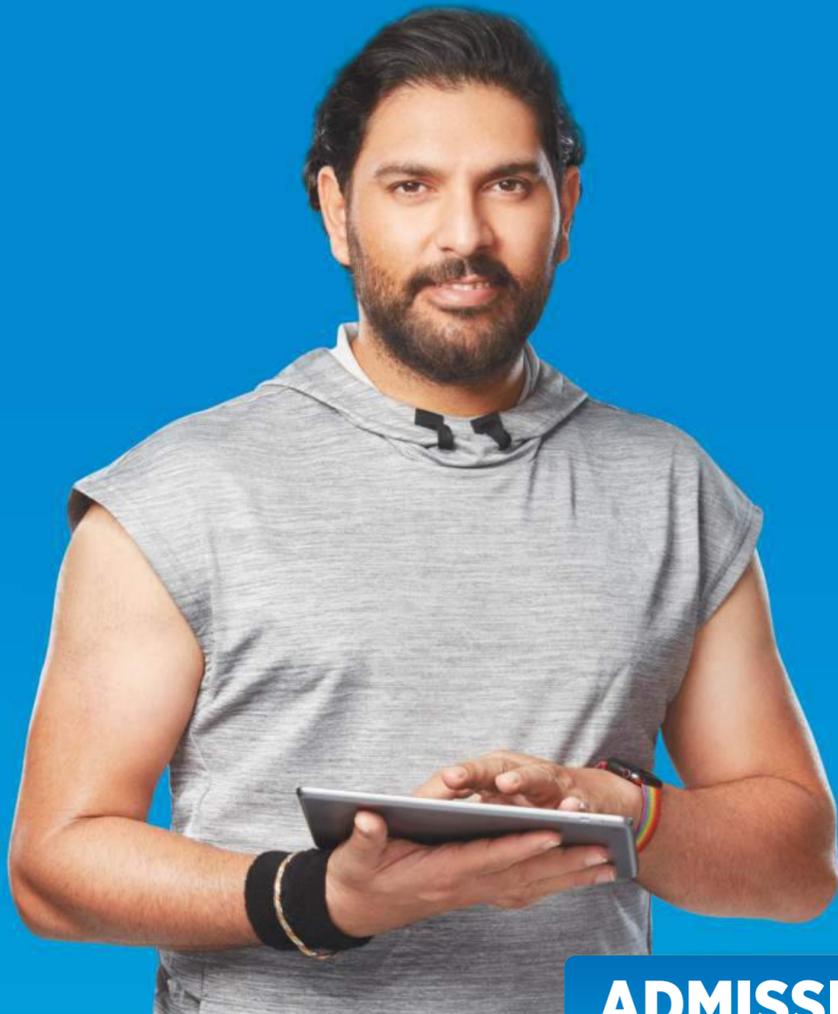




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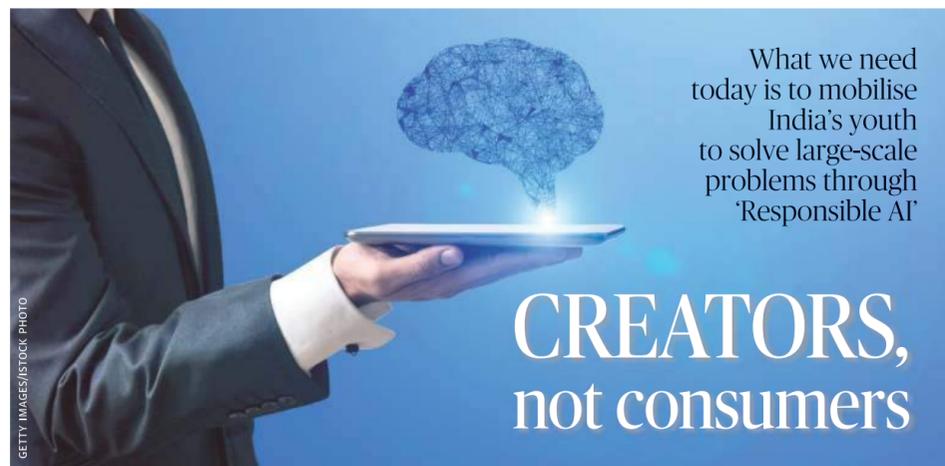
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What we need today is to mobilise India's youth to solve large-scale problems through 'Responsible AI'

## CREATORS, not consumers

MANAV SUBODH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer the talk of the future – it is a thing of the present. While there is plenty of talk about its potential problems, it also has the power to solve some of the biggest problems we are facing, be it climate change, education, or even global health. But this, of course, depends on a few things such as: Who will decide which problems to solve? How will we ensure AI systems are ethical and fair? Who will decide if AI will work for us or we work for it? The ability to answer these questions will decide the quality of our future lives.

To design an AI-powered and socially progressive world, students must be encouraged to move beyond simply knowing how to use AI as a technical competency. The focus should be on making them creators, not consumers, of AI. They need to be able to imagine new and creative ways through which to in-

fuse the power of AI to solve larger, structural problems that plague society. The real rub lies in the question: How can we gear our education systems to respond to this opportunity?

### Take charge

What we need to figure out is how our curriculum can focus on developing problem-solvers who could use AI rather than producing students technically proficient in it. Students should be able to look at a problem and creatively think of ways they could harness the powers of AI to solve it. We need to go beyond the simple idea of treating AI as a "computer science" module. How can we do this?

Students should be pushed to identify larger, structural challenges in society that they could work on that are aligned

**Artificial Intelligence must become a language – one that is spoken by all students**

to international frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This can be brought alive for students by exposing them to case studies on how AI has been used to solve similar issues of healthcare, climate and agriculture in different countries and simultaneously connect them with technical mentors who could help in prototyping their solutions. Only after this holistic perspective should the technical competencies be taught.

### Interdisciplinary participation

The AI wave has to be unlike previous technological turns that were pushed into school curriculum – Python, for example, was simply taught to students interested in Computer Science and lent itself simply to the creation of a Python-ready workforce. The most important thing to ensure is the participation of students across fields like Biology, Psychology and even arts. What this influx from diverse

fields can facilitate is an open exchange between students to think of creative ways to use AI.

AI cannot become yet another specialised field for "computer nerds". It must become a language – one that is spoken by all students. What we need are leaders of AI, not simple-minded consumers or back-office techies. We want a generation of leaders who can use AI to create solutions to solve the biggest problems plaguing our country and define its future growth. While starting early in school is one way of doing it, it will also happen only if we simultaneously focus on creating responsible AI leaders at the hyper-local level and equip them with mentors and coaches who can help lead the way.

The writer is co-founder, 1M1B Foundation (1Million for 1 Billion Foundation) and Global Ambassador, University of California Berkeley's Sutardja Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology.

## Ocean of choices

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column by Nandini Raman, practising counsellor and trainer, may help



OFF THE EDGE  
NANDINI RAMAN

I am in the third year of B.Sc. Statistics. I want to work with pharmaceutical companies. Should I do an M.Sc. in Biostatistics or Data Science? – A. Sabesan.

Dear Sabesan,

What do you want to do at a pharma company? Each pharma company has a core and a non-core department divide. The core is directly responsible for product quality; it comprises production, quality, R&D, engineering, regulatory affairs and a store team. The non-core is indirectly responsible for product quality and comprises of the HR, the entire workforce, marketing and sales, IT, EHS, and warehouse staff. An M.Sc. in Biostats will help with you find opportunities such as a faculty statistician, a research assistant or an officer and you could work in the core department of production, quality and R&D. With Data Sciences, you would be a data analyst, a statistician, or a data engineer. Depending on your interest, shortlist your choice.

I completed my B.Com. from Delhi University last year but didn't get a job because of the pandemic. I got a job at a call centre

but my parents wouldn't allow me to take it up because of the night shift. I am wondering whether to prepare for the banking exams but, given the uncertainty, should I look for a job? – Mehak

Dear Mehak,

It all depends on what you want to do. Have you considered studying further? Is that something that might excite you? A call centre job, though financially attractive right now, may not allow you to take on anything else. Be it the prep for the banking exams (if that is something that excites you) or another course to further enhance your employability prospects. Work on a cost-benefit analysis and take the plunge!

I am a B.Com graduate but am more interested in films. I've worked on some short films and want to study further. I don't know where to start. Please help. – Jay Joshi

Dear Jay,

There are many opportunities for filmmaking aspirants. Course choices vary from production and direction, film and TV production, MFA in TV, films and theatre, screenplay, script writing, film making, directing and creative production and so on. Identify what it is that you want to explore and where you want to do this from? We have some brilliant institutes in India that offer some exceptional courses. Alternatively, the U.S. is good if

you have the finances. While shortlisting the course, ensure that you check the subject list in each semester so that there are no surprises once you begin.

I have completed a B.Tech. but have recently become interested in Global Politics and International Relations (IR). What should be my approach if I want to pursue a career in this? – Juber Mujawar

Dear Juber,

You will need to do a PG in IR, and take a qualifying entrance exam to secure admission into the college/university of your choice. In India, JNU, Delhi University, South Asian University, Symbiosis, and Christ University are some of the reputed institutions. Cambridge, Harvard, New York University, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, University of Michigan are highly regarded international institutions. I would suggest you start a dialogue with the university of your choice and do your research before plunging in.

**Disclaimer: This column provides advice, guidance and suggestions on education and careers. It is a guiding voice from a practising career counsellor.**

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to [eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com](mailto:eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com) with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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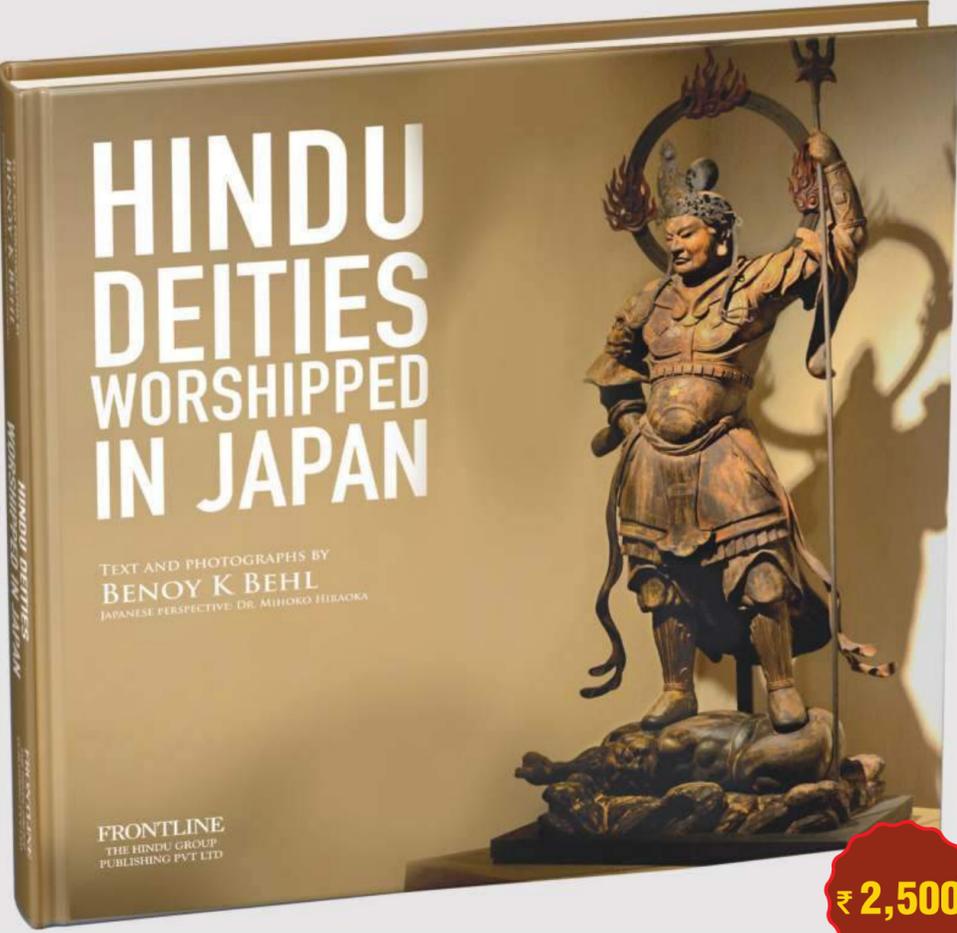


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**PM, senior BJP leaders pay homage to former U.P. CM Kalyan Singh**  
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page 11

**Shaili wins long jump silver, India finishes with three medals**  
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**Hurriyat may face wrath of UAPA**

**SRINAGAR**  
A ban under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act may be imposed on both factions of the Hurriyat Conference, which has been spearheading the separatist movement in J&K for over two decades, officials said.

**NEWS** PAGE 8

**For third day, no COVID deaths in the Capital**

**NEW DELHI**  
For the third day in a row, the Capital recorded no deaths due to COVID-19. This has happened 13 times since the beginning of the second COVID-19 wave that started in April, a health bulletin released on Sunday said.

**CITY** PAGE 3

**Trinamool eyes MP to expand clout in Assam**

**GUWAHATI**  
After reaching out to activist-turned-politician Akhil Gogoi, the TMC has been angling for a two-time MP and former ULFA area commander, Naba Kumar Sarania, to make inroads in Assam. He is the chief of the Gana Suraksha Party.

**NEWS** PAGE 8

## Afghan Sikhs, Hindus among 392 airlifted from Kabul

Evacuation to continue amid reports of presence of Pakistanis among Taliban

**KALLOL BHATTACHARJEE**  
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday airlifted 392 persons from Kabul in an operation that covered Indian citizens as well as Afghan nationals, including Sikhs and Hindus. Those airlifted were flown in on three aircraft, including a heavy lift C-17. Air India and IndiGo operated two flights via Tajikistan and Qatar. The evacuation operation is expected to continue over the coming days.

Apart from workers and engineers employed at various India-backed projects, the evacuees included an infant, Iknoor Singh, the youngest to be airlifted from Kabul so far. A number of workers from Darjeeling, who were stuck in Afghanistan, were also among those evacuated. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier urged the Centre for help in bringing them back.

The *Hindu* has learnt that the largescale evacuation was facilitated by a small multi-agency Indian team, now based in Kabul airport. The cell has taken charge days after Government of India evacuated its India-based



**Safe touchdown:** Afghan nationals at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad on Sunday. •R.V. MOORTHY

staff from the Embassy in Kabul. The Ministry of External Affairs has not yet commented on this development. Initial reports suggested that the team consists of seven officials from different sections of the government and is led by Indian diplomats at the U.S.-controlled airport.

**MP among evacuees**  
Among those evacuated was Narender Pal Singh Khalsa, a member of Afghanistan's Parliament, who said the Taliban had been undependable since they took over Kabul. "They came to my office on Saturday and took away my computers, official vehi-

cles and other personal vehicles. They said they were there to take away my official car that was given to me as MP but ultimately took away many personal items, including three watches," he said, adding that there were a large number of Pakistanis among the fighters.

"Those who came to my house could not speak Farsi and spoke in Urdu. There were some who spoke a language that I could not even understand. It's quite clear that they were either from Pakistan or some other country," Mr. Khalsa said.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

## India clearing Embassy for fourth time

The evacuation of the Indian Embassy, including Ambassador Rudrendra Tandon, from Kabul is the fourth time India has needed to pull out all its diplomats from Afghanistan, but what has changed considerably is how world players have dealt with the Taliban.

**▶ PAGE 9**

## U.S. airlines to assist in evacuation

The U.S. on Sunday enlisted several major airlines in its frantic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans, Americans and other foreigners from Kabul. Eighteen civilian aircraft will aid dozens of military cargo transports involved in the evacuation, said a Pentagon release. **▶ PAGE 11**

## In deep waters



**Staying afloat:** A man lifts his bicycle as he wades through a waterlogged road after heavy rain in Bathinda, Punjab, on Sunday. •PTI

## FinMin summons Infosys CEO over I-T portal glitch

Access to portal restored hours after Ministry statement

**VIKAS DHOOT**  
**MINI TEJASWI**  
NEW DELHI/ BENGALURU

With the new Income Tax filing portal becoming completely inaccessible over the weekend and yet to become fully functional 77 days after its launch, a furious Finance Ministry summoned Infosys managing director and CEO Salil Parekh to explain the mess to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in person on Monday.

"Ministry of Finance has summoned Shri Salil Parekh, MD & CEO @Infosys on 23/08/2021 to explain to hon'ble FM as to why even after 2.5 months since launch of new e-filing portal, glitches in the portal have not been resolved. In fact, since 21/08/2021 the portal itself is not available," the In-



Salil Parekh

come Tax Department stated on Sunday.

And just hours after the "summons", the Income Tax portal became accessible again late on Sunday. "The emergency maintenance of the @IncomeTax-India portal has concluded and the portal is live. We regret any inconvenience caused to taxpayers," Infosys tweeted at 8.52 p.m.

The Ministry launched the "taxpayer friendly" portal developed by Infosys on June 7, promising immediate processing of Income Tax returns to issue quick refunds to taxpayers, and a host of other features.

However, many critical functionalities were non-starters from day one, and problems continued to fester despite a claimed course correction.

On Saturday afternoon, Infosys said the portal was "currently inaccessible due to planned maintenance". On Sunday, the company switched from the "planned maintenance" argument to say that the portal "continues to be under emergency maintenance".

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

## Amarinder faults comments of Sidhu's advisers

Punjab Chief Minister asks them to stick to giving advice to the State Congress president

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday took exception to the recent remarks of two advisers to Congress State president Navjot Singh Sidhu on sensitive national issues such as Kashmir and Pakistan. He said such atrocious and ill-conceived comments were dangerous to the peace and stability of the State and the country.

Capt. Amarinder urged Mr. Sidhu's advisers to stick to giving advice to the PPCC president and not speak on matters of which they had little or no knowledge, and no understanding of the implications of their comments.

The CM was reacting to re-



**Ties under strain:** Captain Amarinder Singh with Navjot Singh Sidhu, left, during a meeting in Chandigarh. •PTI

ported remarks of Pyare Lal Garg questioning his (Capt. Amarinder's) criticism of Pakistan as well as the earlier controversial statement of Malwinder Singh Mali on Kashmir. Both of them were recently appointed by Mr.

Sidhu as his advisers. Capt. Amarinder expressed shock at the statements of Mr. Mali and Mr. Garg, which he said were misplaced and antagonistic to the stated position of India and the Congress on Pakis-

tan and Kashmir. "Kashmir was and is an inalienable part of India," the CM said, adding that with his proclamation to the contrary, Mr. Mali had effectively and inexplicably toed Islamabad's line. "This is totally anti-national," he said, also slamming Mr. Mali for failing to withdraw his statement despite the widespread condemnation it had evoked.

**'Punjabis' sacrifice'**  
Ridiculing Mr. Garg's statement that criticism of Pakistan by him (Capt. Amarinder) was not in the interest of Punjab, the Chief Minister said Mr. Sidhu's adviser was clearly disconnected from the ground reality. "The fact, which every

Punjabi and every Indian knows, is that Pakistan's threat to us is real. Every day they are pushing weapons and drugs into Punjab via drones to destabilise our State, and our nation. Soldiers from Punjab are dying at the borders at the hands of Pakistan-backed forces," he said.

"Mr. Garg may have forgotten the thousands of Punjabi lives lost in the fire of Pakistan-backed terrorism of the 1980s and 1990s, but I have not. Nor have the people of Punjab. And we will continue to do everything in our power to fight off Pakistan's dangerous games," he said, urging Mr. Garg not to undermine the sacrifices of Punjabis.

## Assam moves to ease fresh row with Mizoram

Police return seized building material



**Keeping watch:** Mizo policemen stand guard near the Mizoram-Assam border. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GUWAHATI

Authorities of Assam's Hailakandi district returned some seized construction material to their counterparts in Mizoram's Kolasib district on Sunday to ease fresh tension brewing on the inter-State border since August 20 afternoon.

