineer.

#### **HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. I, HPPWD, Mandi, DisttMandi(H.P.) on behalf of Governor

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Starting date for down- -loading Bid	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Annual Preventive Maintenance of SeghaliBaggi PrasherJawalpurPanarsa road Majour District Road	18,18,701/-	06.09.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	36,400/-	13.09.2021 upto 11:00 A.M
	(MDR-068) using Micro Surfacing for the year 2021- 22. (SH:- Providing and laying 6-8 mm thick micro sur	rfacing layer i	n Km 44/0 to 45	i/0 & Km 5	6/0 to 57/0)
2.	Construction of ShilhbadhaniKungriKortang road Km 0/0 to 8/255 (Shilhbadhani Forest Rest House	16,97,942/-	06.09.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	34,000/-	13.09.2021 upto 11:00 A.M.
	to KungriKortangupto inlet portal to Bhubhu Jot Tunnel) (SH:- Formation cutting 5/7 metre wide from	Jeepable to M	Notorable from k	(m 3/570 to	0 4/435)
3.	Construction of DharmeharTarswanDragar Garhgawn road Km 0/0 to 5/250. (SH:- Formation	15,67,813/-	06.09.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	31,400/-	13.09.2021 upto 11:00 A.M.
	cutting 5/7 metre wide from Jeepable to Motorable fro	m Km 2/500	to 3/165)		
4.	Construction of Health Sub-Centre Building at Chhahari Tehsil PadharDistt. Mandi (H.P.) (SH:-	6,42,737/-	06.09.2021 at 11:00 A.M.	12,900/-	13.09.2021 upto 11:00 A.M.

C/O approach to Health Sub-Centre building) The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website

Executive Enginee Mandi Division No. I H.P.P.W.D., Mandi Distt. Mandi (H.P. On behalf of Governor of

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK HP / 3498/21-22

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

PROCUREMENT CIRCLE, KPDCL KASHMIR 190018

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33 KV/110V, Single Phase Outdoor Type Potential Transformers 222

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE i) e- NIT No: SE/Proc/12/2021-22.

Material Description

DIPK-NB-2779/21

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement Circle KPDCL Kashmir invites online e-bids from Govt. registered original equipment manufacturers for supply of 33 KV/110V, Single Phase Outdoor Type Potential Transformers and 33 KV, 400-200/5-5A(3 Core-2 Ratio Outdoor Type Current Transformers as depicted below for the requirement of KPDCL

**FOR ECSD** 

SE/Proc/12/2021-22

$ ^2$	33 KV, 400-200/5-5A(3 Core-2 Ratio), Outdoor Type Cur Transformers	rent	254	
	complete tender document is available at website http://	-	-	
time	e mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Coof Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other de	Qualifying		,
1)	Date and Time of downloading/Sale (Start) of tender Document	18.08.	2021; 16:00 Hrs	3
ii)	Date & Time of Download/Sale (End) of Tender Document	09.09.	2021; 14:00 Hrs	3
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	20.08. 16:00 l		Hrs to 23.08.2021;
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	24.08. 14:00 l		Hrs to 09.09 2021;
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	Plann		ce of Chief Engineer curement Bemina
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	11.09.2	2021; 14:00 Hrs	;
vii)	Financial Bid Opening		be declared cally qualified bi	l later on for the idders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/Technical Bid Opening	Soft Co	opy Electronical	lly
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	local fir Three J&K a	ms of J&K and Thousand Onl	ive Hundred only) for Rs.3000.00 (Rupees ly) for firms outside SE/Proc/12/2021-22
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	The bi	d security shall	l be as per D.O. No:

Superintending Engineer Procurement (KPDCL)

9/4/2020-PPD dated 12.11.2020 of Govt

Of India endorsed by Govt. of UT of J&k

vide no: A/Misc (2018)-III-895/J dat



HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)** 

Email : <u>ee-cho-hp@nic.in</u>

No. PW.CHD.CB.Tender/2020 6973-7072 Dated: 19.08.2021

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Chopal District Shimla H.P. on behalf of Governor of .P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover Syster or the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms required the HPPWD Department.

WILL	with it was department.							
SI. No	Name of work	Estimated cost			submission			
1	2	3	4	5	6			
1.		5035150/-	25.08.2021	83000/-	10.09.2021			
	Nerwa Bassa to village							

oituminous concrete at km. 2/0 to 6/0). 5658593/- 25.08.2021 Annual Maintenance on road km. 0/0 to 4/500 (SH: Providing renewal coat of 30mm thick bituminous concrete at km. 0/0 to 4/500).

The bidders are advised to submit the hard copy of documents submitted online for the eparate tender after next day of deadline date of bid. Other details of tender from the

HP / 3492/21-22

HPPWD Division Chopa District Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of Himachal Prades

दिनांक : 19.08.2021

#### कार्चपालक अभियंता का कार्चालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुड़

email :- eercdpakur-jhr@nic.in, Phone & Fax No. 06435-220592

#### ई०-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट सूचना निविदा सूचना सं0- RCD /PAKUR/347/2021-22

पथ प्रमंडल, पाकुंड अन्तर्गत सिमपुर (MDR-245 पर) (नलहटटी-पाक्डिया पथ, ODR पर) (पष्चिम बगाल सोमा तक) पथ पथ (लबाई -कार्य का नाम 0.00 से 23.406 कि0मी0) में चौडीकरण एवं मजबूतीकरण/ पुनर्निर्माण कार्य**।** वित्तीय वर्ष 2021—22 रू० 72,42,69,886 / — (रू० बहत्तर करोड़ प्राक्कलित राषि (रू०) बियालीस लाख अनहत्तर हजार आठ सौ छियासी मात्र) 3. कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि 18 (अठारह) माह र्ड –निविदा प्राप्त करने की 19.09.2021 के पूर्वाह्न 12.00 बजे तक अतिम तिथि एवं समय ई –निविदा का बेबसाईट पर 30.08.2021 के पूर्वाहन 10.30 बजे से . प्रकाषन की तिथि एवं समय ई –निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले कार्यपालक अभियता. पथ निर्माण विभाग. पथ कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता प्रमण्डल, पाकुड। ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट अधिकारी का 06435-220592 सम्पर्क न0 ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट सेल का सम्पर्क सहायता नम्बर

नोट – प्राक्कलित राशि धट–बढ़ सकती है। विशेष जानकारी http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है I

PR 251760 Road (21-22)\_D

Reference No.: 640

within 100 or leading industries.

PR 251737 Higher Education,Technical Education and Skill Development Department(21-22)#D

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and time at.

कार्यपालक अभियंता पथ प्रमण्डल, पाकुड़

Government of Jharkhand

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (Directorate of Technical Education)

YojanaBhawan, Nepal House Campus, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand) Ph.: +91-651-2490070, 2491797, Fax : +91-651-2490208 e-mail: secy.dhte@gmail.com / dtejharkhand@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

The Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government o Jharkhand invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the reputed and leading educational organizations in the field of engineering having NIRF ranking within 100/leading industries for running of newly constructed engineering colleges with the state of art building infrastructure facilities and amenities

The State Government is very much interested in imparting high quality technical education in the state of Jharkhand and in this endeavor, proposals are invited to run newly constructed four engineering colleges at Jamshedpur, Ramgarh, Koderma & Palamu with state of art building infrastructure facilities and amenities. This expression of interest intends to receive proposals for running Engineering Colleges/ College with concept plan of operation and maintenance of the campus from interested leading educational organizations in the field of engineering having NIRF ranking

For overview of the projects and other important information, please visit: https://

The last date and time of submission of EOI is 05, September,2021 up to

16.00Hrs. Sealed envelope marked to the above captioned address mentioning 'EOI for

PPP project' on the top of the envelopeshould be submitted/ delivered within aforesaid date

Director (Technical Education), Room No.-308, Yojna Bhavan,

Nepal House Campus, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002

### SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE FOR MISC ENGG. WORKS

Senior Divisional Engineer (CO), South East Central Railway, Nagpur acting fo and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the execution of below mentioned work: Tender Notice No.: N/17/NGP/2021-22

ime of the Work: (1) Replacement of maged pipeline at Nainpur (NIR). (2) mprovement to drainage at LHS in JBP lainpur section. (3) Provision of wate prage tank of Staff Quarters and BTS station. (4) Construction of coac Overhead RCC Tank of capacity 1.25 Lakh litres at Nainpur station and Borewell of 200 mm dia with pump

Tender Notice No.: N/18/NGP/2021-22 Zonal works (including white washing ainting and repairs to road work) fo the period ending up to 30.06.2022 is the section Itwari (Ex) to Nainpur (Ex) der the jurisdiction of Chhindwara. Approx. Tender Value: ₹55.00.000.00

Completion Period: Up to 30.06.2022 Tender Notice No.: N/19/NGP/2021-22 Name of the Work: (1) Provision of SSE, P-Way Office and Stores at Lamba station. (2) Provision of Battery Room and Relay Room at LC No. BK-2, BK-4 Approx. Tender Value: ₹ 54,74,924.08,

oletion Period: 08 (Eight) Months For all the above Tenders, Tender Form Cost & Earnest Money is 0 (Nil) Special attention to the Tenderers: The tenderers should read th special technical criteria conditio

No. 1.1 explicitly and upload the documents accordingly. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to 15:00 Hrs. on 17.09.2021 only, Manual offers are not allowed under these tenders and any such manual offers received shall be rejected. Details are available on

ur website : www.ireps.gov.in.
Divisional Engineer (North), outh East Central Railway, Nagp

/ Ranchi, dated: 21.08.2021

(Dr. Arun Kumar)

Director (Technical Education)



### Hindu Army chief held in sloganeering case STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The police arrested Hindu Army chief Sushil Tiwari in connection with raising anti-Muslim inflammatory slogans during a rally at the Jantar Mantar on August 8.

A senior officer on Saturday said Tiwari (40) from Lucknow was arrested on Friday night.

"A video surfaced in which he could be heard using foul words for members of minority community," the officer said.

The police had earlier arrested six people, including advocate and former BJP spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay, Save India Foundation's reet Singh alias Sundar Pal, Hindu Force's Deepak Singh, Hindu Raksha Dal's Deepak Kumar, Sudarshan Vahini's Vinod Sharma, and one Vinit Bajpai.

A Delhi court had granted bail to Mr. Upadhyay and two others while rejecting the plea of Preet, A video surfaced in which Sushil Tiwari can be heard using foul words for members of the minority

community SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

Vinod and Deepak Kumar

On August 8, a rally was called to demand the end of 'colonial era laws' by Supreme Court advocate and former Delhi BJP Spokesperson Ashwini Upadhyay. The event was attended by several right-wing organisations.

Subsequently, a video among several others went viral wherein a group of men led by a man wearing a saffron T-shirt could be heard raising anti-Muslim inflammatory slogans.

The police registered a case on charges of promoting enmity and for flouting Delhi Disaster Management Authority guidelines.

### Teenager falls into drain, dies

STAFF REPORTER

A 17-year-old boy died on Saturday

after he fell into a drain in northeast Delhi's Seelampur, the police said. The police said they received a PCR call at around 12.50 p.m. about the incident near Nag Devta Mandir in Seelampur.

On reaching the spot, the youth was rescued by fire tenders and divers. He was then shifted to a hospital where he was declared brought dead. The boy - Naveen from Nabi Karim – was a ragpicker and lost his balance while crossing the drain. Legal action will be taken, the police added.

#### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice

of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

r o	Name of Work	Estimated Cost		Cost of Tender	Time	Eligible class of contractor
	M/T of approach Road to engineering College at Pragtinagar Gumma in Tehsil Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla, H.P. in K.M. 0/00 to 1/212 (SH:-M/T in K.M. 0/00 to 1/212)		Rs. 95,300/-	Rs. 2000/-	Two Month	Class D And Class C

Key	Dates:	
1.	Date of Online Publication	25-08-2021 1100 HRS
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	25-08-2021 1100 HRS upto 06-09-2021 1730 HRS
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	25-08-2021 1130 HRS upto 06-09-2021 1800 HRS
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	07-09-2021 upto 1030 HRS
5.	Date of Technical Bid Opening,	07-09-2021 1100 HRS
6.	Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	Date to be announced

NOTE:- Since whole of the work is to be carried out with Hot Mix Plant, Paver an Vibratory Road Roller, Static Roler as such only those contractor would be issued tender documents and allowed this work who produce the Ownership / Hiring of Hot Mix Plant- 1 No, Vibratory Roller-1No, Static Roller-1 No, etc, in addition to othe conventional machinery mentioned in SBD or needed for this particular kind o **Executive Enginee** 

Division Kotkhai, H.P.PWD Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla H.I HP / 3508/21-22

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Executive Engineer HPPWD Kotkhai Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time	Eligible class of contracto
1.	M/T of approach Road to engineering College at Pragtinagar Gumma in Tehsil Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla, H.P. in K.M. 0/00 to 1/212 (SH:-M/T in K.M. 0/00 to 1/212)		Rs. 95,300/-	Rs. 2000/-	Two Month	Class D And Class C
T	lar decument and other instruct	iono con ho c	lounloode	d or view	od onlin	a from the

portal https://hptenders.gov.in by the firm/individual registered on the website which is

n	key bates:					
	1.	Date of Online Publication	25-08-2021 1100 HRS			
	2.	Document Download Start and End Date	25-08-2021 1100 HRS upto 06-09-2021 1730 HRS			
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	5.	Date of Technical Bid Opening,	07-09-2021 1100 HRS			
	6.	Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	Date to be announced			

#### Timings **DELHI**

SUNDAY, AUG. 22							
RISE	05:55	SET 18:54					
RISE	19:12	SET 05:24					
MONDAY, AUG. 23							
RISE	05:55	SET 18:53					

RISE 19:48 SET 06:26 TUESDAY, AUG. 24 RISE 05:56 SET 18:52

RISE 20:20 SET 07:27

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City 24

#### **Delhi Palam Today** 33°C Rain would decrease

thunderstorm possible with cloudy sky and gentle winds

#### **Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 34°C Warm and humid day

with cloudy to partly cloudy sky. A spell of light rain and thunderstorm may occur at few

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#### THE HINDU

ished in this newspaper ING PVT LTD., the Publis Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, D r/s, Employees of this newspap pany be held responsible/liable manner whatsoever for any clair or damages for advertisements

#### IN BRIEF

#### Metro services to start early on Raksha Bandhan

Delhi Metro services across many of its corridors will begin early on Sunday to facilitate passengers on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, the DMRC said on Saturday. Services on Sunday begins on Ph-III corridors at 8 a.m. on regular days. "In order to facilitate those travelling for Raksha Bandhan, metro services will begin at 6.30 a.m. on Pink Line and 6 a.m. on Magenta Line on 22 August," the DMRC said. PTI

#### **Indian Oil celebrates** Raksha Bandhan

NEW DELHI On the eve of Raksha Bandhan, Indian Oil officials gave away gifts to women customer attendants at COCO Niti Marg. They were gifted a kit containing ladies purse, sweets, two rakhi sets and a mask.

#### **Management school** celebrates Onam

BIMTECH celebrated Onam the homecoming of King harvest festival of Kerala, with great enthusiasm and spirit. The evening started with lighting of the lamp by director Harivansh Chaturvedi.

### Man who set self on fire outside SC dies

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old man, who had allegedly set himself on fire outside the Supreme Court, succumbed to injuries on Saturday, the police said.

The man and a woman had tried to end their lives setting themselves ablaze on August 16. The man had sustained 65% burn injuries and the 24year-old woman suffered 85%burns. Officials deployed the court rushed them to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The woman is undergoing treatment.

The woman – from U.P.'s Ghazipur – was allegedly raped by a BJP MP in 2019. The accused has been in jail for two years and the mat-

ter is undergoing trial. In a live video before the incident, the woman and the man alleged that a few police officers and other noted people were supporting the accused. In August, a local court in Varanasi issued a non-bailable warrant against her in a case of forgery based on a complaint filed by the accused MP's brother.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.

### Regularisation of illegal colonies awaits Centre's nod

'Colonies which do not meet basic requirements will have to go for compulsory redevelopment'

SHINJINI GHOSH

In a bid to regularise unauthorised colonies in the national capital, proposals have been sent to the Central government, senior officials of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said.

To ensure better living conditions and to push for regularisation of the unauthorised colonies, the proposal entails regularising colonies as it is, in cases where the respective colonies meet basic requirements.

#### **Better living**

DDA vice-chairman Anurag Jain told The Hindu, "In the '70s and '80s, when colonies were regularised, there was not really much difference in their lives. What we have proposed is to make certain norms which will ensure better living in the colonies which get regularised. The first part of it is that if a particular colony meets the basic level of norms, then the DDA will regularise it, as it

Stating that unauthorised colonies which do not meet the basic requirements will have to go for compulsory redevelopment.

Mr. Jain explained, "If a particular colony is not meeting the basic norms, including the minimum width of a road and so on, the colonies will have to go for redevelopment. People will be asked to pool their lands. The more land that gets pooled, the incentives provided will be better. If for example, 2,000 square metre of land gets accumulated, then we will make multistoreys and regularise the colony. This will also ensure that the quality of life in the area improves.

Senior officials said that the proposal is with the Centre and the guidelines

The pace of completed

registrations and applications was hit by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

ANURAG JAIN

will be finalised after receiv-

ing required approvals. Officials of the urban body also said that urban planning agencies like the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NI-UA) have also been asked to select colonies on a random basis and make layouts of whether the proposed regularisation process can be implemented.

#### **Model colonies**

Mr. Jain said, "It is still at the planning stage but the NIUA has been asked to choose five to six colonies as model colonies and make plans accordingly to see whether the pro-

posed regularisation process can be implemented. The first few model colonies will most likely be the ones which can be regularised as it is, if they meet the basic requirements."

#### **Had consultations**

While the land-owning agency has had consultations with other departments like the fire department regarding basic requirements that are to be laid out, senior officials said that once a colony is regularised, agencies concerned like civic bodies and public works department among others, will have to carry out the required development work in the area.

Meanwhile, as per official records, the DDA had issued over 8,000 conveyance deeds and authorisation slips as of August 15. The scheme was launched in December 2019 after the Centre passed a Bill to grant owner-

STAFF REPORTER

for PG courses.

Ph.D courses.

The online registration por-

tal for the various postgrad-

uate courses in Delhi Univer-

The university received

According to data provid-

ed by DU, as of 6 p.m. on Sa-

turday, the university had

received around 28,827 re-

gistrations for M.Phil and

The online portal for PG,

M.Phil and Ph.D registra-

tions was launched by the

According to officials,

university on July 26.

over 1.79 lakh registrations

sity closed on Saturday.

DU closes registration

portal for PG courses

It received over 1.79 lakh applications

this year.

PG courses

ship rights to people residing in unauthorised colonies.

According to data provided by the DDA, the urban body has received over 4.25 lakh registrations under the scheme and over 78,000 applications.

Speaking about the pace of the PM-UDAY scheme, Mr. Jain said, "The pace of registrations and completed applications was hit by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. There still exists a gap between the number of registrations and the number of completed applications. We are in the process of restarting camps to facilitate people. We have also changed our strategy and will be continuing the work in coordination with the civic bodies."

"Apart from direct messaging through camps, in case of deficiencies in applications, we will also be doing targeted messaging," said

there are around 20,000

postgraduate seats on offer

The university had earlier

announced that the entire

admission process would be

online and applicants were

not required to visit depart-

ments or campuses for any

admission-related purposes.

trance Test (DUET) will also

be conducted by the Nation-

al Testing Agency (NTA) bet-

ween Sept. 26 and Oct. 1 for

the various entrance based

The officials said the de-

claration of admission lists

will be announced later

The Delhi University En-

# BHAI IT FOR BEHNA! ANOKHA BUN DHAN!

### Over 10,000 doses given to inmates in Delhi jails

Jab drive began in Tihar on March 18

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A total of 10,885 doses of CO-VID-19 vaccines have been administered to the inmates of three jails in Delhi so far, the Delhi Prisons Department said on Saturday.

According to the data shared by prison officials as on Thursday, 1,648 Tihar jail inmates aged above 45 and 5,750 below the age of 45 years had been vaccinated. In Rohini jail, 172 inmates above 45 years and 600 below that age were administered the vaccine. In Mandoli jail, 483 inmates aged above 45 and 2,232 below it have been vaccinated so far.

Director General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel, "The inmates who received their first dose inside the prison and released on interim bail or emergency parole were asked to get the second dose in the dispensaries and hospitals near their homes. If they face any difficulty in getting the vaccine, then they can approach the jail authorities".

The vaccination drive in Tihar prison complex was launched on March 18 for the 45-plus category and the drive for inmates in the 18-44 age group began on May 18. Since March, at least 383 CO-VID-19 cases have been reported among the inmates of the jails in the national capital and eight of them have succumbed to the disease, the data showed.

#### Out on interim bail

Prison officials said over 4,000 inmates were released from three jails. "This year, the process of releasing inmates started from the second week of May.

A total of 3,442 undertrial prisoners were released on interim bail and 845 convicts were released on emergency parole from the prisons," they said.

Officials said that since the outbreak of the pandemic, the prisons department has remained vigilant and instructed its staff to maintain hygiene and social distancing among themselves.

### Agencies given list of 15 names to file fake FIRs against: Sisodia

Many people on this list are from AAP, says Deputy CM

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister and senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia on Saturday claimed that they have come to know from "reliable sources" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a list of 15 people to the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Enforcement Directorate and the Delhi police to raid and file fake FIRs against.

Many names in this list are

from the AAP, he added. "PM Modi is using his brahmastra to falsely implicate the leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party in view of the coming elections. Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana's career graph has matched PM Modi's political



Manish Sisodia

growth, and thus, he has promised PM Modi that he will ruin these people through fake cases," Mr. Sisodia said during a 'online press conference'.

Mr. Sisodia did not explain from where they got the information. "You are wel-

come to come and raid us in false cases, but don't forget that you couldn't find a single thing against us in all your past raids instead," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a statement.

Mr. Sisodia claimed that Mr. Modi had got houses of AAP leaders, including his raided in the past as well.

Mr. Sisodia said that the Delhi government believes in honest politics and giving quality education.

Mr. Sisodia said that the BJP is "scared" and upset of the increasing popularity of the AAP. "The growth graph of the AAP is increasing rapidly in Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh. Seeing this, the BJP is shaken," he said.

### Delhi govt. baffled over DTC bus inquiry: BJP

He alleged that these were

chase scam by a "baffled" Delhi government.

'It has been seen in the past seven years that whenever a scam of the Kejriwal government gets exposed, they are baffled and they start coming out with all kinds of unfounded and baseless statements," Mr.

He added that the AAP had "a history of first making unwarranted allegations

He sought to issue a warn-

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT probe in the DTC bus pur-

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Saturday called Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's allegations against PM Narendra Modi "baseless"

being made in response to the Centre's nod for a CBI

and then apologising".

ing to Mr. Sisodia to either identify the sources behind his allegation or offer an apology to the Central go-

### Couple held for killing two-year-old nephew

STAFF REPORTER

A couple has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing their 2-vear-old nephew in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden, the police said on Saturday.

DCP (West) Urvija Goel said the accused – Yamuna and her husband Rajesh beg for a living. On Friday, a woman told an ASI that her

son has been missing. During

probe, a woman can be seen carrying the child. "She was then apprehended from Tughlakabad," an officer said. Next, her husband was held on Saturday.

They told police that they strangulated the child and dumped him in a drain. Accused said they killed the boy because they believed he will grow up and rule the begging area while they will be sidelined.

#### **TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT**

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

THE HINDU India's National Newspaper

# selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

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दिल्ली सरकार

Department of Power, Government of NCT of Delhi





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# CLASSIFIEDS

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Saiva Pillai, UK Doctor

26/180 Slim Fair Revathy

seeks Tamil boy

working in UK below 30yrs

#### THE MATRIMONIAI

### **BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**

### **INDEX OF**

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

### **BRIDES WANTED**

### Classification common

for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

#### Assamese

Awadhi Bengali

#### Bhojpuri

Chhattisgarhi

#### Enalish

Bihari

Gujarati Haryanvi

#### Hindi Kannada

Kashmiri Konkani

#### Malavalam

Manipuri Marathi

#### Marwari Nepali

Oriya Parsi

#### Puniabi Saurashtra

Sindhi

#### Tamil Teluau

Tulu Urdu

#### Advocate Business

Defence Doctor

#### Engineer Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt.

### IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology MBA/ CA/ ICWA

Cosmopolitan Divorcee

#### Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

#### WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

#### COMPUTER / INFO.TECH

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94425 22322.

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Groom from Doctors only Contact:

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NAIR GIRL Pooram 23/155 BE, TCS seeks Educated Employed Groom.