The police in Kolasib's border town Bairabi had filed a case of theft against some unnamed Assam police personnel after the latter stopped work on a bridge Mizoram claimed was on its territory. The Assam police team also seized - stole, according to the Mizoram police - TMT bars being used

for the bridge. Kolasib Deputy Commissioner H. Lalthlangliana said his Hailakandi counterpart Rohan Kumar Jha had 5 quintals of iron rods returned around 6 p.m. on Sunday, more than 24 hours after he was intimidated about the theft case. "The case filed at the Bairabi station against the Assam police personnel will be withdrawn," he told *The Hindu*.

Kolasib Superintendent of Police Vanlalfaka Ralte said the Mizoram police team withdrew from the disputed site after the return of the construction material.

**CONTINUED ON** PAGE 8

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# AAP champions patriotism, eyes more States

Political analysts say the Deshbhakti budget and the push for nationalism could help the party's ambitions in other States, even as the opposition BJP and Congress in Delhi struggle to form a counternarrative to its patriotism campaign

NIKHIL M BABU  
JATIN ANAND  
JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ  
NEW DELHI

The Deshbhakti or patriotism drive launched by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in the national capital is setting the backdrop of the party's political ambitions in other States, even as it reinforces the party's grip over the city. In the last budget, Finance Minister Manish Sisodia announced "grand celebrations" for 75 weeks till August 15, 2022, that would fill Delhi with "patriotism and national pride", allotting ₹45 crore for erecting 500 national flags across the city and ₹10 crore each to conduct programmes to honour Bhagat Singh and B.R. Ambedkar.

In July, the Public Works Department (PWD) issued a tender for setting up of "35 metres high mast flag" at 495 locations for ₹84.6 crore; on August 15, the Delhi government inaugurated five national flags, all of them on 35 metres high masts. "When we see the Tiranga, we get goosebumps and our hearts are filled with love and pride towards the nation. 500 similar Tirangas will be installed all around Delhi, so that when you leave for office, one or two Tirangas can be seen by the time you reach the office. If you see Tiranga even once, then patriotism and love towards the country would be reignited," said Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in his Independence Day speech.

The hour-long Deshbhakti class every day in Delhi government-run schools, he hoped, would motivate the younger generation to take pride in the country and realise their duty towards building the future of the country.

According to a statement from the government, the Deshbhakti Curriculum that will start on Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary on September 27, aims to develop among students, self-confidence, awareness, respect for constitutional values, and a problem-solving mindset, and bring about changes to take the country forward.

## Religious appeal

AAP's victory in the 2020 Delhi assembly elections was largely founded on the improvements its government made in the health and educational sectors in Delhi, but its winning campaign also required a strong dose of religious appeal – for instance, Mr. Kejriwal chanted Hanuman Chalisa during the campaign and challenged BJP leaders to follow suit.

That was on top of the well advertised schemes that give free water to about six lakh consumers, free electricity to 36.6 lakh consumers and the 496 Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics or neighbourhood dispensaries where people can go for minor ailments.

AAP is now trying to expand beyond Delhi and have announced that they will be fighting Assembly elections in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Goa among other states and Mr. Kejriwal has been presenting Delhi as a model of development and is promising similar schemes if elected to power. The crisis in Delhi healthcare system during the second wave of coronavirus in 2021

When we see the Tiranga, we get goosebumps and our hearts are filled with love and pride towards the nation. 500 similar Tirangas will be installed all around Delhi, so that when you leave for office, one or two Tirangas can be seen by the time you reach the office. If you see Tiranga even once, then patriotism and love towards the country would be reignited

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister



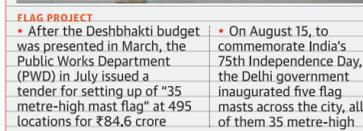
Five high-mast national flags were inaugurated by the Delhi government on August 15, including in Patparganj (left), East Kidwai Nagar (right) and Rani Bagh (below). • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, SANDEEP SAXENA, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



## What is Deshbhakti Curriculum?

It aims to develop self-confidence, awareness, respect for constitutional values and a problem-solving mindset among students to empower them to face challenges and bring about changes to take the country forward

THE THREE OVERARCHING THEMES OF THE CURRICULUM ARE:			The methodology of its implementation would be child-centric and critical pedagogy through a five-stage process	
1. Knowledge of constitutional values, plurality and diversity, freedom struggle, achievements, social problems	2. Values of honesty, integrity, humility, empathy, love and respect for country, compassion, sacrifice	3. Behaviour like standing up against injustice, scientific reasoning and mindset, civic responsibility	1. Opening discussion in class initiated by the teacher	2. Classroom discussion among students facilitated by teacher
			3. Classroom activities, usually as group work	4. Homework to engage with the family
5. Community and self reflection				
EIGHT LEARNING OUTCOMES ARE SOUGHT TO BE ACHIEVED:				
1. Self-awareness 2. Self-confidence 3. Problem solving 4. Practicing constitutional values 5. Pluralism and diversity 6. Environmental sustainability 7. Ethical social behavior 8. Collaboration and social and civic responsibility				
• Evaluation for this curriculum shall be done through self-assessment, peer assessment and assessment by the teacher				
• Emphasis will be on observing and assessing development of values, behaviours and actions of 'Deshbhakti' amongst students on an ongoing basis				



## FLAG PROJECT

• After the Deshbhakti budget was presented in March, the Public Works Department (PWD) in July issued a tender for setting up of "35 metre-high mast flag" at 495 locations for ₹84.6 crore

• On August 15, to commemorate India's 75th Independence Day, the Delhi government inaugurated five flag masts across the city, all of them 35 metre-high

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT



may have made AAP's governance claims less appealing, and the party may also be looking for a pan-India image through its focus on patriotism, according to some observers. P.K. Datta, former professor at the Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), said that earlier when the AAP tried to expand outside Delhi, they had been working on local issues that had

brought them to power in Delhi.

"My feeling is that they think that patriotism will give them that ideological bridge which they can capitalise on," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal also used India's relatively good Olympic performance to enhance the patriotism theme.

Political analyst Neerja Chowdhury said that the Deshbhakti budget and the push for nationalism will certainly

help the AAP in elections in States outside Delhi, when it is tied with basic issues of the State. AAP has a tough task in keeping its patriotism campaign robust even while keeping its distinction with the BJP and the Congress.

Anti-Muslim rhetoric is not part of AAP vocabulary, but many times, AAP remained silent on violence against Muslims. "Sometimes, you don't want to hype up the issue and give BJP an

advantage, but there is a limit to it," said Ms. Chowdhury, referring to polarising communal incidents on which the AAP chooses silence. She feels AAP silence may have crossed that limit.

All told, the opposition parties, the Congress and the BJP are struggling hard to form a counternarrative to AAP's patriotism campaign.

While they do admit in private that they are yet to evolve a viable strategy

to take on the AAP, the deshbhakti push of the latter has only increased their difficulties.

"Deshbhakti (patriotism) is an emotion and has no connection to a budget. This is just another example of the fact that the AAP Delhi government believes in doing less and making it seem more thorough advertisements and public announcements which later turn out to be false," North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari said.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar said that the AAP has come up with the Deshbhakti budget and several other campaigns to create a screen behind which they can hide. "The AAP is going the BJP way of using patriotism and huge spending on publicity to hide its failures. Why spend so much money on installing flags when the basic amenities are not being provided to the citizens of Delhi," he said.

## For civic sense and pluralism

AAP presents the Deshbhakti curriculum as an emphasis on civic sense and pluralism, including lessons in religious tolerance and a pushback against religious intolerance.

"We seek to combine the values of 'Desh Prem' with concrete actions; this in essence, is our notion of Deshbhakti Curriculum," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said.

"The story of the hard-fought struggle for independence that India went through certainly needed to be conveyed to new generations and citizens. But, at the same time, citizens must ask themselves and their governments whether the promises of liberty and equality enshrined in the Constitution had been delivered upon," said Professor Manisha Priyam of the Delhi University's National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.

## HC rejects bail plea of basketball coach accused of sexual assault

Bench says man was in position of authority but betrayed the trust of a young student, directs trial court to frame charges

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected the bail plea of a basketball coach accused of sexually assaulting his 13-year-old student noting that "betrayal of trust at an early stage of life may inhibit the child from developing healthy interpersonal relationships in the future".

Justice Subramonium Prasad noted that the 57-year-old man, being the basketball coach of the girl and also known to her parents, "can be stated to be in a position of trust or authority of a

child, as per Section 9(p) of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act".

"The relationship between the Prosecutrix (victim) and the Petitioner is, therefore fiduciary in nature," the judge said adding, "This compounds the severity of the matter."

The girl, in her complaint, has stated that the man provides her basketball coaching at a sports complex here.

On April 10, 2021, when she reached the complex at 6.15 a.m. for her basketball coaching, the coach asked

her to do an exercise.

The girl stated that when she was exercising, the coach groped her.

The girl narrated the incident to her parents.

On her complaint, FIR was registered for offences punishable under Section 354-B (Assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe) of IPC and Section 10 (aggravated sexual assault) of the POCSO Act.

The coach had contended that the allegations recorded in the FIR and the charge-sheet are false, frivolous and a figment of the girl's imagi-

nation. He claimed that the FIR was a means to play out a personal vendetta which exists between his wife and the mother of girl, both of whom work in the same school.

## 'Did not misread act'

The HC, however, did not agree with the submission that the victim may have "misread an innocuous act" of the coach. "The Prosecutrix (girl) herein is a 13-year-old girl studying in 9th standard of a public school in New Delhi. She is well equipped to differentiate between conduct that may

be inadvertent and conduct that may be deliberate," the High Court said.

"Furthermore, the allegations in the FIR as well as subsequent statements of the Prosecutrix are coherent in nature," the High Court remarked.

Additionally, the High Court stated that, "paramount consideration is to be given to the well-being of the child whose mental psyche is vulnerable, impressionable and in a developing stage. The long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse are, at many times,

insurmountable".

"An act of sexual assault or sexual harassment, therefore, has the potential to cause mental trauma to the child and may dictate their thought process for the years to come. It may hinder the normal social growth of the child and lead to various psychosocial problems which could require psychological intervention," Justice Prasad remarked.

While rejecting the bail plea, the High Court directed the trial court to proceed with the framing of charges within one month.

## Two men held with seven guns, 27 rounds

They got weapons from U.P.: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The police have arrested two men from outer Delhi's Mangolapuri and recovered seven firearms from them, officials said on Sunday.

Vipin, 22, and Imran, 28, both residents of Mangolapuri, have been supplying illegal firearms for the last eight months, they said.

The police said the duo were unemployed when they came in contact with an Uttar Pradesh-based man who lured them into the

trade on the pretext of making easy money.

## Delhi gangs

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Parvinder Singh said, "Acting on a tip-off, our team identified two men supplying illegal firearms and arrested them. Seven illegal firearms and 27 live rounds were recovered. It was revealed that the duo acted as a conduit between U.P.-based suppliers and gangs operating in the outlying areas of Delhi, he said.

**Timings**  
**DELHI**

**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

**WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25**  
RISE 05:56 SET 18:51  
RISE 20:51 SET 08:24

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City 34 24

Safdarjang 34 24

Palam 33 26

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C One or two spells of rain and thunderstorm possible with cloudy sky and gentle winds.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C Warm and humid day with cloudy to partly cloudy sky. A spell of light rain and thunderstorm may occur at few areas.

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## For 3rd straight day, no deaths due to COVID

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

For the third day in a row, the Capital recorded no deaths due to COVID-19. This has happened 13 times since the beginning of the second COVID-19 wave that started in April.

The health bulletin released on Sunday said 24 new cases had been added to the tally and that 53,624 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 0.04%.

The cumulative number of cases now stands at 14,37,317 cases with the number of fatalities remaining at 25,079. There are 398 active cases of the disease in Delhi at present, and 129 of them are under home isolation.

Under the vaccination drive, 92,421 people were covered in 24 hours, of which 65,012 were administered the first dose. The total number of people vaccinated now stands at 1,23,14,706, of which 34,87,547 have received both doses.

## BusinessLine Quiz: 6 players battle it out

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

*BusinessLine's* Cerebration 2021, one of India's premier corporate quiz championships, is back with its 18th edition – this time in a virtual format.

The quiz is designed for corporate executives, business professionals, B-school students and MBA aspirants. The preliminary online quiz round was scheduled from August 4-11 to shortlist the top 6 from each of six cities: Chennai, Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. More than 6,000 candidates participated in this round.

The Delhi Regional round took place at on August 21 with six participants: Ayush Awasthi, EY; Rahul Panda, Steel Authority of India Ltd.; Rishi Kant Gupta, Steel Authority of India Ltd.; Ashish Kumar, Zomato; Abhinav Dhar, PT JayKay Files Indonesia; Rohan Khanna, Barclays

After a gruelling four rounds, Ayush Awasthi emerged as the winner, Rohan Khanna came in second, followed by Rahul Panda. Editor of *BusinessLine* Raghuvir Srinivasan gave the welcome address, along with Field General Manager, Delhi Union Bank of India, Beena Vaheed.

The Quiz Master for the event was Ajay Poonia. Union Bank of India is the title sponsor; the event is powered by CFA Institute, in association with ManageEngine and BSE IPE.



Clockwise from top right: Ghazipur flower market; decoration at a temple on the occasion of Onam; women shop for rakhis at Sadar Bazar; long queue outside Jahangirpuri metro station as Delhiites criss-crossed the city to celebrate Raksha Bandhan on Sunday; shoppers throng Sadar Bazar; Muslim devotees observe Yaum-e-Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram.



# Festive fervour

Shoppers have been making a beeline for markets over the past few weeks in preparation of several festivals. In light of fewer COVID cases in the city, the Delhi government has allowed markets, bars and restaurants to resume their normal working hours from today

•PHOTOS BY R.V. MOORTHY, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



## In drive to save energy, DMRC to instal LED lights at 155 spots

It claims to have already installed around 1 lakh such lights

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has taken up a drive to save energy by replacing its existing conventional lights with LED lights at 155 locations: covering metro stations, depots, parking and other areas, which were constructed or opened for the public under DMRC's Phase-I (2005) and Phase-II (2010).

The DMRC said it has completed 75% of the drive by installing around one lakh LED lights in recent months.

The remaining 25% of the drive will be completed by the end of October 2021. Around 35,000 LED lights will be installed in the remaining portion of these locations, the DMRC added.

A DMRC spokesperson said the average LED lasts 50,000 operating hours or more, which is 40 times more than the lifespan of an incandescent bulb. In addition, LED lights have an energy efficiency component, which makes them consume a very low amount of power. "The LED-based light sys-



**Bright start:** LED lights installed at the Shivaji Stadium metro station on the Airport Line. •PTI

**The LED-based light system will help DMRC save around half of the energy expenditure vis a vis the existing lighting system**

**DMRC SPOKESPERSON**

tem will help DMRC save around half of the energy expenditure vis a vis the existing lighting system. As a result, the whole cost of installing these lights will be recovered by DMRC in around two years," the spokesperson said.

Undertaking this drive at already operational stations was a challenging task for the DMRC maintenance teams. As there is regular movement of people, the work had to be executed in the night due to safety reasons, which increased the installation time, officials said.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has already implemented LED-based lighting solutions at its Phase-III stations and a similar system will be adopted for upcoming Phase-IV stations also.

## Weather turns dry in city day after record rainfall

Weatherman has forecast light rain today

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

A day after the national capital received the heaviest rainfall over a 24-hour period in 14 years for August, it turned dry on Sunday with only a few weather stations recording traces of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The official weather station in Safdarjung recorded no rain during the day but 9.2 mm of rainfall over 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday.

The maximum temperature settled at 34.3 degrees

Celsius, normal for the season. The minimum temperature was 24.5 degrees Celsius, which was two degrees lower than normal.

The forecast for Monday reads "generally cloudy sky with light rain/thunder showers at isolated places". The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle between 35 and 26 degrees Celsius.

The extended forecast by the India Meteorological Department shows that the city will have a generally cloudy sky with no chance of heavy rainfall.

## Man hit by car, dies

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

A former Delhi Jal Board employee died after he was hit by a car suspected to be driven by an Air Force officer, the police said on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Ratan Lal, 52. The incident took place around

7 a.m. in Baba Haridas Nagar when a car hit a pedestrian on Rail Factory road.

He was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said: "A case has been lodged under relevant sections. Investigation is under way."

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Haryana Home Minister Vij hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Home and Health Minister Anil Vij was on Sunday admitted to the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) here as his oxygen levels dipped.

The 68-year-old Bharatiya Janata Party leader earlier could not attend the State Assembly's monsoon session on health grounds. The Minister had last week gone to Rohtak to attend the cremation of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's younger brother.

He had returned with the Chief Minister in a chopper and due to high altitude, his oxygen levels had dipped and have been fluctuating since, sources said. Mr. Vij had last year contracted COVID and was hospitalised for nearly a month.

Haryana extends lockdown till Sept. 6, relaxations to continue

All COVID-related guidelines will have to be followed, the State govt. order said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Sunday extended the COVID induced lockdown by a fortnight while allowing various relaxations permitted earlier to continue.

The relaxations include the opening of restaurants, bars, malls, clubhouses and shops.

"The Mahamari Alert-Surakshit Haryana is extended for another fortnight, that is from August 23 (5 a.m. onwards) to September 6 (till 5 a.m.) in the State of Haryana along with guidelines to be implemented during this period issued vide earlier orders," an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said on Sunday.

The order was issued in



People wait in queues to receive jabs at a vaccination centre in Gurugram. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

the exercise of powers under various provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

As per other relaxations allowed earlier, conduct of entrance and recruitment examination by different universities, institutes or government departments and

recruitment agencies will continue to be permissible.

All COVID-related guidelines including those related to social distancing, sanitisation and seating capacity, however, will have to be followed, the order said.

Universities and colleges will be allowed to reopen for

students for doubt classes, practical classes in laboratories, practical examinations and offline exams with strict adherence to the COVID-related norms, earlier orders provided.

Plan for varsities

Vice-chancellors of universities in the State are advised to plan the reopening of universities from the next academic session and share the programme of the same with the concerned department of the State government.

Immediate action may be initiated by the university administration to fully vaccinate all hostel students, day scholars, faculty and other staff including the out-staunched ones, the government order said.

Infection among 0-18 age group close to 1,000 mark in Odisha

Experts advise govt. to be cautious on reopening of schools

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

With total infections among people in the age group of 0-18 approaching the 1,000-mark in Odisha since August 15, experts advised the government to take cautious approach for reopening schools for regular classes for all students.

Since August 15, a total of 7,430 persons have tested positive for COVID-19 while 948 persons in 0-18 years have been found to be infected. Infection among children accounts for 12.75%.

Till August 16, Odisha's total caseload was 9.96 lakh. "The rate of infection among below 18 year population in Odisha corresponds to national average. The State does not have higher infection among children," said Bijay Panigrahi, State's Director

**The rate of infection among below 18 year population in Odisha corresponds to national average**

BIJAY PANIGRAHI  
Director, Health and Family Welfare

of Health and Family Welfare and head of vaccination drive.

Though the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCRC) recommended reopening of Classes from VI to VIII in a phased manner, the government is adopting wait and watch policy. The child protection body wanted reopening of schools for students' cognitive and academic development.

Now, schools are open for IX and X Classes across the

State. There were reports of infections among students attending physical classes. Three private schools and one government school in Bhubaneswar reported new cases among students.

Wait and watch policy

In fluid situation like this, the government has adopted a wait and watch policy. A senior official in School and Mass Education Department said, "the government would finalise its strategy for opening rest of the classes by first week of September depending on the trend of infection of population in the age-group of 0-18."

Dr. Panigrahi said a decision to vaccinate children above 12-year-old in the State would be taken soon after the approval of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Farmers' stir over cane prices continues

Meeting with Ministers remains inconclusive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Farmers seeking a hike in sugarcane prices continued to block rail tracks and a national highway in Punjab's Jalandhar as a meeting between their representatives and State Ministers here remained inconclusive with another round scheduled with agriculture experts on Monday.

Scores of farmers had on Friday launched an agitation for an indefinite period to press the Punjab government to accept their demands related to pending dues of sugarcane and hike in cane prices.

After the meeting here on



Farmers seeking hike in sugarcane prices blocking a highway in Jalandhar on Sunday. ■ PTI

Sunday, senior farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal told reporters, "Not much was achieved from today's meeting. It remained inconclusive." He, however, said the government has assured that outstanding arrears of private mills will be cleared within

next 15 days and those of cooperative be settled by September first week.

Another senior farmer leader, Balbir Rajewal, told reporters that the blockade will continue till their demand of hike in cane prices is met. The blockade by farmers

has been affecting movement of trains and vehicular traffic. Emergency vehicles are, however, being allowed to ply.

Giving more details of the meeting, Mr. Dallewal said, "On cost of production issue, the government admitted that the officials had not given them correct feedback and now in the meeting in Jalandhar these things will be discussed threadbare."

Meeting with experts

Cooperation Minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said agriculture experts, officers of cooperation and agriculture departments will hold a meeting in Jalandhar with farmers' representatives and all calculations regarding cost of production will be worked out.

Nature's wrath



A road blocked after landslide due to heavy rain in Shimla on Sunday. ■ PTI

35 injured in H.P. bus-truck collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

At least 35 people were injured in a collision between a truck and a bus in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district on Sunday, a State disaster management official said. The incident took place near Jabli-Dharampur around 11.30 a.m., when the truck with three persons hit the rear end of the bus carrying 32 passengers, he said.

The Chandigarh-bound bus and the truck were on their way to Kalka.

Pro-Pak. slogans: NSA invoked against 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UJJAIN (M.P.)

The police on Sunday invoked the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against four persons out of ten arrested so far for allegedly raising pro-Pakistan slogans during a Muharram event in Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh, a senior police officer said.

The development comes a day after some right-wing

organisations and religious leaders clad in saffron staged demonstrations, torched effigies of Pakistan, and demanded tough action by the police against those people who had raised pro-Pakistan slogans in the Geeta Colony area on the night of August 19.

Ujjain Superintendent of Police Satyendra Shukla confirmed to PTI that the NSA has been invoked on

four persons who among others had allegedly shouted the slogans.

Names not given

He refused to give names of the accused. The District Collector invoked the NSA on four accused on the recommendation of the police, police sources said.

Mr. Shukla said police have arrested ten people for sloganeering so far.

Reacting to the incident on Friday, Chief Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan had said his government would not tolerate a "Taliban-like" mindset.

When asked if the sloganeering was a reaction to the district administration's decision to ban all public processions because of the coronavirus pandemic, Ujjain police had denied any such link.

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SH. VINOD Kumar Jain, R/o C-366 Sector-19, Noida passed away on 06 May 2021. He was the Allotee of two dwelling units (Unit No. NE CENTRAL/709 and Unit No. West Wing/206) in the NORTH EYE project of Supertech Limited at Sector-74, Noida. Supertech Ltd has been requested to transfer both the units above in the name of Mrs. Sadhna Jain, who late Sh. Vinod Kumar Jain with the mutual consent of all legal heirs of the deceased. Anyone having any objection to this transfer may contact Supertech Limited at E square, Sector 96, Noida within 15 days of this notice.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Date : 11-08-2021  
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY



Smt. K. ANNAPOORANI alias PRABHA  
Superintendent (Retd.), T.N.E.B. Chennai  
W/o. Sri. C.S. SUBRAMANIAM  
Ex-E.I.D. - Parry, Chennai.  
20.2.1940 - 23.8.2014  
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Rajesh & Family,  
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No. HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/Covid-19/VTM Kits/66/2021-22 Date: 21/08/2021  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Ref: 1) Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/Covid-19/VTM Kits/66/2021-22 Date: 21/08/2021. Nation wide Tender is invited through Invitation for Quotation (IFQ) under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders: 1) Tender for Supply of VTM KITS for Covid-19 (IFQ). The tenderers who are interested can participate in the IFQ through e-mail KSMSCL and KSMSCL website: [www.ksmscl.kar.nic.in](http://www.ksmscl.kar.nic.in) Bidders may participate through IFQ e-mail KSMSCL website system. Details regarding specification, Terms and Conditions and other information is available in the website <https://www.ksmscl.kar.nic.in> from 21/08/2021. The eligible tenderers shall submit their documents through e-mail under KSMSCL website platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.  
Sd/- Managing Director,  
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No. BMRC/ E&M / DEPOTS / P-2 Date: 21.08.2021  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
BMRCL invites sealed Tenders from suitably qualified, eligible, experienced and reputed Firms for "Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) Works Comprising of L.T. Panels, L.T. Cables, Lighting, Hydraulics, Fire Safety Systems, UPS, DG Sets, HVAC for Depots at Anjanapura of Reach-4 Extension and Kothanur of Reach-6 under package-2 of BMRC Project Phase-II" Under single stage, two envelope system. Cost of Tender documents (non-refundable): INR 29,500/- (25,000/- + 4,500/- (GST@18%)). Online Sale of Documents: From 23.08.2021 until midnight of 28.09.2021. Submission of Tenders: 07.10.2021 from 11:00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs (IST). Opening of Tenders: 07.10.2021 at 15:30 Hrs (IST). For further details, visit our website: [www.bmrc.co.in](http://www.bmrc.co.in)  
Sd/- Managing Director, BMRC

Cough syrup worth ₹2 cr. seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HAILAKANDI (ASSAM)

Police seized a huge quantity of cough syrup worth ₹2 crore from a truck in Assam's Karimganj district on Sunday, a senior police officer said. The driver of the truck has been arrested.

The cough syrup bottles were packed in 250 cartons in the Agartala-bound vehicle which was loaded with pearls, said Border DSP of Karimganj Pratap Das.

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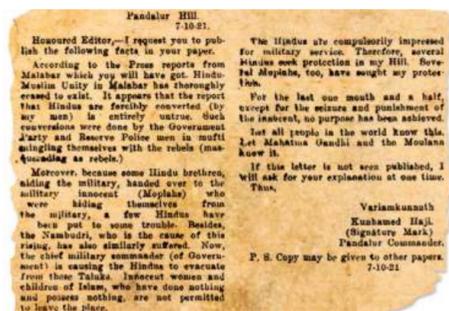
# 387 'Moplah martyrs' to be removed from dictionary

Review panel for fifth volume calls the movement fundamentalist

K.S. SUDDHI  
KOCHI

Malabar Rebellion leaders Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar and 387 other 'Moplah martyrs' will be removed from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle.

A three-member panel, which reviewed the entries in the fifth volume of the dictionary brought out by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the Independence struggle, and was a fundamentalist movement focused on religious conversion. None of



The letter written by Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, which appeared in *The Hindu* on October 18, 1921. — HINDU ARCHIVES

the slogans raised by the rioters were in favour of nationalism and anti-British, it noted. RSS leader Ram Madhav, at a meeting to commemorate the victims of the rebellion, had stated that the movement was one of the first manifestations of the Taliban mindset in India. Ho-

wever, Speaker M.B. Rajesh described Haji as a warrior who refused to apologise to the British and chose martyrdom over deportation to Mecca.

A film project announced with actor Prithviraj in the role of Haji last year created an uproar with Sangh Pari-

var outfits opposing it.

The review panel is said to have viewed the rebellion as an attempt to establish a Caliphate. Had it succeeded, a Caliphate would have been established in the region and India would have lost part of its territory, sources said.

It concluded that Haji was a rioter who established a Sharia court and beheaded many Hindus. The rioters did not spare secular Muslims. Those who died at their hands were non-believers. Many 'Moplah martyrs' facing trial died from disease or natural causes, and could not be treated as martyrs. Only a handful were executed by the government.

Om Jee Upadhyay, Director (Research and Administration), ICHR, said the list would be modified as recommended and the dictionary published by October-end.

# Telangana man killed by business partner

Body found buried in agricultural field

STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD

A businessman from Karimnagar in Telangana was allegedly murdered by his business partner, who later buried his body in a field by the roadside on the night of August 19.

The motive behind the alleged murder was a financial dispute. The gruesome murder took place between Charminar and Zaheerabad in Sangareddy district, where the accused Sanju Kumar, a resident of Charminar, and two of his associates, Girish and Jagannath, buried victim Madhusudhan Reddy's body in a field.

However, the offence came to light the next day when an unknown person called Mr. Reddy's wife and told her that her husband and Kumar had been kidnapped due to business riv-

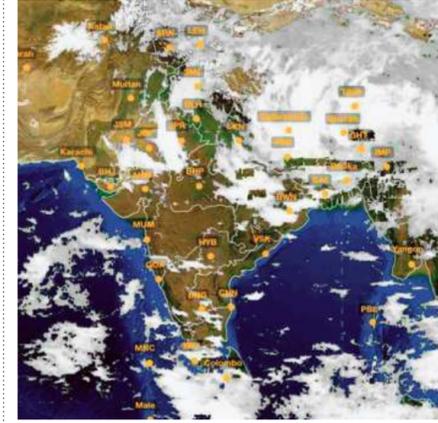
arly. She approached the Charminar police and based on her complaint, a missing person case was registered.

According to the Charminar police, the accused, a native of Karnataka, had taken a loan of ₹40 lakh from the victim. Despite repeated reminders, Kumar was not willing to return the amount. Recently, his sister and brother, who were caught by the Tenali police in Andhra Pradesh for transporting 2 tonnes of ganja in a lorry, had named Mr. Reddy as one of their associates.

On August 19, Kumar asked Mr. Reddy to collect the pending loan amount. "When Madhusudhan Reddy reached home, the accused along with his associates killed the former," police said. A manhunt is on to nab the prime accused.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2	34.8	26.4	Kozhikode	0.2	35.3	25.4
Ahmedabad	1	32.7	26	Kurnool	0.1	35.6	23.8
Aizawl	12	26.8	21.6	Lucknow	0.1	35.6	26.8
Allahabad	0.5	35.3	26	Madurai	0.1	32.5	24.7
Bengaluru	5.5	26.1	19.2	Mangaluru	0.3	29.9	23.6
Bhopal	15.2	31.4	23.7	Mumbai	15	28.8	23.5
Bhubaneswar	7	34.2	25.6	Mysuru	40	28.8	21
Chandigarh	21	31.7	25.8	New Delhi	11	33.6	22.4
Chennai	73	33	25.5	Patna	0.1	36	26.8
Coimbatore	2	32.7	22.5	Port Blair	1	30.8	24.1
Dehradun	0.6	32.4	24.1	Puducherry	8.9	31.7	21.9
Gangtok	1	20.5	17.6	Ranchi	2.8	29	21.1
Goa	0.3	30.5	23.6	Raipur	13	32.2	24
Guwahati	0	35	25.9	Ranchi	0	31.8	23.9
Hubbli	0	30	21	Shillong	7	25.1	17.4
Hyderabad	11.9	32.9	22.6	Shimla	63	20.5	15.9
Imphal	0	26.3	21.7	Srinagar	0	31	16.1
Jaipur	7	33.6	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	30.7	23.7
Kochi	0	30.6	24.6	Tiruchi	0	32.1	25
Kohima	53	71	52	Vijayawada	0	33.6	25.2
Kolkata	3	34.6	26.9	Visakhapatnam	1	33.6	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	40	40	18	124	109	0.4	
Bengaluru	11	101	101	45	54	0.4	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Udupi, Karnataka recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 145 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19
Chennai	12	10	36	10	68	0.4	
Delhi	0	9	110	48	93	0.4	
Hyderabad	4	72	17	13	22	0.4	
Kolkata	13	26	16	49	69	0.4	
Lucknow	10	30	56	78	77	0.4	
Mumbai	15	10	7	76	103	0.4	
Pune	53	71	110	52	45	0.4	
Visakhapatnam	20	40	33	34	57	0.4	

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

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

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

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

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

# Five teenagers held for 'moral policing' in Kerala

STAFF REPORTER  
MALAPPURAM

The Kerala police have arrested five teenagers in connection with the attack on a 23-year-old man at Areekad near Tirur on Sunday. The incident came to light when a video of the attack was circulated on social media.

Salmanul Haris, 23, from Vaniyannur near Tirur, was allegedly corralled by a group of teenagers and beaten up on August 17. One of them was seen beating him with a stick and another kicking him. The video showed the victim being roughed up and being dragged from his scooter. He was attacked for allegedly sending WhatsApp mes-

sages to the sister of one of the teenagers.

However, Haris did not disclose the attack to his family. His mother took him to a hospital as he fell sick. He was admitted to the Government District Hospital at Tirur on Saturday.

In a complaint to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his mother Zuhara Kalodi said Haris was mentally ill and demanded that those behind the attack be brought to book.

The police said they were dealing with the case carefully as those involved in the attack were minors. They were to be produced before a juvenile justice court.

# Kerala to review COVID-19 situation

It may reintroduce certain curbs lifted for Onam, including weekend lockdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will soon weigh whether to reintroduce certain restrictions lifted for Onam, including the weekend lockdown, given the continuous increase in COVID-19 cases in the State.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is currently in Kannur. An official said Mr. Vijayan was likely to take a call on the matter soon. Senior health, police and revenue officials are monitoring the pandemic situation actively.

Meanwhile, the State continued to report one of the highest infection rates in the country, with the test positivity rate (TPR) touching



Pinarayi Vijayan

16.41% on Sunday. Active cases touched 1,63,212 on Sunday.

**Fear of TPR going up**  
A police official said there was fear that the TPR may rise again and push the State back to another severe

phase of the pandemic.

The relatively low death rate, a high recovery percentage, and enhanced vaccination coverage were mitigating factors. Nevertheless, reports of more patients requiring hospitalisation in Ernakulam, Kozhikode and Palakkad remained a cause of concern.

An official said the government would dissect whether the dialling down of some restrictions for Onam holidays had accelerated the spread of the disease.

Another official said the ban on indoor events and gatherings was unlikely to be scrapped anytime soon, given the spectre of a Delta variant driven third-wave.

The mask and physical mandate and ban on indoor dining were likely to continue. Shopping malls and cinema halls were likely to remain closed. Ideally, the government wanted to open educational institutions from the higher secondary level and upwards by September middle without risking another COVID-19 surge.

The government will examine whether to reimpose the weekend lockdown and night curfew eased because of the Independence Day and Onam holidays.

Some officials felt the reintroduction of the restrictions were necessary to pre-empt another protracted lockdown.

# Minister Eknath Shinde dismisses Rane's 'rubber stamp' allegations

Shiv Sena leader accuses BJP of attempting to drive a wedge within MVA alliance

STAFF REPORTER  
PUNE

A day after Union Minister and senior BJP leader Narayan Rane claimed that Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Minister Eknath Shinde was allegedly 'fed up' with his party and on the lookout for 'alternatives', Mr. Shinde on Sunday dismissed the allegations as 'baseless' and accused Mr. Rane of trying to sow confusion within the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

Mr. Rane, a former Shiv Sainik who is now the Sena's bete noire and a bitter critic of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, had earlier dubbed Mr. Shinde, who heads the Urban Development Department, a "rubber stamp" who could not



Eknath Shinde

to make decisions for my department. I have taken many such decisions on my own, such as approval for the historical and ambitious unified development control and promotion regulations to boost the real estate sector or the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg (expressway). So, there is no truth in his [Mr. Rane's] allegations," the Sena minister said.

Mr. Shinde is seen as a bulwark of his party in the Thane region. It has long been speculated that his exit could leave the Sena gasping for survival, and that the BJP would use every guile to woo him into its fold.

"Unless 'Matoshree' [the Thackeray family's residence] approves, Mr. Shinde cannot sign on a file. So, he is tired and frustrated and is searching for a way out," Mr. Rane had claimed during his recent Jan Ashirwad Yatra. In response, Mr. Shinde accused the BJP of attempting to drive a wedge within the tripartite MVA alliance, while hitting back at Mr. Rane. "He [Mr. Rane] was the State's Chief Minister during the Sena-BJP alliance government (1995-99), so he should know that any important decision or policy must be taken with the CM's consent. As a Union Minister, he should know that if he wants to take any policy decision, he will have to get it cleared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Mr. Shinde said.

function independently unless his decisions were approved by Mr. Thackeray.

Mr. Shinde, speaking in Gadchiroli, said that the Chief Minister never interfered in his department's decisions.

"I have complete freedom

# Sex racket busted, two rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

A sex racket operating out of a salon near Medical Chowk in Nagpur was busted, leading to the arrest of a man and the rescue of two women, including a teenager, the police said on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, which was confirmed by a decoy, the Social Security Branch of the Nagpur police raided the salon, an Imambada police station official said.

"A 16-year-old girl and 27-year-old woman have been rescued. A woman relative of the arrested accused is wanted in the case," he added.

# Bonding gets stronger



**Celebration time:** A member of the Yuva Sena's women's wing ties rakhi to an officer at Worli police station in Mumbai on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan on Sunday. — EMMANUAL YOGINI

# 'Railways suffered ₹36,000 cr. loss during pandemic'

Goods trains are real revenue generators, says Union Minister Raosaheb Danve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JALNA

Union Minister Raosaheb Danve on Sunday said the Railways had suffered losses to the tune of ₹36,000 crore during the novel coronavirus pandemic, and termed goods trains as the real revenue generators for the national transporter.

He also said that a bullet train project would be executed along the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway, which is under construction.

The Minister of State for

Railways was speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of an underbridge at Jalna railway station.

"The passenger train segment always runs into losses. Since increasing the ticket fares affects the passengers, we cannot do so. During the pandemic, the Railways suffered losses of ₹36,000 crore," he said.

"Only goods trains generate revenue. During the pandemic, these trains played an important role in carrying goods and providing relief to

people," the Minister added. Speaking about the bullet train, he said this project would be rolled out along the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway as it was necessary for people.

The Railways had undertaken the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project, which would connect Navi Mumbai to Delhi, Mr. Danve said. He assured doubling of tracks between Nanded and Manmad stations, and said he would check if the Jalna-Khamgaon railway line was

viable or not. Hitting out at his detractors, Mr. Danve said he was being attacked from all quarters. "But I become stronger after facing criticism," he said.

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope, who was also present at the event, said the State government had sanctioned a hospital in Jalna for treatment of those suffering from mental illnesses. He said the facility would benefit the Marathwada region.

# Seven arrested for abduction, extortion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PALGHAR

Seven people, including a policeman and a journalist, have been arrested in Bhayander for allegedly abducting two people and extorting money from them at gunpoint, an official said on Sunday.

Two others are wanted in the case and efforts are on to nab them, a Navghar police official said.

"A businessman and his friend were abducted on August 14 by four men and taken to an isolated area by car. The accused showed the duo a firearm and told them the Navi Mumbai Police had orders to kill them in an encounter. The accused demanded ₹12 lakh in order to let them go," he said. They took ₹50,000 from the duo as well as a locket worth ₹15,000, but fled when a friend of the victim came there with the ransom money, assuming that this person was a police official, he added.

A case under the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act was registered.

## Hard Work Alone Triumphs

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## Pursuing post-poll truth

Court order on CBI probe is a blow against violent electoral triumphalism in West Bengal

Political violence has long been a feature of West Bengal politics. Whether it is due to a sense of mass empowerment, or an outcome of political awareness, or the partisan nature of electoral politics, the phenomenon has been a subject of debate as well as a cause for concern. Post-election violence, however, stems from the victor's sense of entitlement and triumphalism, making it more condemnable and far less spontaneous than the frequent confrontations that mark the State's political scene. The latest round of violence broke out soon after the declaration of results of the State Assembly elections on May 2. The Calcutta High Court has ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into incidents of rape and murder that took place during this post-poll violence, while other incidents will be probed by a special team of State police officers. Both the probes will be under the court's supervision. The verdict by a five-judge Bench is a welcome denouement to days of fierce recriminations by the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition led by the Bharatiya Janata Party over the incidents. It is a reflection of the state of affairs in the State that there is a dispute over how bad the violence was and how long it lasted. To make matters worse, the Mamata Banerjee government claimed that the violence was brought under control as soon as the party assumed office on May 5, giving the impression that three days of mayhem brooked no response from the police.