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ly, Seeks groom- Doctor/Business-8925019776 HINDU SC AD 34, BE SWE TCS 1 lakh/ pm, seeks suitable grooms working in Chennai/Bangalore Ct 9952147216

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Bridegroom (FC, BC, MBC) working
HR working in MNC, Seek suitable
groom, ph 9500174710

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Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

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YADAVA GIRL 25/155 B.E. working in S/W Co Chennai getting 1.5L p. suitable Groom:7010056280

MNC Chennai 10Lpa. Seeks Corporate Professional Grooms Ct: 98407 40707

**SC-AD Hindu** Tiruvadhirai 34/162 BA, BL,ML, Chennai seeks educated Wellsettld groom.9940671899/9940343483 HINDU NADAR Poosam Kadagam 24/ 153, Fair, B.Tech seeks Well Educated

WORKING PROFESSIONAL .36.M.A(Eng)M Phil. looking for a 36-40yr old, contact :8072553100,6379881605

HINDU/SC-AD 31/160 MBA ESIC(Govt) seeks suitable groom(Govt ferred) from SC-AD family Ct-9941887824

HINDU NADAR, 29/160, M.Res(UK) Fair, Revathy seeks qualified employed India / Abroad Groom in same caste. Ct: 94864 86810.

HINDU SEERKARUNEEGAR 28/156 BE Nonveg Pooram seeks well-mannered suitable Groom Caste No Bar 9894978735

UDAYAR/PARKAVAKULA NATHAMAN, 27 159, B.Tech from Premier All India Institute. Working for Software (MNC), 1M+ p.a. Seeks well qualified scoom from India/Aband fied groom f Ct:09159581400 India/Abroad

HINDU PILLAI Ayilyam 25/172 BE TCS 40K Chennai seeks Educated Employed Groom.Cont: 98842 19327

MUDALIAR (SENGUNTHAR) 30/155, Bharani, B.Tech, Working in US (H1B) Seeks Software Prof. Groom with Clean Habits.Call: 9840697596. Mail: vishnusuresh9816@gmail.com

HINDU AD 29/150, MBA, Chithirai vitiliao seeks suitable

CHETTIAR (CNB): 25/173, Very Fair, B.Tech, Father Business, Elite & AffluentFamily, Seeks India / Abroad 9994915406/ 7358510790

HINDU, PILLAI, 26/178CM, B.E (CSE)

**HINDU SC** PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, seeks suitable groom. Ct:94436-80973

HINDU PILLAI 50/179 Eng Dip, Self Emp, Karthigai, 1st Patham, decent family, 1st Marriage, delay due to commitment, seeks Groom below 55yrs

B.E Girl Own House, Seeking Educat-

seek alliances from Chennai based Protestant Grooms. Contact/ Whatsapp: 9345202020 Suitable Groom age below 29 settled in Chennai Ct: 8428432112/ DEEE graduate working in RoyalEnfield 7299881503

MUDALIAR, 24/170, Fair, Beautiful, BE, SWE, IBM, 60000.PM, Affluent

FLITE MUDALIAR 22/M B A Own3 Tex

HASTHAM 33, 154 Fair MCA Upper Mid-

REDDY DIVORCEE 1980 Hastham Kanni

Tamil well to do Brahmin Bride looking for Supportive Compassionate partner 40-45 Years, Professional, well to do family. Reply with photo to

#### **GROOM WANTED** 36/167 Fair

**Protestant Tamil** Christian Nadar BC innocent divorcee

Caste no bar Ph: 98435 26370

**ELITE BRIDES WANTED** BRAHMIN, 27, 180 cms, Professional, Masters in

suitable well educated match from the same nmunity from USA, Contact: 6366448346

Engineering from a premier Institute. Lives in USA. Father is a working Professional. Looking for a

educated match. Contact: 6366448345 KARKATHAR/CASTE NO BAR, 31, 183 cms Businessman, M.Sc from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is retired. Family is affluent. Looking

**CASTE NO BAR,** 28, 169 cms, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

for a well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

THEVAR/CASTE NO BAR, 26, 175 cms Professional, Masters in Management from a reputed Institute, Lives in Abu Dhabi, Father is a working Professional, Looking for a well educated match

rian only. 94431 06922

of age from reputed Pillai & Mudaliar family Ct.9087296964/pattabin@gmail.com Ct: 94433-95495 rcmp2021@gmail.com

#### **GROOM WANTED** Caste No 9500009694

**KONGU VELLALAR** ( Nattugounder ) Girl, 30 Yrs, Slim, Fair Doctor - M.D. (Path)

**Corporate Hospital** Bangalore, Looking for Suitable Groom from same or equal

Working in

Community 443059274/8838112270

DKV 29YRS 164/58 MBA(IIT) fair NAIDU GAVARA, 28/170, BE. Studying MS Computer Science US. Seeks suitable groom working in US.

> MADHIGA, HINDU, S.C Telugu Girl fair, B.Tech(I.T), DOB 08-11-1990, Ht.163cms. Seeks working Groom from decent family. Send full de-tails to 7397314810. Brokers ex-

YADAVA 22/177 Danusu, Moolam4, B.Tech IT,(MBA) seeks well qualisuitable groom(Tamil also) 9940895840

NAIDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 45/151cm ACS MBA Govt.Officer looking for Bride groom in Chennai.CNB 8778873501 ELITE RICH (Naidu) 24 / M.B.B.S.

NAIDU GOOD Look 1973/171cm MBA Working Seeks Groom below 49 Yrs. Ct:9444663564, dlokeswaran@ yahoo.co.in

., own 3 Hospitals (750 Beds) girl. Seeks Groom. Ct: 98845

NAIDU DIVORCEE no issues born 1977 Slim job MNC caste No Bar, Wanted year employed Bridegroom. Ph: 94433 family 44936

#### **TELUGU**

GAVARA NAIDU 26/155, Mirugaseeridam (3) Midunam M.Com and doing Ph.D. Seeks Suitable Groom. Aswini, Thirvathurai, Uthiram, Swathi, Vegeta-

NAIDU DIVORCEE, 45, UMC, MCA, MNC seeks employed groom from same

GAVARA/BALIJA AVITTAM Kumbam 28 Fair-Good Looking,BE (E&I )seeks Suitable Groom India/ Abroad Sub-Caste No Bar. Ct:8056093838/

RICH NAIDU 27/M.B.A., OwnGranite Industries well settled Groom 9884510761

TELUGU JOGI Kirthigai 37/152 M.Com, B.Ed.Veg seek Employed groom CasteNoBar, BC,MBC prefd. Ct: 8056012713

BALIJA NAIDU Widow No encumbrance well to do 51/5.7 seeks Govt employed below 58 Well settled Telugu Widower / Divorcee. Ct: ugu widow 8807703450

CNB, Hindu /SC/ Mala 32 Years 5.4ht, Fair MBA, Bank Officer Seeks Suitable Hindu Groom. Contact Email santhi.priya191@gmail.com, Number: 8897751988

### 6382251908

PARENTS INVITE groom for good looking pious 31/159 BSc (CS), IT Professional. Email: murmoh9@gmail.com

Urdu speaking parents invites alliance for their fair, good looking, religious, unmarried 41/152 cm PG graduate daughter from well settled family. 95972 67814 CHENNAI BASED Parents of Urdu Sun ni Muslim Girl 26/174 MS.,(US)H1

SMU GIRL: 25 years, BE (CE) working @ Bangalore seeks suitable groom Ct: 9886597804, 9501673934. Email najmunissagdb@gmail.com

SMU 20/5.3 chubby, smiling.brown practising Islamic schooling,pursuing IGCSE Arabic studies.respectable background.

#### **Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite** From BharatMatrimony

**ELITE GROOMS WANTED** 

VELLALAR, 30, 160 cms, Divorced, Entrepreneur

Bachelors in Arts, Lives in Chennai, Father is an

9600078086

BALIJA NAIDU, 25, 165 cms, Doctor, BDS from a premier Instituté. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent. Looking for an amiable well educated match from the same/similar community. Contact: 6366448344

affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448345 (AMMA NAIDU, 24, 163 cms, Bachelors i Engineering from a reputed Institute. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match. Contact: 6366448346

KAMMA NAIDU/CASTE NO BAR, 26, 175 cms Divorced, Masters in Engineering from a reputed Institute. Lives in France. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448346

CASTE NO BAR, 28, 157 cms, MBA from a premier Institute, Lives in Salem, Parents are Entrepreneurs Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

#### Contact: 6366448346 Call for Free Consultation 🅜 99629 76000

### **BRIDES WANTED**

SC MALA, 28/5'10", Handsome, Telugu, B.Tech. & Masters (IISc), 30 LPA - top MNC Hyderabad. Father senior government officer. Seeks of the second of the seco nior government beautiful, Hindu/ Hindu/Christian bride obstantial, Tilliculcinistati bride 9497429830
from a well educated family.
Age:23–27, Caste/ language no bar.
No Brokers. Send details to: KERALA NAMBOODIRI Brahmin parents

PQM FOR Reddy boy 31, 5'10" M.Tech, MBA, Ph.D. (pursuing) from reputed university, having own in-vestment business, financially

well-off family, Father Ophthalmologist, Mother Academic Counsellor, looking for suitable match India/ Abroad, Contact: 8328211046. ISSUELESS DIVORCEE 54 working as freelancer with BIOGRAPHY in B'lore/chennai seeks Broadminded Companion, Caretaker & Friend.

#### 9742546839 (CNB)

TAMIL BRAHMIN divorcee 40/180 NRI employed in global company looking for North / South Indian brahmin girls without issues. No demands simple marriage. Reply myinbox81@hotmail.com simple email

LOOKING FOR suitable match for Rajput boy, 29 years, residing in Bangalore,(5'11"), MCA, The bride should hail from a decent, educated family, Same caste Contact with details 8898414145 or Email to ranjeetarksingh79@gmail.com

nai. Father Doctor. Seeks well edu-

IT/1 lakh

cated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

#### GROOM/ 38 /5'7" /Kannada brahmin/ p.m/

MARUTHUVAR - 45. MSc. MA. Govt Job – Salary 60K, Seeks Well Edu-cated and Employed Bride.

working in Central government as scientist-engineer. Proposals invited (not from bureau) 9496122999, Seeks Good looking girl – 7305810258

#### 8778514465 HINDU AD 34/178 M.S.Biotech

RC 47 /5.5" MBA.ML Deputy collector St. Govt Never married well settled, seeks suitable bride 9444934393 / 9444252852

AGAMUDAIYAR 37 MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC - 9445612997

HINDU VISWAKARMA, 34vrs. B.E.

MUDALIYAR POORAM 35/172 Fair

Engineer, 20000 pm, seeks Brid caste no bar, Contact: 96003 03385.

B.Tech MBA Software Business Owner Req Bride Subsect no bar Ct:9840358389 HINDU SC, B.E, MBA, 45, working in

Contact: 9498001707.

HINDU VANNIYAR Groom, Affluent, 30 yrs , ht : 5.8ft , B.E, MBA, Project manager in Canada seeks bride age : 26 to 29yrs , ht : 5.2 & above, good looking, well educated, with good family values, willing to settle in Canada, Call

in location: Coimbatore, seeks pleas-

ALLIANCE FOR our son, 34, 5'11", BALIJA, BHARANI, 30, Bank of Ameri-B.E. (College Of Engineering ca, 15 Lakhs Per Annum, Bride from Guindy) professional in Chen nai,16 LPA. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian) but he has no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. Writes free-lance on movies as a hobby. Con-tact 9600174846

Hindu ISAI VELLALAR 44 M.Com Govt. 90000/- pm. Seeks divorcee / widow bride w/o issues. Sub caste no

bar. 97880 58370 VADALKALAI BHARATWAJAM Kruthigai 36,170cm, M.B.B.S, D.L.O Govt. Doc-Seeks Suitable Bride

9360379051

CASTE NO Bar 1978/170 DCE well settled Midunam Mirugaserisham-3 s bride. Ct: seeks 9087865951 MUDALIAR 34y/165cm Mca Poonar

sam Emp Tirupur Wheatish Seeks Bride CNB 9486247057. HINDU PILLAI 41 MSC computer science First marriage pvt co 40k Thu-lam Swathi Own House Chennai needs brides contact 9840591187

PILLAI 33 Govt Off looks working qualified bride any Govt/PSU Call 9786113003

HINDU NADAR Boy B.Tech. 27 Yrs

Working in Air India (Govt) looking for Girl from same caste 9444215304 KAMMAVAR NAIDU, Age-25, Height-5. 5, BTECH, MBA, MPHIL, Suitable Edu-cated Employed groom needed. KONGU VELLALA Gounder,26yrs,5'8" B.Tec, MS. Presently working in Germany. Wealthy Business Family

running Masala manufacturing Compa-ny and having good farm lands in Coimbatore, Seeking suitable Bride from same caste. ct.9500122918 GRADUATED BRIDE Wanted for IT boy (First Marriage) 6.2 ft h, 31 Yrs, born to inter-religious parents, working at UK, (Caste/Religious/So-cial Status NO Bar). Contact:

kumareshmrg@gmail.com MUDALIAR HASTHAM Kanni 28/182 seek Groom from US Ct BE,TCS,SWE Affluent Family Chennai seeks Educated Bride. Ct:9629276108

> ager Gov Canada, bride 20–25yrs kanthiparam91@gmail.com, 9841092618. VANNAN TAMIL 29 BE Software Engineer Seeks working girl Preferably BE contact 7598951763

REDDI 30, 5.4', B.E., M.BA / MNC

seeks qualified Bride from respectable family. 97904 79849.

IYER KAUSHIKA 29/178 MEng UFT Man-

MUDALIAR, 29/177, Handsome, M. Tech, SWE, HCL, 1200000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

RICH MUDALIAR 28/B.E, M.S, own Bu

Fransport 100yrsBusiness etc.Elite

Family seek Bride. Rathi:9884510869

MBBS MS (Govt Dr) age 31 1Lakh per month Good Looking, Well Settled. Need Dr / BE any PG. Ct: 6374767370 VELLALAR PILLAI Hindu 33/175 Avit tam BE MS, MNC seeks educated bride. Mudaliar/SubCaste NoBar

Vadama Vaadholam Swathy 35/5'7" MBA 90000 Subsect No Bar Contact: 9865934938 / 9965991434. MD ANAESTHESIA Final Yr Doctor

Bramin Boy 5'10"90 Born ChennaiBased Seek Bramin Girl PG Doc-

54 YRS Old State Tax Officer (GST)

9500010275

in CBE Iyengar Vadakalai Bharatwa-jam Tiruvonam 5ft Seeks Iyer Iyen-gar Bride from 45 yrs. Ct: 87786 gar B 14458

### BRIDE

WANTED VANNIAR KULA **FINANCE** KSHATRIYA GROOM FDI LOANS Loan Consolidation Get Funds from 8CR &ABOVE Interest @3.5%PA International Collabora-35yrs, 171cms. Affluent Businessman tion, All types of Funding Done, LAP,Feasible Project,Business

# compatible, well

48Yrs/ 170, Christian groom BE, ME, PhD, Rich, Own properties, ssueless divorcee sought good looking bride below 40Yrs without issues. RC, Protestant, Born again.

#### Charles. (Janosa دواه! عاد **Bride Wanted** 201000

Rich, Affluent, Family Business, well settled. Chennai Looking for beautiful bride from

an affluent rich family, prefers Pillai, Mudaliar, Udaiyar Phone - 9841053008 Carreto. Done in

Tradiational Family. Ct: 9176757079 KAMMANAIDU SUBDIVISION Consent BE

Age: 32years Own Software Company Chennai. Contact: 93444 29752. NAIDU. 26/180CM. BTech. MS. Pu-

ratathi , Working in Sweden. Seek-ing Bride from any sub sect of Naidu or Reddy, Contact 8220014155 ROYAL NAIDU 27/B.E (Builders & Flat promoters)Own commercial complex Mount road Anna Ngr etc 500

Crores family seeks Rich Bride 9884510761 NAIDU HINDU Boy, 39 Yr, B.Com MBA, Asst. Mgr (Big 4), Veg, seeks Reli-gious, Educated Girl. Ct:

9790925350

BETWEEN

URDU SPEAKING Sunni Muslim. 30 6'2", Cambridge educated, working in Chennai, innocent divorcee look-**MARRIAGE BUREAU** 

ing for good natured, modest Mus-lim girl. contact 8939943132 ✓ 31 YRS, 6'2" practicing Muslim from Chennai. Founder of a start-up. Looking for a religious, educated Urdu Muslim bride from Chennai/Tamil Nadu. No dargah/biddath. Ph. 9176271056

#### **BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED**

**GROOM / BRIDE** from Elite Family

A well established Builder and ffluent Hindu Family living in Indiranagar, Bangalore, invites well decipliant family for their

B. Tech, MS(UK) BE (MIT) 32 Years 30 Years 175 cm 165 cm 56 kg Slim, Fair 70 kg Well built & & beautiful handsome

ontact: 9845489161 / 99800799

FREE REGISTRATION Yogiram Matrimony 8525048790,9043702990 allReli-

NEW LAUNCH www.harikesamatrimony. com this website is free for 100 days. Available for all communi-

ties of Hindu religion.

BEFORE THE IV ADDL. DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, 58, KH ROAD, FIRST FLOOR, TTMC BUILDING,

SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU - 560 027

#### NOTICE TO OPPOSITE PARTY Ar. Sachin Choudhary

Sales Manager M/s. Khanak Impax India Private Limited

No. 209, 2nd Floor, U-74 Tirupati Comp.

Near Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, Shakarpur East Delhi-110092. Phone No. 09873896126 NHEREAS, Complainant has instituted a complaint against you and you are hereby ummoned to appear before the IV Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressa commission, 58, KH Road, First Floor, TTMC Building, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru 560 027 in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the complaint of who shall be accompanied by some person able

our defense and to produce on the said day all the documents in your possession o ver or not evidence in support of your defense, you shall enter such 'documents i list to be annexed to the version. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the

AUTOMOTIVE

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BUSINESS

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marcusgroups@yahoo.com

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CM YK

#### MUDALIAR/PILLAL 25/168CMS Punarpoosam, Fair, M.Tech Doing Ph.D at UMASS, Prefers US based grooms Subsect welcome. Contact :9841014971

HINDU SC. AD, Mesham, Bharani, 33yrs B.E. MBA, SBI Manager. Seeks Suitable Educated Groom. Ct: **26, FAIR,** M.S. in US Working in Bangalore, Seeks Well Settled

Groom . CNB.9489935653 HINDU NADAR MBBS MD 165cm Incom 50000PM Seeks Suitable Groom KA RA-MAN NADAR Whatsup 9380791999

ing PG any discipline Doctors, respects women clean habits, from good social and economical family. mail to santameera.krish@ HINDU VANNIYAR Bride, Affluent Age: 26, ht: 5.6ft, MBBS, MD pathology – studying Location: India or abroad seeks groom Age: 26yrs to 35yr, caste No bar well educated Doctors CA Business Well settled family.

santameera.krish@gmail.com DOCTOR (PAEDIATRICS) DOB: 1991

Contact: 9443685770/ 9840509914

HINDU NADAR, 30/153, BE, MBA SWE/Bangalore Sr.Consultant/ SWE/Bangalore, Pooram, 16L/PA Seeks suitable groom 9442126376 AGAMUDI MUDALIAR (Vellore) Elite

9176780777

Divorcee Revathi caring clean habit, CNB. AGAMUDAIYAR, 50 +, Unmarried,

HINDU YADAVA 33. MBA. Bharani

RC CHRISTIAN 36yrs/167cms Software PILLAI 29/163 Aswini wheatish M.E

ennai Based Groom.Ct:9840942228

having from Coimbatore. CT: 93900

1985/175CM, IT. 25 Lakhs PA. Chen-

Employed ✓ CASTE NO Bar : 32/182, Hand-

Tamil Brahmin/Ambalavasi girls settled anywhere in India. Contact: 9974097645, manipuzha91@gmail.com HINDU M30YRS BE Mech working in

Settled in Chennai

yali girl. Contact mechdeepak.91@

Seeking fair looking graduated Hindu Tamil/Malayali girl. Contact

# MBA/CA/ICWA

HINDU ADI Dravida MBBS, Fair. 28/ 167/55 - Poorattadi - Kumbam. email:evmohanraj50@gmail.com 175 MSc, PGDCA - IT Sr Manager seeks suitable Tamil Christian godly bride. Email: annvex@yahoo.com

RC CHRISTIAN, BE, MBA, Age: 38, 183cm, Own Business in Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct:

(Electrical) Working/Settled in Chennai with Own House Seeks Suit-

HINDII NADAR 29 RE MRA 178cm 231 PA, Smart Well Settled Seeks Suitable Bride CNB 7200866346/

SAIVA PILLAI 34/160/MBA CAIIB, Govt. Bank Officer, Bharani, Mes-ham, only son, well settled seeks suitably qualified Bride. Contact: 9443625846

ant looking , well educated bride (No doctors) Call 9884055523

#### IYER HARITA Uthratadhi Dec 73 MNC Bank, Chennai. Seeks lyer Graduate Bride, Age Diff Min 3yrs. Bride, Age Diff 9791036664

with a good net worth. Looking for a

### 中BRIDES WANTED 中 **CANADA PROFESSOR**

Contact 8122090357. 8921250251 what's App CANADA 0016475737315.



YADAVA 29/185 fair, Magam B.

GENERAL

Complainar Smt. Suparna Das Gupta opposite party/ responden

answer all such questions on the 20/09/2021 at 11 "o" clock in the morning to nswer the claim, and further you are hereby directed to file on that day a version of

### Koramangala Bengaluru - 560 09

omplaint will be heard and determined in your absence.

#### SHARE-MARKET TRAINING: Learn Technical Analysis 9840723378

Advocate for Complainan

No. 206, 1st Main Road 7th Block

**BUSINESS OFFER** 

**SHARES / INVESTMENTS** 

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RESIDENTIAL LAND CHENNAI BESANT Nagar Near Beach

Land

TRICHY THIRUPATTUR 140Ft Road DTCF

9444224422

# TO REMEMBER



For more details, email: classifiedscusto

A ND-NDE

# MATRIMONIAL

# **BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED**

Final yr MD, fair looking Bride lives in Chennai, Father in to Civil Engineering Business from a affluent family, Looking for Doctor Groom from Any Caste (BC). Ct. 0384058032 wroom from Any Caste (BC). Ct. 9384059327

SM4 31 year Brahmin girl 5' -4" MBBS PursuingMD,9815450276,9417212011

HINDU GOUNDER Bride Affluent, 27yrs, ht: 5.4ft good looking, working location: India UK ,US ,UAE, seeks groom,age : 27yr to 35yrs, Ht: 5.7yrs + business working PG any discipline Declaration

**ENGINEER** YADHAVA NAIDU, Magam 27/152, CTS

with Canada PR wants suitable Christian Keralite groom, Ct: 09605 319960.

Services,DOB: 27-12-92, Thiruvo-nam,5.4" Paravar, seeking alliance. Religion & Caste no bar. 7025755593

seeks suitable Groom. Ct:8985589604 Contact: 9488956976

RC NADAR age 26 B.com Seeking BrideGroom for well Settled Bride :9600131536,9840425192

044-25547066.

HINDU NADAR Girl, Poosam , 24/159, CA, Rs.5 lakhs P.A. seeks suitable Bri-degroom in same Nadar caste. Can

contact 9566921121 or 9442272744

MUDALIAR (CASTE NoBar) 42/155, PhD

(Pharma) seeks Qualified Employed Groom, India/Abroad. 9444675720/

SC, AD, 38, Divorced Asst. Prof.

rajasekaransguru@

9282129789,

gmail.com

SC AD, 38/165, Revathi, Meena Rasi, MBBS, MD, Govt Doctor Bangalore, Divorcee, no issues seeks suitable professional groom, Caste No Bar. Contact: 8678923254/ 9731313919 / 080-25468640.

> Working 8807355640/No expectations. VISHWAKARMA TAMIL Bride Raghu
> Kethu Dosham Tiruvonam 24/157cm
> Fair M.Com., Net/Asst. Prof Seeks
> HINDU GSB boy aged 27 years starCSI CHRISTIAN Boy 30/153 cm B.E

AGAMUDIYAR 26/165 M.com Fin

WhatsApp # 98410 26998 or Email vmuthuswami1937@gmail.com

no issues seeks Doctor Groom/PGs/ **Professional Earning** 2 Lakhs per month.

VANNIYA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 24, 173 cms Businessman, Masters in Management. Lives in Tiruppur. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded well

seek alliance for their son 30/ 168cms, B.E. (Chemical) employed in Gujarat from Kerala/Karanataka/ raagaswara07@gmail.com or call at

+919940317807

9497429830

# YADAV/ CASTE no bar, Tiruttani, 29, 5'7", CA, ICWA, NRI, 60 lacs salary, Telugu/Tamil, 9113070596

9790950158 Salem-based Tamil Muslim parents of travel industry professional, 35, issueless divorcee, working in Chennai, seek brides (issueless divorcees or first marriage), from respectable Tamil Muslim families with Islamic values.

Ct: 98427 44882

Philadelphia from same community

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvadhirai 28/ 180. BE MBA Smart IT Chennai seeks 

CHRISTIAN NADAR well settled family seeking bride for only Son 25/180 MS USA working @ DIVORCEE 52 years, Government Teacher. Seeks Bride, Government Service. Caste no bar. Green Card prfd any professional degree Ct: 9344380866

> 9884055523 HINDU GOUNDER Groom, Business Affluent B.E,MBA 42 yrs Ht : 5.9ft

# Manager, Pharma co. affluent awaiting Mutual divorce seeks educated family Bride Ct:9994459158

govt of India company seeks alliance from any graduates, no expectations. Caste no bar Contact 9489302145

#### educated, affable bride from any community. © 7299919653

Pentecostal, all divisions ok. Caste No bar. Early marriage.