The court's decision to get the National Human Rights Commission to form a panel, including representatives of the State Human Rights Commission and the State Legal Services Authority, to make a field assessment was contested by the State government, but the report the exercise yielded confirmed large-scale and widespread violence, much of it by ruling party supporters against their political adversaries. The main judgment by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal has explained the reasons for handing over the probe to the central agency: the lack of concrete action, the absence of first information reports, or diluted ones registered after a committee had pointed out such cases, and the tendency to downplay many cases. Further, when faced with allegations of police apathy and inaction, only an investigation by an independent agency will inspire confidence. In a separate opinion, Justice I.P. Mukerji said that there was nothing to show that the ruling party intended to promote political violence, but agreed that the CBI probe was needed to ensure a fair investigation into heinous crimes. The State government may appeal against the verdict, but the doubt cast on the ruling party's commitment to the rule of law is genuine. An impartial investigation may not only result in credible prosecutions but also be a much-deserved blow against the culture of violence and post-election triumphalism in West Bengal.

## Curbing Delta

Increasing vaccination and monitoring of new variants are essential in fighting the pandemic

The overall number of coronavirus cases in India is on a downward trajectory though around 35,000 cases continue to be added almost daily. Nearly three in four of these infections are from Kerala and Maharashtra with the former – once heralded as the model State in tackling the pandemic – contributing close to 60% of the national total. There may be several reasons why this is the case and one of the conjectures is that newer variants may be playing a significant role. A weekly update from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a repository of labs tasked with monitoring variants of the coronavirus, says that the Delta variant remains most responsible for the continuing spread of infections in India. The INSACOG collects a percentage of coronavirus-positive samples for analysis from all States and of the nearly 50,000 samples analysed for their genetic composition, about two thirds – 30,230 – were among the internationally classified Variant of Concern or Variant of Interest (VoC/VoI). Of these, nearly 20,000 were the Delta variant (AY.2) and about 5,000, its associated lineages (AY.1 and AY.3). Because they contain mutations that help the virus avoid detection by the immune system, the lineages of the Delta variant are driving spikes in infections worldwide. Globally, there are believed to be 13 sublineages of Delta with characteristic genetic mutations. AY.1, AY.2 and AY.3 are the predominant ones.

Concerning as this variant is, it should not be forgotten that the purpose of the existing vaccines is to prevent hospitalisation and mortality, and the limited evidence so far is that vaccine coverage has played a role in keeping hospitalisation in most States to manageable levels as well as allowing normalisation of economic activity. Unless there is a dramatic fall in susceptible hosts globally, it is unlikely that transmission will obliterate itself. India's Drugs Controller General has now approved a three-shot vaccine, ZyCoV-D, for use in those 12 and above. The interim efficacy data of this vaccine shows that it has only 66% efficacy which is lower than what most of the other vaccines delivered in their trials. ZyCoV-D also has not published phase-3 results from the trials and so it is quite uncertain if the vaccine will meaningfully curb transmission but may well be effective in boosting India's vaccine arsenal, cutting disease and saving lives. The INSACOG still monitors too few a proportion of coronavirus samples given that India has the second highest numbers globally. Improving coverage and increased vaccination continue to remain the best bets against the pandemic.

# Breaking the logjam, handing over the baton

With the Supreme Court Collegium showing the way in judicial appointments, the executive needs to match its pace



P.D.T. ACHARY

For the first time ever, the Supreme Court Collegium led by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) recommended/selected as many as nine persons at one go to be appointed to the apex court. With the appointment later of the nine judges by the President of India, barring one vacancy which arose after the Collegium met, all the nine vacancies in the Supreme Court will be filled up. The highest court in the country having its near full strength will ease the pressure on it considerably.

### Much-awaited move

Every CJI during his tenure has taken up the filling up of vacancies as a matter of highest priority, but many could not succeed. CJI T.S. Thakur, in fact, broke down, in 2016, at a function attended by the Prime Minister in a rare expression of extreme anguish because of his inability or helplessness in filling the vacancies which was seriously affecting the functioning of the supreme judicial forum of the country. It is indeed a happy augury that the present CJI, Justice N.V. Ramana, could, along with his colleagues in the Collegium, select the judges within a short period of his assumption of office.

It is almost a truism that the selection of judges for appointment to the higher courts, particularly the top court is a complex exercise. After the Collegium came into existence, much to the consternation of political class, the selection of suitable judges has become most arduous in as much as the members of the Collegium have to take extra care to ensure that the process of selection remains transparent and the suitability of the persons selected at-

tracts the highest level of approbation.

### Difficult task

This is by no means an easy task. The members of the Collegium are all the senior most judges who have in their own way helped shape the ethos of the highest judiciary. With their keen intellect, long years of experience at the Bench and an admirable ability to discern merit in individuals, it is a tough task to build a consensus around one person or a few persons. The CJI being the head of the Collegium, has an unenviable task in building that consensus. Therefore, it can be said without any fear of contradiction that the job of selecting as many as nine judges for appointment to the Supreme Court was done admirably well. Going by news reports, it appears that the selection process was concluded in the first ever formal meeting of the Collegium. It is a remarkable feat in itself.

As the Secretary General of Lok Sabha, I had the privilege of assisting the Presiding Officers and I witnessed close quarters the struggles the Speaker had to endure in evolving consensus even on absolutely non-partisan proposals. Justice Ramana deserves full credit for taking along his colleagues in the true spirit of being the first among equals. The latest resolution of the Collegium gave effect to the multiple judicial pronouncements of the top court on the subject, particularly in recommending three women, a feat which may not be possible to be repeated in the foreseeable future.

Article 142 (1) contains the concept of 'complete justice' in any cause or matter which the Supreme Court is enjoined to deliver upon. The citizens of the country look up to the Supreme Court for complete justice. So, while selecting a judge to adorn the Bench, the fundamental consideration should be his/her ability to do complete justice. The Supreme Court has gone into this fundamental nor-



R.V. MOORTHY

native matrix in which the whole exercise of selection of judges is performed. In the *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association and Another vs Union of India* (1993), the Court spelt out the parameters within which to accomplish the task of selecting candidates for appointment to the higher judiciary. The most crucial consideration is the merit of the candidates. But consideration of merit should be done "... without giving room for any criticism that the selection was whimsical, fanciful or arbitrary or tainted with any prejudice or bias" (paragraph 330). The merit is the ability of the judge to deliver complete justice.

### India's compelling realities

India is a country of bewildering diversity. In this cacophonous democracy, language, region, religion, community, caste, are all realities which the state cannot ignore while identifying people to man its various organs. The nine judges who decided the above case were quite aware of these compelling realities. So, they said, "In the context of the plurastic (pluralistic) society of India where there are several distinct and differing interests of the people with multiplicity of religions, race, caste and community and with the plurality of culture ... it is inevitable that all people should be given equal opportunity in all walks of life and brought into the mainstream so that there may be participation of all sections of people in

every sphere including judiciary". The overriding concern of the Supreme judiciary is to ensure equal opportunities to all classes of people ... be they backward classes or scheduled castes or scheduled tribes or minorities or women, ... so that the judicial administration is also participated in by the outstanding and meritorious candidates belonging to all sections of the society [and] not by any selective or insular group" (paragraph 315).

### Need for transparency

India is perhaps the only country where the judges select judges to the higher judiciary. It is, therefore, necessary to make the norms of selection transparent. The Supreme Court has emphasised the need for maintaining transparency and an openness with regard to the norms of selection. In 2019, a five judge Bench of the Supreme Court, of which the present CJI was also a member, laid emphasis on this point. The Bench observed: "There can be no denial that there is a vital element of public interest in knowing about the norms which are taken into consideration in selecting candidates for higher judicial office and making judicial appointments".

Thus, the essence of the norms to be followed in judicial appointments is a judicious blend of merit, seniority, interests of the marginalised and deprived sections of society, women, religions, regions and communities. A closer look would reveal that these norms are followed in their essentiality in selecting the nine for the Bench. The selection of three women judges, with one of them having a chance to head the top court, a judge belonging to the Scheduled Caste and one from a backward community and the nine selected persons belonging to nine different States (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Gujarat; <https://bit.ly/385WJbD>), all point

towards an enlightened and unbiased approach of the members of the Collegium. It is also a matter of public knowledge that many of those selected have zealously upheld citizens' freedoms and public interest. The contributions of a few of them in waking up governments from their slumber in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is well documented. A high level of social consciousness possessed by a Judge enhances the quality of justice. The present CJI can be credited with recognising this crucial factor in the selection of judges.

### Unwarranted

A needless controversy is sought to be raised by a section of the media about this round of selection citing the non-existing 'Rule of Seniority'. It is this insistence, on one single criterion, which led to the piling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court for nearly two years. The logjam of 22 months has been finally broken by the Collegium led by the CJI through a pragmatic approach. It is also significant to note that those who are complaining of omission have not alleged that the selected nine cannot do complete justice as the Constitution mandates.

There is no doubt that there are meritorious people outside this group too. But in a population of 1.3 billion, to select just nine suitable persons to man the highest judiciary is not without difficulty. Considering the merit of the selected persons, one can undoubtedly say that the Collegium has done a good job. With seven names (district judges) cleared by the Collegium for the Telangana High Court in one go, we can safely trust Team Ramana to speedily fill up all judicial vacancies. The Collegium has started doing its job. Now, it is time for the Government to match the pace and take the process of appointments to its logical conclusion at the earliest.

P.D.T. Achary is Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

# In Afghan collapse, the fall of international relations

That global mediation has had a positive role in asking for a more pragmatic attitude from the Taliban is wishful thinking



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

The heartbreaking images of Afghans clinging on to a United States Air Force plane in Kabul, on August 16, in a desperate bid to flee Afghanistan is a reminder of the fall of Saigon, Vietnam, and the horrifying scenes of American diplomats evacuated by helicopter, leaving behind supporters to languish in re-education camps. We have the urge to ask this question: Who is responsible for the return of the Taliban and a new rise of barbarism in the name of Allah in Afghanistan?

### One-sided accord

In his defiant speech justifying his Afghanistan policy, U.S. President Joe Biden conveniently omitted acknowledgement of his responsibility for the disastrous endgame. He squarely laid the blame on the Afghan government and army for all the problems. One cannot shift the blame away from the Biden administration for the current chaos in Afghanistan. But one has to recognise the fact that once the pre-

decessor administration of President Donald Trump and U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad signed the disastrous one-sided agreement with the Taliban, the fate of Afghanistan was sealed. It was just a matter of time. Whether keeping 2,500 personnel or 5,000 personnel or just one American soldier would have made a difference is subject to conjecture.

### Lessons missed

This does not mean that the decision to withdraw American soldiers was wrong *per se*; rather, there was obviously inadequate planning in preparing the operation. As usual, many innocent people were left behind. There was certainly a moral failure in getting out as many of those Afghans who supported the U.S. intervention and military presence in Afghanistan as possible. One historical lesson that was not learned was the predictable collapse of the Afghan government. The surrender to the Taliban slowly gained pace in the months following the Doha deal in 2020, but it began to snowball as soon as Mr. Biden announced in April that U.S. forces would withdraw from Afghanistan.

But there is a second part to the debacle in Afghanistan. Surprisingly, when we think of the Tali-



AFP

ban, we have in mind a shabby army of 70,000 fervently Islamised foot soldiers confronting and defeating a modern Afghan army of 3,00,000 men. However, the world was surprised by the speed of the Taliban army in reconquering Afghanistan, from Kunduz on August 7-8 through Mazar-i-Sharif and every other provincial capital last week to Kabul on Sunday. Certainly, one of the reasons for the defeat of the Afghan army has been the poor training and corruption of the Afghan officers.

We can also add that the strategy of pushing the Taliban into the mountains and hinterlands, while securing towns and cities by the Afghan army did not work as expected. It took the Taliban only a few weeks to sweep away the Afghan army, which had been financed and trained by the United States for 20 years.

It is impossible to predict how the current situation will evolve.

But we can have a better understanding of the Taliban's violence if we go back to their history. The Taliban was a Pashtun movement which appeared in the early 1990s following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in 1989.

### Posing a danger

Once in power in Afghanistan, the Taliban imposed their own violent and authoritarian version of Sharia Law, exemplified by "punishments such as public executions of convicted murderers and adulterers, amputations for those found guilty of theft and imposing the all-covering burka for women. Television, music and cinema were also banned by the Taliban and girls aged 10 and over were forbidden to go to school". All these previous actions show that the Taliban will rule Afghanistan once again with extreme violence and barbarity. However, some analysts continue to believe that because of the negotiations in Doha, there is room for compromise with the Taliban and that international mediation has played a positive role in asking for a more pragmatic attitude from the Taliban. This is just wishful thinking that ignores the fact that the rule of the Taliban in Afghanistan will be a great danger for all Afghans and the neighbouring countries. Let us not forget that once

again, terrorist groups such as al Qaeda and the Islamic State will take advantage of the new rise of the Taliban to create their own power bases in Afghanistan.

### Challenge for diplomacy

Last but not least, on a human level, the fate of the Afghan people under the new Taliban government is most important. One thing is certain. The sufferings of the Afghans will not end under Taliban rule. From the point of view of international affairs, it will certainly take a Herculean effort to maintain decent working relations with the Taliban. However, India, Iran, Russia, and China are hoping for stability and an end to bloodshed in Afghanistan. But the return of the Taliban will not necessarily be welcomed by all these countries despite the fact that they would rejoice at America's setback. There will also be a fear of Islamic jihadism all over West Asia, including in Turkey and in Saudi Arabia. So, all and for all, the Afghan debacle is not the story of a defeat of democracy in one country but a sign of a fiasco in international politics in general.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Non-violence and Peace Studies at Jindal Global University

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Afghanistan today

The case of Afghanistan poses special challenges to progressive and democratic forces all over the world, since a foreign military presence there was always akin to an imperialistic occupation while the Taliban's takeover cannot be seen as a harbinger of justice and liberation for the people, particularly women and the minorities. It is for the United Nations to develop through detailed consensus, a policy for legal and legitimate international interventions in the country, whether through targeted sanctions or through peace-keeping military means, in all such cases where internal strife leads to unacceptable violations of human rights.

FIROZ AHMAD,  
New Delhi

■ Harping on the colossal failure of the U.S. strategy serves no good as far as the U.S. is concerned or in the sorry state of affairs of Afghanistan. In the wake of the Taliban capturing Kabul, the lives of civilians are in jeopardy. Pro-Afghan countries like China and Russia have to be at their persuasive best to convince Taliban leaders to ally the fears of poor citizens and also offer help to Afghanistan to put its economy back on the rails.

RAJAMANI CHELLADURAI,  
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

### Siblings on the warpath

Former Union Minister and Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad does face a tough test as his cup of woes is now full to the brim (Page 1, "Lalu faces tough test as sons tussle over RJD leadership", August

22). Unfortunately for Mr. Prasad, he no longer has leaders of the calibre of Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to counsel him. That Tejaswi Prasad having ensured that the RJD retains its pre-eminent status in Bihar does have an edge cannot be brushed aside. It remains to be seen whether Tej Pratap Yadav can muster enough support to rock the boat or have his rebellion turn out to be a storm in a teacup.

C.V. ARAVIND,  
Bengaluru

### Get behind the politics

One must get behind the political motive pushing the idea of a "Partition Horrors remembrance day". What are the real motives of those who are floating the big idea? The Uttar Pradesh elections are fast approaching and the ruling party is badly in need

of emotive, evocative issues to deflect attention from horrific blunders in handling the second wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Though as an electoral strategy it may pay dividends, it is a communally loaded mantra fraught with the dangers of further communal polarisation. One must not forget that there were horrors on both sides. And why not also remember the horrors following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948? Is it not fair that this 'horror day' is remembered too to bring solace to the victims? It is a pity that the lust for political power at any cost has driven leaders of political parties to turn blind to the dangerous consequences of their policies of hate.

M. JAMEEL AHMED,  
Mysuru

### The hospital case

This might be of interest to readers in the context of 'Madras Week'. On December 4, 1933, a parent along with his brother took his infant son to the Government Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, Madras, for treatment. The child was just two or three days old. On December 11, the nurse in charge of the children's ward told the man that the child was cured, but before taking the child away, the father was advised to buy a piece of apparatus. The father and his brother came back to the hospital the same day to fetch the child. But they were informed that the child had been taken away by someone else. The father reported the matter to the police, but they were unable to find the child. Based on these facts, it was

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alleged that the loss of the child was due to the negligence of the "hospital authorities". This became the basis of the case, *Etti vs The Secretary of State* (1939) 1 MLJ 784, where the Madras High Court took up the question of vicarious liability of hospitals maintained out of public revenues, perhaps, for the first time in India.

Dr. K. MATTHIRAN,  
Madurai

### 'Visit Hampi'

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu's word of advice (August 22) is apt. Elders must tell children about the wonders of our monuments. In turn, they must know the depth of India's wonderful culture and heritage.

J. EDEN ALEXANDER,  
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

# Focusing on diseases sidelined by COVID-19

Strengthening the primary healthcare system will help tackle the burden of non-communicable diseases



RAGHUPATHY ANCHALA & GIRIDHARA R. BABU



ISTOCK PHOTO

Nearly 71% of all deaths worldwide occur due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and cancer. Cardiovascular diseases such as stroke, heart attacks and coronary artery disease are the top cause of global deaths. One out of every four deaths occurs due to cardiovascular diseases, especially among younger patients. In the Indian subcontinent, there is early onset and rapid progression of such diseases, and a high mortality rate. Premature loss of life due to NCDs in the age group of 30-69 years is also very high among Indians. Half the deaths due to cardiovascular diseases occur in the age group of 40-69 years. To address this growing burden of NCDs, the National Health Mission launched the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke, in 2010, focusing on strengthening infrastructure, promoting good health, human resource development, early diagnosis, management and referral.

## Disruption of NCD services

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has severely tested primary healthcare systems, which perform myriad functions, across the world. Maternal healthcare services, immunisation, health surveillance, and the screening and management of NCDs have all been severely disrupted. A World Health Organization (WHO) survey conducted in May 2020 among 155 countries found that low-income countries were the most affected by this disruption. More than half (53%) of the countries surveyed had partially or completely disrupted services for hypertension treatment, 49% for treatment for diabetes and diabetes-related complications, 42% for cancer treatment and 31% for cardiovascular emergencies. The outcomes in COVID-19 patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease risk factors or with established cardiovascular disease can be worse than others,

perhaps due to low cardiorespiratory reserve, worsening of the underlying cardiovascular disease due to systemic effects of the illness, or precipitating novel cardiac complications. Data from the National Health Mission's Health Management Information System in India show that emergency services for cerebrovascular diseases dropped by about 14%. Among NCDs, persons with diabetes are at an exceptionally higher risk of severe clinical outcomes of COVID-19. A recent study reported that nearly one in every two Indians living with diabetes is unaware of their condition. They are at higher risk of dying if they contract COVID-19 because of uncontrolled glucose levels in their blood. Findings from an observational study in Delhi show that 47.1% of hospitalised COVID-19 patients had diabetes.

In most countries, staff working in the area of NCDs were reassigned to support patients with COVID-19, and public screening programmes were postponed. Shortage of medicines, diagnostics and technologies were the main reasons for discontinuing services in one-fifth of the surveyed countries. Cancellations of planned treatments, decreased availability of public transport, and lack of staff were the most common reasons for the disruption of NCD services. NCD services also got more disrupted as countries moved to the stage of community transmission from the stage of sporadic COVID-19 cases.

Lockdowns and reduced physical interactions led to loneliness, especially in the geriatric population. This resulted in mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. Lockdowns increase exposure to

NCD risk factors as people became more likely to increase their consumption of alcohol and tobacco and adopt an unhealthy diet.

## Solutions

Although most countries reported that they had included NCD services in their national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans, only 42% of low-income countries did so. Worryingly, tobacco cessation activities and rehabilitation have not been included in response plans. India's response plan to address the growing burden of NCDs must include tobacco cessation activities as tobacco consumption has been indisputably linked to hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

Alternative strategies have been established in most countries to support those at the highest risk so that they continue receiving treatment for NCDs. Among the countries reporting service disruptions, half are using telemedicine. A positive impact of the pandemic has been that two-thirds of the countries are now collecting data on the number of COVID-19 patients who also have a NCD.

There is an urgent need for national and State health policymakers to draw up a road map which gives equal weight to patients living with NCDs. Utilising the existing network of NGOs while respecting local factors will go a long way in tackling the growing burden of NCDs. Campaigns on maintaining a healthy lifestyle need innovation; the monotony of broadcasting the same message over and over again must be broken.

Uncontrolled epidemics have the potential to snowball into a major pandemic. A paradigm shift in gover-

nance, which means effective and participatory leadership with strong vision and communication, is the need of the hour to tackle the silent epidemic transition to NCDs.

Screening for NCDs at the grassroots level and the delivery of locally relevant and contextual messages for health promotion and primordial prevention of NCDs can be significantly improved by incentivising the already overburdened ASHA workers. Access to essential NCD medicines and basic health technologies in all primary healthcare facilities is essential to ensure that those in need receive treatment and counselling. A multidisciplinary approach is imperative. Strategies must include mitigation efforts to address administration challenges, a strong health workforce, infrastructure, supplies, maintaining the standard of care, and continued access and care for the vulnerable populations. Also, the importance of physical activity and mental health due to restrictions on movement should be brought to the forefront. The use of alternative modalities such as online platforms for disseminating information on exercise and mental health management must be made available to the marginalised. Telemedicine can reduce travel expenses, thus lowering patients' expenditure burden.

Multiple risk factors which are interrelated, such as raised blood pressure, glucose, lipids, and obesity, are preventable. Primary healthcare systems must ensure that persons at risk of NCDs receive appropriate screening, counselling and treatment. In India, those with NCDs find that productive years of life are lost and there is high-out-of-pocket expenditure on treatment. Urgent action is needed using the 'all of society approach' to achieve the WHO goal of a 25% relative reduction in overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases by 2025. This can be achieved by strengthening the primary health system to prevent, diagnose and provide care for NCDs in the future, especially during health emergencies such as a pandemic.

Raghupathy Anchala is Professor of Public Health, Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences, Symbiosis International University, Pune, and Giridhara R. Babu is Professor and Head of Life Course Epidemiology at Public Health Foundation of India

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Getting uncomfortable

Only through sustained dialogue with those on the other side of the ideological fence can we imagine a humanity yet to come



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

I have shared extensively what I have learnt from literature in navigating the choppy waters of journalism. Ernest Hemingway, George Orwell, Rabindranath Tagore, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Isabel Allende, Toni Morrison and a host of other influential voices have not only shaped my world view but also defined my writing. Though literature is the discipline from which I derive multiple life tools, I also draw from the social sciences to address many tricky issues.

## Dealing with polarising views

One of the toughest issues confronting a news ombudsman is how to express profound differences in a polarised world. Democracy Features is an academic initiative to stimulate fresh thinking about the many challenges facing democracies in the 21st century. It tries to explore the new idea of choice, where one is forced to choose between two opposing positions. In this world view, as Sabine Selchow, a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney, points out, "reflection and compromise are seen as admitting weakness, defeat, and even a betrayal of one's position." Her prescription for dealing with the challenges of polarisation is to "get uncomfortable to open up new horizons for imagining and acting in the world."

I often tend to use the tools developed by anthropologist Anand Pandian to get uncomfortable and to bring in a more nuanced approach to the elements that make up a credible information ecology. Prof. Pandian won the Infosys Prize 2019 in Social Sciences for his brilliantly imaginative work on ethics, selfhood and the creative process. As a Tamil, I was always interested in the complex, yet organic, relationship between Tamil Nadu and its vast diaspora. *Jothi*, a magazine edited by V. Swaminatha Sharma and published from Rangoon, provided the template for modern Tamil journalism. It was Prof. Pandian's collaborative book with his grandfather, M.P. Mariappan, *Ayya's Accounts: A Ledger of Hope in Modern India*, that gave insights into the dynamics that bind the locals with the diaspora.

Prof. Pandian wrote a brilliant anthology of essays, *A Possible Anthropology: Methods*

for *Uneasy Times*, which helped me as a journalist to look at newer approaches that are more inclusive and less judgmental. The key question he sought to answer in these essays was: "In a time of intense uncertainty, social strife, and ecological upheaval, what does it take to envision the world as it yet may be?" His vision of a possible anthropology was "the one that may be adequate to the challenge of seeing and thinking beyond the profound fissures and limits of the present."

## Charting a new path

Prof. Pandian wrote: "These are times that call for anthropological faith and existential generosity, ways of cultivating sympathy, openness, and care as liveable realities. For the humanity yet to come - now, as always, we will need such anthropology." I am convinced this applies to journalism also. Prof. Pandian, in his recent essay in *The Guardian*, "What I learned from an unlikely friendship with an anti-masker", explains the need for a sustained dialogue with those on the other side of the ideological fence. He documents his interactions with Frank, whose views were disturbing, a brazen assertion of white privilege. Frank is a pseudonym as he wanted to remain anonymous.

Frank used the idea of freedom to denounce masks worn to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (he called them "face diapers"). For him, the idea of vaccination symbolised "compliance, control and capitulation." He opposed any restriction of movement and joined 'Operation Gridlock' against the preventive measures taken by the Governor of Michigan. Frank justified the storming of the Capitol. For him, it was the outburst of a populace long under siege, struggling against a power constantly wielded in the name of care. It is obvious that Prof. Pandian's views on each one of these topics were diametrically opposite to that of Frank's.

As a news ombudsman, I get mails almost daily from readers like Frank. They find masterstrokes in every decision of the Union government. They feel that any critical voice against the ruling regime is undermining their rights. They discover virtues in obvious flaws. They are generally hyper-nationalistic; they are sceptical of any affirmative action.

Prof. Pandian sees masks and vaccines as "the truth of our vulnerability, our capacity to wound and be wounded by others." When we are tied to each other's whims and disdains, it is not only anthropology but also journalism that needs to chart a new path.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

# Going from conflict to conflict

There are more threats to Afghanistan than just the Taliban

SHAIKH MUJIBUR REHMAN

On August 16, while explaining why he was so firm on withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan, President Joe Biden acknowledged the U.S.'s myriad missteps of the last 20 years. The history of American missteps is, however, longer, and goes further back than the provocation caused by the 9/11 attacks. Steve Coll's book, *Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001*, is a detailed documentation of the endless list of misadventures of the U.S. and other western countries. By all accounts, Afghanistan is the worst victim of the fiercest superpower rivalry of the post-World War II era.

## A more humane foreign policy

Afghanistan's current predicament is only a small part of a much bigger story pertaining to American foreign policy. Seen in conjunction with what has happened to Iraq, Libya and Syria, the moral flaw in American foreign policy and the U.S.'s contribution to destroying nations becomes apparent. If national interest is the only game in town, it is high time American policymakers begin to re-imagine it in a way that is less destructive and more humane.

It was believed that President Biden would undo the agenda of his predecessor, Donald Trump. But he seems more determined to pursue Mr. Trump's agenda, and with greater ineptitude. Some argue that the decision to withdraw forces from Afghanistan was President Biden's original agenda, which he aired unsuccessfully as Vice President in 2009. The 2020 Doha Agreement between the U.S. and the Taliban merely eased the process and brought forth a rare consensus between a Republican President, Mr. Trump, and his Democratic successor, Mr. Biden. The current mess in Afghanistan, and in Syria, Libya and Iraq, once more reaffirms that in the domain of foreign policy, there is very little ideological difference between the Republicans and Democrats who alternately govern the U.S.

were involved in this U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan, no country was interested in stepping in after the U.S.'s exit. U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed this in the British Parliament when he said that the NATO's "core mission" had succeeded. What is becoming clear is that the western nations lacked a vision for and commitment to Afghanistan.

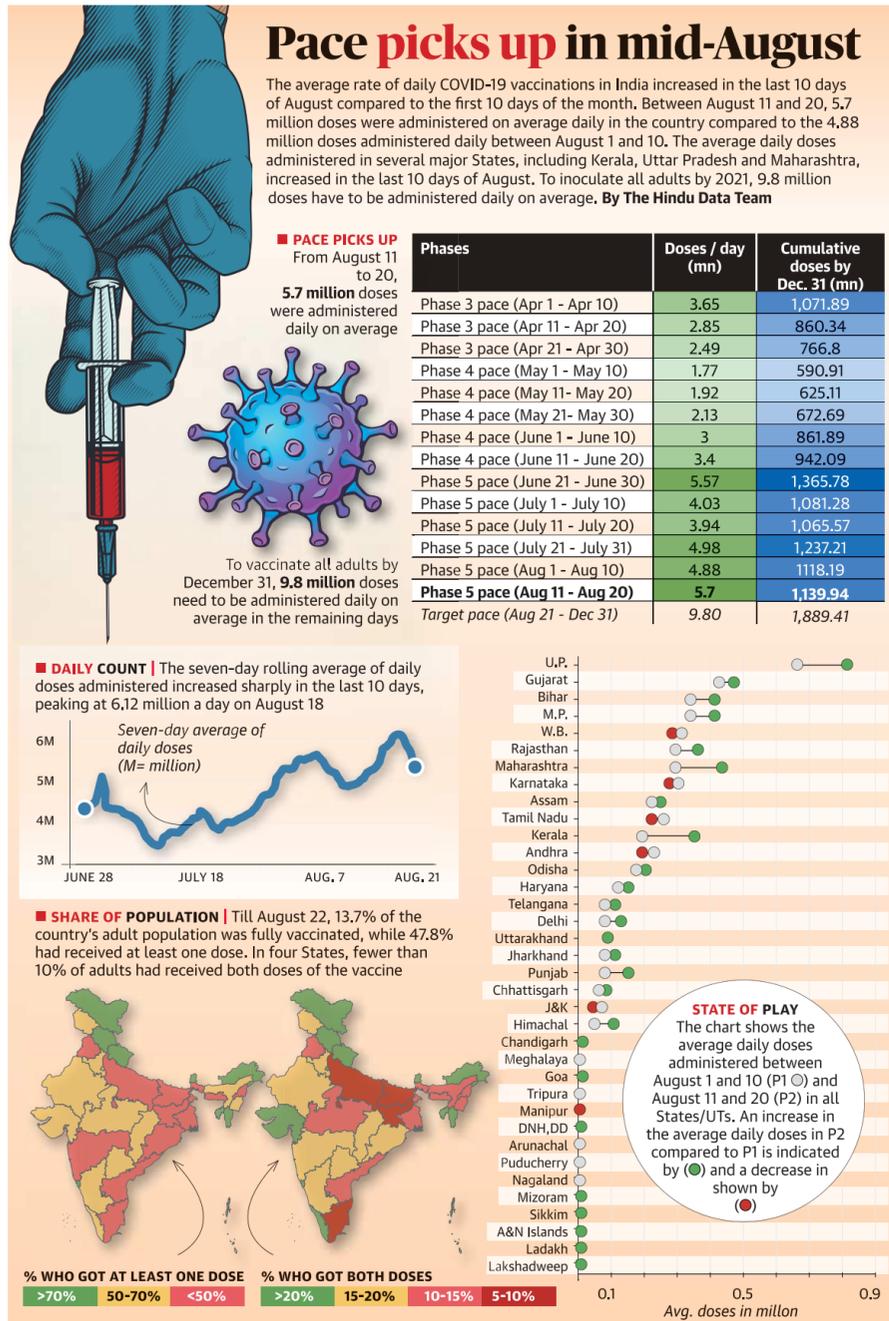
## Monopoly of state power

While militant religious groups exist or operate in several countries, the Taliban enjoy the unique advantage of having acquired monopoly of state power. On the issues of rights, whether human rights or gender rights, each nation state has its skeletons in the closet. Consider, for instance, the U.S. itself and its track record on human rights with regard to African Americans or indigenous people. But the basic difference between nations like the U.S. and Afghanistan is that there is a political environment in the U.S. which allows these issues to be raised. For instance, the Black Lives Matter movement could not have been possible if a militant group was enjoying the monopoly of state power in the U.S. Clearly, not enough was done in the last 20 years to create institutions for such a conducive environment in Afghanistan. The Taliban were allowed to expand and now they are ready to govern.

Aside from the extremist nature of the Taliban, what poses an equally dangerous threat to Afghanistan is that it remains the site of a power struggle among big and regional powers. At this juncture, a new equation seems to be emerging in the security game in the region. There is a China-Pakistan axis vis-à-vis an India-U.S. one. Russia, Iran and a few others have their own spin to the game. A new but more pernicious Cold War variety rivalry that doomed Afghanistan has reappeared. No one knows how these players will cast their die. But one thing is certain: there are more threats to Afghanistan than just the Taliban.

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches in Jamia Millia Islamia and is the author of the forthcoming book, *Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims*

## DATA POINT



## The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1971

## Dairy Corpn. may import exotic cattle

New Delhi, August 22: A proposal is under the consideration of the Government to allow import of exotic cattle by private parties and co-operative institutions. In order to assist these parties in selecting quality animals and also to safeguard against diseases to which these exotic animals are prone to, the import will be canalised through the Indian Dairy Corporation. The Corporation has been asked to work out a detailed scheme which will be finalised by Government later. There is considerable demand in India for foreign cattle breeds. The Tamil Nadu Government has intimidated a requirement of 85 males of Jersey, Friesian, Brown Swiss and Red Dane breeds for 1971-72. This request is now being considered by the Government of India. The Punjab Government wanted to set up an exotic cattle farm with an outlay of Rs. 12 lakhs. While it was considered earlier that the breed should be Jersey the State Government has since decided to set up a Brown Swiss cattle farm under an Indo-Swiss project. In consultation with technical experts, the State Government has chosen Patiala and Sangrur districts for cross breeding with Brown Swiss.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 23, 1921

## Indians in Kenya

Discussing the Indian claim to enjoy full rights of citizenship in any part of the Empire the "Daily Telegraph" says that Government is apparently going to cause Kenya to concede to the demand. The paper doubts whether this will convert Natal and Transvaal and rather imagines that South Africa will regard the question much in the same light as the white settlers in Kenya, who suggest that the transaction will turn British East Africa into Indian East Africa. The journal points out that brown immigrants outnumber the whites there already. It presents the Kenyans' submission showing how Indians have reaped the benefit of English blood, toil and money expended and condemns the proposal which will benefit India and push into the background men who have redeemed Kenya from primitive savagery. The "Telegraph" expresses every respect for Indian aspirations and ambitions, but fails to understand why Indians should be made masters of a vast area which owes everything to England and the English. It says that if East Africa does not belong to England it belongs to the natives for whom we are morally responsible.

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FROM PAGE ONE

## Afghan Sikhs, Hindus among 392 airlifted

Stating that he had not seen Afghan Taliban among those present in Kabul, Mr. Khalsa said, "In my 36 years, I have never seen such Taliban fighters."

Mr. Khalsa is the son of Avtar Singh Khalsa, a dynamic Sikh politician of Afghanistan who was assassinated in Jalalabad in a suicide bomb attack in 2018.

Apart from Mr. Khalsa, Dr. Anarkali Kaur Honaryar, the only female Sikh MP of Afghanistan was also among those who were airlifted to the Hindon air base. Dr. Honaryar thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the government of India for evacuating her family.

Hundreds of others, however, were left behind even as the security situation of Afghanistan is expected to deteriorate due to the growing tension between Taliban leaders and the Tajiks of Panjshir Valley who are led by the faction of Ahmad Massoud and former Afghan vice-president Amrullah Saleh.

A spokesperson for the Resistance told *The Hindu* that they require support of "allies" to take on the Taliban. "Taliban are trying to send delegations and as well use Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Hamid Karzai to me-

diate between Resistance Leaders in Panjshir. The stance of the Resistance is clear. We have legitimate caretaker President Amrullah Saleh who enjoys people's support from Republic's side," said Homayon Ahmadi, the spokesperson.

"If they opt for any military offensive, people are ready to defend their rights at any cost. We will be needing support from our allies, of course," said Mr. Ahmadi who argued that the Resistance believed in ballots unlike Taliban that believed in bullets.

**'Man-made suffering'**  
Afghanistan's Ambassador to India, who was appointed by the government of President Ashraf Ghani, also called for international support.

In a message posted on social media on Sunday, Ambassador Farid Mamundzay said, "The avoidable suffering of Afghanistan is man-made and at a scale beyond all civilised contemplation. Afghanistan is going through a difficult time, and only good leadership, compassionate attitude and international support to the Afghan people would somewhat bring an end to these miseries."

## Hurriyat may face wrath of UAPA

Probe says the group was collecting money from MBBS aspirants to fund terror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SRINAGAR

A ban under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) may be imposed on both factions of the secessionist conglomerate, the Hurriyat Conference, which has been spearheading the separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir for over two decades, officials said.

A recent probe into the granting of MBBS seats to Kashmiri students by institutions in Pakistan indicated that the money collected from aspirants by some organisations that were part of the Hurriyat Conference conglomerate was being used for funding terror organisations in the Union Territory, officials said.

Both factions of the Hurriyat were likely to be banned under Section 3(1) of the UAPA, under which "if the Central Government is of opinion that any association is, or has become, an unlawful association, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare such association to be unlawful", the officials said.

They said the proposal



On the radar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's faction and the one led by Syed Ali Shah Geelani face a ban, say officials. ■ FILE PHOTO

was mooted in accordance with the Union government's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism.

### 26 groups

The Hurriyat Conference came into existence in 1993 with 26 groups, including some pro-Pakistan and banned outfits such as the Jamaat-e-Islami, the JKLF and the Dukhtaran-e-Millat. It also included the People's Conference and the Awami Action Committee headed by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

The separatist conglomerate broke into two factions in 2005, with the moderate

htaran-e-Millat (DeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The cadres raised funds in the country and from abroad through various illegal channels, including hawala channels, for funding separatist and terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

### Stone pelting

The funds collected were used for causing disruption in the Kashmir Valley by way of pelting stones on security forces, systematically burning schools, damaging public property and waging war against India as part of a criminal conspiracy, they claimed.

Supporting the case for banning the two factions of the Hurriyat Conference under the UAPA, the officials cited several cases related to terror funding, including the one being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in which several of the conglomerate's cadres were arrested and jailed.

Many of the second-rung cadres of both the factions are in jail since 2017, they said.

## Petrol, diesel prices cut by 20 paise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices were cut by 20 paise a litre on Sunday. It was the first reduction in petrol rate in over a month, and the fourth in case of diesel in less than a week.

The petrol price in Delhi was cut to ₹101.64 a litre and diesel to ₹89.07, according to a price notification of State-run oil companies.

The reduction came as international oil prices tumbled to their lowest level since May, after the U.S. Federal Reserve signalled it was set to start tapering asset purchases within months, hurting commodities and lifting the dollar.

The price cut in diesel is the fourth since August 18, when the reduction cycle began. All four reductions have been of 20 paise per litre each.

On the previous three occasions when diesel rates were cut, petrol prices remained unchanged.

Sunday's cut in petrol price came after 36 days of status quo in rates. Petrol and diesel prices were last hiked on July 17.

The freeze in rate revision coincided with the Parliament session, where the Opposition parties tried to corner the government on various issues, including the hike in fuel prices.

## Fulfil Kalyan Singh's dreams: PM

Modi, Mayawati among leaders who paid tribute to former U.P. Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

"To compensate" for former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, who died on Saturday evening at the age of 89, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, "We must make maximum efforts towards his values and resolution, and leave no stones unturned in fulfilling his dreams."

Mr. Modi was speaking at the residence of the former Chief Minister in Lucknow where he paid tributes to the senior BJP leader.

BSP chief Mayawati was among other politicians who visited the former Chief Minister's residence.

Kalyan Singh, who served as the Chief Minister of U.P. twice, was the head of the government in 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished by a mob of *karsevaks* on December 6 following



Tributes for the departed: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying his last respects to BJP veteran Kalyan Singh in Lucknow on Sunday. ■ PTI

which his government was dismissed. Mr. Modi said Singh had provided meaning to the name given to him by his parents, Kalyan, which means welfare in Hindi. "He lived his life for *jan kalyan* [public welfare]," Mr. Modi

told presspersons here.

With Kalyan Singh's death, the country lost a "valuable personality and a capable leader", Mr. Modi said, adding that Singh would be admired across India.