E,MS(USA) Working USA sks suitable B.E(CS,IT,ECE) bride(Tamil also) 

Give under my hand and seal of the Commission. This is the 19th day of August 2021

### **BUSINESS OFFER**

**CLASSIFIEDS** 

#### IN BRIEF



IMD issues vellow alert for five districts in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM A number of Kerala districts can expect isolated heavy rainfall over the weekend, the India Meteorological Department has indicated. The weather agency has put five districts -Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Malappuram, Kollam and Wayanad - on yellow alert

#### HC upholds demand for ₹982 cr. from Eagleton

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the decision of the State government to collect around ₹982 crore from the promoter of Eagleton Golf Course and Resorts, for allowing it to retain government land encroached while developing the project during the late 1990s.

# Kerala scales down Onam celebrations

COVID-19 keeps people away from key temples; mass feasts cancelled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Onam festival was celebrated in a subdued manner across Kerala on Saturday with CO-VID-19 infections remaining high.

The Thrikkakara temple, seat of the Onam legend in Kerala, saw a scaled-down Thiruvonam as warnings by the health authorities kept people away from the celebrations. The most significant among the ceremonies skipped on Thiruvonam day was the mass lunch in which about 50,000 people usually participate. The onasadya (feast), was cancelled, temple authorities said.

Only one elephant Programme convenor K.T. Rajappan said the temple ceremonies began at 4 a. m.. The ceremonial reception to King Mahabali was held at about 7 a.m., which was followed by the "Sheeveli" ritual up to noon. Temple authorities had been given permission to use just one elephant for the festivities, instead of nine or even 11 elephants seen in the pre-pandemic days. A concert of devotional songs, along with a performance of the Thiruvathira dance, was planned for the evening, temple authorities said.

Restrictions notwithstanding, Onam was celebrated with religious fervour at Sabarimala on Saturday. The temple's chief priest (thantri) Kandararu Mahesh Mohanararu led the performance of various special pu*ja*s marking the auspicious

The sumptuous *onasadya* for devotees began with the thantri serving the dishes in a banana leaf to the presid-



Ceremonial welcome: A boy dressed as King Mahabali at the Thrikkakara temple on Saturday. •н. vівни

ing deity after the noon ri-

Only people with negative RT-PCR tests taken within the previous 48 hours, or having completed two shots of COVID-19 vaccination, were permitted entry to the temple. The temple will be closed after Onam celebrations on August 23, and will reopen for monthly pujas on September 16.

In Aranmula, the Thiruvonathoni carrying provisions for the Onam feast reached the Sree Parthasarathy temple in the morning. Led by M.R. Raveendra Babu Bhattathiri, the eldest member of the Mangattu Illam in Kumaranallur, the vessel had begun its journey from Kattoor

In its 10-hour long voyage, the Thiruvonathoni was also accompanied by three 'Palliyodam's, each carrying 40 persons on board. On their arrival at Aranmula, they accorded a grand reception.

Festivities at the temple began with Mr. Bhattathiri handing over the light to the eternal lamp at the temple. This followed preparations of the feast at the temple kitchen for serving devotees at the temple dining hall.

In view of COVID-19 regulations, the number of people attending the procession and rituals at Aranmula was strictly regulated.

Meanwhile, Kerala reported 17,106 new cases of CO-VID-19 on Saturday, when 96,481 samples were tested over the past 24 hours.

The Onam holiday and festivities affected testing and the dip in the number of samples tested saw test positivity rate rise from 16.94% to 17.73% on Saturday.

(With inputs Pathanamthitta)





Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Bihar, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Hi machal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Yanam and Karaikal

gartala	– 34.4.	25.4	Kozhikode	–	.32.0	25.
hmedabad	0.827.9.	25.6	Kurnool	–	.33.6	25.
.izawl	– 27.1.	21.0	Lucknow	39	.32.7	25.
.llahabad	– 33.5.	25.6	Madurai	10	.31.6	25.
engaluru	0.327.7.	21.1	Mangaluru	0.6	.29.8	23.
hopal	7.630.7.	23.6	Mumbai	52	.26.4	23.
hubaneswar	7.132.9.	25.4	Mysuru	–	.30.5	21.
handigarh 2	2.527.1.	24.2	New Delhi	139	.32.2	23.
hennai	32.3.	26.6	Patna	–	.34.8	27.
oimbatore	30.2.	23.6	Port Blair	–	.31.1	24.
ehradun	1729.6.	23.4	Puducherry	. 54.1	.27.3	19.
angtok	0.220.2.	17.8	Pune	5.4	.27.6	21.
ioa	129.8.	23.6	Raipur	–	.33.5	24.
iuwahati	0.634.0.	26.0	Ranchi	5	.30.7	23.
Iubballi	28.0.	21.0	Shillong	0.2	.24.1	16.
lyderabad	– 29.7.	23.1	Shimla	12	.21.6	18.
mphal	0.229.8.	21.0	Srinagar	–	.30.7	16.
aipur	– 32.9.	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	–	.32.2	24.
ochi	– 30.6.	25.4	Tiruchi	28	.27.9	23.
ohima	724.3.	17.4	Vijayawada	4	.28.4	26.
olkata	0.733.4.	26.7	Visakhapatnam	4	.32.4	25.
Dainfall data in i	nm. tompo	ratura in C	oleiue)			

....64 ...62 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an

502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air

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, heart attacks and premature death in people with

### Actor Chitra passes away in Chennai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Actress Chitra, who played memorable roles in some iconic Malayalam films, died in Chennai on Saturday. She was 56.

She had begun her career in tinseltown as a child artiste in Tamil films. But it was through Malayalam films that she attained popularity.

After debuting as an adult in a minor role in Hariharan's Valaruthumrugangal in 1981, she gained recognition with Aattakalasham, in which she was featured in the popular song Naanamaavunoo meni novunno...



along with Mohanlal. In Tamil, her notable films include En Thangachi Oorkkavalan Padichava, and Thirippu Munai.

### Former A.P. Minister's son questioned

STAFF REPORTER

Three days after a live round was found in his baggage during the security check at Hyderabad airport, Andhra Pradesh's former Minister late Paritala Ravindra's son Sidhartha was summoned by the Cyberabad police for questioning.

Though Sidhartha is a li-censed firearm holder, the bullet found in his bag did not match with his licensed weapon. "While he has a license for .32 MM pistol, 5.56 MM INSAS rifle round was found in his bag," a senior police officer said.

## Priest falls to death from hillock in Andhra Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The priest of Gampamallayya Swamy temple in Anandaraopeta village of Singanamala mandal of Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district, known for his daredevilry, died on Saturday, when he slipped from the top of the temple.

Appa Papayya, 49, climbs near-vertical rock cliffs stepping on oil-soaked edges four times every year on Saturdays during Sravana Masam as part of a ritual to apthe Gampamallayya and perform the puja in the temple on top of the hillock.



Fatal fall: The hillock from where the priest of Gampamallayya Swamy temple slipped to death.

Ironically his grandfather too died in a similar fashion, while performing the ritual, the police said.

On Saturday, the priest was performing the ritual on

the top of the hillock and tried to climb down the slope, when he slipped into the valley and fell close to 100 feet resulting in his in-

### NORTH & EAST

### **'Harassment** charges against IPS officer false'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GHAZIABAD/LUCKNOW

A probe panel looking into allegations against a senior IPS officer of harassing a retired government official's daughter in Ghaziabad has found the charges untrue, sources said on Saturday.

The probe was ordered by U.P.'s Director General of Police Mukul Goel in the wake of the allegations raised on social media. The investigation was handed over to a committee led by Additional DG PAC Ajay Anand, the sources said.

An officer said, "The panel has found the allegations against IG Provincial Armed Constabulary B.R. Meena untrue. A probe by the local police also found the claims baseless."

# Farmers block rail tracks, road

Protesters are demanding pending sugarcane dues, hike in cane prices in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

Farmers seeking a hike in sugarcane prices blocked rail tracks and a national highway in Punjab's Jalandhar for the second day on Saturday, affecting trains and vehicular traffic.

According to railway officials of the Ferozepur division, 69 trains have been cancelled, while 54 have been diverted or short terminated.

Rail passengers travelling for 'Raksha Bandhan' festival on Sunday bore the maximum brunt of the blockade.

Scores of farmers had on Friday launched an idefinite agitation to press the State government to accept their demands related to the pending dues of sugarcane



Farmers blocking railway tracks in Jalandhar on Saturday. • PTI

and hike in cane prices. On Saturday, they refused to lift the blockade till their demands were met.

Emergency vehicles have been allowed to ply, they added.

Protesters have blocked Jalandhar-Phagwara stretch of the National Highway near Dhanowali village

of Jalandhar district. The blockade hit vehicular movement to and from Jalandhar, Amritsar and Pathankot.

Farmers sitting on the Jalandhar-Chaheru section have blocked the Ludhiana-Amritsar and the Ludhiana-Jammu rail tracks in Jalandhar, affecting several trains, including the Amritsar-New

Delhi Swarna Shatabdi Exp. Amritsar-Dehradun Exp. Spl., New Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Spl. and the New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Shri Shakti Spl. Bharti Kisan Union (Doa-

ba) general secretary Satnam Singh Sahni said they are allowing families travelling for 'Raksha Bandhan' to go through the service lane along the National Highway.

#### Rejected hike

Protesting farmers are demanding that the Punjab government raise the State Assured Price of sugarcane and clear arrears of ₹200-250

They have already rejected the hike of ₹15 per quintal announced by the govern-

### Naveen launches new look govt. schools

#### They have smart classrooms, e-libraries and advanced labs

The Odisha government on Saturday launched transformed high schools in Ganjam - the home district of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. These schools have all the features like that of any modern private schools. They do not only have smart classrooms but also have elibraries, advanced science laboratories, clean drinking water facilities, toilets and sports.

The overall facelift has been implemented under 5T (team work, technology,

VESTERN RAILWAY

REPLACEMENT OF OHE

**STRUCTURES** 

Suburban), Western Railway, Mumba Central, Mumbai - 400 008; invite

-tender to the following electrical worl

E-Tender No: WR-MMTCOESUB (ESOT) /7/2021 Dt. 20.08.2021; Name of

the work: Churchgate - Virar section Replacement of OHE structures havin

critical implantation; Estimated cost of work: ₹ 2,20,82,040/-; Earnest Money

Deposit: ₹ 0.00; Date and time of submission: Not later than 15:00 Hrs. o

20.09.2021 in the prescribed manner

Date and time of opening: 20.09.2021 at 15:30 hrs; Website particulars: The tender can be viewed and submitted

through website <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u> Validity of offer: 45 days from the date of

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transparency, transformation and time limit) action In the first phase, Mr. Pat-

naik dedicated 10 transformed schools of Hinjilicut - his own Assembly constituency – to the State. "Every child is a symbol

of infinite potential. They have many dreams for their future and the school transformation has created opportunity for accomplishment of their dreams," he said.

Mr. Patnaik said the transformation in government schools in Hinjili block has

shown path to others and 1,070 schools of the State would get facelift in the first phase of the programme.

The transformation involves soft components using technology for better education content and methods to reach children. In planning and execution of the programme, community, alumni, panchayati raj institution representatives and school committees were involved. These high schools got new look in six months' time. A total 50 schools have been transformed in Hinjilicut and Sheragada blocks.

### Odisha likely to move NHAI for translocation of trees

18.5 million trees have been felled for the widening of roads in the State in the past decade

STAFF REPORTER BHUBANESWAR

The Forest Department in Odisha may move the National High Authority of India (NHAI) with a request to translocate trees that were

felled when laying roads. The proposal was mooted in the wake of a massive loss of tree cover due to road widening projects in the State.

More than 18.5 million trees have been felled for the widening of roads in the State in the past decade.

"We will move the NHAI with a request to issue an advisory to executing agencies to deracinate fully grown trees and translocate them to nearby areas. Though the translocation of trees has not been taken up in any of our

projects, we can make a new beginning," a Forest official

He said banyan, arjun and peepal trees, preferably around 15-year-old, should especially be extirpated and planted again as their chances of survival are higher. "It is difficult to deracinate trees that are more than 50-yearold. If the taproot gets slashed during the removal process, chances of the survival of the transplanted tree become slim," the official added.

The NHAI was not averse to the idea, but certain basic issues needed to be addressed to firm up the proposal. "We can start it on a limited scale by identifying endangered species and

trees with medicinal value," said Ram Prasad Panda, Chief General Manager, NHAI, Bhubaneswar. According to sources, ho-

wever, the major problem in relocating trees would be the scarcity of land. The identification of land for trees requiring translocation should be made at the beginning of a project.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM & SPORTS)

#### RFQ CUM RFP FOR SETTING UP OF ECO TOURISM RESORTS IN LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

\_akshadweep Administration (the "Authority") invites Request for Qualification (RfQ) cum Request for Proposal applications (RfP) from interested developers to undertake development, operation and maintenance of the following Projects through Design, Build, Finance Operate and Transfer (the "DBFOT") on Public Private Partnership (PPP

a. Minicoy Island, Eco Tourism Beach Villas and Water Villas - 150 keys b. Kadmat Island, Eco Tourism Beach Villas and Water Villas - 110 keys c. Suheli Island, Eco Tourism Beach Villas and Water Villas - 110 keys. Last date for submission of the RfQ cum RfP Application is extended to 17th September 2021 at 15:00 hours

The detailed invitation for RfQ cum RfP can be downloaded from the websites https://wwwlakshadweeptourism.com and https://lakshadweep.gov.in w.e.f: 01.08.2021 A second pre-Application Conference will be held at New Delhi or

2nd September, 2021. The specific location and venue for the pre Bid Conference will be intimated later. Familiarization trip to Lakshadweep will be facilitated on request

during 25th to 31st August 2021 only for the senior level Managers of

the firms intending to participate in the bidding process Managing Director-SPORTS, UTLA



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8987276070/9608271879 0631-2952143, 8252620411 Address: IHM Bodhgaya, Oppo. Magadh University Campus, Gaya Dobhi Road Bodhgaya, Gaya-824234 Bihar Website -: www.ihmbodhgaya.com Email -:ihmbodhgaya@gmail.com

Marks with English as a Compulsory Subject ) English as a Compulsory Subject) Email -:princi-ihmbodhgaya@gov.in 'HOTELS, HOSPITALS, CRUISE LINES, AIRLINES, IRCTC/RAILWAYS, INDUSTRIAL CANTEENS, QSR, CORPORATE HOUSES, RETAIL SECTOR, ACADEMIC, ENTREPRENEUR

### 80 Indians evacuated; 150 miss flight

A second IAF aircraft is now parked at Dushanbe airport, awaiting clearance to go back into Kabul once the group of 150 is able to enter.

"We are operating the flights from Dushanbe as it is difficult for planes to be parked in Kabul for an extended period," explained an official involved in the operations.

#### Safe passage

The biggest problem is ensuring safe passage for the Indians trying to reach the airport, and increasingly, for them to be allowed in. The special Afghanistan cell of the Ministry of External Affairs, which has been coordinating over the telephone and through social media groups with Indians stranded in Afghanistan, estimated that once all the three groups return, an additional 200-250 Indians will remain to be rescued from Kabul. With the Indian Embassy in Kabul closed, organising their passage has become more difficult with each passing day, even as no formal government has been formed in Afghanistan.

"Our single focus at the moment is to bring Indian

nationals back," the official added, explaining that the Afghan staff members of the Indian Embassy, and other Afghans holding visas would not be facilitated immediate-

Meanwhile, about 72 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, most of whom have Indian visas, and have families residing here were unable to fly out after the Taliban forces reportedly turned them back from the airport, an NGO working on evacuating the Afghan minorities said.

It is unclear whether the Taliban have officially decided not to let the group, which is taking shelter at the main gurdwara in Kabul,

"We are trying to ensure seamless coordination with local guards and through the MEA to U.S. forces, so that they are allowed to enter the airport. Once they come to India, we will help rehabilitate them or facilitate onward travel," Vikramjit Singh Sahney, president of the World Punjabi Organisation, told The Hindu, adding that the Ministry of External Affairs has committed to bringing the group back by Indian Air Force aircraft if required.

### Lalu faces tough test as sons feud over leadership

Shorty thereafter, Mr. Tejashwi left for New Delhi to meet his father. However, he told reporters that he was visiting the national capital for the upcoming Raksha Bandhan as his six sisters live in the Delhi-NCR region. Besides he is also part of an all-party delegation, led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, that is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on their demand for a caste-based census in the country.

#### **Mythical comparisons**

"Tejashwi is my Arjun and I am his Krishna. I will make him Chief Minister of the State one day," Mr. Tej Pratap has often said. However, on Saturday, he said, "Until he (Tejashwi Yadav) gets rid people like Shishupala and Duryodhana (characters in the Mahabharata seen as having a corrupting influence), I doubt that he will become the Chief Minister.'

Drawing further comparisons, Mr. Tej Pratap went on to call Mr. Sanjay Yadav Duryodhana and Mr. Jagdanand Singh Sishupala.

"Just like Krishna was abused by Shishupala in the Mahabharata, similarly I am a victim of Jagdanand Singh. People also know Duryodhana was killed. It was Krishna who gave tips to tear apart the thighs of Duryodhana," he said. "They both (Mr. Sanjay and Mr. Singh) want to create rift between us and want to weaken the party. But I can never tolerate any wrong thing and will continue to call a spade a spade," he said.

The reference was to his running feud with Mr. Singh, whom he recently accused of running the RJD in "Hitler style" – a barb which apparently upset Mr. Singh, who stopped coming to the party headquarters. A few days later, Mr. Singh reparty's student wing president, Akash Yadav, a protégé of Mr. Tej Pratap, escalat-While rebuking some

moved the president of the

members of the student's wing who were said to be supporters of Mr. Tej Pratap, Mr. Singh said, "Those who wear jeans, can't be leaders of our party."

#### **Seeking counsel**

Party sources told The Hindu that Mr. Tejashwi was perturbed over the developments in the party because of his brother and he wanted to discuss the issue with his father "urgently".

"He (Tej Pratap) may be mv elder brother but our parents have taught us to respect our elders. Whoever he may be indiscipline within party is not good and causes problem," Mr. Tejashwi was quoted as saying.

Mr. Tej Pratap said, "In a couple of days I will leave for Delhi and discuss the matter with my father Lalu Prasad."

He also took a swipe at his younger brother's departure, saying, "Tejashwi left people of Bihar to fend for themselves in the floods and went to Delhi. He is being brainwashed by Sanjay Yaday on whose advice he is working."

"The sooner the family resolves or reins in over Tej Pratap's growing nuisance within the party, the better it will be for everyone in RJD," said a senior party leader close to Mr. Lalu Pra-

Meanwhile, the ruling NDA leaders took a jibe at the ongoing power tussle between the two brothers. "In this internal fight in RJD, who will become Dara Shikoh and who will rule like Aurangzeb, only time will tell," tweeted senior State BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Mo-

### Assam gets 45 days to finish detention camp work

"But as a matter of abundant caution, the learned Advocate General has prayed for allowing 6 weeks' time to the State to complete the construction of the proposed detention centre and to shift the detenus of various detention centres...," the court said.

The Advocate General had told the court that there are 177 inmates in the detention centres. "It is also submitted that majority of those remaining detenus have not been able to provide the necessary documents, which the State is presently insisting for releasing the said detenus," the court said.

The next hearing has been fixed on September

People adjudged non-citizens by the quasi-judicial Foreigners' Tribunals are sent to detention centres. Such people are tried after the border wing of the Assam police serve them notice on suspicion of being foreigners.

# Kalyan Singh, former U.P. CM, passes away at 89

Twice Chief Minister, he led State during Babri demolition; he was acquitted last year for lack of evidence

LUCKNOW Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who died at the age of 89 on Saturday, personified the BJP-RSS blend of caste and Hindutva, which helped the saffron party achieve power in the State, first riding on the Ram Mandir movement that also fractured old communal and political equations in the country's most populous State. It was under Singh's watch that the Mughal-era Babri Mosque was demolished by a mob of karsevaks.

The Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences said Singh, who had been admitted there on July 4 in critical condition, died due to sepsis and multi-orhuman.

Even while Singh served as Governor in Rajasthan from 2014, in U.P., the BJP tried to cash in on his Hindutva credentials and ironfist policy on law and order, a model replicated in a new form under the Yogi Adityanath government since 2017. In October 2016, while campaigning in Etawah, Amit Shah, then BJP chief, promised U.P. that if the BJP



Life in images: Kalyan Singh celebrating his birthday in Lucknow in 2016; and Singh with former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi in 2004. • FILE РНОТОЅ

came to power, it would re-

nificance for the BJP that over the past two months, each time senior BIP leaders from Delhi visited Lucknow in Singh's well-being.

(OBC) family in Atrauli, near Aligarh, in 1932, Singh was groomed in the ideology of the RSS and in 1967 was first elected to the State Assembly as a Jan Sangh candidate. He went on to win the seat several times, later on a BJP ticket, becoming Chief Minis-

A special CBI court in Lucknow last September acquitted Singh along with other senior BJP and Sangh Parivar leaders in the Babri Masjid demolition case for lack of credible evidence.

Singh left the BJP for the first time in 1999 after his verbal attacks on then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee before returning to the saffron fold in 2004. In 2009, he left the BJP again due to differences over distribution

In March 2014, Singh, then Independent MP from Etah, returned to the BJP.

Singh is survived by wife Ramvati Devi, son Rajveer Singh, MP, and grandson Sandeep Singh, who is a U.P. Minister.

# 41 kg of heroin seized on border

Puniab police and BSF recover drug being smuggled in from Pakistan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Punjab police on Saturday said they had foiled a major bid to smuggle drugs from Pakistan and recovered 39 packets of heroin, weighing 40.81 kg and estimated at about ₹200 crore in the international market, in the Panjgraian border outpost area of Amritsar.

Director-General of Police Dinkar Gupta said the operation based on specific inputs was carried out by the Amritsar (Rural) police, supported by the Border Security Force (BSF). "Following an input that Nirmal Singh, alias Sonu Mayer, a notorious smuggler of the Gharinda area, was attempting to smuggle heroin through the India-Pakistan border, Senior Superinten-

Veiled mountains



Huge haul: Punjab police officers showing the confiscated heroin in Amritsar on Saturday. • AFP

dent of Police, Amritsar (Rural) Gulneet Singh Khurana immediately shared the pinpointed inputs with the BSF.

Joint teams of the Punjab police and the BSF successfully seized the huge heroin cache, besides recovering

tic pipes (manufactured by Super Punjab Pump in Pakistan). The police have also impounded a motorcycle and a Scooty belonging to the smugglers from the smuggling side, found stationed at the vicinity," he said.

180 g of opium and two plas-

police launched a massive manhunt to arrest Sonu, who is also wanted by the Tarn Taran police in a case of 1 kg of heroin recovered in 2020."

"An FIR under Sections 21, 61 and 85 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act; Section 14 of the Foreigners Act; and Sections 3, 34 and 20 of the Indian Passport Act, has been registered at the Ramdas Police Station, Amritsar," Mr. Gupta

(With PTI inputs) 'States earn more when

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Stressing that India's pandemic-affected economy was recovering, Ms. Sitharaman promised to provide any support that was required to spur the recovery further. "We see signs of recovery and hope the economy will recover, and are willing to give any help that would be needed to push the recovery process more,"

The Centre taxes at a fixed

rate, the States tax at ad valorem. So whenever there is an increase in the basic fuel price, the States' ad valorem-based taxes will also increase."

Asserting that the country's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were now getting the recognition they were denied for decades, Ms. Sitharaman said the government had taken several measures to help them over the past two

Ms. Sitharaman was speaking in Lucknow at the launch of an alternative investment fund called Ubharte Sitare Fund that was announced in last year's Budget.

The Minister urged the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and India Exim Bank to work with the State administration to popularise its offering for small enterprises.

# Another extortion case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Mumbai Police have registered one more case of extortion against former City Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh on the basis of a complaint lodged by a builder-cum-hotelier, an official said on Saturday.

This is the fourth such case against Mr. Singh and the second in Mumbai. Two other cases were filed in Thane city. All these FIRs were registered within a span of one month. The latest FIR was filed on Friday night at the Goregaon police station based on a complaint lodged by Bimal Agrawal, 48, the official said.

In this case, dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze and four others - Sumit

Singh alias Chintu, Alpesh Patel, Vinay Singh alias Babloo, and Riyaz Bhati - have also been named as ac-

As per the complaint by Mr. Agrawal, the accused extorted collectively ₹9 lakh from him in several tranches for not conducting raids on two bars and restaurants, which he ran in partnership, and also forced him to buy two smartphones worth around ₹2.92 lakh. The incident occurred between January 2020 and

the case was filed under Sections 384 and 385 (both pertaining to extortion) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code against the six accused.