Singh's mortal remains

were later taken to the U.P. Assembly and the BJP State headquarters for people to pay homage before being taken to his home district of Aligarh. He will be cremated on Monday on the Narora ghat on the Ganga.

## Drug abuse on rise, will have huge consequences: HC

'It causes economic issues and societal disintegration'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has observed that the menace of drug abuse was on the rise in the country and its consequences "can be experienced across the board from causing economic issues to societal disintegration".

Justice Subramonium Prasad made the remarks while declining the bail plea of a Nepal national who was caught with 475 g of *charas* here.

"The harmful effects of drugs on an individual and on the society have been researched extensively and are well known... The purpose of enacting the NDPS [Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances] Act was to

curb this menace," Justice Prasad said.

The High Court also noted that the accused, Madan Lama, being a citizen of Nepal, has no roots in society and can be considered a potential flight-risk. "Thus, he satisfies the factor that there exists the danger of him absconding or fleeing from justice, if released on bail," the court said, adding, "Furthermore, if the petitioner [Mr Lama] is released on bail, it cannot be ruled out that he will not indulge in such activities again."

On December 18, 2020, secretly provided information was received by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) that one Nepali national of small build wearing yellow-coloured clothes would be

near Gate no.1 of the city's Kailash Colony metro station, between 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., and that he might be carrying narcotic drugs for delivery to his client.

An NCB team was formed to intercept the person. When the team was waiting near the said location, they observed that one person wearing a yellow sweatshirt matching the description in the tip-off was carrying a black shoulder bag. He met with another person wearing the black jacket.

The person who was wearing the yellow sweatshirt handed over a small packet to the person who was wearing the black jacket, who gave an amount of cash to the person in the yellow sweatshirt.

## SRM Career Guidance Day to be held tomorrow

Students to be awarded scholarships

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

Following the success of the SRM Virtual Conclave for Career Guidance webinar series powered by *The Hindu*, SRM Career Guidance Day will be celebrated on Tuesday on the occasion of the birthday of the founder of the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), T.R. Paarivendhar.

The 15-part webinar series had received registrations from around 1 lakh students and the event witnessed in-depth engagement and feedback from the participants. Experts from *The Hindu* editorial team had moderated the interactive webinar series.

On SRM Career Guidance Day, the Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar Scholarships will be



awarded to deserving students based on their merit.

As part of the virtual event, Dr. Paarivendhar, Founder Chancellor, SRMIST; L.V. Navaneeth CEO, The Hindu Group; and C. Muthamizhchelvan, Vice-Chancellor, SRMIST, will deliver special addresses.

Participants can visit <https://bit.ly/SRMCGD> or scan the QR code to register and watch the award ceremony live from 5 p.m.



## FinMin summons Infosys CEO over I-T portal glitch

The Finance Ministry went public with the summons to Mr. Parekh about 100 minutes later. "We will post an update once the portal is available again for taxpayers. We regret the inconvenience," the global IT major's India business unit said on Twitter.

Infosys didn't respond to calls from *The Hindu*. However, the firm's CEO is expected to comply with the Ministry's 'summon' on Monday.

The non-functioning of the portal is particularly embarrassing for the govern-

ment as just last week, the Finance Minister had said all its glitches were expected to be fixed entirely in the 'next two-three days'.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj had been "neutrally monitoring the progress" on fixing the glitches and 10-15 taxation experts were working to engage with Infosys on a day-to-day basis, she had said.

Ms. Sitharaman expressed regret about the new portal's dysfunctional systems on July 28 and said the portal had been tried out before its launch.

## Assam moves to ease fresh row with Mizoram

His Hailakandi counterpart Gaurav Upadhyay, however, said an Assam police patrol party had detected the unauthorised construction on the Assam side of the border by Mizoram workers on Friday and seized the material.

Mizoram claimed the bridge was being made in Kolasib's Zophai area to connect the road with a farm belonging to the State's first Chief Minister C. Chhunga.

Assam claimed the spot is in Hailakandi district's Kachur-tal.

The spot is a few kilometres west of a stretch on National Highway 306 between Lailapur in Assam and Vairengte in Mizoram where six Assam police personnel were killed in firing on July 26. Mizoram's Kolasib district borders Cachar (Lailapur) and Hailakandi districts of Assam.

## Parched parts of Gujarat get heavy showers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

In a major relief to the farmers, parts of south Gujarat and Saurashtra regions have been receiving good rains in the last couple of days.

The State had not witnessed any major spells of rain this month till August 20.

According to the State government data, rain deficit now stands at 52%.

However, since Friday, several parts of Valsad, Surat and Navsari in South Gujarat and parts of Amreli and Bhavnagar in Saurashtra, which had remained rain starved this season, have received moderate to heavy showers.

According to the Met department, parts of Saurashtra will continue to receive heavy to moderate rainfall for the next 2-3 days. However, North and Central Gujarat regions continue to see a dry spell.

## Boy electrocuted while erecting DMK flagpole

Compensation paid, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
VILLUPURAM

A 13-year-old school student was electrocuted when a DMK flagpole he was erecting with others for a wedding came in contact with a live overhead cable on the Villupuram-Mambalapattu Road. The incident occurred on Friday evening, and the police registered a case on Saturday.

Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudi attended the wedding. When contacted, he acknowledged that the boy died while erecting a DMK flagpole. "The organiser has paid his family ₹1.5 lakh in compensation."

Police sources said the body of E. Dinesh, a Class VIII student of the Government High School in Villupuram, was sent to the Government Villupuram Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examination and then handed over

to his family.

Municipal sources said the road was under the Highways Department. An application for the no-objection certificate for erecting flagpoles had to be sent to the Collector, who would forward it to the municipality for payment of charges. But no application was made, they said.

### Stalin's appeal

Following accidents caused by flex banners and flagpoles in the past, DMK president M.K. Stalin had appealed to party workers to avoid grandeur at political events.

In 2019, a young woman died in Chennai when she fell from her scooter after an AIADMK flex banner crashed on her. The same year, another woman riding a scooter was severely injured in Coimbatore while trying to avoid an AIADMK flagpole.

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has expressed worry that there is an "alarming increase" of false cases of rape being registered "only to arm-twist the accused and make them succumb to the demands of the complainant".

Justice Subramonium Prasad made the observation while rejecting a plea seeking to quash a first information report for the offence of rape, in which the parties

pleaded that they had amicably resolved the issue and entered into a compromise.

The court pointed out that the parties had registered cross-cases against each other for offences under Section 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at the Aman Vihar police station here.

"In the present case it appears that both sides have resorted to filing complaints of rape without having any sensitivity to the offence of rape," Justice Prasad said.

"Allegations regarding offences such as one under Section 376 IPC cannot be made at the drop of a hat — in order to settle personal scores.

"...False allegations of rape have the potential to destroy the life and career of the accused. The accused in a false case of rape loses his honour, cannot face his family and is stigmatised for life," the High Court said.

"False claims and allegations pertaining to cases of

molestation and rape need to be dealt with an iron hand due to the serious nature of the offences. Such litigations are instituted by the unscrupulous litigants in the hope that the other party will capitulate to their demands out of fear or shame," Justice Prasad said.

"Unless wrongdoers are not made to face the consequences of their actions, it would be difficult to prevent such frivolous litigations," the judge remarked adding

that this problem could be solved, or at least minimised, to a certain extent, if exemplary cost was imposed on the litigants for instituting frivolous litigations. Justice Prasad said the time spent by the police in investigating false cases hindered them from spending time in investigation of serious offences. "It leads to faulty investigations and the accused end up going scot-free. Valuable judicial time is also spent in hearing cases," he added.

## Trinamool eyes MP to expand clout in Assam

Party had approached Akhil Gogoi too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

After reaching out to activist-turned-politician Akhil Gogoi, the Trinamool Congress has been angling for an MP to make inroads in Assam.

Naba Kumar Sarania, a former area commander of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom, is a two-time MP, representing the Kokrajhar constituency since 2014. Though listed as an independent parliamentarian, he is the chief of the regional Gana Suraksha Party (GSP) that is said to have an influence among more than 15 non-Bodo communities in parts of western and north-central Assam.

"The Trinamool has sent feelers and we will have a meeting in September. But people are jumping the gun by saying I have joined the party that rules West Bengal," Mr. Sarania told *The Hindu*.

The GSP is part of the alliance that ruled the Bodoland Territorial Council straddling 12 of Assam's 126 Assembly constituencies.



The Trinamool wants Akhil Gogoi to join the party to expand its Assam footprint.

The BJP is the second largest party of the alliance headed by the United People's Party Liberal.

A few days ago, Mr. Gogoi said he had met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee twice in Kolkata after his release from jail on July 1. "I have been offered the leadership of the Trinamool in Assam, but we have not decided whether our party will have a tie-up or a merger with the Trinamool," he said.

Mr. Gogoi is the president of the Rajgor Dal and is an MLA from the Sibsagar constituency.

## Widow gets father's pension

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has reiterated that the widowed daughter of a late freedom fighter is entitled to the benefit of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (SSSPS) as a dependent.

Justice V. Kameswar Rao relied on a judgment passed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court as well as the Calcutta High Court on the subject, while granting relief to a woman, the sole dependent widow daughter of a freedom fighter.

Ms. Kolli Indira Kumari had approached the High Court after her application to transfer her father's freedom fighter pension, granted under the SSSPS, to her, after her father's death, was declined by the government.

# Fourth evacuation from Kabul since 1992, but in different international climate

Diplomats say that this time around, the difference is in the stand adopted by international players such as U.S., Russia and China, which have legitimised Taliban

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The evacuation of Indian Embassy personnel, including Ambassador Rudrendra Tandon, from Kabul is the fourth time India had to pull out all its diplomats from Afghanistan, but what has changed considerably now is how world players have dealt with the Taliban, say diplomats who recall the strong stand taken by the United Nations and various governments in the 1990s. In 1993, India decided to close the mission in Kabul after a rocket attack on the Chancery building killed an Indian security guard. Significantly, the Indian security official was killed when rockets were fired on Kabul by Hizb-e-Islami forces commanded by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who is now one of the coordinating council members negotiating with the new Taliban regime. The mission staff, led by Ambassador Arif Qamarain, who had only been appointed

two months before that, were driven in three buses to the Uzbek border town of Termez and flown out from Tashkent, after a joint decision by the heads of the Indian, Chinese, Turkish, Pakistani and Indonesian missions in Kabul that the situation was too volatile to stay.

**Hamid Ansari's tenure**  
His predecessor Ambassador Vijay Nambiar had been flown out of Mazar-e-Sharif with the help of Gen. Rashid Dostum in 1992, with the IAF operating two AN-32 aircraft that also flew out the Ambassadors of ASEAN countries and others. At the time, the Kabul Air Traffic Control had been destroyed by the Taliban, wielding U.S.-supplied anti-aircraft stinger missiles, and the IAF planes had loaded anti-missile flares just in case, but fortunately did not need to deploy them. The cooperation with Gen. Dostum had been secured during a special



**Rekindled hopes:** People evacuated from Kabul after the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan arriving at the Hindon Air force base near New Delhi on Sunday. \*R.V. MOORTHY

diplomatic mission by former Vice-President Hamid Ansari, who was then India's Ambassador to Iran, and had previously served as Ambassador to Afghanistan, who carried humanitarian and medical relief to Mazar-e-Sharif.

"While it is necessary to judge each situation anew, and decide India's reactions to it, we may also remember the principle that a neighbour's neighbour can often be a friend. Many Afghans feel the same way," Mr. Ansari told *The Hindu*, when

asked about the mission. In 1996, after opening the Embassy for about a year, India decided to close it again, when the Taliban entered Kabul and brutally murdered former President Najibullah and his brother, and then, more significant-

ly, Northern Alliance forces led by Ahmed Shah Massoud retreated to the Panjshir valley.

"We achieved the evacuation of the mission, which was quite small, along with the few other Indians present there quite peacefully, on an Ariana [commercial] flight," recalls Vivek Katju, who was the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs at the time. "The difference between then and now, 25 years later, was that this time, the U.S., Russia, China and other countries have not shunned the Taliban, and in fact appeared to legitimise them by signing a deal with them, inviting Taliban delegations to their capitals, and holding talks with them in Doha," he added.

New Delhi too has not yet directly named the Taliban in its statements, or criticised its actions, possibly due to the ongoing evacuation of Indian nationals, and discussions with the U.S.,

Russia and China on the possible de-designation of various Taliban representatives at the U.N. Security Council, where India heads the Taliban sanctions committee.

**MEA's stand**  
Speaking at an event on Friday, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla said that there was a "silver lining" in the Taliban's statements seeking international legitimacy, in contrast to its previous regime in Afghanistan. The MEA had also sent a two-man delegation to Doha on August 12, for a meeting that included other countries, and the Taliban's representatives.

Speaking in Parliament in 1996, however, then External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, who became Prime Minister the next year, had said India would have no truck with the group. Subsequently the Indian government maintained the

Afghanistan Embassy at its own cost, until the Taliban was defeated in 2001, and Hamid Karzai took over as President.

During the 1996-2001 period, India had actively supported the Northern Alliance. India's Ambassador in Dushanbe Bharathraj Muthukumar coordinated funds, supplies for them, contacting Massoud through Amarullah Saleh (President Ashraf Ghani's Vice-President until a week ago), and is now a leader of the anti-Taliban resistance force regrouping in the Panjshir valley.

It is clear that many of the leading figures that have dominated the Afghan landscape still remain in significant positions today. What has changed, however, is the immediate reaction of global players to the Taliban's Kabul takeover nearly three decades on, even as India's position remains to be spelt out in the weeks and months ahead.

## Pune NGO Sarhad to help provide for 1,000 Afghan students in India

Group writes to PM, asks Centre to pick beneficiaries

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

With Afghanistan in turmoil following the Taliban takeover, the Pune-based NGO Sarhad, which works for students living in conflict zones, has said it would "adopt" 1,000 Afghan students till the situation stabilised in their country. Sarhad founder Sanjay Nahar said he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi regarding the matter.

**Centre's cooperation**

"While we have announced that we would be providing for the education, upkeep and livelihoods of 1,000 Afghan students, the task of selecting these students lies

with the Central government. Accordingly, we have written to the Prime Minister seeking permission and cooperation to expedite aid," Mr. Nahar said.

Since the Afghan issue is a politically sensitive one, the NGO could not select students without the Central government's permission, he said.

"Without the selection of students, the humanitarian work we want to undertake cannot materialise. We are not asking for any financial assistance from the Centre, but a change in policy," Mr. Nahar said while observing that the Afghan consulate in Mumbai had done little thus far to help its students. Sar-

had said that it would also be helping Afghan students facing visa problems.

**Money deposited**

Sarhad has begun depositing small sums of ₹5,000 and above into the accounts of students who are not being sponsored by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). The Sikh community will be providing the students with scholarships named after Guru Tegh Bahadur, Mr. Nahar said.

Of the estimated 5,000 Afghan students and nationals in the State, more than 1,300 are in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Less than 40% of them are sponsored by the ICCR.

## Afghan returnees to get polio vaccines

India is keen to retain its polio-free certification as cases are reported in the neighbouring countries

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry has decided to vaccinate returnees from Afghanistan with free polio vaccines as a preventive measure, tweeted Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday.

Providing details on why India is keen to vaccinate people returning from Afghanistan, a senior Health Ministry official explained that India received its "polio-free certification" along with the entire southeast Asia region on March 27, 2014. However, wild polio virus cases continue to be reported in neighbouring Pakistan and Afghanistan — the last two polio-endemic countries in



**Continuing battle:** A total of 34 polio cases were reported in Afghanistan, and 63 were reported in Pakistan in 2020.

the world.

"Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 2,00,000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world," the World Health Organiza-

tion (WHO) has noted.

"Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries where wild polio virus is circulating and vaccination of susceptible hosts and would die out. High levels of vaccination coverage have to be maintained to stop transmis-

sion and prevent outbreaks from occurring. Child vaccination drives, including polio campaigns, were halted in both Afghanistan and Pakistan in March 2020 to avoid the risk of COVID-19 transmission to children, caregivers, and the vaccinators themselves. According to UNICEF, polio immunisation campaigns were resumed in Afghanistan and Pakistan several months after COVID-19 left 50 million children without their polio vaccine.

**COVID disruptions**

The WHO has said that if enough people in a community are immunised, the virus would be deprived of susceptible hosts and would die out. High levels of vaccination coverage have to be maintained to stop transmis-

sion and prevent outbreaks from occurring.

As a result, 34 polio cases were reported in Afghanistan, and 63 in Pakistan, in 2020, including in some previously polio-free parts of the country, UNICEF said.

## 3 parliamentary committees visit J&K in 10 days

Amid growing demands for Statehood, Committee on Home Affairs wraps up six-day visit

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Amid growing demands for the restoration of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh have been visited by members of three parliamentary committees in the past 10 days.

These visits by parliamentary panels not only come two years after the bifurcation of J&K and the removal of its special status under Article 370, but barely two months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met 14 lead-

ers from J&K, including former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti, Farooq Abdullah and Ghulam Nabi Azad, in June.

And all three panels that visited J&K between August 14 and 22 are headed by leaders of the Congress that had opposed the manner in which the J&K's special status was abrogated.

Next month, the Standing Committee on Information Technology, headed by Shashi Tharoor, is likely to visit J&K.

On Sunday, the Parliam-

entary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by senior Congress leader Anand Sharma, wrapped up its six-day visit to the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.

Before the panel on Home Affairs, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) headed by the Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, too, visited Srinagar and Kargil in J&K, and Leh in Ladakh, to examine the issue of protective clothing for troops stationed at high altitudes. Members of

the PAC discussed various aspects of security by visiting the Srinagar-based 15 Corps and the Leh-based 14 Corps of the Indian Army. In fact, Mr. Chowdhury unfurled the Tricolour on August 15 at Kargil with Indian troops.

**Large interactions**

Another panel that visited Srinagar, Pahalgam and Gulmarg around the same time is the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, headed by the Congress's Partap Singh Bajwa, to study waste management, rejuvenation

of water bodies, and lending by banks to priority sectors.

However, the Parliamentary panel on Home had the largest number of interactions across three regions.

"We met a cross-section of people, including elected representatives, and Block Development and District Development Councils," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*.

Asked about the demand for early restoration of Statehood, Mr. Sharma said, "Our committee's report will reflect the views of the stakeholders."

## Vaccinated pilgrims can visit Kartarpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has decided to allow fully vaccinated Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur from next month with strict COVID-19 protocols, media reports said on Sunday.

The decision comes ahead of the 482nd death anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, on September 22.

On this occasion, rituals will be held over three days at the shrine beginning from September 20.

Pilgrimage to the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara was suspended in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The decision to reopen the shrine was taken by the National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) on Saturday due to the upcoming holy day.

## High-speed Net comes to a deep jungle

Long-distance Wi-Fi brings facility to tribal hamlets in Kerala's Nilambur

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA  
MALAPPURAM

The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), a Union government initiative for skill development in rural areas, has brought high-speed internet to some of the remotest tribal hamlets deep inside the Nilambur jungle in Kerala.

For the first time, the Palakkayam, Vettillakkolli and Ambumala tribal hamlets got high-speed internet, thanks to long-distance Wi-Fi technology. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) executive director Anwar Sadath, who visited the hamlets on Saturday, was jubilant about the 100-mbps internet.

The JSS's technical partner C4S provided support for the long-distance Wi-Fi on 5GHz frequency. With the help of five towers, 100-mbps internet is made available at Palakkayam, Ambumala, and Vettillakkolli ham-



**Jubilant mood:** Children of the Palakkayam tribal colony celebrating the arrival of high-speed internet. \*SAKEER HUSSAIN

lets in Chaliyar grama panchayat.

"In this technology, there is no loss of transmission. We have set up the servers in such a way to help a minimum of 250 users use the Net concurrently. And this can be easily boosted," said C4S director V.J. Thomas. He said using long-distance Wi-Fi technology, high-speed internet could be provided even up to 100 km without

any transmission loss.

While the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provided ₹5 lakh, the JSS chipped in ₹2.02 lakh. "The biggest advantage of this technology is its low cost," said V. Ummer Koya, JSS director.

The JSS will monitor the use of the internet through its own technology. "We have to have strict monitor-

ing, especially since the area has Maoist threat. The use of internet will be restricted strictly to the hamlets' residents," said Mr. Ummer Koya.

The base station has been set up at Indira Gandhi Memorial Residential Government School, Nilambur. From there, the internet provided by BSNL and Railnet will be transmitted to the tribal hamlets inside the jungle using long-distance Wi-Fi.

P.V. Abdul Wahab, MP and chairman of JSS, visited the hamlets along with District Collector K. Gopalakrishnan last week. Mr. Wahab said the technology could be utilised effectively for online interaction with the authorities, including the Collector. The three hamlets were covered in the first phase, and the facility would be extended to more tribal colonies in other parts of the forest, Mr. Wahab added.

**इंकाइस** **INCOIS**

**भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र**  
**Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**  
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईए), भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संगठन)  
(an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India)  
हैदराबाद/Hyderabad- 500090

भारत सरकार द्वारा 2021-26 के लिए परियोजना प्रस्तावों के अनुमोदन पर एक वर्ष के लिए नीचे उल्लेखित अस्थायी पदों के प्रति संविदा आधार पर भर्ती के लिए नामों का एक पैनाल तैयार करने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित है। Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for preparation of a panel of names for engagement on contract basis against the following temporary positions for one year upon approval of project proposals for 2021-26 by Government of India.

क्र.सं. Sl. No.	पद का नाम / Name of the position	आरक्षण/Reservation					पदों की संख्या No. of Posts	आयु Age
		अना UR	अजा SC	अजजा ST	अधिव OBC	ईडब्ल्यूएस EWS		
1.	परियोजना वैज्ञानिक III Project Scientist III	07	--	--	--	--	07	45
2.	परियोजना वैज्ञानिक II Project Scientist II	15	--	--	--	--	15	40
3.	परियोजना वैज्ञानिक I Project Scientist I	18	06	03	10	03	40	35
4.	परियोजना वैज्ञानिक सहायक II Project Scientific Assistant II	04	--	--	01	--	05	35
5.	परियोजना वैज्ञानिक सहायक I Project Scientific Assistant I	08	02	01	03	01	15	28

पदों की संख्या अस्थायी है एवं वास्तविक आवश्यकता एवं भारत सरकार के आदेश के आधार पर बदलने की संभावना है। पद, आरक्षण, समेकित वेतन, शैक्षणिक योग्यता, आयु, अनुभव एवं संविदा पदों की जिम्मेदारी, आवेदन के प्राहप और अन्य सामान्य शर्तों के बारे में विवरण 'भर्ती/Vacancies' के अंतर्गत इंकाइस/INCOIS वेबसाइट [www.incois.gov.in](http://www.incois.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
The number of positions is tentative and is likely to vary depending upon actual requirement and orders of Government of India. Details about the positions, reservation, consolidated emoluments, academic qualifications, age, experience, and responsibilities of the contract positions, format of application and other general conditions are available at INCOIS website [www.incois.gov.in](http://www.incois.gov.in) under 'Vacancies'.  
ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने के लिए अंतिम तिथि 22 सितंबर, 2021 है।  
Last Date for submission of Online application is September 22, 2021.

निदेशक, इंकाइस/ Director, INCOIS  
विज्ञान सं. इंकाइस/आरएमटी/03/2021  
Advt. No./INCOIS/RMT/03/2021

**SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SVPIMSR)**  
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Tender Invitation Date	23/08/2021
Pre-bid meeting	03/09/2021 @ 11.00 a.m.
Venue For Pre Bid Meeting	Conference Room, First Floor, Admin Office, Utility Building, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006
Tender Closing Date	14/09/2021
Published by	AMC Medical Education Trust

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# India signs deal for 70,000 assault rifles

Move for off-the-shelf buys comes amid delays in joint manufacturing of rifles, helicopters with Russia

DINAKAR PERI  
MOSCOW

With repeated delays in deals for the procurement of AK-203 assault rifles and Kamov-226 utility helicopters from Russia, India has signed a deal for 70,000 AK-203 assault rifles to be procured off the shelf, while the Army is also looking at procuring a limited number of helicopters the same way to meet an immediate shortage of light utility helicopters. Meanwhile, Russia has carried out upgrades of the Ka-226T helicopter on offer, according to officials.



**New features:** Russia has carried out upgrades to the Ka-226T helicopter on offer, officials say. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The deal for the 70,000 rifles has been signed, but the first payment is yet to be made. The deliveries would begin within three months once the first payment is made and be completed in

six months," officials from India and Russia confirmed. On the Ka-226T "Climber", as the upgraded version is referred to, an official from Russian Helicopters said the redesigned helicopter had improved flight and technical characteristics.

The Army is looking at procuring over 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles and the two countries had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) in February 2019, following which a joint venture (JV) — Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL)

— was set up at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh for manufacturing the rifles.

The JV is between the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) from the Indian side and Rosoboron Exports and Kalashnikov on the Russian side. The Army had also appointed a Major General as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IRRPL to ensure timely execution and deliveries.

The Defence Ministry had already floated a Request For Proposal (RFP) to the JV for the supply of 6.71 lakh rifles, but the final deal had been held up over the high cost quoted.

There are two major changes in the Ka-226T helicopter, which include a change in the hull from composites to aluminium and a change in avionics, apart

from several minor upgrades, said Vasily Grydin, deputy head of the commercial department, Ulan-Ude Aviation plant of Russian Helicopters, at the Army 2021 expo that began on Sunday.

In 2015, India and Russia had concluded an IGA for at least 200 Ka-226T twin-engine utility helicopters estimated to cost over \$1 billion.

Sixty helicopters were to be directly imported and the remaining 140 manufactured locally by a JV, India Russia Helicopters Limited, set up between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russian Helicopters.

However, the deal had been held up over the percentage of indigenous content, which as per the RFP, should reach 70% in phases.

# I&B Ministry to mark India's 75th Independence Day

Week-long programmes lined up for students, embassies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Anurag Thakur will be launching a week-long set of activities around the theme of India's 75th Independence Day, or *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, in India and at its embassies abroad between August 23 and 29, including film shows, quizzes, dramas and skits, and the launch of an e-book, *Making of the Constitution*.

An official statement from the Ministry said the screening of "iconic films" would be a special feature of the week-long set of events, which would be broadcast on the network of the na-



Anurag Thakur

tional broadcaster, Doordarshan.

**Popular movies**

Documentaries like *Netaji* and *The Merger of Princely States* as well as popular movies on the general theme of patriotism like *Raazi* would be screened.

The All India Radio would be pitching in by broadcasting old recordings of speeches by leaders of the freedom movement and of women leaders of the past.

The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) would also be organising a film festival on its OTT (over-the-top) platform, [www.cinemasofindia.com](http://www.cinemasofindia.com), and an online interaction session for film students and even Indian embassies abroad.

The aim of the films and street plays by the Bureau of Outreach and Communications would be to engage Indians on the issues of patriotism and India's journey so far.

# Malabar war games to begin on Thursday

Quad nations to hold drills off Guam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Quad countries — India, the U.S., Australia and Japan — will carry out the next edition of the Malabar naval exercise from August 26 to 29 off the coast of Guam amid mounting global concerns over China's growing military muscle-flexing in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indian stealth frigate *INS Shivalik* and anti-submarine warfare corvette *INS Kadmat* arrived in Guam, an island territory of the U.S. in the Western Pacific, on Saturday to take part in the exercise that would feature complex drills, Indian Navy officials said on Sunday.

"The Malabar-21 will witness high-tempo exercises among destroyers, frigates, corvettes, submarines, helicopters and long-range maritime patrol aircraft of the participating navies," Navy

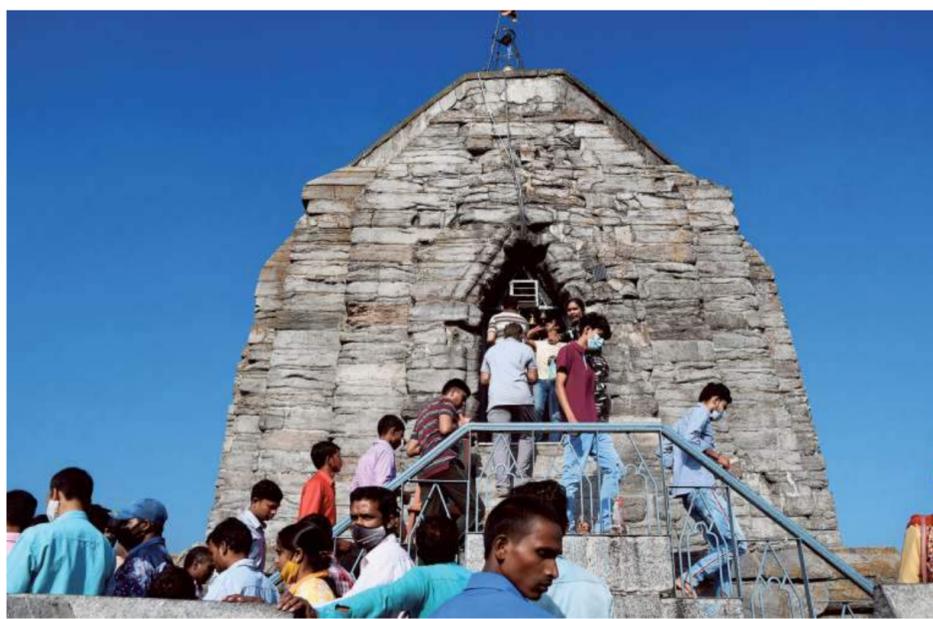
spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

**Expanding ties**

The exercise is taking place in the midst of growing convergence of interests in the maritime domain as well as military cooperation among the Quad nations in the face of China's increasing assertiveness. Though the exercise is not part of the framework of cooperation under Quad, it is seen as a reflection of the increasing partnership among the four countries. Senior officials from the Quad nations held talks on August 12 on advancing practical cooperation to achieve the goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

China has been suspicious about the purpose of the exercise as it feels that the annual war game is an effort to contain its influence in the Indo-Pacific.

# Seeking blessings



**Matter of faith:** Devotees at the Shankaracharya temple atop a hillock, which is locally known as Takht-e-Sulaiman, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan in Srinagar on Sunday. ■NISSAR AHMAD

# Meghalaya police play down letter on rifles

The unsigned letter said three police rifles were tossed into a river in Shillong

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya police have played down an anonymous letter claiming that three INSAS rifles snatched from the police by masked teenagers on August 15 were thrown into a river flowing through Shillong, the State capital.

Shillong had descended into chaos as officials observed the country's 75th Independence Day.

The trigger that day was the funeral of former extremist leader Cheristerfield Thangkiew, who was allegedly killed in a fake encoun-

ter at his residence in the city's Mawlai area on August 13.

**'Taken from teenagers'**

The unsigned letter sent to the headman of Mawlai area, with a copy sent to the Superintendent of Police (SP), East Khasi Hills district, on August 20 claimed that the three rifles were taken from the teenagers and tossed into Wahumkhrar river from a bridge that goes across it.

"My friends and I came across a few youth carrying the weapons in the Lawmali area. We took the rifles from

them after learning they were snatched from the police and threw the weapons into Wahumkhrar from the Umpohliw Bridge. This was done for the safety of the teenagers," the unsigned letter read.

**'Search is on'**

East Khasi Hills SP Sylvester Nongtnger made light of the letter.

"Anyone can write an unsigned letter like that," Mr. Nongtnger said, adding that his team was searching for the missing weapons.

Three police officers from

the Mawlai Mawynroh outpost, who fled into a nearby forest after being attacked by a mob, were suspended for losing their rifles.

The State government is initiating an inquiry against them.

The miscreants who snatched the weapons also hijacked and vandalised an SUV in which some police officers were travelling. They drove the vehicle across the city before torching it.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma appealed to the unidentified rifle-snatchers to return the weapons.

# Webinar to be organised on public policy and its prospects

Meeting will be suitable for school students, graduates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The School of Public Policy, MIT World Peace University, Pune, and *The Hindu Education Plus* bring to you a webinar on 'Understanding public policy and its career prospects' on Thursday at 4.30 p.m.

The webinar will be suitable for school students, graduates and postgraduates interested in pursuing courses in public policy, and for government servants.



Panellists include retired IAS officer Mahesh Zagade; Rajya Sabha MP, economist, educationist and author Na-

rendra Jadhav; and senior director, MIT World Peace University and adviser, KPMG, Ravindranath Patil. The session will be moderated by R. Sujatha, Deputy Editor, *The Hindu*.

To register visit: <https://bit.ly/THPUB> or scan the QR code.



# 3 shot dead as police foil bid to rob bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Assam police on Sunday gunned down three persons who allegedly tried to loot a bank in western Kokrajhar district. Three others managed to escape, the police said.

An official said the "dacoits" opened fire on the police. Three men, injured in retaliatory fire by the police, succumbed to their wounds, he added. The police said a six-member gang had come to loot a branch of the Allahabad Bank in Chengmari.

Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online. @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

**TH CROSSWORD + 1333**  
(set by Avtaar)

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

- **ACROSS**
- 1 A worker's final remuneration including raise midway is frozen (6)
  - 5 Of late, Bill never hangs around with son (8)
  - 9 Say, King John's Hospital mess — in disarray? (8)
  - 10 Record everyone's memory (6)
  - 11 Hot, grilled, basic meals for highway (12)
  - 13 Swim, say, in river Beas (4)
- **DOWN**
- 2 In India, his time is not good, for starters (4)
  - 3 Experimental equipment ends up in English river (4,5)
  - 4 Big bosses have a thousand small roles to play (6)
  - 5 Unable to focus on components I'm starting to solder imperfectly (3,6,6)
  - 6 Hangman, say, in brawl about lady locking up girl (4,4)
  - 7 Meet date on the way up for coffee (5)
  - 8 British nanny, leaving North America returned amidst Christmas with brother... finally to become a leading actor (3,7)
  - 12 New embroidered apron kicked by playful Doberman pinscher getting soiled (10)
  - 15 It makes locks secure, perhaps? (5,4)
  - 16 Onscreen text that is suggestive about sex (8)
  - 19 Somewhat behind in math, Sita longs to move up (6)
  - 21 Avtaar wound up in a coastal metropolis (5)
  - 22 Combat training centre's after-party scrap? Time to go (4)
- The 23 Down clue in TH 13332 by Hypatia (published on Saturday, August 21) was missing the reversal indicator 'rising'. Visit [crossword.thehindu.com](https://crossword.thehindu.com) to enjoy the full emended puzzle!

# SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13332**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

# FAITH

## Vyasa's contribution

The Vedas are indeed infinite. The saying "Anantho Vai Vedaha" only indicates their limitless nature in terms of content and form. Just as the natural laws in creation have always been in place and no one can take credit for inventing them, the Vedas have always been in existence since time immemorial. They are held to be apaurusheya, meaning not made by any person. They are believed to be the very breath of the Supreme Brahman. Their greatness lies in their teachings that benefit humanity. In them man can find the ways and means to attain whatever worldly goals he desires and above all, the way to seek the ultimate goal, salvation.

In a discourse, Sri B. Sundarkumar drew attention to the fact that Vyasa, whose original name is Krishna Dvaipayana, came to be known as Veda Vyasa owing to his role in arranging and classifying the Vedas into a comprehensive format. Vyasa was born in the beginning of Dwapara Yuga due to divine Sankalpa. Foreseeing that in Kali Yuga people will be short lived and their grasping power much reduced, he was concerned that they should not miss out on the benefits of the Vedas. But the Vedas were unwieldy as a huge mountain. So he divided them into four sections, the Rg, Sama, Yajur and Atharvana Vedas. Each of them is self contained. Vyasa taught the Rg Veda to Pylar, the Yajur to Vaisampayana, the Sama to Jaimini, and the Atharvana to Sumantu.

There is a difference between invention and discovery. Vyasa did not invent or create the Vedas. But he discovered their import and usefulness for mankind. So he organised and presented the same in simpler form. This is similar to the way in which for instance, man has tried to discover and understand the natural law of gravity and through effort and research has brought out the useful air plane

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INTERVIEW | ANDREW SMALL

# 'China will not get drawn into a serious security role in Afghanistan'

Beijing's economic engagement will likely remain calibrated, ultimately depending on whether the new regime can gain international legitimacy, he says

ANANTH KRISHNAN

How is China likely to deal with the Taliban? Despite Beijing's early positive signalling that it "stands ready" to work with the yet-to-be-formed new government in Kabul and its open celebration of the manner of the U.S. exit, there remain deep apprehensions in China about the Taliban and its links to jihadist groups. With an "obsessive focus" in Beijing on Afghanistan being "a graveyard of empires", China will not get drawn into a serious security role and its economic engagement will likely remain calibrated, ultimately depending on whether the new regime can gain international legitimacy, says Andrew Small, senior transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund and author of *The China Pakistan Axis*. Edited excerpts:

China said shortly after the Taliban takeover, that it "stands ready" to work with Afghanistan. What have you made of China's response so far to the events in Kabul?

You already had these signals being given, particularly with the meeting that took place in July between Mullah Baradar and Wang Yi which was this unusually well-plu-

blicised interaction between the two sides. China has been preparing for a change-over here in a way that is more serious than had been the case in the preceding period. They've had this long-standing relationship with the Taliban and were one of the few actors to deal with them, even in exile in Pakistan. They want to have a benign relationship with the

Taliban. This is something that at this stage they can offer - just this kind of diplomatic signalling for the moment. I don't think it changes a lot of the apprehensions that are there, but it's indicative, particularly keeping the Chinese Embassy in Kabul open in the manner that they did, that they have a certain level of confidence in the way that some of these early dynamics with them will be handled.

Some of those apprehensions have in the past dominated how China looks at dealing with the Taliban, specifically its links to jihadist groups active in China's Xinjiang region. Do those concerns still very much remain?

They do. Certainly you have seen this well-prepared propaganda operation on the



**Afghanistan could be used as strategic depth for the Pakistani Taliban, and that would have implications for Chinese investments and security interests in the country**

Chinese side to make the most of the U.S. withdrawal and try to use this to indicate this should be treated as a signal to other U.S. allies.

They've been preparing for the U.S. withdrawal for some time. I don't think they had anticipated it would be conducted in such a disastrous manner. So there's a certain amount of additional hay that they can make with this, but they didn't want to see this happen. That's very clear. They did not want to see the U.S. withdraw in advance of some kind of a political settlement in Afghanistan. They wanted to see the Taliban somewhat constrained by the need to reach political agreement with other parties in Afghanistan and to some extent being a little bit more beholden to other international actors as well. The concern now is they're taking power in a maximally emboldened fashion.

Those concerns that were there all the way back to the late 1990s have not gone away - about Uighur fighters

operating in territory that the Taliban control, that there's a permissive environment for them. If you look at the groups that directly threatened China - not so much the Chinese mainland or Xinjiang itself but particularly soft Chinese targets in the rest of the region - you have the TTP, the Pakistani Taliban, that have conducted operations against Chinese targets. If you have seen the recent developments with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (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. They are concerned that effectively, Afghanistan could be used as strategic depth for the Pakistani Taliban, and that would have implications for their investments and security interests

in the country. The attack that we saw a few weeks ago in Dasu [on July 14 in which 9 Chinese were killed] was probably the largest loss of life you've seen in a terrorist attack on Chinese personnel in Pakistan, full stop.

**Do you think China's approach to Afghanistan will broadly be more of the same, where they are likely to be mainly only involved in economic projects? Chinese experts in the press have been saying China isn't going to in a big way fill in any security vacuum. Do you expect continuity or any dramatic change?**

On the security front, there is an obsessive focus on the Chinese side on "the graveyard of empires", that this is a strategic trap. They do not want to be drawn, sucked into a serious securi-

ty role in the country. So I would see very little change on that front, aside from going into the details on some of the counterterrorism activities, such as what the Chinese were conducting in Badkhashan [which borders Xinjiang] and things like that. I think anything broader would be extremely limited. They will be extremely wary of that.