### **Arunachal Inheritance** Bill faces stiff opposition

No plan to table now, says govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

sition in the State.

tions said they would not allow the Bill to be passed in the Assembly unless tribal women marrying men belonging to the non-Arunachal Pradesh Scheduled Tribes (non-APSTs) were stripped of ST status and be-

The All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAP-SU) said the Bill was being brought without consultations with the stakeholders and, if passed, would pave the way for non-APSTs to

'This Bill is a bid to structurally change the customary laws or traditional settings of the State's tribal people. It is aggressive and undemocratic in nature and largely undermines the views and opinions of all the community-based organisations," AAPSU general secretary Tobom Dai said. "Opposing the draft Bill

A white morning: Fog covering the mountains following heavy rain in Shimla on Saturday. • PTI

doesn't mean we are against the women of Arunachal Pradesh. But the government should first publish the draft it has been preparing on the issue of the offspring of non-APST men married to APST women,"

vernment to clarify that it has no plans to table the Bill in the upcoming session.



discharge about 20 hours of

The soft stretchable bat-

tery comprises printed silver

flake electrodes that gener-

ate electricity in the pre-

sence of sweat. The battery

looks like a paper bandage

that can be affixed to a flexi-

ble sweat-absorbent textile

which draws power from

sweat and transfers it to

2 ml of sweat.

electricity derived from just straps, via Bluetooth.

> tial use when it becomes incorporated in wearable biosensors and other electronic devices, the scientists tested their device with artificial human sweat. "The battery does not contain heavy metals or toxic chemicals unlike

conventional batteries, which are often built using unsustainable materials that are harmful to the environment and at times pose a threat of explosion. We have applied to patent this technology," says Dr. Thangavel, a Senior Research Fellow in NTU's School of Material Science and Engineering.

"Conventional batteries use organic electrolyte, thereby limiting their application in skin-interfering electronics. Our battery conforms to the skin of users by our well-synthesised hydrophilic elastomeric binder. This device will help to do away with toxic materials

In a separate trial, the team reported that an individual wearing the sweat-powered battery around the wrist and cycling on a sta-

tionary bicycle for 30 minutes was able to generate a voltage of 4.2 V and output power of 3.9 mW that was sufficient to power a commercial temperature sensor device and send the data to a smartphone via Bluetooth.

"By capitalising on perspiration, we could be looking at a more environmentally friendly way of powering wearable devices that does not rely on conventional batteries. It is a near-guaranteed source of energy produced by our bodies," he quoted Lee Pooi See, Dean of NTU Graduate College, who led the study, as saying.

Adding that the third member of the team is Lyu Jian, Research Fellow, Materials Science and Engineering, NTU, Dr. Thangavel said the stretchable textile re-

President Ram Nath Kovind condoled Singh's demise, saying he had a "magical connect" with the masses. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "saddened beyond words" by Singh's death, and described him as a statesman, veteran administrator, grassroots-level leader and great

plicate a "Kalyan Singh-type of government". The import was not lost on anyone as Singh's rule was best remembered for the Babri Masjid demolition. Though Singh resigned over the incident, he expressed no guilt over it.

Born into a Lodh Rajput

preparation for the 2022 Assembly polls, they made sure they paid a visit to the hospital and to enquire about

of ticket.

### basic oil prices increase' Economy is recovering: Sitharaman

The States and the Centre need to work out how to address people's concern about high fuel prices, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday, reiterating that States earn more when basic oil prices

she said.

On the issue of fuel prices, the Minister said: "As regards fuel price, the Centre as well as the States tax fuel.

years.

# filed against Param Bir

MUMBAI

March 2021. Based on the complaint,

The draft Arunachal Pradesh Marriage and Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021, envisaging land rights for girls has met with stiff oppo-

Various student organisa-

settle down in the State

permanently.

The criticism led the go-

native of Archampatti in Karur district, Tamil Nadu, is among the three scientists Gurunathan Thangavel and others of the team who who designed and devedeveloped the battery. loped the battery that can

> wearable devices, including smart watches and arm To demonstrate its poten-

> > used in batteries," he said.

A battery powered by human sweat

Indian scientist among creators of battery that does not contain toxic chemicals

tained a lot of sweat.

# 'LeT, JeM may intensify infiltration bids'

After things settle down a little in Afghanistan, their focus will again shift to J&K, say officials

NEW DELHI

Terrorists of banned outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which had been fighting alongside the Taliban against the U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan for the past several years, may soon intensify efforts to infiltrate into Indian territory, according to the latest assessment of security agencies.

"Carrying out terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir has been the primary goal of these outfits. Over the years, they have extended active support to the Taliban. The JeM has been deploying senior commanders and trained cadres for Taliban operations. The LeT has also been a major source of armed men fighting along with the Taliban and the Haqqani Network. They share the same ideology," a government official said.

"However, after things settle down a little in Afghanistan, their focus will again shift to their main objective. Among the hundreds of prisoners released from Afghan prisons, many were from the LeT and the JeM," the official added.

The agencies said attempts to infiltrate via the Jammu-Rajouri sector had already increased.

Another official pointed



Sign of hope: Evacuees waiting for a flight at the airport in Kabul on Thursday. • REUTERS

out that even on Saturday, three suspected JeM cadres were killed in an encounter with security forces in south Kashmir. Preliminary findings indicated that they were part of the module involving two Pakistani nationals who were eliminated in Awantipora on July 31.

#### 95 terrorists

Since January, 95 terrorists have been neutralised in Jammu and Kashmir, and 18 of them were Pakistani nationals, officials said.

The JeM was founded in Pakistan by Masood Azhar in 2000, after his release from an Indian prison along with two others in exchange for passengers on board the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 that was hijacked on December 24, 1999. The hijacked

plane had been taken to the Taliban-controlled Kandahar.

Azhar was earlier the general secretary of Pakistan-Harkat-ul-Ansar, which had links with al-Qaeda. "The JeM has an organic link with the Taliban. In the past, it has also provided refuge to their cadres... Following the Taliban takeover, the JeM chief on August 16 congratulated his followers through a message titled Manzil Ki Taraf [Towards the Goal]," the official said.

Now headquartered at Muridke in Pakistan, the LeT was founded in the Kunar province of Afghanistan in 1987 by Hafiz Saeed and others. At present, LeT cadres are said to be mostly operating in the Kunar, Nangarhar and Nuristan provinces,

#### **Taliban functionaries**

Helmand

Afghanistan.

while JeM fighters are active

in the Ghazni, Kandahar and

provinces

"The LeT and JeM leaderships have been in contact with top Taliban functionaries through the Haqqani Network, which is in the United Nations Security Council's [UNSC] sanctions list. Its chief, Sirajuddin Haqqani, and key operatives like Khalil Ahmed Haqqani are UN-designated terrorists," said the

Following the Taliban takeover, the group led by Sirajuddin's brother Anas and Khalil is now controlling security for Kabul, Based on this development, Indian security agencies believe that the LeT and the IeM will con-

tinue to get support from Taliban.

This apart, as per a UNSC report in June, based on the Monitoring Team's observations, the Taliban and al-Qaeda continued to be closely aligned. Al-Qaeda elements were said to be residing in at least 15 Afghan provinces

"Sirajuddin Haqqani is the leader of the Miram Shah Shura, which is not a geographical term but an analytical concept describing a regional body of the Supreme Council. He is also assessed to be a member of the wider al-Qaeda leadership, but not of the Al-Qaeda core leadership [the Hattin Shura]," said the report.

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, whose first chief was Asim Umar, alias Shaan-ul Haq, from Deepa Sarai in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, also operates under the Taliban umbrella from Kandahar, Helmand and Nimruz provinces.

"The group reportedly consists of primarily Afghan and Pakistani nationals, but also individuals from Bangladesh, India and Myanmar," it said, also noting that the wife of Asim Umar, who was later killed, was said to be among the 5,000 Taliban prisoners freed by the now-ousted Afghan government last year as part of the Doha agreement.

# Academic from Kashmir stuck outside Kabul airport

Nominate a pointsman who can help us, he requests govt.

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

An academic from Kashmir, who is stranded outside the airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, on Saturday uploaded an SOS on social media seeking help from the Indian government to nominate a pointsman who could help it in the evacuation of Indian citizens.

"We are around 280 [Indian] people. Everyone is blank and clueless. We are not able to enter the Kabul airport despite reaching around 12 a.m. [on Friday night]," Mohammed Asif Shah, an Assistant Professor of Economics, said in a video message.

He described the situation outside the Kabul airport as "chaotic" and "scarv". "Tens of thousands of people are marching towards the Kabul airport. Everv country has its own personnel who take their



Total chaos: Afghans on a road near the the airport in Kabul on Saturday. • AFP

citizens inside. However, there is no official for us. We seek help so that we do not suffer at the hands of people who could do anything," Mr. Shah said.

He asked the Indian government, especially the Ministry of External Affairs, to appoint an official at the Kabul airport who could help them enter inside.

In a message wired to a friend in Kashmir, Mr. Shah said he was passing through "a distressed condition".

"There is a very serious situation of chaos and confusion. There are chances of retaliation and confrontation. The Indian government has already closed its embassy and left all citizens in confusion," he reportedly wrote to his friend in the Valley.

Mr. Shah also said there was no accommodation available. "The airport is under U.S. control and security personnel are continuously firing gunshots in the air to disperse people," he said.

### 14 held for pro-Taliban posts in Assam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A medical student and an All India United Democrat-Front leader were among the 14 arrested in Assam since Friday for "objectionable" pro-Taliban posts on social media.

Two persons each were arrested from Barpeta, Dhubri, Kamrup and Karimganj districts and one each from Cachar, Darrang, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Hojai and South Salmara. Officials said they were charged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, IT Act and the Code of Criminal Procedure.

### Three militants killed in Pulwama, say officials

'One was involved in killing BJP leader'

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Three militants were killed in a shoot-out at a forest area of Tral in Pulwama, south Kashmir, on Saturday, taking the toll of militants killed in the last 24 hours to five in the district.

An official said the militants, associated with the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), were encircled in Nagbaeran area of Tral in Pulwama.

"On being encircled by the security forces, the militants opened fire and were killed in the subsequent encounter," the police said.

One of the slain militants

was identified as Wakeel Shah. "JeM militant Shah was neutralised in today's encounter. He was involved in the killing of Rakesh Pandita [BJP leader]," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

According to the Army, search operations in the upper reaches of Nagaberan and Dacchigam Forests were on since August 17.

"A contact was established with militants at 6.45 a.m. on August 20. Two AK-47 rifles, one SLR and other warlike stores were recovered from them," the Army said.

# War of words over Opposition's silence on Article 370

Sajad Lone questions National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party silence over issue at Sonia's meet

PEERZADA ASHIQ

A war of words erupted between Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC) and Farooq Abdullah's National Conference (NC) on Saturday, a day after the virtual meeting of 19 Opposition parties, chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, stayed silent on the issue of the reading down of Article 370.

Taking on the NC and Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who participated in Ms. Gandhi's meeting, Mr. Lone said, "No mention of Article 370 in the Opposition parties meet. In wonderment, how can J&K leaders justify their presence in the meeting if they could not convince the leaders to talk about Article 370. The BIP's anti-370 stance is clear. What is the Opposition's national

Mr. Lone was not invited for the meeting.

The joint statement issued at the end of the meeting

statehood to J&K. "Leaders from J&K should

either get the national Opposition to endorse the demand for Article 370... Or just keep out of it," Mr. Lone

spoke of the need to restore

Responding to the accusations, several NC leaders, in a joint statement, accused Mr. Lone of "changing narratives".

"His only permanent character is that of a pendulum... From joining the Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration to leaving it, he has only damaged the cause of restoration of Article 370 and 35A," the statement

# Oppn. divided over focus on Pegasus

stance?'

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren flags challenge of explaining issue to voters

SOBHANA K. NAIR

At Friday's meeting of 19 Opposition parties, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren raised questions on whether the emphasis on the Pegasus cyberattack was misplaced and spoke of the challenges of effectively communicating the issue to the general public. With three States going to the polls early next year, many within the Congress and other parties felt that the strong focus on the issue may not be helping the Opposition's cause and that it could even turn out to be a second Rafale.

According to sources, Mr. Soren said while Pegasus was important, how did it impact the common man on the street or a farmer struggling against the new farm laws. CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, in reply, said Opposition leaders had to convey the wider implications of the snooping

Tripura Cong.

chief resigns

A CORRESPONDENT

amid rumours

Acting president of the

Tripura Congress unit, Pi-

jush Kanti Biswas, who resigned from the party on

Saturday, said he may not

return to politics, but will

concentrate on his legal

profession and social ser-

Mr. Biswas, however, did

not comment on reports

that claimed his resignation

was part of a deal with the

In a post on social me-

dia, Mr. Biswas said he had

resigned from the post of

Trinamool Congress.

Right now, we are going through a huge economic disruption that has been brought about on us by the BJP government



episode, on how all the institutions were controlled by the government using this ly next year. spyware and how dangerous

it was for democracy. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the Pegasus spyware was used by the BIP government to turn the country into a "totalitarian state".

However, a section of Opposition leaders at the meeting agreed that communication on the spyware would be a challenge.

The first test of political currency of the Pegasus snooping episode would come up during Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh,

Punjab and Uttarakhand. which are scheduled for ear-

There was a section within the Congress, too, who feel that "Pegasus first" was a wrong strategy to follow in the recent monsoon session of Parliament. Members from Punjab and Haryana felt aggrieved as the farmers' agitation was relegated to

the background. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi said the elections could not be fought on one issue alone. The U.P. election was a mandate on the "misrule" by the Yogi Adityanath government in the State, especially his "disappearing act" during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pegasus cyberattack remained important, but there were many ison which government needed to be questioned, he said. "Right now, we are going through a huge economic disruption that has been brought about on us by the BJP government," Mr. Owaisi said.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders both agreed that taking the Pegasus issue to a largely rural electorate in Uttar Pradesh would be an uphill task. BSP Lok Sabha MP Ritesh Pandev said Pegasus could not be a rallying cry for the polls, but it could also not dismissed as a nonissue. "Since the Opposition has been talking about it, people want to know. They are fearful that their rights might already be compromised," Mr. Pandey said.

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: 16 (See Brochure)



Darjeeling 'toy train' service from August 25

The 'toy trains' on the World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway are scheduled to chug again after more than a year of closure due to COVID-19. A statement issued by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) on Saturday said the narrow-gauge train services between New Jalpaiguri and Darieeling in West Bengal would be resumed from August 25. The timings for a pair of trains from each terminal, around 88 km apart, are yet to be notified.

#### Taliban defaming Islam, says Ajmer dargah head

Indian Muslims would never support the ideology espoused by the Taliban because the group was "defaming Islam" and distorting religious principles, Syed Zainul Abedin, spiritual head of the Ajmer dargah, said on Saturday. Mr. Abedin, the hereditary trustee of the historic shrine of Sufi saint Khwaia Moinuddin Chishti. said the Taliban were in fact promoting hatred against Muslims around the world by their "dictatorial activities" ever since they captured major cities in Afghanistan Mr. Abedin said the Taliban were misinterpreting the Islamic laws to serve their own agenda.

#### Minister's remarks on Rahul angers Congress

The Congress on Saturday demanded the resignation of Union Minister of State for Railways Raosaheb Danve for his "indecent and shocking" remarks about party leader Rahul Gandhi. Congress' Maharashtra unit chief Nana Patole said. "He (Danve) has crossed all the boundaries. His remarks are indecent and shocking. We demand his removal from Union Council of Ministers for using such a foul language against Gandhi," he said. "It makes me wonder how he can be given such an important post despite his track record of using foul language," Mr.

#### Indore police look

Patole added. PTI

Indore police in Madhya Pradesh are searching for the owner of a horse which was painted in the BJP's flag colours and paraded during Union Minister Jvotiraditva Scindia's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra after receiving a complaint from an animal welfare NGO Incidentally, the founder of the complainant NGO, People For Animal is B IP MP Maneka Gandhi. The horse, which also had the word 'BJP' in English and party symbol lotus painted on its body, was seen walking alongside Mr. Scindia's 'rath' during the event on Thursday. PTI

# Zydus Cadila hoping to supply vaccine by end of September

Clarity on pricing may come in a week or two, says the company's MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Drug firm Zydus Cadila on Saturday said it was looking to supply its COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D by the end of September, adding the pricing of the dose will be announced in a week or two.

The company's indigenously developed needlefree three-dose COVID-19 vaccine ZyCoV-D was granted emergency use authorisation (EUA) by the drug regulator on Friday, making it the first vaccine to be administered to those in the age group of 12-18 in the country.

"Now we will work closely with the regulatory authorities to work on the pricing and modality of delivery of the doses of our vaccine. In the next one or two weeks, we will have better clarity on the pricing," Zydus Group Managing Director Sharvil Patel said at a virtual press

The company hopes that "by middle to end of September, we can start supplying the vaccines, and as I said we need to scale up to 1 crore doses and we believe by October we can achieve



New addition: ZyCoV-D is the sixth vaccine to get emergency use authorisation in India. • ZYDUS CADILA/AFP

this. We believe by October we will start producing 1 crore doses and that would mean by end of January, we can have 4 to 5 crore doses," he added.

Ramping up

Asked if the company was considering partnering with other firms to scale up production of its vaccine, Mr. Patel said Zydus Cadila was actively looking at ramping manufacturing both domestically through partnerships and also outside the country. He added that the company was also seeking approval for a two-dose regimen of the vaccine.

Describing the approval

for Zydus Cadila's vaccine as a momentous feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a tweet on Friday had said, "India is fighting COVID-19 with full vigour. The approval for the world's first DNAbased 'ZyCov-D' vaccine of @ZydusUniverse is a testimony to the innovative zeal of India's scientists. A momentous feat indeed."

ZyCoV-D is the sixth vaccine to get the emergency use authorisation in the country, after Serum Institute of India's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, Russian vaccine Sputnik V and the vaccines of Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Three now in use Of these, Covishield, Covaxin and Sputnik V are current-

ly in use in India. These vaccines are being given to only those above 18 years of age and unlike Zy-CoV-D, which has three doses, these are administered in

two doses.

"This is a historic milestone with ZyCoV-D, a product of Indian innovation becoming the world's first DNA vaccine being offered for human use and supporting the world's largest immunisation drive," Cadila Healthcare Chairman Pankaj R Patel had said on Friday.

"I would like to thank all the researchers, clinical trial investigators, volunteers and the regulators who have supported this endeavour," the Cadila Healthcare chairman

### SC relief for two candidates with 'equivalent qualification' for jobs

Appeals filed by applicants to post of high school assistants

lor of Education (B.Ed.) de-

gree in the subject of natural

Kumar and P. Anitha Devi,

represented by advocate Sa-

rath S. Janardanan, had

B.Ed. degrees in biological

science from the University

of Mysore and Bharathiar

University in Coimbatore,

respectively. Their degrees

in biological sciences were

considered "equivalent" to a

natural sciences degree

from a university in Kerala.

They were both shortlisted

and even allowed to partici-

However, their candida-

ture were put on hold after

an objection came up on the

ground that they were not

qualified in the subject con-

pate in the job interview.

The appellants, Praveen

sciences.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI

Veering away from the norm that an aspirant should have the "requisite qualification" at the time of notification of job vacancy, the Supreme Court said an "equivalent qualification" at the time of application will do equally

"The principle of service jurisprudence that a candidate must possess the requisite qualification for a post on the date of issue of employment notification cannot be applied in the appellants' cases, as in our view, they possessed equivalent qualifications when they applied for the posts," a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose said in a recent judgment.

The judgment was based on appeals filed by two applicants to the posts of high school assistants in Kerala.

The question before the court was whether their B.Ed. degrees were in the subjects fulfilling the eligibility criteria for the job notified by the State Public Service Commission (PSC) in

The job required a Bache-

cerned for which the job was notified.

The Kerala PSC continued to object despite the State's Higher Education Department issuing orders in 2019, specifically saying that Mr. Kumar's and Ms. Devi's degrees were equivalent to a natural sciences degree from Kerala universities.

The PSC argued that the government orders in service cases cannot apply retrospectively. It said the duo were not qualified at the time of job application in

Justice Bose, however, disagreed with the Kerala High Court, which favoured the PSC, saying "the acceptance of the Government Orders (GOs) with retrospective effect would amount to change in the rule of the game mid-way, which is impermissible"

"The GOs only confirmed the equivalency of their B.Ed. degrees. In our opinion, they shall be deemed to have had the equivalent qualification on the relevant date [of the job notification]," Justice Bose observed, allowing their ap-

### 'Demands for bifurcation of W.B. not unjustified'

#### Dilip Ghosh blames TMC chief for people's dissatisfaction

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party president Dilip Ghosh on Saturday said the demands for bifurcation of State unjustified.

The remark assumes political significance over similar statements made by BJP MPs from North Bengal and State's Jangalmahal region. The Trinamool Congress and Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee have in the past severely criticised BIP leaders for raising such demand.

#### 'Party stand'

"If they (BJP MPs) have raised such demands these are not unjustified. John Barla is a public representative; it is his duty to listen to and raise the opinion of people who have elected him. He has only done that. The party may have a different stand. It will think about it," Mr. Ghosh said, with Alipurduar MP John Barla by his

Mr. Barla, now Minister of State in the Union Government, was the first to raise the issue a few weeks ago after the State Assembly polls.



Dilip Ghosh •

The State BIP president went to on to blame Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for people raising such demands.

"The entire responsibility of this lies with Mamata Banerjee. 75 years after Independence, why do the people of north Bengal have to go other States for jobs, education and healthcare facilities? In Jangalmahal, the situation is the same. Why the women in Jangalmahal have to depend on sal and tendu leaves for livelihood. Why do they have to go Odisha, Ranchi and Gujarat for jobs," Mr. Ghosh said.

Mr. Ghosh said demands of separate State have been raised in the hills for several vears in the name of Gorkhaland.

Mr Ghosh's remarks triggered strong reactions from the TMC which said the BJP is trying to raise sectarian issues for their political inter-

### Stamp of support: postal cover on Kashmir's magic carpet

Plans under way to lift up dwindling trade with GI tag

PEERZADA ASHIQ

Kashmir's famed hand-knotted carpet, with its intricate and colourful floral patterns, adorned a special cover of the Indian Postal Service this week.

The move comes as a shot in the arm of the I&K Handicrafts and Handloom Department's efforts to push for the Geographical Indication (GI) certification, upscale the dwindling trade, and restore its lost glory.

"The inclusion of Kash mir's hand-knotted carpet as a postal cover will help educate people about GI tagging and reach a wide audience. The situation demands the building of trust and restoring consumer confidence to buy our authentic carpets,' Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director, Handloom and Handicrafts Kashmir, told The Hindu.

To win over buyers, Mr. Shah said his department was planning to shift from the traditional label system to the Quick Response (QR) code for carpets.

"A buyer can use his mobile phone to know about the knots per inch, varn and the material used. The buyer can also access the name of



The postal cover on Kashmir carpet. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Shah said.

The Kashmir carpet faces tough competition internationally from the products of countries such as China, Turkey and Belgium, and internally from carpets manufactured in Jaipur, Agra, Bhadohi and Amritsar.

Carpet export fell to ₹299 crore for 2019-20, the Handicrafts Department's figures show. According to one estimate, carpet exports stood at ₹369.81 crore in 2016-17.

"Yes, there is a slump in the sale of carpets. The fresh dip is due to the pandemic, which affected the export of carpets badly," Mr. Shah

the craftsmen who wove it," said. Around 80,000 people are associated with carpet manufacturing in Kashmir, which saw a major jump in both manufacturing and exports post-1990, with the production going up from ₹84.55 crore in 1990-91 to ₹821.5 crore in 2016-17.

But the figures have been

"We are also pushing for an organised sector for the carpet industry, which remains unorganised due to multiple processes like dying, weaving, etc. being done at separate places. Fresh interventions are likely to meet the demands of the market," Mr. Shah said.

### Service Chiefs visit alma mater together

They reviewed training at NDA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In a landmark visit, the three Service Chiefs together visited the National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakwasla in Pune, their alma mater, on August 20 and 21, during which they reviewed the ongoing training of cadets and the available training and administrainfrastructure, the Army said on Saturday.

The Army said in a statement: "The visit marks a historical moment for this prestigious tri-service training Academy as all three service chiefs are coursemates from the 56th Course of NDA, which is rare and unique." Prior to this, it was only in 1991 that all three Service Chiefs were coursemates. They belonged to the first course of the NDA, the erstwhile Joint Services

Wing, the statement said. The idea of establishing the NDA for training officers of the three services was conceived by a committee headed by the then Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinlek, in 1945, and the Academy commenced functioning at its interim location in Dehradun as the Joint Service Wing in



The three Service chiefs at the NDA on Saturday.

January 1949. The foundation stone of the Academy at Khadakwasla was laid on October 6, 1949 and inaugurated on January 16, 1955.

Admiral Karambir Singh took over as the Navy Chief on May 31, 2019; Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria took over as Air Chief on September 30, 2019; and General Manoj Naravane took over as Army Chief on December 31, 2019.

During the visit, the Chiefs paid homage at the 'Hut of Remembrance', which commemorates the sacrifice of NDA officers who laid down their lives in

#### **SUDOKU**

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

#### Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

### Manipur Chief Minister felicitates Olympians

They were given appointment letters

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM

Five sportspersons from Manipur, who were part of the Indian team for the Tokyo Olympics, were felicitated by the State government on Saturday.

The Olympians, felicitated at the Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, were Mary Kom, Shushila Likmabam, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, S. Mirabai Chanu and S. Nilakanta.

Chief Minister N. Biren handed over appointment letters and financial incentives to three of them. Two of them already have government jobs.

Mr. Biren handed over an appointment letter for the post of Deputy Director of Sports to Mr. Nilakanta and the post of Assistant Director in the same Department to Ms. Likmabam.

Ms. Pukhrambam was given the post of Inspector of Police.

As announced earlier, Mr. Biren handed over a cheque for ₹75 lakh to Mr. Nilakanta. Ms. Kom, Ms. Likmabam and Ms. Pukhrambam were given ₹25 lakh each. Ms. Chanu, who had

bagged a silver medal,was given ₹1 crore recently, along with an appointment letter as an Additional Superintendent of Police

The other sportspersons were honoured with gifts from the State government. Mr. Biren said people

were overjoyed when Ms. Kom was seen carrying the Indian flag in Tokyo. The Olympic Park, which was under construction, would be completed by November, he added. Those who were present

during the function also stood in silence for a minute to pay their respects to Ngangom Dinku, an international boxer who died recently due to cancer.

# Makers of *madur* mats win accolades

Gauri Rani Jana and Gauri Bala Das are expert weavers from West Bengal

SHIV SAHAY SINGH KOLKATA

Two women from Sabang in West Bengal's Paschim Medinpur district have been given the National Handicraft Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the development of crafts.

The announcement of awards for Gauri Rani Jana and Gauri Bala Das was made on Independence Day to honour their skills in making madur floor mats that are unique to West Bengal. An intrinsic part of the Bengali lifestyle, *madur* mats are made of natural fibres.

Madurkathi was awarded the geographical indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indication Registry in April 2018. Madurkathi is a rhizome-based plant (Cyperus tegetum or Cyperus pangorei) found abundantly in the alluvial tracts of Purba and Paschim Medinipur.

Speaking to The Hindu, both Ms. Jana and Ms. Das said that about 80% to 90%



unique to West Bengal. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of the entire workforce engaged in this traditional craft comprised of women.

"Women are faster weavers and since they stay at home, they have more time. Moreover, it's a tradition of the region, where every household has people taking up the craft. Men usually help us with designs," Ms. Das said. The 62-year-old resi-

dent of Sarta village in Sabang said that the price of a madur mat can range from ₹100 to ₹1 lakh.

#### Royal patronage

Ms. Jana and Ms. Das are both expert weavers of the 'Masland' a fine quality madur mat, which takes weeks to weave. During the 18th century, Masland mats flour-

ished under royal patronage. In 1744, Nawab Alibardi Khan issued a charter to land-owning jagirdars in this regard, and as a result, it was obligatory to supply Masland mats for use in the Collectorate. "I started weaving at a ve-

ry early age. Now there are about 60 women in my workshop. The design and the quality of material used determine the price of the madur," Ms. Jana said.

For the past two years, the COVID-19-induced lockdown has impacted the weavers. Some, however, are selling their products using online platforms.

"Madur was a unique household tradition in West Bengal. The tradition of weaving fine madur was slowly dying. Over the past few years, these workers have revived the tradition and found a market," said Ananya Bhattacharya, director, Banglanatak.com, a social enterprise.

# Taliban co-founder in Kabul for talks to form government

Abdul Ghani Baradar is scheduled to meet 'jihadi leaders and politicians'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar arrived in Kabul on Saturday for talks on establishing a new "inclusive" government in Afghanistan, a senior official

It comes after other senior Taliban leaders were seen in the capital in recent days, including Khalil Haqqani - one of America's most wanted terrorists with a \$5 million bounty on his head.

A senior Taliban official said that Baradar would meet "jihadi leaders and politicians for an inclusive government set-up"

Hours later, pro-Taliban media accounts showed Haqqani announcing that Ahmad Massoud the son of Afghanistan's most famed anti-Taliban fighter Ahmad Shah Mas-



Time for talks: Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar arriving in Kandahar, in this file photo. • AFP

soud - had "declared allegiance" to the movement.

Mr. Massoud had earlier this week appealed to the United States to supply arms to his resistance movement in the Panjshir Valley, northeast of Kabul, saying he wanted to follow in his father Ahmad Shah Massoud's

Mr. Massoud has not is-

sued a statement.

Haqqani has also met with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar – a former bitter rival during the brutal civil war of the early 1990s, but still influential in Afghan politics.

'Different' rule Baradar arrived in Afghanis-

tan last Tuesday from Qatar, choosing to touch down in the country's second-biggest city Kandahar - the Taliban's spiritual birthplace.

Within hours of his return, the group announced its rule would be "different"

But they have given few details about who would form their government.

Arrested in Pakistan in 2010, Baradar was in custody until pressure from the U.S. saw him freed in 2018 and relocated to Qatar.

He was appointed head of the Taliban's political office in Doha, where he oversaw the signing of the agreement last year that led to the withdrawal of U.S. forces and an end to their 20-year campaign.

On Friday, Haqqani – the uncle of Taliban deputy leader Sirajuddin Haqqani – was seen leading prayers at a mosque in Kabul.

### Attacks cast doubt on China's Pak. projects

After two suicide bombings, concerns raised over safety of Chinese workers

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Two suicide bombings in the space of just over one month have cast doubt on the future of China's ambitious projects in Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan, with renewed concerns over the safety of Chinese personnel in the region.

On Friday, a motorcade carrying Chinese personnel working at the East Bay Expressway project in Gwadar, the Arabian Sea port where the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) ends, was attacked by a suicide bomber, Pakistani and Chinese officials said, with two local children killed and one Chinese worker injured. This followed another bomb attack on July 14 targeting Chinese workers at the Dasu hydropower project, that killed 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals.

The attacks prompted an unusual statement from Chinese authorities on Friday. "Recently, the security situation in Pakistan has been severe," the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad said, adding that it "launched the emergency plan immediately, demanding Pakistan to properly treat the wounded, conduct a thorough investigation on the attack, and severelv punish perpetrators."

"At the same time, relevant departments at all levels in Pakistan must take practical and effective measures to accelerate to implement strengthened wholeprocess security measures and upgraded security cooperation mechanism to ensure that similar incidents will not happen again," the statement said, noting "there have been several terrorist attacks in succession, resulting in the casualties of several Chinese citizens."

Pakistani authorities in a

statement said "the bomber targeted the convoy of Chinese nationals comprising four Chinese vehicles with integral security details of the Pakistan Army and police contingent on the East Bay Expressway near Fishermen Colony in Gwadar." "A young boy ran out of the colony once the convoy reached there to target Chinese vehicles. Fortunately, soldiers of the Pakistan Army in plain clothes employed as hanging around security rushed to intercept the boy; who immediately exploded himself about 15-20 meters away from the convoy," said a statement reported by the Press Trust of

#### **Companies worried**

The July 14 attack had alreadeepened concerns among Chinese companies and workers, particularly amid the instability in neighbouring Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover. Workers for Chinese companies involved in the Dasu project were "reportedly on tenterhooks and fearful of another terrorist attack," the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported, quoting a local interpreter for one Chinese firm as saying "Pakistani mobile army units only provided protection to Chinese staff travelling between the Barseen residential camp and the hydropower project's various sites outside Dasu town in the remote Kohistan region."

"Without consistent army protection at the worksites, senior executives of the Chinese firms have reportedly refused to put their staff at risk and ordered a go-slow," the interpreter said, while Arif Yousafzai, deputy commissioner for Lower Kohistan district, said "fullfledged activities are yet to be resumed" although "the



A file photo of the Gwadar port in Pakistan. • REUTERS

work has not been stopped completely".

Many Chinese projects in Afghanistan have also been on pause. While China on Monday was among the first major countries to say it "stands ready" to work with Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover and Chinese state media have celebrated the U.S. exit, there are long-persisting concerns among Chinese officials over the Taliban's links to jihadist groups going back to the 1990s that "very much remain", said Andrew Small, senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund and author of 'The China Pakistan Axis".

"If you've seen the recent developments with CPEC and the Chinese investments in Pakistan, there's been far more anxiety about the security situation there in the last few months than in the last few years," Mr. Small told The Hindu. "They're concerned that effectively, Afghanistan could be used as strategic depth for the Pakistani Taliban, and that that would have implications for their investments and security interests in the country. The attack that we saw a few weeks ago was probably the largest loss of life you've seen in a terrorist attack on Chinese personnel in Pakis-

Most Chinese experts have blamed the July 14 attack on the Pakistani Taliban or TTP. Authorities in Pakistan claimed the attack was "executed by the Swat chap-

tan, full stop."

tacker was "trained in Afghanistan". officials, including the Foreign Minister, claimed the attacker "received support from Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies", claims which New Delhi rubbished as "absurd" and "yet another attempt by Pakistan to malign India in a bid to deflect international attention from its role as...a safe haven for proscribed terrorists".

Pakistan's claims haven't received wide attention in the Chinese press, and the Chinese Foreign Ministry in a statement on August 13, in response to queries about the claims, stopped short of directly endorsing the allegation. It said "further investigation by Pakistan is still ongoing at the moment" and China "firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical gains".

China on July 28 invited a delegation from the Taliban and sought a commitment from the grouping to "make a clean break" with jihadist groups, although some Chinese analysts remain skeptical of that likelihood. Nevertheless, some Chinese companies have expressed hope, regardless of China's past concerns, that the Taliban takeover might bring stability if the civil war ends.

"While some Chinese companies are involved in several major projects in Afghanistan, including the Aynak Copper Mine project, which is the second-largest copper mine in the world, many have been stalled or seen slow progress due to political instability in the country," the Communist Party-run Global Times reported.

pening it after the situation is stabilised, and international recognition, including the Chinese government's recognition of the Taliban regime, takes place," a source at China Metallurgical Group Corporation told the paper.

"We would consider reo-

### Avoid Kabul airport, U.S. tells its citizens

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential Islamic State threats against Americans in Afghanistan are forcing the U.S. military to develop new ways to get evacuees to the airport in Kabul, a senior U.S. official said on Saturday.

The official said that small groups of Americans and possibly other civilians will be given specific instructions on what to do.

The U.S. Embassy has issued a security warning telling citizens not to travel to Kabul airport without instruction from government

### Anti-Taliban forces take 3 districts

The areas fall under Baghlan province, north of Panjshir

Forces holding out against the Taliban in northern Afghanistan say they have taken three districts close to the Panjshir Valley, where remnants of government forces and other militia groups have gathered.

Defence Minister General Bismillah Mohammadi, who has vowed to resist the Taliban, said in a tweet that the districts of Deh Saleh, Bano and Pul-Hesar in the neighbouring province of Baghlan to the north of Panjshir had

It was not immediately clear what forces were involved but the incident adds to scattered indications of opposition to the Taliban who swept to power in a lightning campaign that saw them take all of Afghanistan's main cities in a week.

Local television station Tolo News quoted a local police commander who said Bano district in Baghlan was under the control of local militia forces and said there had been heavy casualties.

The Taliban have not commented on the incident.

Former Vice-President Amrullah Saleh and Ahmad Massoud, son of former anti-Soviet Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, have vowed to resist the Talipelled Soviet forces and the Taliban in 1980s and 1990s. People close to Mr. Mas-

soud say that more than 6,000 fighters, made up of remnants of Army and Special Forces units as well as local militia groups, have gathered in the Valley. They say they have some helicopters and military vehicles and have repaired some of the armoured vehicles left behind by the Soviets.

There appeared to be no connection between the groups in Panjshir and apparently uncoordinated demonstrations in some eastern cities and the capital Kabul in which protesters raised the Afghan flag.

# Hundreds held in Australia after clashes over lockdown

New South Wales. Victoria record sharp rise in infections

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds were arrested after violent clashes between anti-lockdown protesters and police in Australia's two largest cities on Saturday as the country recorded its sharpest rise in daily CO-VID-19 cases since the pandemic began.

Sydney's State of New South Wales posted 825 infections - a record for the entire country – a day after authorities extended the city's lockdown until at least September to try to head off the Delta variant.

"No matter how hard we work, no matter if 99% of people are doing the right thing, there's an element of Delta that nobody can control," NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian told media.

"The best way we can



Police and protesters clashing during a rally in Melbourne. • AFP

look forward to freedom is by making sure that we get vaccinated."

An increasing outbreak in Melbourne's State of Victoria also prompted stay-athome orders to be extended across the State on Saturday.

But Melbourne's public health orders didn't deter thousands from venting anger in a march against the lockdown rules, with police using pepper spray in violent clashes with protesters.

Seven officers were injured and more than 200 people were arrested in the "violent and unlawful" protest, Victoria Police said in a statement.

"While there were some peaceful protestors in attendance, the majority of those who attended came with violence in mind," they said.

In Sydney more than 1,500 police flooded the city, setting up roadblocks and making dozens of arrests as around 250 gathered there,

NSW Police said. Large crowds were also reported at an anti-lockdown rally in Brisbane.

Sydney's outbreak has also been linked to a case that sparked a national lockdown in New Zealand.

### Hurricane threatens U.S. East Coast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

A swath of the U.S. East Coast, including New York City, was under alert on Saturday, as storm Henri was upgraded to what could be the first hurricane in 30 years to hit New England.

Forecasters warned of violent winds, the risk of flash floods and surging seas as the storm churned in the Atlantic, packing maximum sustained winds near 120 km per hour.

"Although some weakening is expected prior to landfall on Sunday, Henri is forecast to be at or near hurricane strength when it reaches the coasts of Long Island and southern New England," the United States National Hurricane Center

The heavy rainfall "may result in considerable flash, urban, and small stream flooding," it added.

### National Anthem played at Tokyo for the first time, his wasn't the only chest that swelled up in pride. го токуо

Neeraj Chopra won India

in athletics with a majestic

throw of his javelin that

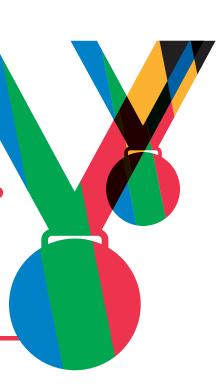
landed a little under 90

metres. When the Indian

its first gold medal

He wasn't alone. Across team and individual events, the Indian contingent accumulated 7 medals in total our biggest tally in history. As we draw encouragement from the historic performance by our athletes, the future doesn't just look bright. It looks golden.

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# Sri Lanka elephants to get biometric ID cards

New law bans mahouts from drinking on the job, mandates daily bath for jumbos

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sri Lanka will issue captive elephants with their own biometric identity cards and ban their riders from drinking on the job under a wideranging new animal protection law.

Many rich Sri Lankans including Buddhist monks keep elephants as pets to show off their wealth, but complaints of ill treatment and cruelty are widespread.

The new measures are aimed at protecting the animals and include strict regulations around working elephants, as well as mandating a daily two-and-a-half-hour

bath for each creature. Official records show there are about 200 domesticated elephants in the



two-and-a-half-hour bath for each elephant. • AP

South Asian nation, with the population in the wild estimated at about 7,500.

The new law will require all owners to ensure that animals under their care have new photo identity cards with a DNA stamp.

It also brings in multiple regulations for working elephants.

Baby elephants can no longer be used for work even cultural pageants – and cannot be separated from their mothers.

Logging elephants cannot be worked for more than four hours a day and night work is prohibited. There are new restrictions

on the tourism industry too from now on, no more than four people can ride an elephant at once, and they must sit on a well-padded saddle. Their use in films is banned, except for government productions under strict veterinary supervision, as is allowing their riders to drink while working.

"The person who owns or has the custody of such elephants shall ensure that the mahout (rider) is not consuming any liquor or any harmful drug while employed," Wildlife Protection Minister Wimalaweera Dissanayake said.



#### Green mermaid

A team of marine biologists from the Central University of Punjab have discovered a new species of marine green algae from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It has been named Acetabularia jalakanyakae. Jalakanyaka in Sanskrit literally means mermaid, the researchers were influenced by the fairy tale "The Little Mermaid."



#### Warming bias

A study by MIT researchers published in Science Advances looks at paleoclimate over the last 66 million years and finds a warming bias, that is, there were far more warming events than cooling ones. There were many more instances of prolonged global warming that lasted thousands to tens of thousands of years. These were multiplied by existing



#### **Giraffe grannies**

Elephants and killer whales are highly socially organised. Giraffes were believed to have little or no social structures. which studies over the last decade have shown otherwise A study from Bristol University finds about 30% of the life of giraffes is in post-reproductive stages, comparable to, say, elephants. The study deduces that this helps giraffes engage in co-operative parenting



### **Babbling bat babies**

Human babies are not the only ones who babble, some bats are also very talkative in their infancy. Babbling in human children is key to developing the careful control over the vocal apparatus necessary for speech. The study, published in the journal Science, indicates that the same practice is seen in the greater sac-winged bat, or Saccopteryx bilineata, native to Central America.

# Grasping at straws: the race towards herd immunity

When people move, changing the demography of the 'herd,' or when new variants emerge, this can lead to loss of herd immunity

In the beginning of the pandemic, when vaccines were still undergoing clinical trials, the goal was to quickly reach herd immunity through vaccination and natural infection. Herd immunity – where a large percentage of the population is infected or vaccinated so that virus spread in the population is significantly slowed or stopped – was seen as an endgame of the pandemic.

There have been instances in some countries where the virus spread has largely been under some kind of control at least for some duration. However, the emergence of highly contagious new variants, breakthrough infections even among the fully vaccinated and such people spreading the virus to others, and reinfections in the unvaccinated have made the race to reach the magical herd immunity threshold look like chasing a mirage

#### No magic number

"If herd immunity is viewed as a magic number where, if we achieve X percent infection or vaccination, life will get back to normal then that is not going to happen in near term. In other words, attaining high levels of population protection to slow virus spread is an end goal, but is not the endgame," Dr. Gagandeep Kang, Professor of Microbiology at CMC Vellore says in an email to *The Hindu*.

Immunologist Dr. Satjajit Rath,

The road ahead It is unclear whether we will have to live with endemicity of the virus or achieve herd

formerly with the National Insti-

tute of Immunology, is even more

blunt in dismissing the notion of

achieving herd immunity to con-

trol the SARS-CoV-2 virus spread.

"Herd immunity is not, in fact, it

cannot be, a prospective end goal

for a public health policy, especial-

ly one aimed at a globally spread-

ing new infection. We have no idea

what percentage of population

coverage will end up being effec-

tive [for] herd immunity," he says

in an email. "It is quite likely that

any state of such 'herd immunity'

in a given community will not be

stable - people move, thereby

changing the demography of the

'herd'; variants emerge, thus mak-

ing the 'immunity' less effective,

and all of these changes can well

we can aim for a stable situation of

herd immunity and then just stop

worrying about the pandemic has

always been more wishful than

If the Alpha (B.1.1.7) variant was

60% more transmissive than the

original strain, the Delta variant is

even more contagious thus requir-

ing an even higher herd immunity

threshold to break the transmis-

sion chain. It is estimated that the

Delta variant may have a basic re-

productive number of between

6.5 and 8, which means that herd

seen when even fully vaccinated

The next layer of complexity is

immunity will be 85% or higher.

**Role of variants** 

Dr. Rath adds: "The idea that

lead to loss of herd immunity."

- The Delta variant is estimated to have a basic reproductive number between 6.5 and 8, implying the herd immunity threshold will be 85% or higher
- Except for rare cases, such as people with lifethreatening illnesses,

people get infected by the Delta

variant, and such people shed vi-

rus at levels that resemble pre-

viously uninfected individuals and

thus infect others. "But the dura-

tion of shedding may be shorter,

which means that the overall abili-

ty of the virus to spread in pre-

viously infected or vaccinated in-

dividuals will be lower," Dr. Kang

shedding in the vaccinated is

short, it makes it harder to break

the transmission chain even in a

population that is highly vaccinat-

ed. Thus, even the theoretical pos-

sibility of protecting through herd

immunity those individuals who

cannot take a vaccine gets dimin-

ished. "There is no question of

ending transmission until we end

infections," she adds.

Even if the duration of virus



■ The estimate of seroprevalence (63%) is only an average based on a survey of less than 30,000 people in fewer than 10% of India's districts. Given this, it is not

easy to predict things

■ It remains would last in those who have been infected or vaccinated

According to her, the data from Israel seems to indicate that there is strong protection from transmission with the mRNA vaccines shortly after vaccination, and this then declines with time. But she says that these are early data, and there is a lot to learn about the performance of other vaccines

#### Help from vaccines

and over time.

"There are many more vaccines to come, and it is feasible that the next wave of vaccines or combinations of vaccines could help drive down transmission through lower levels of replication and better protection from infection," says Dr. Kang.

"Vaccines are needed for almost everyone. Expecting the benefit to pass on to the unvaccinated does not seem to be possible with this virus," explains epidemiologist Dr. Giridhara Babu from the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru. Dr Rath adds that except for very rare cases of someone who already has, for example, a major life-threatening allergy-related illness, there are really no individuals who cannot take a vaccine; there are only those who do not want to take a vaccine.

#### **Small surveys**

The over 63% average seroprevalence in the country combined with increased vaccination coverage can help reduce the speed of virus spread. But more importantly, natural infection and vaccination can decrease the risk of severe disease and death even when reinfected. But the over 63% seroprevalence is only an average and has been arrived at based on a survey of less than 30,000 people in less than 10% of India's districts. "It does not mean that two-thirds of every neighbourhood is seropositive; the reality is much more of a patchwork quilt, making any easy predictions misleading," Dr. Rath clarifies.

This makes quickly vaccinating a large percentage of people very important. Unfortunately, the pace of vaccination is slow in India - less than 33% are vaccinated with one dose and less than 9.5% fully vaccinated - and vaccine shortages in many States have become a norm. This makes reaching the imaginary herd immunity threshold anytime soon a big chal-

Even among the vaccinated, inequity in terms of geography and socio-economic strata is rampant. "This inequity means that the reality will be well-vaccinated and poorly-vaccinated communities living cheek-by-jowl, making any idea of stable herd immunity even less likely," Dr. Rath notes.

#### **Lasting immunity**

Finally, by the time the entire country reaches very high seropositivity either through vaccination or natural infection to achieve herd immunity, it remains unclear if protection would last in those who have been infected/vaccinated early on. It is likely that protection from severe disease and mortality might last for several years. However, there is no data at the moment.

While Dr. Babu feels that the endgame might be a situation where we would have to live with the virus with some level of endemicity but with reduced hospitalisation and lower mortality, Dr. Kang says it is too early to give up on herd immunity.

There are viruses that are much more infectious than SARS-CoV-2, such as measles. We have achieved reasonable control of measles and are striving to do better. We have not hit the herd immunity threshold in many parts of the world, and yet measles is no longer the major global killer it

### Rainfall at Greenland ice summit for first time

REUTERS

Rain fell at the highest point on the Greenland ice sheet last week for the first time on record, another worrying sign of warming for the ice sheet already melting at an increasing rate, scientists

said on Friday, August 20. "That's not a healthy sign for an ice sheet," said Indrani Das, a glaciologist with Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. "Water on ice is bad... It makes the ice sheet

Not only is water warmer than the usual snow, it is also darker - so it absorbs more

more prone to surface melt."

### **Unprecedented rise**

This meltwater is streaming into the ocean, causing sea levels to rise. Already, melting from Greenland's ice sheet - the world's secondlargest after Antarctica's has caused around 25% of global sea level rise seen over the last few decades, scientists estimate. That share is expected to grow, as global temperatures increase.

The rain fell for several hours at the ice sheet's 3,216metre summit on August 14, where temperatures remained above freezing for around nine hours, scientists at the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center said. Temperatures at the ice cap almost never lift above freezing, but have now done so three times in less than a

In total, 7 billion tonnes of rain fell across Greenland over three days, from August 14 through August 16 - the largest amount since records began in 1950. The recordbreaking rain is the latest in a string of warning signs

decade.

"This alarming rain at the summit of Greenland is not an isolated event," said Twila Moon, deputy lead scientist with the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center.

Along with rising floods, fires, and other extremes, it is one of many "alarm bells" signalling the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, she said.

## U.S. lab makes headway in nuclear fusion energy

The National Ignition facility demonstrated fusion energy equal to about 1.3 megajoule

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Nuclear fusion is a clean and green route to producing energy, as it does not involve any remnant radioactive waste products. Fusion reactions power hydrogen bombs. However, so far, fusion devices that show a net energy gain have not been demonstrated in labs.

An experiment at the U.S. National Ignition Facility (NIF), within the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California, comes close to demonstrating this. In this lab, using laser beams, tiny pellets of deuterium and tritium (heavier been fused to form helium and release energy that very nearly matches the amount of energy input using the

The NIF has been trying to achieve this for nearly a decade. Now, the experiment has produced a yield that almost equals the laser energy input. To be functional, a reactor has to produce an

output that is at least tens of times the input energy.

A tiny pellet of the fuel (deuterium and tritium) is placed in a cylidrical thumbnail-sized vessel, known as a hohlraum that has holes on both faces. A total of 192 laser beams are directed through the holes to strike the walls of the hohlraum. This causes the hohlraum to emit x-rays which, in turn, impinge on the pellet and compress it. The heated core of the pellet reaches 100 million degrees temperature which starts the fusion reactions. Further, the pellet has to "ignite" and only then can it reach the stage of becomum-tritium fusion reactor and release energy that can be tapped.

#### Laser facility

The laser facility itself occupies a large area, equal to nearly three cricket fields, and the lasers can deliver up to 500 terawatts of power using its 192 individual laser beams. This is focused into



Sun, hydrogen is being converted through fusion into helium, releasing huge amounts of energy. • AFP/NASA

the openings in the hohlraum which contains the pellet measuring some 2-3 mm. "The amount of laser

ments is quite modest, 1.9 megajoule (MJ). This is approximately equal to the energy it takes to heat a large pot (8 litres) of water by 100 degrees Celsius. The amount of fusion energy produced in these experiments was approximately 1.3 MJ which is now for the first time comparable to amount of laser energy input," says Arthur

Science Team lead, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in an email to The Hindu. This is the first time, in a controlled laboratory setting, that an inertial fusion system ( another name for a laser driven fusion system) has produced nearly as much energy was supplied to initiate the reaction. Dr Kazdan Pak further explains: "If we do the energy accounting we estimate that the fusion energy production is approximately 5 times the amount of energy coupled from the laser to

Kazdan Pak, Stagnation

### Tremendous progress

"To make a fusion reactor, hundreds of pellet implosions have to happen per second and means have to be found to extract the neutron energy as heat and produce electricity. This [experiment] is far from that stage, but the researchers have made tremendous progress in the last decade," says P. I John, Former Meghnad Saha

Chair Professor, Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, and an expert in thermonuclear fusion.

Several steps remain before a viable nuclear fusion reactor can be realised. Ignition, or energy break-even must be achieved. Many laser pulses must be made to act per second to increase the net yield to a sufficiently high value. Then the technology to convert the neutron energy into electricity has to be developed.

Meanwhile, Dr Kazdan Pak makes a mind-blowing comparison: "The fusion energy produced is released in an incredibly short of time, approx mately, 90 picoseconds producing close to 15 petawatts of power. This is approximately equivalent to some recent estimates of the total world power consumption, however the experiment only produces this power for an incredibly short period of time, whereas power is consumed continuously across

# The colourful molecules of turmeric

Curcumin and piperine present in turmeric give it healing powers



D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Every kitchen in India makes use of turmeric in its meal, in one form or another. The actual turmeric slices or turmeric powder that we use every day in preparing our meals (as Haldi, Manjal, Pasupu, Arishina, Halud) has about 3% of the active component molecule called curcumin, a polyphenol diketone (and not a steroid). Researchers point out that there is another molecule in turmeric called piperine, which is an alkaloid, responsible for the pungency of pepper that we use every day in our cooking, along with turmeric. Piperine enhances curcumin absorption in the body. It gives turmeric its multivariate healing and protective power.

#### Curry powder

Turmeric has been known for over 4,000 years in the Indian subcontinent, West Asia, Burma, Indonesia and China, and used as an essential part of our daily food what the colonials called curry powder. It has also been known as a medicine for ages, and to have anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Herbal medicine experts have used turmeric to treat painful symptoms of arthritis, joint stiffness and joint pain. They have also claimed that turmeric helps cure acute kidney injuries. Some of these claims need to checked using controlled trials.

https://www.healthline.com lists the following evidencebased benefits that turmeric and its products offer the body. Besides what has been mentioned, Curcumin, which is the active molecule in turmeric, is a substance with powerful anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant proper-



the Indian subcontinent, West Asia, Burma, Indonesia and China and used as an essential part of our daily food. • THE HINDU

ties; it is a natural anti-inflammatory compound: chronic low-level inflammation affects your health, including heart diseases and metabolic syndromes. Thanks to its ability to cross the blood-brain barrier, Curcumin reduces or stops the build-up of insoluble protein tangles called amyloid plaques, which are responsible for Alzheimer's disease. (However, we need further placebo-based studies, suitable animal models and humans). Curcumin boosts Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), a gene which promotes neurons (nerve cells), thus helping in memory and learning. It may help prevent cancer, as some herbal medicine experts have held. As cancer cells die, the spread of cancer is reduced, and new tumour cells are stopped. In arthritis and joint inflammation, Curcumin has been shown to be very effective. Herbal medicine practitioners have also suggested this. It is useful for treating depression in people. Controlled trials on 60 people for 6 weeks show that conventional drugs (for example, Prozac) act even better when supplemented with

It is here that a paper from Gary Small and colleagues from the University of California, the U.S., titled: 'Memory and Brain Amyloid and Tau effects of a bioavailable form of curcumin in non-demented adults: A doubleblind, placebo-controlled 18month trial', in the journal

#### That curcumin is an excellent immunoadjuvant has been known.

American Journal of Geria-

tric Psychiatry (doi: 10.1016/ j.jagp.2017.10.010). Here they studied 40 adults between the age of 50 and 90 years, who had mild memory complaints, and gave one group placebo and the other group 90 mg of Curcumin, twice daily for 18 months. All 40 received standardised assessment tests and the curcumin levels in their blood at start and at 18 months. All 40 were also tested with PET Scans to determine the levels of insoluble amyloid plaques, at start and after 18 months. They could conclude that daily Curcumin intake could lead to improved memory and attention in non-demented adults.

#### **Against COVID-19**

Most recently, an exciting study has recently been published from a group in Mumbai which shows that turmeric aids in the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The researchers did a trial of about 40 COVID-19 patients and found that turmeric could substantially reduce the morbidity and mortality. The paper by K. S. Pawar et al appears in the journal Frontiers in Pharmacology, titled: 'Oral curcumin with piperine as adjuvant therapy for COVID-19: A randomized clinical trial'. The paper is freely accessible (doi.10.3389/

fphar.2021.669362.eCollection 2021). What K. S. Pawar and colleagues had done was to conduct a double-blind, randomised, control trial in a 30-bed dedicated COVID-19 Heath Centre in Maharashtra. Administration of oral curcumin with piperine as an adjuvant symptomatic therapy in COVID-19 treatment could substantially reduce morbidity and mortality, and ease the logistical and supply-related burdens on the heath system. (Incidentally, that curcumin is an excellent immunoadjuvant has been known, thanks to the detailed studies of G. Padmana-

ban of IISc, Bengaluru). This is a truly remarkable advance, and is well worth trying out in several other centres across India, where the pandemic is still prevalent, not only to confirm the findings, but also where no clear signs of herd immunity have come about.

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# **Question Corner**

Canines and colour

What controls the coat colour patterns in dogs?

Researchers have successfully uncovered the secret behind the inheritance of coat colour patterns in dogs. A genetic variant responsible for a very light coat in dogs and wolves originated more than two million years ago in a now extinct relative of the modern wolf (Nature Ecology and Evolution).

Wolves and dogs can make two different types of pigment, black (eumelanin) and yellow (pheomelanin). Regulated production of these two gives rise to very different coat colour

The so-called agouti signalling protein represents the body's main switch for the production of yellow pheomelanin. If the

agouti signalling protein is present, the pigment-producing cells will synthesise yellow pheomelanin. If not, black eumelanin will be According to the

University of Bern release, dogs have a ventral promoter, which is responsible for the production of agouti signalling protein at the belly. An additional hair cycle-specific promoter mediates the production of agouti signalling protein during specific stages of hair growth and enables the formation of banded hair.

They also discovered two variants of the ventral promoter. While one of the variants conveys the production of normal amounts of agouti signalling protein, the other causes increased production of the protein. They also identified three different variants of the hair cycle-specific promoter. Thus dogs have a total of five different combinations, which cause different coat colour patterns.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



**Up against changes:** Opponents say DBT will end the heavily subsidised or free power supply to the farm sector. •G. RAMAKRISHNA

### Power play

Why are Chief Ministers protesting against the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill which proposes more private players in distribution?

#### T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The story so far: Opposition parties and several organisations have objected to certain features in the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021. the Kerala Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw the Bill. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reiterating her opposition to the "much-criticised" Bill. In Karnataka, farmers held demonstrations against the draft legislation. The proposed legislation, according to critics, goes against the federal structure of the Constitution as electricity is in the concurrent list. Those opposing the Bill contend that it will lead to more private players in the power sector, making electricity unaffordable for vulnerable sections, but the Centre says it has its reasons for proposing the changes.

What prompted the Centre to propose changes in the Electricity Act?

For years, electricity distribution has remained the sore point in the country's power network. Thirty years ago, when the Centre opened up the power sector, experts argued that distribution should have been covered initially. The Electricity Act, 2003, led to thermal generation getting delicensed and States unbundling the vertically integrated State Electricity Boards into generation companies and

The States feel that a greater role for private distribution companies and franchisees will lead to 'cherry-picking of remunerative areas' by them, leaving it to State discoms to serve the poor

distribution companies (discoms). Though the idea is to promote competition and efficiency, the discoms have, by and large, remained under the control of the States. At the end of June 2021, the discoms owed over ₹90,000 crore to power producers. Thirty-six out of 56 discoms reported aggregate losses of around ₹32.900 crore as on

March 31, 2020. With the discoms saddled with structural challenges in governance and regulation, combined with the chronic problems of underinvestment, line losses and issues in billing, metering, and collection, the government has been trying to amend the Electricity Act. The present version of the draft Bill was drawn up in April 2020. Recently, Union Power Minister R.K. Singh said the revised draft, prepared in consultation with stakeholders, had been sent to the Cabinet Secretary.

#### What are the contours of the draft Bill?

The broad objectives of the legislation, as articulated by Mr. Singh a year ago, are: ensure consumer-centricity, promote ease of doing business, enhance sustainability of the power sector and promote green power. The draft Bill has covered nearly a dozen areas, such as distribution franchise and sub-licence, subsidy, and cost-reflective tariff. Among the remedies presented by the government through the initiative are direct benefit transfer (DBT) of subsidies, reduction of cross subsidies, role for distribution sub-licensees with regulators' nod, the adoption of a national renewable energy policy and the establishment of the electricity contract enforcement authority. On August 10, the Union Minister informed the Rajya Sabha that after the announcement in the 2021 Union Budget on the need for enabling consumers to choose among discoms, the Centre held discussions with a range of stakeholders. As this required an amendment to the law, the "desired procedures are being followed", he said.

#### Why have several States opposed the Bill?

The proposed de-licensing of distribution has unnerved many States, from Tamil Nadu to West Bengal and Maharashtra to Punjab. The States feel that a greater role for private distribution companies and franchisees would only lead to "cherry-picking of remunerative areas" by them, leaving it to the State discoms to serve social sector obligations and rural areas. This, they feel, will lead to the States incurring massive losses. Ms. Banerjee, in her letter to Mr. Modi, argues that while the Electricity Act, 2003, had struck a "fine balance" between the Centre and the States in the management of the sector, the proposed amendment "strikes at the root of the federal structure". The objective of providing choices to the consumers would "end up in profiteering" by new service providers through tariff hikes. The draft Bill is also being opposed by many political parties and farmers on the ground that DBT will do away with the heavily subsidised or free power supply to the farm sector. This is why, it is one among three pieces of legislation against which agitating agriculturists' bodies have been carrying on a campaign. One of the complaints of Tamil Nadu against the draft Bill is that hydro-power purchase obligation cannot be fixed separately as hydro-power generation is seasonal, monsoon-dependent and not in the control of its discom.

#### What is the way forward?

If the Centre and the States can arrive at a broad consensus, at least on two crucial areas of DBT and giving space for private distribution companies and franchisees, the proposed amendment can be a game-changer for the power sector, according to experts.

# Are oil bonds to blame for high fuel prices?

What is the spend on the UPA-era Special Securities and how much does the government earn from excise duties and other levies?

SURESH SESHADRI

The story so far: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently repeated a refrain that the Centre had been unduly burdened by the cost of having to service 'oil bonds' issued by the UPA government, and it was this financial commitment which had mainly constrained the government's ability to reduce excise duty and other Central levies on petroleum products so as to lessen the burden on consumers. Interacting with the media on August 16, Ms. Sitharaman termed the actions taken by the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government as "trickery" and said: "Oil bonds worth ₹1.44 lakh crore were issued by the UPA to show reduced oil prices in 2013. Who is paying for it, the Modi 2.0 government." She added, "Today, you are asking me why we are not reducing the prices. I am subsidising the reduction they had offered. So far, ₹70,195.72 crore has been paid as interest on outstanding bonds worth around ₹1.31 lakh crore. Another ₹37,000 crore more is payable as interest till 2025-26, taking the interest alone close to ₹1

#### What are these oil bonds?

Between 2005 and 2010, the government issued long-dated Special Securities, totalling about ₹1.4 lakh crore, to oil marketing companies (OMCs), including Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. These debt securities or bonds, which carry coupons ranging from 6.35% to 8.4%, were issued in lieu of cash subsidy to cover the under-recovery that OMCs sustained on account of selling petroleum products below cost. The bonds paid an annual interest to OMCs and on maturity, the face value of the bonds, too, would accrue to them. The then government opted to issue these bonds so as to reduce the annual fiscal burden and stagger the liability over an extended period of time.

#### Why were they issued only up to 2010?

The UPA government deregulated petrol pricing in June 2010, ending under-recovery on the fuel, and OMCs stopped suffering losses on every litre of diesel they sold from October 2014. During the five-year period that the oil bonds were issued, the price of a barrel of the Indian basket of crude oil averaged \$70.15, according to the data on the website of the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

1. SHARE OF THE PIE | The share of Centre's excise duty in Delhi's petrol price increased from 14% in May 2014 to 32% in Aug. 2021

Price build-up	May 2014 (% share)	Aug. 16, 2021 (% share)					
Base price	₹47.1 (66%)	₹41.2 (40%)					
Centre's tax	₹10.4 (14%)	₹32.9 (32%)					
Dealer's cut	₹2 (3%)	₹3.8 (4%)					
State's tax	₹11.9 (17%)	₹23.5 (23%)					
Retail price	₹71.4 (100%)	₹101.8 (100%)					
2. PRICE COMPARISON   This sharp rise in the Centre's tax component meant that the petrol							

2. PRICE COMPARISON | This sharp rise in the Centre's tax component meant that the petrol price kept increasing despite sharp falls in the crude oil price as depicted in the chart

AVG. CRUDE PRICE
(\$/BBL)

80.8

AVG. PETROL PRICE
IN ₹ (DELHI)

2001 2010 2021

**3. UNDER RECOVERIES** The difference between purchase and selling price of oil products is called under recovery

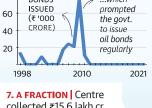
products is called under recovery

This is a notional loss for the oil marketing firms, later compensated by the govt.
However, after deregulation, such losses are marginal

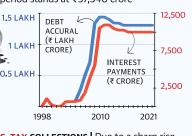
Shope

What are oil bonds and why are they not issued any more? Are they linked to the Centre's reluctance to cut excise duties? Vignesh R & Sumant Sen take a look

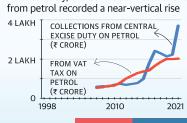
**4. BONDS, OIL BONDS** | Despite crude oil prices spiralling after 2005, retail prices were kept under control, leading to rising under recoveries...



collected ₹15.6 lakh cr. through excise duty on petro products between FY15-21. Interest paid on the bonds and future interest and debt payable form only 15.3% of these past collections 5. DEBTS & INTEREST | Debt due to oil bonds reached ₹1.44 lakh crore by 2010. After deregulation, no more bonds were issued. Bonds that matured were repaid, leaving ₹1.31 lakh crore worth bonds to be paid between FY22 and FY26. The amount of interest to be paid during the same period stands at ₹37,340 crore



**6. TAX COLLECTIONS |** Due to a sharp rise in taxes lately, the Centre's tax collections from petrol recorded a near-vertical rise



ComponentAmount<br/>(₹ crore)% share of<br/>excise dutyExcise duty (FY15 - 21)15.6 lakh10.8%Principal + interest<br/>payable (FY22 - 26)1.68 lakh10.8%Interest paid (FY15-21)0.7 lakh4.5%

(PPAC). The retail selling price of petrol ranged from a low of ₹37.99 to a peak of ₹50.62 (in July 2008) over the same period.

#### What is the link between oil cost and retail fuel prices?

Besides the price of crude oil that is processed into the respective fuels, there are Central and State levies and dealer commissions that get added on to finally feed into the pump price of the petroleum products. The price of the Indian basket of crude oil kept rising during the UPA years, starting at an annual average of \$39.21 in 2004-05 and climbing to a high of \$111.89 in 2011-12. Prices eased slightly thereafter to an annual average of \$105.52 in 2013-14, before the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in May 2014. Since 2014-15, when a barrel on average cost \$84.16, crude prices have been on a downtrend and fell to \$44.82 in 2020-21. Excise duty and related Central levies have, however, risen sharply and constituted 32% or almost a third of the

pump price of petrol sold in Delhi as on August 16 this year, compared with just 14% in May 2014. State taxes have increased at a more gradual pace and risen in Delhi to 23% of the pump price, from 17% in May 2014.

#### How relevant is the Minister's contention?

The Centre has consistently derived far higher returns from excise duty and other levies than the expenditure it has so far incurred in relation to the bonds. Its receipts by way of excise duty alone almost doubled from ₹99,068 crore in 2014-15 to ₹1,78,477 crore in 2015-16, and was provisionally estimated at ₹3,71,726 crore in 2020-21, according to PPAC data. In contrast, while the principal outstanding for the bonds has barely changed over the last seven years − marginally declining from ₹1.34 lakh crore as of March 2014 to ₹1.31 lakh crore as of March 2021 − the interest outgo, by the Minister's own account at a little over ₹70,000 crore, averages to just about ₹10,000 crore a year.

# Will changes in AERA Act help smaller airports?

Are private players going to invest in aviation if a profitable sector is clubbed with non-profitable ones?

JAGRITI CHANDRA

The story so far: In the monsoon session, Parliament passed the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2021. The Bill, tabled in March this year and sent to a standing committee, seeks to broaden the category of airports for which the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) of India can determine tariff by amending the definition of major airports.

#### Why has the definition of a major airport been amended?

The AERA regulates tariffs and other charges for aeronautical services rendered at 'major' airports. Under the AERA Act, 2008, a major airport is one which "has, or is designated to have, annual passenger throughput in excess of three-and-a-half million or any other airport as the Central Government may, by notification, specify". However, it does not provide for determination of tariff for a group of airports. The Amendment Bill has amended the definition of a major airport to include "a group of airports" after the words "any other airport". The government hopes the move will encourage development of smaller airports and make bidding for airports with less passenger traffic attractive. It plans to club profitable airports with non-profitable ones and offer them as a package for development in public-private partnership mode to expand connectivity.

Was there a need to amend the AERA Act?

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) awarded six airports

– Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati – for operations, management and development in public-private partnership mode in February 2019. Later that year, the AAI Board, in its 190th meeting held on September 5, approved leasing of another six airports – Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Raipur,

Indore and Tiruchi – for

tions, management and

development in public-

mode. The Ministry of

Civil Aviation plans to

club each of these air-

ports with nearby

smaller airports for

joint development. The

move follows Finance

partnership

undertaking

Balancing the interests of the private sector and the government's objective of privatising smaller airports will be a tightrope walk, says Jagannarayan Padmanabhan of CRISIL

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget Speech this year, in which she said the government planned to monetise airports in tier-2 and tier-3 cities

How did AERA come into existence? What tariffs does it determine?

The AERA Act was enacted in 2008 and an independent economic regulator, i.e., the AERA, was established in 2009 for determining the tariff for aeronautical services rendered at major airports. The initial benchmark passenger throughput to qualify as a major airport was 1.5 million

passenger per annum (mppa), which was amended in 2019 to 3.5 mppa. According to the AERA website, there are 25 major airports. For the remaining non-major airports owned by AAI, the Ministry of Civil Aviation approves the charges for aeronautical services. There are a total of 154 airports in the country. Among these, AAI owns 136 airports and provides air traffic services over the entire Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic areas.

#### What are the apprehensions?

"Though this Bill proposes to make changes which appear to be lucrative for the aviation sector, there is a lack of clarity regarding what will be the criterion for deciding which airports get clubbed together. Will it be passenger traffic of more than 3.5 million or some other factors too? This clarity needs to be brought in to achieve the objective of the Bill," says Poonam Verma, Partner, J Sagar Associates, adding that the government will also have to ensure that a monopoly situation is not created in the airport operating business while awarding a group of airports to the same entity.

"Balancing the interests of the private sector and the government's objective of privatising smaller airports will be a tightrope walk," says Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, Practice leader and Director, Transport and Logistics, CRISIL Limited. "Whether the government succeeds will also depend on how the airports are packaged and if there are enough growth prospects, economic activity or tourist attractions near the non-profitable airports that will be clubbed."

### How will human trials for new HIV vaccine work?

Why is the m-RNA platform being used and how did the COVID-19 experience help?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: Moderna, the Massachusetts-based American biotechnology company, has indicated that it may begin human trials for a vaccine for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) in September, according to the ClinicalTrials.gov website, employing the same m-RNA platform that it has used in its COVID-19 vaccine.

How is the candidate vaccine expected to work?

Formally known as mRNA-1644, it is made in a way to stimulate the B cells of the immune system. These are a class of white blood cells that produce antibodies which can bind to invading bacteria and viruses. The larger purpose of stimulating the B cells is to generate what are called broadly neutralising antibodies (bnAbs), which are specialised blood proteins that attach to the surface proteins of HIV and disable them by accessing key but hard-to-reach regions on the virus. Over the last decade, there have been advances in identifying new bnAbs from HIV-infected individuals that were seen to target very specific sites in the outer envelope of the HIV. Lab-based analysis and tests on animals have improved the understanding of how the knowledge of these sites can be used to make immunogens (or parts of a virus or bacteria that elicit an antibody response from the immune system. In the case of a coronavirus, for instance, the spike protein is an immunogen against which different vaccines elicit antibodies.)



Silver lining: Moderna, the American biotechnology company, has indicated that it may begin human trials for a HIV vaccine in September. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

One such immunogen that has been designed in the lab is eOD-GT8 60mer, developed by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and its partners. In a Phase I trial, scientists tested whether this approach would stimulate the human immune system to initiate the generation of bnAbs. This February, IAVI announced that their trial produced promising results and their vaccine had succeeded in stimulating the production of the bnAbs needed to stimulate antibodies. The targeted response was detected in 97% of the participants. There were 48 healthy adults who had volunteered in the trial, some of whom got the vaccine and some did not. The Moderna trial is designed to investigate a way to effectively deliver the eOD-GT8 60mer immunogen using the m-RNA technology that will direct cells to make the BnAbs which will elicit immune responses against HIV. For this trial, Moderna will recruit 56 healthy adults without HIV to test the safety of the vaccine mRNA-1644 and basic immune response. The vaccine's development involves funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Why is this approach promising?

The quest to develop an HIV vaccine is considered among the holy grails of scientific research. While treatment with Anti-Retroviral Therapy has significantly improved the longevity of those with AIDS, this is a lifelong treatment. According to the World Health Organization, there are around 37.7 million living with HIV as of 2020. Traditional vaccine approaches have not worked for HIV, and in fact, some of them have gone on to worsen infection. RNA-based immunogens are believed to be a promising alternative because they do not involve the use of a live virus, can be made relatively easily, can be quickly deployed and safely administered. A drawback of m-RNA vaccines used to be their instability. However, the experience with the coronavirus vaccine has come as a shot in the arm. The success of m-RNA vaccines - Pfizer -BioNTech and Moderna - in reducing hospitalisation and mortality has led to confidence in the underlying platform and, therefore, fresh investments to improve it.

#### What are the challenges ahead?

Of the people living with HIV, over two-thirds are in Africa. Any success in containing the HIV pandemic would mean drastically cutting the rates of transmission there. However, as the experience with the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines shows, getting essential jabs to the regions where they are most needed is the biggest stumbling block. Another challenge with m-RNA vaccines is that they are sensitive to temperature in storage, and is a challenge for developing countries. HIV has mutated into several variants and is an insidious virus, and it will be many years before definitive proof of the success of the m-RNA approach can be established.

#### HIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA

# The Mullah who took the reins of Afghanistan

The shadowy figure, under whose leadership the insurgents took Kabul back after 20 years, is set to become the ruler of the war-torn country

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

fter a blitzkrieg op-

eration to capture cities and towns following the withdrawal of U.S.-led military forces, the Taliban now control most of Afghanistan, including the capital city of Kabul. The only province that stands outside the Taliban's control Panjshir is in the north-central part of the country. Poised to form a new government, the Taliban are yet to clearly reveal the contours of their regime, but they had already been in power between 1996 and 2001 over vast areas in the country, which was then declared as the 'Islamic emirate of Afghanistan', and governed on the basis of a strict interpretation of 'Sharia law'. While their spokespersons, especially the political leaders based in Doha, Qatar, have evinced that the group has, over time, reformed and refined itself, there seems to be little inclination of any

The Taliban as a force are led by their "emir", Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada and are essentially controlled by the 'Quetta Shura', which has provided the ideological leadership for the insurgency as a "leadership council" on the top of a chain of command that extends itself into military groups and operations that now encompasses most of Afghanistan. The Quetta Shura is named so because it was protected and based in Ouetta, Balochistan, in west Pakistan and even though only some of its leadership is believed to remain

there, the name has stuck. The Quetta Shura's leader-

ship council is also known as the 'Rahbari Shura' and is further divided into subcommittees. The members of this council are tasked with recruitment, training and planning the insurgency. The council was essentially a shadow government that controlled large parts of the country, especially the ethnic Pashtun dominated southern areas, during the insurgency. It has been helped by the protection provided by the Pakistani

The Taliban, led by their 'emir', Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, are essentially controlled by the 'Ouetta Shura'. which has provided the ideological leadership for the insurgency

deep State and has financed the insurgency by various means such as donations from the Gulf and the opium

......

trade in Afghanistan. Akhundzada, who formerly headed the Taliban's ulema council (religious elders), took control of the Taliban after the death of his predecessor, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who was widely seen as a violent and divisive leader, in a U.S. drone attack in 2016. Akhundzada, on the other hand, is revered by the outfit's rank and file for his religious credentials, having made his mark in deciding over thorny issues such as the insurgent group's use of suicide attacks, among others. During Akhundzada's tenure as the emir, the Taliban's public face to the external world has remained its political office in Doha, Qatar, and represented by his deputy Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a founderleader who was captured by Pakistan security forces in 2010 at a time of internal discord within the outfit and released later in 2018. Other deputies include Sirajuddin Haqqani, son of Jalaluddin Haggani who led the dreaded Haqqani Network that backed the Taliban during its tenure between 1996 and 2001 and have engaged in several terror attacks in Kabul and beyond.

Baradar has sought to project the Taliban as an anti-occupation force that was committed to the defeat and withdrawal of the U.S. military forces in Afghanistan but there has been little evidence of any reform in its core ideology.

#### **Secretive movement**

Formed in 1994 in the south-

ern province of Kandahar, the Taliban, in their initial years and even after coming to power in Kabul in 1996, were a secretive political movement committed to a radical interpretation of Islamic ideology and jurispru-The movement emerged in the detritus of the bitter civil war between different factions of the mujahideen that fought for the spoils of power after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the fall of the communist government in 1992. It was led by former fighters of the mujahideen, who had taken part in the insurgency against the Soviet

Panjshir

forces, especially in the Kandahar province.

As journalist Ahmed Rashid pointed out, the mujahideen in the south had coalesced around their Pushtun tribal identities and were led by tribal clan chiefs and their religious scholars (or the ulema). Following the withdrawal of the Soviets, the internecine war among the mujahideen also included battles between the rural tribal fighters and the more organised Islamists, who were funded by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan, besides other external actors such as the U.S.' secret service, the CIA. After the decimation of what Mr. Rashid calls the "traditionalists" from the tribal networks, the ground was laid for the emergence of the radical Islamists of the Taliban, who were initially student recruits (Talibs) from madrassas professing a version of Deobandi Islamic revivalism in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border areas. Akhundzada was an early member of the Taliban, tasked with fighting crime, and serving as part of the Taliban Supreme Court, before training recruits seminaries.

The Taliban in the 1990s were led by Mullah Mohammad Omar, a reclusive leader who sought to gain the support of the people fed up

with the war and the corrupt leaders of the Mujahideen, by relying on religious piety and strict observance of Islamic law. The Taliban made rapid military gains after getting support from other fundamentalist groups and the military-driven deep State in Pakistan, which diversified its patrons from the Mujahideen to the new radical Islamists. Once in power, the Taliban, under Mullah Omar, pursued a radical Islamist curbing women's rights, banning liberal institutions, and adopting medieval values, besides becoming a haven for other radical Islamist and terrorist groups

such as al-Qaeda. Following

the U.S.'s intervention, the Taliban's leadership were driven away from Afghanistan, but they slowly gained and retained territory, particularly in the south.

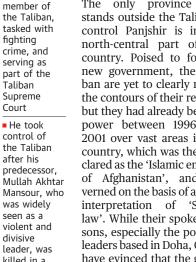
ILLUSTRATION: R.RAJESH

#### No change to the core

The Quetta Shura managed to retain control in parts of rural Afghanistan by instituting a shadow government and even gained limited support beyond its core Pushtun ethnic adherents during the insurgency. However, even during peace and power sharing talks with the representatives of the Afghan government before the American withdrawal, the Taliban showed little inclination to dilute its core ideological tenets of establishing an Islamic emirate ruled predominantly by the emir (the Taliban leader), who would appoint the ulema of Sunni Muslims following the Hanafi sect and who would implement the sharia law.

The Taliban, as political scientist Barnett Rubin pointed out in a recent special report, released a draft Constitution in 2005, but had not published or adopted it. Taken together with other texts endorsed by the group, the Taliban have shown no indication that they will conform themselves in power to a democracy that will be committed to pluralism inherent in the ethnic, sectional and religious diversity of the country or anything other than a theocratic, unitary system of governance.

Akhundzada will seek to preside over an Islamic Emirate after annulling the 2004 Constitution of the Islamic Republic as the group has professed to do, and there is expected to be little difference in its intent from its rule in the 1990s. The Taliban have emerged as a more powerful military force than its 1990s avatar, following the U.S. withdrawal. This time, they have recognised the virtues of public relations exercises, world diplomacy and communication. But they will find it much more difficult to establish a theocratic, medieval regime without resistance in a country, which has seen a significant increase in nominal freedom of expression, participation of women in public life and oth-



In Focus

Akhundzada

was an early

killed in a U.S. drone strike. Akhundzada, on the other change in its core ideology. hand, is revered by the outfit's rank and file religious credentials Akhundzada preside over an Islamic Emirate after annulling the Constitution of the country

**PANJSHIR** 

# The valley of resistance

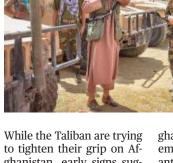
Ahmad Massoud is trying to revive the Northern Alliance against the Taliban

STANLY JOHNY

Then the Taliban took Kabul in 1996, President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud, along with their allies, retreated to northern Afghanistan. The Taliban had captured much of Afghanistan, except the north. Massoud, who was called 'the Lion of Panishir'. built a united front of anti-Taliban forces in the Panjshir Valley, and continued the resistance against the Taliban regime.

Massoud was assassinated by al-Qaeda on September 9, 2001, two days ahead of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. But the Northern Alliance he had commanded played a critical part in the U.S.-led attacks on the Taliban that saw a quick collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001.

After 20 years, the Taliban are back in Kabul. The Taliban are now controlling almost all of Afghanistanexcept Panjshir. In the province, located in the northeast of the country, Ahmad Massoud, the 32-year-old son of Ahmad Shah Massoud, is leading the new resistance against the Taliban. Amrullah Saleh, the First Vice President of the Ghani administration, is believed to be with Mr. Massoud in Panjshir. Last week, Mr. Saleh declared himself the 'legitimate caretaker President of Afghanistan' as per the Afghan Constitution.



ghanistan, early signs suggest a resistance to their rule is taking shape in Panjshir.

When Afghanistan became a republic in 1973, the 20-year-old Ahmad Shah Massoud was a student in Kabul University. Muhammad Daoud Khan, backed by the communist People's Democratic Party, became the first President of the country. Massoud, who was a member of the Muslim Youth, the student wing of the Jamiat-e Islami, started an uprising in Panjshir that was backed by the Pakistani intelligence. Initially Daoud Khan's regime put down the protests and Massoud had to flee to Pakistan. But he would return to Panjshir after the communists took over Kabul in 1978 through the 'Saur Revolution'. In the Panjshir Valley, literally the valley of five lions, Massoud built a guerrilla resistance against the communists. After the Soviets came to Af-

ghanistan in 1979, Panjshir emerged the hotbed of the anti-Soviet communist, with help coming from the U.S.

**Mountainous terrain** Located 150 km north of Kabul, the Valley is near the Hindu Kush mountain range. It's divided by the Panjshir river and ringed by the Panjshir mountains in the north and the Kuhestan mountains in the south. The mountain tops are covered by snow throughout the year. This difficult terrain makes the Valley a nightmare for invaders. It allowed Massoud to keep the Valley away from first the communist government and then the Taliban regime. Earlier, Panjshir was part of Parwan Province. In 2004, the Valley and the surrounding region became an independent province. Roughly 1,50,000 people are living in Panjshir, a huge majority of them ethnic Tajiks. When the Taliban started taking

provinces after provinces,

the Tajik mujahideen, would hold off the Taliban onslaught. During the anticommunist war, the Mujahideen were backed by the U.S. with military and financial aid coming via Pakistan. When the Taliban were in power in the 1990s, the Northern Alliance was backed by India, Iran and Russia. And much of the country's north, including Badakhshan and parts of Takhar, besides Panjshir, was outside the control of the Taliban. This time, the Taliban appear to be stronger. Panjshir is the last province standing. The Taliban have also established contacts with Iran, Russia and China. It's not clear whether the resistance would gain regional or international support. In an article in The Washington Post on August 18, Ahmad Massoud said he's "ready to follow my father's footsteps". "But we

many fled

hoping

to Kabul.

Some others fled to

that the Valley, the

traditional capital of

The more immediate questions Mr. Massoud and Mr. Saleh face is whether they can muster the kind of support among Afghans that the Northern Alliance did in the 1990s and whether Panjshir can survive as an island of resistance in an Afghanistan tightly controlled by the Taliban.

need more weapons, more

ammunition and more sup-

plies," he wrote, in a direct

call for help.

#### HAQQANI NETWORK

# The sword arm of Taliban

The terrorist network is an influential faction among the Afghan insurgents

KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE

n August 17, Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the Haggani Network, arrived in Kabul from Quetta in Pakistan. The Hagganis have been part of the Taliban and the responsibilities given to Sirajuddin point to the influence the group has over the Taliban. He is the leader in charge of military operations in Afghanistan. Believed to be in his 40s, Sirajuddin has established himself as a key figure in the Taliban-led "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" that will take shape in the coming days.

In terms of importance, Sirajuddin is seen as the third most powerful Taliban figure after Mullah Baradar and Hibatullah Akhundzada. With this, Sirajuddin is emerging as the top leader of the Haqqani Network, the much-feared group that first emerged to fight the Soviet troops in Afghanistan and continued to fight and defeat the U.S. with its terror tactics.

Although his stature has risen within the militant ranks, Sirajuddin remains a UN-designated global terrorist responsible for the suicide bombings and raids unleashed on the U.S. and NATO troops as well as civilians in Afghanistan over the past two decades. The Haqqani Network has also been responsible for some of the attacks on prominent targets in Afghanistan. In June

2011, they attacked the Ka-



They have carried out attacks against the Indian and the U.S. Embassies in Kabul, the Afghan Presidential palace and the office of the NDS, the Afghan national intelligence.

**Power tussle** 

In July 1988, Jalaluddin Haqqani had voted for peace along with the tribal elders of entire Afghanistan. He had put his signature in a long list of tribal leaders of the northeast Afghanistan, where his clan, the Hagganis, dominated over an area that traditionally covers Waziristan of Pakistan. His representatives came to meet the UN-appointed special negotiator for Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez. The plan was to create the "broadest" possible government in Afghanistan that would put an end to the violence that had broken out in Afghanistan beginning with the Soviet invasion of the country in 1979. The peace process, or

the Cordovez formula, however, did not take off as Pakistan began to chart its own course after the withdrawal of the USSR. Afghanistan had become an open space for power tussle after Soviet withdrawal.

Jalaluddin belonged to the Zadran tribe in the northwest frontiers of Pakistan and the mountains in the eastern Afghanistan. These were some of areas where resistance to the Soviet occupation rose promi-

nently among the Pashtuns. The Haqqanis were associated with Younus Khalis of Hezb-e-Islami, one of the main anti-Soviet jihadist groups. As the resistance grew stronger in the 1980s, Jalaluddin's militants received weapons and training, including stringer missiles supplied by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The attacks by the Haqqanis on the Soviet forces in Afghanistan were legendary and they evolved as the conflict among the Mujahideen groups intensified in the aftermath of the exit of the Soviet Union and the fall of the government of Mohammad Najibullah.

#### Ties with al-Qaeda

Jalaluddin, a Minister in the previous Taliban government from 1996 to 2001, was considered close to al-Oaeda and its founder Osama bin Laden. He had several sons from his multiple marriages - Badruddin, Nasiruddin, Anas, Azizuddin, Sirajuddin and Khalil. He lost most of his sons in the battles that the Hagganis fought against the Americans and the NATO forces. Anas and Sirajuddin are now in the leadership of the Network. Anas was seen holding talks with former CEO of Afghanistan Abdullah Abdullah and Sirajuddin has proved to be the mili-

tary successor of his father. The Haqqani Network's emergence as the sword arm of the Taliban in Kabul has surprised many observers, who believe the Haqqanis are closely aligned with Arab insurgent groups such as al-Qaeda, a tradition that goes back to Jalaluddin's collaboration with the Arabs against the Soviets and his own marriage to an Arab woman. According to the Taliban-U.S. agreement, the leading figures of the Taliban and aligned groups are expected to be out of the list of global terrorists. Any delay to this effect will create complications for the Haqqanis, who are now in Kabul.

### Arvind **Fashions** raises ₹439 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Arvind Fashions Ltd., India's leading casual and denim manufacturer, on Saturday said it has raised ₹439 crore from various marquee investors, including promoters by issuing equity shares of the company.

This will 'significantly strengthen' the balance sheet and allow the business to pursue its growth strategy while insulating it from any COVID-19-related uncertainties, AFL said in a statement.

"The board of directors of AFL, at its meeting held today (Saturday), approved the preferential allotment of equity shares aggregating to ₹439 crore to various marquee investors, including promoters, at the price of ₹218.50," it said.

A California judge on Friday

ruled that a 2020 ballot

measure that exempted

ride-share and food delivery

drivers from a State labour

law is unconstitutional as it

infringed on the legislature's

power to set standards at

Proposition 22 is unconsti-

tutional as "it limits the

power of a future Legisla-

ture to define app-based

drivers as workers subject to

law", which makes the en-

tire ballot measure "unen-

forceable", Alameda Coun-

ty Superior Court Judge

Frank Roesch wrote in the

compensation

the workplace.

'Limits the power'

REUTERS

California judge nixes gig

Exemption from law 'unconstitutional'

worker ballot measure

# SEBI keeps Adani Wilmar's ₹4,500-crore IPO in abeyance

Have not received any formal communication, says Adani Group spokesperson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Capital markets regulator SEBI has kept the proposed ₹4,500-crore initial sharesale of edible oil major Adani Wilmar Ltd. (AWL) in "abeyance".

However, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) did not elaborate further.

The company had filed preliminary papers with SE-BI on August 3, to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

Without disclosing the reason, SEBI said "issuance of observations kept in abeyance" with regard to the Adani Wilmar IPO, according to an update on the SEBI website as on August 13.



On hold: In market parlance, SEBI's observations is a kind of go-ahead to float a public issue. ■REUTERS

In market parlance, SEBI's observations is a kind of go-

ahead to float a public issue. In a statement on Saturday, an Adani Group spokesperson said, "we have not reformal any communication from SEBI with respect to the IPO observations being kept in abeyance".

'Fully compliant'

"While we have always been fully compliant with applicable SEBI Regulations, we have made full disclosure to SEBI on specific information

requests from them in the past. We will continue to cooperate with the regulators in the future as well," the spokesperson added.

AWL's proposed listing on the stock exchanges will comprise the fresh issue of new equity shares by AWL for an amount of up to ₹4,500 crore.

There will not be any secondary offering, Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL), the flagship company of the Adani group, had said in a regulatory filing.

AWL, which sells cooking oils under the Fortune brand, is a major player in the edible oil industry.

The firm is a 50:50 joint venture between the Adani group and the Wilmar group.

### 'Listed insurers to control 60% of business post LIC IPO'

Majority of 69 firms past initial break-even phase: Agrawal

After the initial public offering (IPO) of LIC, about 60% of the insurance business will be with listed companies, Additional Secretary in the Finance Ministry Amit Agrawal said on Saturday.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had in July given its in-principle approval for the listing of the insurance behemoth.

The IPO of the stateowned life insurer is part of the government's efforts to raise ₹1.75 lakh crore through disinvestment in the current financial year.

Speaking at an event to mark Actuaries Day, Mr.



Agrawal said amid global challenges, India has continued to develop as an emerging economy with a financial system that has madeepened achieved scale.

The needs of this emerging India are in many ways different, he said, adding the insurance sector, over the two decades since the introduction of competition and regulation, has matured with 69 insurers today as against only eight in 2000.

"A majority of these have crossed their initial breakeven phase.

"Once the proposed listing of LIC happens, about 60% of the insurance industry business would be with listed entities. The sector as a whole has been growing at a pace significantly higher than that of the overall economy," he said. Currently, there are four listed life insurers and two in the nonlife segment. State-owned re-insurer General Insurance Corporation of India is

gives hope for coming quarters' 'Risk of third wave lingers, but we hope it will not be severe'

N. ANAND

Indian mutlinational conglomerate Larsen & Toubro Ltd. is betting on key focus markets such as West Asia, Africa and the Far East for growth. Within India, it will continue to target projects funded by multilateral agencies, MD & CEO S.N. Subrahmanyan said in an e-

INTERVIEW | S.N. SUBRAHMANYAN

How is the infrastructure scenario in India and globally?

mail interview. Excerpts:

■ Both the Indian economy as well as all its constituents comprising households, corporates and government are seeking to get back to growth momentum. The pickup in high-frequency economic indicators builds hope for the coming quarters. Government is committed to infra formation in India and we believe large parts of the national infrastructure pipeline [target] will be achieved.

Creation of a development finance institution and announcements around recycling of operating assets are credible measures that have been recently taken up.

With the pickup in oil prices, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is looking a lot better; and Africa with consistent multilateral fund ing support should do well.

Having said that, the risk of a third wave and its consequent economic fallout does linger in our mind at this juncture, but we hope this will not be severe.

What are the key drivers that will boost infrastructure?

■ The government is seized of the fact that investment spends can create the muchneeded employment oppor-

Pickup in economic indicators

For the next 4-6 quarters, govt. will have to do the heavy lifting in capex formation

impact to economic activity. In a normal year, public spends comprising those by the Centre, the States and public sector units add up to 7% of India's GDP.

For the next 4-6 quarters till private investments pick up, the heavy lifting in terms of capex formation will have be [done] by the government.

We see various prospects in different areas of infrastructure like metros, hydel projects, tunnelling and bridge construction, in roads, power transmission & distribution, water spends and hydrocarbon projects including activities taking place in factories; and commercial activities such as data centres, big auditoriums, and the central vista.

What kind of support do you expect from the Centre? ■ With an aim to speed up economic normalisation, the Indian government accelerated public investments in

key infrastructure sectors. The wheels of India's capex cycle had been set in motion with a strong revival in investment-led growth supported by the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Mission' and production-linked schemes.

The government also rightly stepped in to announce a series of fiscal relief measures.

The greatest opportunity and the biggest need in front of the government is to create jobs.

Important determinants ahead revolve around sustained capex ordering from the government and an enabling environment for execution and liquidity to

contrators. A robust pre-qualification criterion for projects, timely settlement of retention money and claims, reduced arbitration and enhanced conciliation processes and a less stringent bank guarantee exposure will augur well.

How have your international orders shaped up?

Our principal markets apart from India are West Asia, to some extent Africa, and to a lesser extent the Far East. We see some positive momentum in Africa.

There has been revival of both power transmission and water projects in certain parts of Africa. We have bid for some hydrocarbon jobs in certain countries; we hope that with oil prices stabilising, we will see some positive movement on some of those projects in the GCC.

Domestic tendering and awarding activity was subdued in Q1 but with economic normalisation from Q2 onwards, we will see a revival.

For the remaining nine months of FY22, we see total ordering prospects of around ₹9 trillion – comprising domestic opportunities of ₹6.3 trillion, and ₹2.7 trillion in international

### Double for Akanksha, Duhan

Gig economy companies

including Uber, Lyft, Door-

dash and Instacart were

pushing to keep drivers' in-

dependent contractor sta-

tus, albeit with additional

The ballot measure was

meant to cement app-based

food delivery and ride-hail

drivers' status as indepen-

dent contractors,

CHENNAI

SPORTS REPORTER

Akanksha Nitture of Maharashtra and Haryana's Chirag Duhan annexed the singles titles in the Tennishub MPTA National junior under-18 clay court tennis championships at the MPTA, KTC courts, on Saturday. The two had earlier won the doubles crowns. In the girls' final, the se-

cond-seeded Akanksha was in full flow against the topseeded Reshma Maruri of Karnataka, winning 6-1, 6-3.

#### Staging a comeback

In the boys' summit clash, top seed Duhan staged a comeback after losing the first set, prevailing 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

A. Vellayan, former chair-



The toppers: Duhan and Akanksha, the champions, with A. Vellavan and Premkumar Karra. 

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

man, Murugappa Group and vice-president, TNTA, gave away the prizes in the presence of Premkumar Karra, honourary secretary, TNTA.

Other result: Girls doubles (final): Akanksha Nitture (Mah) & Kavya Kirwar (Del) bt Reshma Maruri & Suhitha Maruri (Kar) 6-4. 7-6(5).

### BFC bows out of AFC Cup

SPORTS BUREAU

engaluru FC bowed out **b** of the 2021 AFC Cup following a goalless draw against Bashundhara Kings in Male on Saturday. The result kept the Marco Pezzaiuoli-coached side third in Group D (one point), with Bashundhara and ATK Mohun Bagan both above.

Pezzaiuoli made three changes to the side that lost to ATKMB, with Parag Shrivas, Danish Faroog and Bidyashagar Singh replacing Sarthak Golui, Ajay Chhetri and Udanta Singh.

Both sides had periods where they held the upper hand but neither could prevail. On 24 minutes, Cleiton Silva's ball into the box was met by a diving Yrondu Musavu-King but his header

went straight into Bashundman's gloves. At the other end, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu got his palms to Jonathan Reis' effort from outside the

On the stroke of halftime, BFC earned a freekick after a foul on Silva, but couldn't capitalise.

Bashundhara came close in the 57th minute through Brazilian winger Robinho whose effort deflected off Gurpreet's foot and was sailing goalward until Naorem Roshan Singh's acrobatic effort and Gurpreet's outstretched arm kept the ball from going in. Towards the end, Silva, Jayesh Rane and skipper Sunil Chhetri all tried to break the game open, but Bashundhara's

defence held strong.

### Three Indian boxers assured of medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Rohit Chamoli (48kg), Ankush (66kg) and Gaurav Saini (70kg) advanced to the semifinals of the ASBC youth and junior boxing championships in Dubai, assuring themselves of at least bronze medals.

Chamoli outclassed Alhassan Qadous Sriya 5-0, Ankush blanked Bader Shehab 5-0 and Saini dominated Yaqoub Saadallah before he was declared the winner.

Ashish (54kg), Anshul (57kg) and Preet Malik (63kg) were the other three to emerge victorious in their respective matches.

### PCB puts camp, selection on hold

#### AFGHAN SERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board has put on hold a training camp that was scheduled to start on Saturday in Lahore and also the announcement of its squad for the ODI series against Afghanistan next month in Sri Lanka.

With Taliban taking over the reins in Afghanistan and the country facing its worst crisis in last two decades, the PCB wants a confirmation from Afghanistan Cricket Board whether the series is on and only the will it announce the squad.

The series is due to begin on Sept. 3 in Hambantota in ■ The series is due to begin on Sept. 3 in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka with the Sri Lanka board hosting the matches on behalf of the ACB.

The official said the Afghanistan cricket authorities are yet to confirm when their players will leave Kabul for Colombo and also the schedule of the matches. "Once they give us the complete series travel plans and itinerary we will have the camp and also release

our squad," he said. The ACB is said to be in talks with the Taliban authorities and US troops which are controlling all flights in and out of Kabul airport.

### Corfe Castle tipped for Governor's Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D'Silva's Corfe Castle, who ran second in his last start, should make amends in the Governor's Cup, the feature event of Sunday's (Aug. 22) races. Rails will be announced one hour before the first

1 DONCASTER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1 p.m.: 1. Ashwa Sultan (4) Ashad Asbar 56, 2. Gregor Clegane (10) P. Sai Kumar 56, 3. Salisbury (6) Zervan 56, 4. Wallop And Gallop (9) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 5. Yesterday (5) Surya Prakash 56, 6. Able Love (3) B. Nikhil 54.5, 7. Garden Of Eden (8) Abhay Singh 54.5, 8. Inside Story (1) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Maximum Glamour (11) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 10. Moon light Ruby (2) Koushik 54.5 and 11. Morior Invictus (7) Nakhat Singh

1. MORIOR INVICTUS. 2. MAXIMUM GLAMOUR,

3. WALLOP AND GALLOP

OCEAN STAR PLATE (DIV. III) 2 (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.30: 1. Miss Marvellous (10) Abhay Singh 61.5, 2. Lockhart (5) Ajeeth Kumar 61, 3, Curcumin (4) Deepak Singh 60.5, 4. Soul Empress (1) P. Sai Kumar 59.5, 5. Explosive (9) Gauray Singh 57, 6. Gazebo (3) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 7. Sublime (6) Santosh 54, 9. Story Teller (7) Nakhat Singh 53 and 10. Bedazzled (2) Surva Prakash 50. 1. EXPLOSIVE,

3. CURCUMIN

3 DONCASTER PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m) (Terms) Maiden, 3--o only (Cat. II), 2.00: 1. Dream Station (5) Zervan 56, 2, My Master (9) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Special Effort (7) P.S. Chouhan 56, 4. Winning Streak (2) Sandesh 56, 5. Ahanu (10) Afroz Khan 54.5, 6. Angelita (4) Koushik 54.5, 7. Hot Seat (6) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Key To Time (8) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 9. Over Joy (1) Ashad Asbar 54.5 and 10. Soloist (3) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. SOLOIST, 2. WINNING STREAK, 3. SPECIAL EFFORT

SAI RAMA PLATE (1,600m) 4 rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.35: 1. Cheltenham (6) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Lamha (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Campania (5) Surya Prakash 58.5, 4. Sweet Melody (2) B.R. Kumar 57, 5. Catalina (3) Zervan 56.5, 6. Steve Rogers (Ex: Always Success) (1) P.S. Chouhan) 56.5 and 7. Grand Duke (7) Nakhat Singh 54.

3. CHELTENHAM

5 BEANDAZ PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 3.10: 1. Air Salute (1) Abhay BEANDAZ PLATE (DIV. I) Singh 62, 2. Healthandhappiness

(2) Ajinkya 62, 3. Star Babe (10) Koushik 61.5, 4. Winning Player (8) Gaurav Singh 61.5, 5. Elmira (13) Santosh Raj 61, 6. Elegant Stroke (11) R.S. Jodha 60.5, 7. Sacred Lamp (7) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 8. Secret Command (3) Kiran Naidu 59, 9. Let It Be Me (6) B.R. Kumar 58.5, 10. Proud Legacy (9) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 11. Felix Flame (12) B. Nikhil 57, 12. India Gate (5) Md. Ismail 56 and 13. Moment Of Silence (4) Afroz Khan

1. AIR SALUTE, 2. SACRED LAMP. 3. STAR BABE

6 COMMISSIONER'S CUP (1,200m) 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.45: 1. Her Legacy (1) P.S. Chouhan 60, 2. Sporting Smile (2) C.P. Bopanna 58.5, 3. N. R. I. Elegance (3) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 4. Full Volume (Ex: Marinetti) (11) Ajinkya 57, 5. Incredulous (8) Md. Ismail 55.5, 6. Maxwell (4) Mukesh Kumar 55.5, 7. Shaquille (5) Ashad Asbar 55.5, 8. N R I Vision (10) Akshay Kumar 55, 9. Rapid Fire (6) Nakhat Singh 55, 10. City Of Wisdom (7) P. Sai Kumar 53 and 11. N R I Magic (9) Afroz Khan 52. 1. HER LEGACY.

2. N R I VISION, 3. FULL VOLUME 7 GOVERNOR'S CUP (1.400m) (Terms), 3-y-o & upward (Cat. 4.20: 1. Corfe Castle (6) Sandesh 60, 2. Moondancer (1) Zervan 55, 3. Victory Parade (7) B.R. Kumar 55, 4. Consigliori (4) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 5, Prince Valiant (5) P. Gaddam 53.5, 6. Galloping Gangster (3) S.S. Tanwar 52 and 7. Titus (2) Ashad Asbar 52. 1. CORFE CASTLE, 2. CONSIGLIORI. 3. PRINCE VALIANT

O BEANDAZ PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Berkeley (12) Gaurav Singh 62, 2. Aibak (9) Afroz Khan Singh 62, 2. Albak (9) Arioz Khan 61.5, 3. Stark (Ex: Echoes Of Heaven) (10) Ajit Singh 61.5, 4. Hurricane (1) Abhay Singh 61, 5. Bravo (8) P. Sai Kumar 60.5, 6. Golden Forza (2) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 7. Jo Malone (13) Deepak Singh 59.5, 8. Charcoal (4) Santosh Raj 58.5, 9. Big Day (3) Nakhat Singh 57.5, 10. N R I Flame (6) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 11. Acadian Angel (11) G. Naresh 56.5, 12. Cephalonia (5) N.B. Kuldeep 54.5 and 13. Royal Avenger (7) Ajeeth Kumar 50. 1. BERKELEY,

3. ACADIAN ANGEL Day's Best: CORFE CASTLE Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii)

Tanala: All races.

2. AIBAK,

#### champion filly Miracle, piloted by P.S. Chouhan, won the 47th running of the Deccan Fillies Championship Stakes (Gr. 3), the stellar attraction of Saturday's (Aug. 21)

races here. The winner is owned Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo & Mrs. Auzita M. Deboo, Miracle (Multidimensional-Khalila), kept calmly in fourth position by jockey Chouhan till the bend, cruised into the lead while homeward bound to win by a comfortable margin from stablemate Alicia.

HYDERABAD: Trainer P. Shroff's

OCEAN STAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m) 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): STAR RACER (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Max (Abhay Singh) 2, Brisbane (Surya Prakash) 3 and Mind Reader (B.R. Kumar) 4, 2, Hd and 1-1/2. 1m, 28.22s. ₹80 (w), 26, 13 and 17 (p). SHP: 51, THP: 73, FP: 748, Q: 423, Tanala: 4,554. Favourite: Mind Reader. Owners: Mr. Jitendra D. Parekh & Mr. Mamidi Bhudevi Dilip Kumar. Trainer: S.

2. RAZIA SULTANA PLATE (1,200m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): COSMIC RUN (Kiran Naidu) 1, Galwan (Akshay Kumar) 2, Novem ber Rain (R. Aiinkva) 3 and Total Darc (Afroz Khan) 4. 3/4, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 14.55s, ₹324 (w), 46, 11 and 59 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 173, FP: 2,296, Q: 240, Tanala: 12, 724. Favourite: Galwan. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry rep. Manjri Horse Breeders Farm Private Lim ited & Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju. 3. SANDOWN PARK PLATE (DIV. II)



Rewarding a champion: Miracle's trainer P. Shroff, left, receives the Deccan Fillies Championship winner's trophy from HRC steward V. Krishna Das. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

(1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): ALL TIME LEGEND (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Star Dancer (Kiran Naidu) 2, Different (Md. Ismail) 3 and Blue Valentine (Surya Prakash) 4. 4, 2 and 2. 1m, 14.19s. ₹13 (w), 11, 16 and 18 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 55, FP: 68, Q: 52, Tanala: 383. Favourite: All Time Legend. Owner: Mr. N.V. Rohin Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.
4. NEWBURY PLATE (1,600m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): FALCON

EDGE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Peaky Blinders (Sandesh) 2, Dandy Man (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Francis Bacon (Nakhat Singh) 4. 2-3/4, 5 and Nk 1m, 39.58s. ₹16 (w), 11, 10 and 22 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 48, FP: 41, Q: 28, Tanala: 298. Favourite: Falcon

unni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R H Sequeira. 5. NAWAB MEHDI JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), rated

Edge. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Ey-

60 to 85 (Cat. II): RENO STAR (Abhay Singh) 1, Sovet Pride (Sandesh) 2, Ashwa Yashobali (Gaurav Singh) 3 and British Empress (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2, Sh and 2. 1m, 40.14s. ₹188 (w), 23, 11 and 11 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 39, FP: 827, Q: 348, Tanala: 1,552. Favourite: British Empress. Owner: Mr. Subodh Chand Bothra. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6. SANDOWN PARK PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): BLINK OF AN EYE (Afroz Khan) 1,

City Of Passion (Ashad Asbar) 2, Appenzelle (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Castlerock (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and Nk. 1m, 14.97s. ₹83 (w), 18, 21 and 12 (p). SHP: 69, THP: 64, FP: 1,072, Q: 636, Tanala: 5,017. Favourite: Appenzelle. Owners: Ms Meka Ahalya & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D'Silva. 7. DECCAN FILLIES CHAMPION-

SHIP STAKES (GR.3) (1,600M) (TERMS), FILLIES 3-Y-O ONLY: MIR-(MULTIDIMENSIONAL-KHALILA) (P.S. CHOUHAN) 1, Alicia (Western Aristocrat-Heather) (Zervan) 2, Pecanwood (Win Legend Woodberg) (Ashad Ashar) 3 and New Look (Sedgefield-Ballade Danon) (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3-3/4, 1 and 2. Im, 39.82s. ₹12 (w), 12, 10 and 20 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 47, FP: 27, Q: 27, Tanala: 178. Favourite: Miracle. Owners: Mr. Mehernosh H. Deboo & Mrs. Auzita M. Deboo. Trainer: P. Shroff.

8. OCEAN STAR PLATE (DIV. I)

(1.400m) 5-v-o & upward, rated 20

to 45 (Cat. III): GREEN TURF (B.R.

Kumar) 1, Once More (Nakhat Singh) 2, Nearest (G. Naresh) 3 and Linewiler (Abhay Singh) 4. 1/2, 2-

3/4 and Nk. 1m, 27.90s. ₹85 (w), 28, 22 and 51 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 147,

FP: 744, Q: 251, Tanala: 7, 666. Favourite: Dunkirk. Owner: Mr. Mad-

dali Sai Kumar. Trainer: G. Shashikanth. Jackpot: 70%: ₹60,001 (7 tkts.) & 30%: 1,747 (103 tkts.); Treble: (i) 37, 598 (c/o), (ii) 834 (36 tkts.), (iii) 1.981 (43 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: (i)

36,480 (c/o), (ii) 49, 885 (1 tkt).

#### TV PICKS

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m. Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.

#### IN BRIEF



#### Aditi makes the cut

CARNOUSTIE (SCOTLAND) Aditi Ashok crossed the first hurdle as she made the cut for the weekend rounds of the AIG Women's Open here. Aditi (71-74) hung in during the tough closing holes at the challenging Carnoustie Links to finish at one-over when the cut was applied. It was at the same course that Aditi achieved her career-best in a Major with T-22 finish in 2018. PTI



#### Lahiri moves into the weekend action

NEW JERSEY Anirban Lahiri shot another two-under 69 in the second round of the Northen Trust golf tournament to move into the weekend action in the first play-offs at the FedExCup here. His 69-69 moved him to four-under and was T-36, down 21 places from his overnight T-15. He is four strokes outside the top-10 presently, and eight behind leader Jon Rahm of



#### Kapur makes cut in Czech Masters

India's Shiy Kapur shot a second straight round of two-under and moved to four-under to make he cut at the D+D REAL Czech Masters golf tournament here. However, S.S.P. Chawrasia (70-75) and Aieetesh Sandhu (74-73) missed the cut. Sebastian Soderberg fired an eight-under par 64 to take the halfway lead. PTI

#### Saumya-Lisa pair loses in semifinals

Saumya Vig, in partnership with Lisa-Marie Rioux of Japan, was beaten 4-6, 3-6 by Carolina Kuhl and Angelina Wirges in the doubles semifinals of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament. The results: \$25,000 ITF women, Erwitte, Germany Doubles (semifinals): Carolina Kuhl & Angelina Wirges (Ger) bt Lisa-Marie

### Ravi, Narinder still in the medal hunt

Rious (Jpn) & Saumya Vig

6-4, 6-3.

#### **WRESTLING**

SPORTS BUREAU UFA (RUSSIA)

Ravi Malik and Narinder Cheema remained in medal contention of Greco Roman competitions at the World junior wrestling championships here on Saturday.

Ravi defeated Robin Uspenski of Estonia (6-0) and Zhenish Zhumabekov of Kyrgyzstan (18-9) in the 82kg category. He lost to Armenia's Karen Khachatryan (0-9) in the semifinals and will figure in the bronze medal bout.

Narinder got past German Anton Vieweg (6-5) and Uzbek Abrorbek Nurmukhammedov (11-6) before falling to Pavel Hlinchuk of Belarus (4-0) in the 97kg quarterfinals. As Hlinchuk entered the final, Narinder got into the repechage round.

## Race walker Amit wins historic silver

Quartermiler Priya improves personal best while finishing fourth

#### **ATHLETICS**

STAN RAYAN

mit Khatri, who had heen on a record-breaking spree in the national circuit this year, won the men's 10,000m race walk silver after a brave effort at the World Athletics under-20 championships in Nairobi on Saturday.

The 17-year-old from Rohtak, the world's fastest under-20 walker this year, held the lead for a good part of the race with host Kenya's Heristone Wanyonyi hot on his heels.

#### Water woes

But the Indian had missed picking a bottle from the water table on a couple of occasions midway through the race and later appeared to go for too many 'water breaks' which perhaps cost him the

Wanyonyi won the title in



On a high: Amit Khatri gave India its first-ever race walk medal in the World championships. ■ TWITTER/SAIMEDIA

42:10.84s while Amit clocked 42:17.94 for India's first-ever race walk medal in a World championships.

Baljeet Kaur finished seventh with a personal best 48:58.17s in the women's 10.000m walk where Mexico's Sofia Ramos Rodrigues

won the gold in 46:23.01s.

Later in the evening, Priya H. Mohan went all out in the women's 400m final and improved her personal best by more than half second, clocking 52.77s, but could only finish fourth with Nigerian Imaobong Nse Uko winning the gold in 51.55s.

The Indian quartet of Abdul Razak, Sumit Chahal, Kapil and Bharath Sridhar finished last in its heat, and overall, in the men's 4x400m relay in 3:10.62s, while Rohan Gautam Kamble was seventh in the men's 400m hurdles semifinal in 52.88s and crashed out.

Namibia's Christine Mboma, the Olympic 200m silver medallist, and Beatrice Masilingi who were not allowed to run the quartermile in Tokyo because of their high testosterone levels, made it a fast one-two in the women's 200m, the former even breaking the under-20 world record (21.84s). Frenchman Sasha Zhoya

(110m hurdles, 12.72s, new u-20 world record), Nigeria's Udodi Chudi (men's 200m, 20.21s), Botswana's Anthony Pesela (men's 44.58s), Ethiopia's Ayal Dagnachew (women's 800m, 2:02.96s), Kenya's Vincent Kibet Keter (men's 1500m, 3:37.24s), Israel's Yonathan Kapitolnik (men's high jump, 2.26m) and Jamaican Ackera Nugent (women's 100m hurdles, 12.95s) were among other gold medallists on the championships' penultimate

### Comfortable win for Hassan in 5000m

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE EUGENE (USA)

Double gold medallist Sifan Hassan came up short in a bid to set a world record in the 5,000m at the Prefontaine Classic on Friday, but she still managed to win comfortably in a time of 14 minutes 27.89 seconds.

The Dutch star, who won gold in the 5,000m and 10,000m at the Tokyo Games earlier this month, finished well ahead of runner-up Senbere Teferi of Ethiopia who clocked 14:42.25. Teferi's Ethiopian teammate Fantu Worku was third in 14:42.85 and Loice Chemnung of Kenya finished fourth in 14:43.65.

Organisers hyped Hassan's attempted assault on the world record and she did run all alone for the last half of the race, beating Teferi by 14 seconds and bettering her Olympic winning time of 14:36.79.

But it was more than five seconds off her personal best



Hassan. ■ AFP

time and she was nowhere near the world mark of 14:06.62 set by Ethiopia's Letesenbet Gidey in October in Valencia, Spain. She ran six races in Tokyo, also capturing a bronze in the 1,500m.

Gidey decided not to run in the 5,000 metres, choosing to compete in what turned out to be a blistering two mile race instead, where she finished second.

**QUICK SINGLES** 

**Buttler to miss IPL for** 

wicketkeeper-batsman, will

miss the second leg of IPL

2021 due to the impending birth of his second child, his

franchise Raiasthan Royals

Royals signed New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman Glenn

announced on Saturday.

Phillips, currently part of

Caribbean Premier League

The second leg of the T20

league is scheduled to take

place in the UAE from Sept.

without England pacer Jofra

Barbados Rovals in the

birth of second child

Jos Buttler, England's

### Rain affects play on the second day

Pakistan had finished day 1 at 212/4



Stepping up: Alam got going when Pakistan and skipper

### PAKISTAN IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rain played spoilsport on the opening session of day two in the second Test between West Indies and Pakistan at Sabina Park on Saturday.

On day one, Babar Azam and Fawad Alam had forged a 158-run stand to guide the visitors to 212 for four at

#### Fighting back

After one of Pakistan's worst starts to a Test match it was reduced to two for three in the first four overs - captain Azam and Alam dug in to withstand the early seam movement and post resilient half-centuries.

On a hot, attritional day, both batsmen played and missed initially and had some false shots but eventually got on top of the at-

tack. Azam and Alam took the total to 160 before the latter had to retire hurt owing to cramps

He faced 149 deliveries for his unbeaten 76 before leaving the field.

Azam's innings ended when he got a thick edge to Roach and Jason Holder took a catch low to his left at second slip in the 61st over. Azam scored 75 from 174

At close, Rizwan was unbeaten on 22 and Faheem Ashraf on 23.

#### Roach the best

The West Indies used seven bowlers, with Roach (3/49) spearheading a weary attack before bad light stopped play.

West Indies had won a tense first Test by one

The scores: Pakistan 212/4 in 74 overs (Babar Azam 75, Fawad Alam retd. hurt 76, Kemar Roach 3/49) vs WI.

### Hasaranga, Chameera, David in RCB squad

The three have been added for the second part to be held from Sept. 19

#### IPL 2021

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera and Tim David have been added to the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) squad for the second part of IPL 2021, the team announced Saturday.

The side will miss the services of Finn Allen, Scott Kuggeleijn, Kane Richardson, Daniel Sams and Adam Zampa.

#### Katich steps down

In another personnel change, Australian Simon Katich stepped down as the Head Coach due to personal reasons. Mike Hesson, the Director of Cricket Operations, will additionally take on the role of Head Coach for the remainder of the season.

Sri Lankan leg-spinner Hasaranga, who replaced Australian Zampa, turned heads recently with a fourfor-nine haul against the vis-Indians in the third T20I. "Hasaranga offers balance with his wrist-spin, and also with his batting," Hesson said in a media interaction on Saturday.

Fellow Sri Lankan Chameera was equally impressive against India, generating good pace with the new ball. "Chameera has genuine pace. "His white-ball game has developed significantly in the last few years," Hesson said.

Singapore-born Austra-



says Mike Hesson. • AFP

lian David has made a mark as a hard-hitting middle-order batsman.

uccess in Pakistan Super League (PSL) and Big Bash League (BBL), most recently recorded two match-winning centuries in the Royal London Cup one-day tournament in England.

"David is a power player who could become a straight swap for (Glenn) Maxwell or A.B. de Villiers, if required," Hesson said.

"We have one more spot to fill, which we will do in the coming days," Hesson added.

New Zealand cricketers Allen and Kuggeleijn will not be available as they David, who found great have been selected for international duty.

Australians Richardson, Sams and Zampa have declared themselves unavailable for the tournament. Richardson and Zampa

were among the first overseas players to pull out of the first part of the IPL held in India, as the nation suffered an alarming spike in COVID-19 numbers.

RCB's India players, support staff and team management – apart from those who are away on tour in En-

gland - started their sevenday quarantine in Bengaluru on Saturday.

#### Departure on Aug. 29

After undergoing three CO-VID-19 tests, the contingent will depart from here via a chartered flight on August 29. The other international players and staff will assemble in the UAE from August

The IPL was suspended in May after a rise in CO-VID-19 cases among players and staff. RCB had won five of seven matches at that stage. The league will resume in the UAE on Sept. 19.

Archer who is suffering from a stress fracture of his right

19. Royals will also be

Ellis is replacement player for PBKS Punjab Kings (PBKS) has Ellis as a replacement player for the remainder of Indian Premier League beginning in the UAE on September 19. Punjab Kings will miss Riley Meredith and Kane Richardson during the second phase of the IPL. Ellis recently set the T20 world ablaze as he became the first bowler ever to pick up a hat-trick on international debut. Ellis claimed figures of

3/34 on debut against

Bangladesh earlier this

month. PTI

### Jagan clinches top spot in style

Alwin Sundar and Kavin Quintal also ride to victories

#### **MOTORSPORTS**

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champion Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) did as he pleased on his superquick Apache RTR 160 bike to win the premium Pro-Stock 165cc Open race in the first round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2021 at the MMRT, here on Saturday.

Earlier, Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports), who turns 19 in a week's time, gave himself an advance birthday gift by taking the Novice (Stock 165cc) race from fifth on the

Another notable winner was 16-year-old Kavin Quintal from Chennai in the highend NSF 250R class of the Idemitsu Honda India Talent

The results (provisional, six laps unless mentioned): National championship: Pro-

Stock 165cc Open (Race One): 1. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing) (11mins, 50.845secs), 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing) (11:55.312), 3. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing) (11:57.519).



Burning rubber: TVS Racing's Jagan Kumar speeding away to glory in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open race on Saturday.

Novice (Stock, 165cc, Race One): 1. Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports) (13:09.026), 2. Anfal (Rockstar (13:09.157), 3. Teja TVR Nam-(Gusto Racing)

One-Make championships: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup-NSF 250 Open (Race One): 1. Kavin Quintal (Chennai) (11:04.310), 2. Varoon Sadasivam (Chennai) (11:15.762), 3. Geoffrey Reviven Emmanuel (Chennai) (11:16.398).

Honda CBR 150 (Race One): 1. Rakshith S Dave (Chennai) (13:12.373), 2. Prakash Kamath Steel (13:17.189), 3. Theopaul Leander (Chennai) (13:21.759). Honda Hornet 2.0 (Race One):

1. Kevin Kannan (Chennai) (13:28.543), 2. Veera Ashwin Lal (Madurai) (13:49.116), 3. Sudheer Sudhakar (New Delhi) (13:52.208). TVS Apache RR 310 Open

(Race One): 1. Amarnath Menon (Kerala) (12:18.421), 2. Yashas (Bengaluru) (12:19.175), 3. Jagadeesh N (Bengaluru) (12:19.737). TVS Rookie (RTR 200, Race One): 1. Jinendra Kiran Sangave

(Kolhapur) (13:00.501), 2. Ze-

nas Zhotan Bailey (Auroville)

(13:21.271), 3, Jagathishree

(Chennai) (13:21.432). TVS Girls (RTR 200, Five laps): 1. Rakshita Srihari Dave (Chennai) (11:21.305), 2. Adlin Seles (Chennai) (11:25.725), 3. Nishita Palani (Chennai) (11:32.585).

### **ATKMB** rallies past Maziya

#### AFC CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

ATK Mohun Bagan scored three goals in the second half to beat Maziya S&RC 3-1 and climb to the top of the Group D standings with six points in the AFC Cup at the Maldives National Football Stadium, Male, on Saturday.

With his side trailing by a goal, coach Antonio Habas brought in Ashutosh Mehta for Sumit Rathi after the break and he made an immediate impact. Ashutosh's cross was nodded home by Liston Colaco, who had had a listless first half, in the 48th minute.

Habas then introduced Hugo Boumous for David Williams in the 63rd mi-

The move worked as the Frenchman's assist saw Roy Krishna make it 2-1. Manvir Singh sealed the issue in the 77th minute when he scored off another Boumous assist. The result: Maziya 1 (Aisam

Ibrahim 25) lost to ATKMB 3 (Liston Colaco 48, Roy Krishna 64, Manvir Singh 77).

### Man City cruises past Norwich

Liverpool extends perfect start; PSG survives a scare

#### **EURO LEAGUES**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jack Grealish scored his first goal for Manchester City as the Premier League champion thrashed Norwich 5-0, while title rival Liverpool extended its perfect start with a 2-0 victory against Burnley on Saturday.

Aymeric Laporte, Raheem Sterling and Riyad Mahrez netted in the second half to ensure City bounced back from last weekend's defeat at Tottenham.

At Anfield, Liverpool earned a second successive wins thanks to goals from Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane. In Ligue 1, Paris Saint-Ger-

main survived a scare without Neymar and Lionel Messi before beating Brest 4-2 and extending its winning start to three games. Coach Mauricio Pochetti-

no indicated that Messi could make his debut against Reims ford 0. next weekend. "Next week will be a long one, but if all goes well, we hope he can be in the squad and start at a competitive level [against Reims]."



Cool finish: Riyad Mahrez scores Manchester City's fifth goal against Norwich City. ■ GETTY IMAGES

The results: Premier League: Liverpool 2 (Jota 18, Mane 69) bt Burnley O; Aston Villa 2 (Ings 45+3, El Ghazi 62-pen) bt Newcastle O; Crystal Palace O drew with Brentford 0; Leeds 2 (Klich 41, Raphinha 72) drew with Everton 2 (Calvert-Lewin 30-pen, Gray 50); Manchester City 5 (Krul 7-og, Grealish 22, Laporte 64, Sterling 71, Mahrez 84) bt Norwich 0; Brighton 2 (Duffy 10, Maupay 41) bt Wat-

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt O drew with Augsburg O; Freiburg 2 (Grifo 6, Sallai 53) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Keitel 59-og); Hertha Berlin 1 (Lukebakio 60-pen) lost to VfL

88); VfL Bochum 2 (Holtmann 21, Polter 56) bt Mainz O; Greuther Fuerth 1 (Klos 45) drew with Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Hrgota 50-pen). LaLiga: Alaves O lost to Mallor-

Wolfsburg 2 (Baku 74, Nmecha

ca 1 (Fer Nino 80).

On Friday: LaLiga: Real Betis 1 (Juanmi 22) drew with Cadiz 1 (Alvaro Negredo 11-pen). Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 4 (Szo-

va 65-pen) bt VfB Stuttgart O. Ligue 1: Brest 2 (Honorat 42, Mounie 85) lost to PSG 4 (Her-

boszlai 38, 52, Forsberg 46, Sil-

rera 23, Mbappe 36, Gueye 73, Di Maria 90).