The question on the economic side is, what kind of economic involvement would China want? I think China sees this as stability first, investment later. With the Belt and Road, how comfortable is China really going to be with putting in place an expanded set of infrastructure connections, when they're very worried about this becoming a militant hub in the region? (Read the full interview at <https://bit.ly/ChinaonAfghan>)

## American airlines to aid Afghan evacuation

Eighteen civilian aircraft set to join dozens of military cargo transports involved in the exit process

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Sunday enlisted several major airlines in its frantic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans, Americans and other foreigners from Kabul following its fall to Taliban extremists.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin enacted the rarely used Civil Reserve Air Fleet to order several airlines to help ease the bottleneck of people arriving from Kabul at US bases in the West Asia, the Pentagon said.

About 25,100 people have been evacuated by the U.S. since August 14 but tens of thousands more remain in



**Rush hour:** British armed forces working with the U.S. military in Kabul to evacuate people from the country. - GETTY IMAGES

need of rescue by U.S. alone. "We're going to try our very best to get everybody, every American citizen who wants to get out, out," Mr.

Austin said. Eighteen civilian craft, from American Airlines, Atlas, Delta, Omni, Hawaiian and United, will aid dozens

**'Massoud says he will not surrender to Taliban'**

DUBAI

The son of Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was a main leader of Afghanistan's anti-Soviet resistance in the 1980s, said he will not surrender areas to the Taliban, Dubai-based al-Arabiya channel cited him as saying. He called for a "comprehensive government to rule the country with the participation of the Taliban". REUTERS

of military cargo transports involved in the evacuation, the statement said.

Rather than going in and out of Kabul, the planes will

**Hundreds of fighters on way to Panjshir: Taliban**

DUBAI

The Taliban said on Sunday that "hundreds" of fighters were heading to the Panjshir Valley, one of the few parts of Afghanistan not yet controlled by the group. "Hundreds of Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate are heading towards the Panjshir to control it, after local officials refused to hand it over peacefully," the group wrote on Twitter. AFP

transport people from U.S. bases in Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to European countries and, for many, onward to the U.S.

## Seven people killed in crowd crush outside Kabul airport

Taliban fired in the air to maintain order, say witnesses

REUTERS  
KABUL

The Taliban fired in the air and used batons to make people line up in orderly queues outside Kabul airport on Sunday, witnesses said, a day after seven people were killed in a crush at the gates.

On Sunday, there were no major injuries as gunmen beat back the crowds and long lines of people were being formed, the witnesses said.

Britain's Defence Ministry said seven Afghans were

killed in the crush around the airport on Saturday as thousands of people desperately tried to get a flight out, a week after the Islamist militant group took control of the country.

Sky News showed footage of soldiers standing on a wall on Saturday attempting to pull the injured out from the crush and spraying people with a hose to prevent them from getting dehydrated.

"Conditions on the ground remain extremely challenging but we are doing everything we can to man-

age the situation as safely and securely as possible," the ministry said in a statement.

A NATO official said that at least 20 people have died in the past seven days in and around the airport. Some were shot and others died in stampedes, witnesses have said.

A Taliban member said on Sunday that "we are seeking complete clarity on foreign forces' exit plan."

"Managing chaos outside Kabul airport is a complex task," the member said.

## Amid Afghan debacle, Harris begins Asia trip

'We have commitment to the region'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SINGAPORE

U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris began a trip to Asia on Sunday where she will offer reassurances of Washington's commitment to the region after the chaotic U.S. pullout from Afghanistan and Taliban takeover.

The hardline Islamists' swift return to power a week ago, and desperate scenes of thousands trying to flee, have cast another shadow over the U.S.' status as a global superpower.

But on her visit, Ms. Harris will seek to allay concerns about U.S. dependability.

"The Vice-President will make clear throughout the trip that we do have an enduring commitment to the region," said a senior U.S. official.

Ms. Harris landed in Sin-



Kamala Harris

gapore on Sunday.

The crisis has prompted comparisons with the trauma of 1975 Saigon, when U.S. helicopters ferried final evacuees from the Embassy roof, as Viet Cong troops advanced.

U.S. officials say the trip was planned long before the Afghan debacle, however - and insist Ms. Harris is focused on Washington's broader strategic goals in Asia.

## Israel strikes Gaza after clashes along border

'13 Palestinians injured in gunfire'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM

Israel's military bombed Palestinian militant weapons sites in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in response to a violent demonstration on the perimeter fence that left an Israeli police officer critically injured, the Army said.

Saturday's violence erupted after hundreds of Palestinians took part in a demonstration organised by Gaza's Hamas rulers to draw attention to the Israeli-Egyptian blockade of the territory. The demonstration grew violent after dozens of people approached the fortified border fence and threw rocks and explosives toward Israeli soldiers from behind a black smoke screen billowing from burning tires.

At least 24 Palestinians, including a 13-year-old, were injured by Israeli gun-

fire, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

An Israeli Border Police officer was shot and critically injured.

The Army said in a statement that in response to the violent demonstrations, fighter planes hit "four weapons and storage manufacturing sites" belonging to Gaza's Hamas rulers, and that the military deployed additional troops to the region near the border with the Palestinian enclave. There were no immediate reports of injuries in the airstrikes.

Addressing the Cabinet on Sunday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said that Israel "will settle the score with those who harm our soldiers and Israeli civilians," adding that the military is "ready for any scenario."

ELSEWHERE



**Japan, Iran discuss de-escalation of tensions**

TEHRAN

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met on Sunday Japan's Foreign Minister in Tehran. Toshimitsu Motegi's visit is aimed at boosting bilateral ties and furthering efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region, Iranian news agencies reported. REUTERS

**At least 10 killed in U.S. flash floods**

TENNESSEE

Catastrophic flooding in Middle Tennessee left at least ten people dead and dozens missing on Saturday as record-shattering rainfall washed away homes, vehicles and rural roads, officials said. More than 30 people are missing, Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis said. AP

## Myanmar junta's crackdown on journalists continues, two held

Both have been held incommunicado, says RSF

REUTERS  
NAYPYIDAW

Myanmar's military government has arrested two more local journalists, Army-owned television reported on Saturday, the latest among dozens of detentions in a sweeping crackdown on the media since a February 1 coup.

Sithu Aung Myint, a columnist for news site Frontier Myanmar and commentator with Voice of America radio, and Htet Htet Khine, a freelance producer for BBC Media Action, were arrested on August 15, Myawaddy TV reported.

Mr. Sithu Aung Myint was charged with sedition and spreading false information that Myawaddy said was crit-

ical of the junta and had urged people to join strikes and back outlawed opposition groups.

Htet Htet Khine was accused of harbouring Sithu Aung Myint, a criminal suspect, and working for and supporting a shadow National Unity Government.

BBC Media Action said in a statement it was concerned about Ms. Htet Htet Khine's safety and the charges against her, and was closely monitoring the situation.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said the pair were being held incommunicado.

"We strongly condemn the arbitrary conditions of their detention, which reflect the brutality with

which the military junta treats journalists," said its Asia-Pacific desk head Daniel Bastard.

Myanmar remains fraught with instability and opposition to army rule, under which more than 1,000 people have been killed, according to an activist group that has tracked killings by security forces.

The military, which has revoked the licences of many news outlets, says it respects the role of media but will not allow news reporting it deems false or likely to create public unrest.

A report by the Committee to Protect Journalists last month said the junta had effectively criminalised independent journalism.

THE HINDU GROUP

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ASK US

**Q. I am 85 and a retired engineer. I do not draw any pension. Based on the advice given in your article titled 'Where there is a will, I have prepared a hand-written, plain-paper will. The following are my doubts: 1) Do I need to get it signed by one or more witnesses? 2) If so, can my wife be a witness?**

K.R. VASUDEVAN

**Gaurav Mashruwala replies:** Two witnesses are required for any kind of will. There is no restriction on who can be the witness but as a good practice, refrain from having any beneficiary as a witness. Registering a will is optional. But a registered will always have more weightage.

(Gaurav Mashruwala is a financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

**Q. I am a pensioner. I couldn't attach my insurance document during 2020-2021 for claiming deduction under 80D. 1) Can I attach the same during 2021-2022 so as to claim deduction under section 80D? 2) I have a fixed deposit for ₹15 lakh under the senior citizens savings scheme for 5 years. Can I deduct ₹1.5 lakh from income under 80C for the whole tenure of 5 years?**

SEBASTIAN THOMAS

**N. Sree Kanth replies:** Deduction under Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can be claimed only in the assessment year during which the premium towards the health insurance is paid. You cannot claim in FY22 for the health insurance paid in FY21. Deduction towards senior citizens savings scheme is restricted to the limits provided under Section 80CCE. The limit is ₹1.5 lakh. You cannot claim the deduction towards any investment made in a particular previous year in excess of the limits prescribed during the tenure of the investment in the forthcoming assessment years.

**Q. I opted for the old tax regime for the purpose of TDS in salary. Is there any possibility to switch to the new tax regime at the time of filing returns? I have also received arrears of salary for three years from 2017 to 2020 but I failed to file ITR for two years; I have filed only for 2019 to 2020. I am seeking relaxation under Section 89(1) Form 10E. Are I-T returns for all the 3 years mandatory to claim sec 89(1)? I have Form16s for the above two years. Is relief under sec 89(1) possible under the new tax regime?**

A. MATHIVANAN

**A. 1)** CBDT has clarified that intimation to employer with respect to opting of new / old regime is for the purpose of deduction of TDS only. At the end of the year, you may choose to opt for tax rates under the new or old regime whichever is advantageous to you. You may file your ITR accordingly and claim refund of the excess deduction.

**2)** You are to file Form 10E in order to claim relief under Section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 prior to filing the ITR of the AY in which the relief is being claimed. There is no provision that the ITRs of the assessment years pertaining to the arrears salary ought to have been filed in order to claim relief in this AY.

**3)** Relief under Section 89(1) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is allowed under the new tax regime as well.

**Q. My mother is 87. She has two sons and a daughter. My brother is a U.S. citizen. My mother has property in Hyderabad and Bengaluru in her name. Can she transfer the property in my brother's name and if so, what will the tax implication be?**

S. MURTHY

**A.** Your mother may settle the properties in the name of her children by entering into a settlement deed and by paying the requisite stamp duty. The method of transfer will be the same for both resident and non-resident children. There is no income tax implication at this stage. Income tax is attracted only when the children further transfer the property to persons who are not relatives as defined in the Income Tax Act, 1961.

**Q. I am a PSU employee with two houses in my name and I do delivery trades in shares with STCG and LTCC. Kindly suggest a suitable ITR form for me.**

AJAY

**A.** ITR 2 is to be filed by you as you have salary income, two house properties and capital gains.

**Q. I am a senior citizen. I purchased a money-back insurance policy favouring my daughter. As per terms of the policy, I am the policyholder and my daughter is the insured person. The insurance premium is paid by me from my source. I request you to clarify: 1) Can my daughter claim relief under Sec.80C even though the premium is paid by me and I am not claiming the relief? 2) Being a money-back policy, the interim amount due, as per terms of policy, was credited to my account. Is the payout taxable in my hands? If yes, can I shift the tax liability to her through the premium is being paid by me?**

V. AYYAPPAN

**A. 1)** Section 80C deduction benefits can be claimed only by the assessee who invests / pays / incurs the eligible investments / expenses and such investments / expenses are to be in accordance with the conditions laid out in the provision in order to claim the deduction. The benefit cannot be transferred to any other assessee from one assessee.

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

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

# How to spot a POTENTIAL BUBBLE

Bubbles occur when assets become artificially expensive, driven by misconception

BALAJI G.R.

"It's not supposed to be easy. Anyone who finds it easy is stupid" – Charlie Munger Having set the context for this article, let's start with a simple definition of a 'bubble.'

Bubbles occur when assets become artificially expensive, driven by a false belief known as a misconception.

There are identifiers that might help us spot potential, irrational exuberance in the market. Here are seven of them:

### Entry of new investors

About 1.42 crore new demat accounts were added in FY21, which is about threefold more than that seen in FY20.

The average age of new investors is trending lower, and the mix is getting skewed towards tier 2 and 3 locations. This indicates that new investors with limited experience are entering the market. Most of them have experienced only a one-way upward rally in the last 15 months. In the short term, the market is like a pendulum – we need to watch the behaviour of the new investors during a downturn to understand the sustainability of retail participation.

### Leverage play

Clients are willing to take on more leverage to benefit from the rally. (Leverage refers to the act of borrowing money to speculate in the market; this is

**A rush of new investors, large IPOs, leveraged stock trading and sudden valuation spurts may indicate signs of an overheated market**

generally funded by the broker or by an NBFC). Most of the broking houses' margin-funding book has doubled in the last year.

Leverage is a double-edged sword. In good times, leverage magnifies the return and during a downturn, which is generally inevitable, it takes away a lot of capital earned when the market was rising.

Unless used wisely, leverage does more harm than good to investors, especially if they approach investments as speculators and not long-term investors.

### High risk appetite

Raising money without difficulty is one of the biggest signs of market sentiment as investor risk appetite at this juncture is very high.

Investors are willing to allocate more capital than they would otherwise, towards asset classes which have done exceedingly well in recent times.

Record collection by new funds, grey market premium (GMP) and large IPO subscription (bids exceeding 100 times the quantum up for off-

er) are testimony to this sentiment.

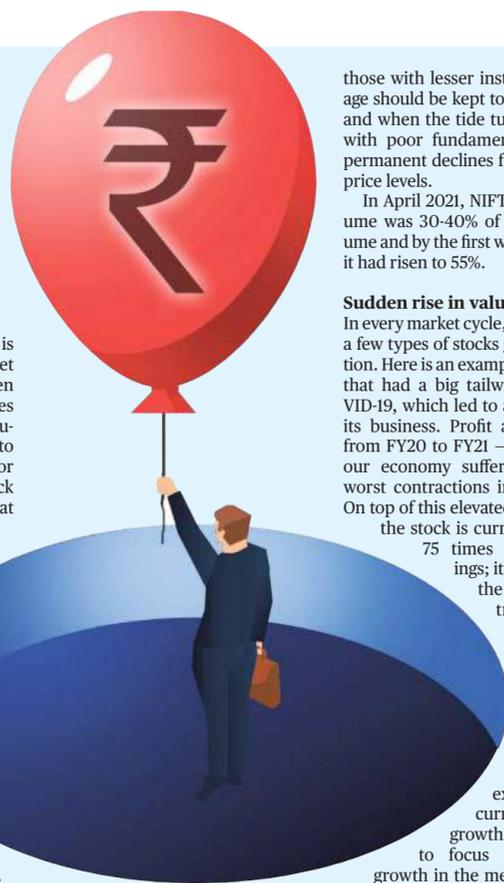
### Big-ticket IPOs

One more sign of a potential bubble is large IPOs starting to hit the market and getting oversubscribed. When IPOs of new, loss-making companies are subscribed with a lot of enthusiasm, most of the investors tend to sell their long-term wealth creator stocks to participate in new stock ideas which get all the attention at that point of time.

As investors, we need to remember the base rate of success while making investment decisions in new age start-ups. In high probability, few of these companies might become wealth creators in the future. That all the new-age companies are going to perform like Amazon or Netflix is a big assumption to make and only long-term evidence can support such a strong narrative.

### Predictive power

Another sign of market exuberance is to check the degree of confidence among market participants on future prediction. Past projections on market-earning estimates can be very optimistic but reality turns out to be bleak for many reasons. For example, for the year 2020, NIFTY EPS estimate was ₹650 plus when it was initially projected during 2019. The actual EPS turned out to be ₹453.



\*GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK. IMAGING: J.A. PREMKUMAR

those with lesser institutional coverage should be kept to a minimum. As and when the tide turns, companies with poor fundamentals might see permanent declines from the current price levels.

In April 2021, NIFTY Smallcap volume was 30-40% of NIFTY 100 volume and by the first week of July 2021, it had risen to 55%.

### Sudden rise in valuations

In every market cycle, a few sectors or a few types of stocks get all the attention. Here is an example of a company that had a big tailwind due to COVID-19, which led to a sharp jump in its business. Profit almost doubled from FY20 to FY21 – a period when our economy suffered one of the worst contractions in our lifetimes. On top of this elevated earnings base, the stock is currently trading at 75 times reported earnings; it used to trade in the range of 20-25 trailing 12 months' price-to-earnings ratio, as observed in the past.

As investors, our job is to not get too excited about the current earnings growth alone. We need to focus on sustainable growth in the medium term and avoid overpaying in order to improve our margin of safety.

As investors, we do not have the ability to predict the future but what we can do is to look for all the evidence around us dispassionately before taking decisions. Protecting the downside risk is one of our primary jobs in addition to generating sustainable long-term returns.

(The author is head of research and co-fund manager at iThought Financial Consulting)

## COVER NOTE: QUICK AND SIMPLE

# Insurance at the speed of light

A slew of products and 'insurtech' have made the process of buying a plan as well as claims settlement easier and faster

K. NITYA KALYANI

The process of buying an insurance policy is unrecognisable today compared to two decades ago. Competition and a flood of products and options have combined with the galloping awareness and needs of the insuring public. Insurtech, or technology in insurance, has stepped in to reduce much of the friction in buying insurance or getting claims.

Contrast this to the early days of life insurance when underwriters met every six months to consider the handful of life insurance proposals received and to determine whether to write the risk or not! Timely premium collections and claims payments were always a challenge in the offline world. But, no more.

In India, by the early nineties, credit cards had become commonplace and Internet banking entered the scene by the late nineties. In 2001, The Insurance Act, 1938 was amended to allow various methods of payment of premium, including credit card and Internet banking.

### Mobile app payments

What technology offered was a gotsend in times of crises. If

demonetisation saw us paying our household staff through Internet banking, the pandemic pushed almost all purchase and payment to mobile apps.

In the last 20 years, almost the entire process of buying insurance has gone digital. The way I bought my policy last week is a case in point. Filled a proposal form online, fulfilled know-your-customer (KYC) formalities digitally and paid using an app on my phone. Almost instantaneously

I could download the policy complete with electronic signature. What is more, all my policies can be stored in an e-insurance account for easy retrieval and transaction. The e-insurance account also eases renewals with KYC and other compliances.

Yet, some physical processes will always be involved because we live in a physical world. So, a medical evaluation or a vehicle inspection before issuing a policy may be needed, as will similar formalities for paying claims, even if cashless.

Buying insurance begins best online with the research based

**Fast paced:** With the increasing pace of digitalisation, the insurance process has garnered speed. \*GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

on your unique awareness of your needs and constraints. Product information and premium calculators on insurance-company websites should be your stop in this journey.

On the websites of insurance brokers and web-aggregators, you can go one step ahead and do comparison shopping, deciding between insurance policy options on coverage and other terms, including premium and zeroing in on the company to buy from.

You can buy most policies on company or intermediary websites by filling in the proposal form and uploading supporting documents such as KYC or vehicle papers.

There are advantages in sticking to an insurance company you have earlier policies with. On the other hand, going to an aggregator opens up your options on policies and also

future purchases as you build up a new relationship.

Payment for a policy is the easiest bit, and straightforward renewals are only easier. If you need enhancement of coverage or changes in the policy, budget the time and effort for these to get processed in time to meet your renewal deadline. The offline processes, if any, will be facilitated by the company representative.

The e-insurance account earlier makes renewals way more easy. Not only do they add to the swell of your SMS or email inbox with reminders to renew and sometimes offers, they provide their own payment mechanism as well.

A word about renewals links. This is where you go to make pay-



ments. Exercise caution to ensure that you are visiting an authentic link.

Look for safety certification on the website where you intend to pay, like the 'https' protocol on the payment site / page. For absolute safety, instead of clicking on renewal payment links, type out the URL of the site yourself.

Many good products don't catch up that fast. One such is the e-insurance account mentioned earlier. A digital account carrying all your insurance policies is such a convenience in a world of characteristic hyper-mobility of the working-age population earlier or the contrasting work-from-home 'hyper-immobility' in recent times!

This is one account worth signing up for and my surmise is that it isn't popular because it is free!

It is not just buying insurance and paying for it that has gone digital. Cashless claims, introduced in the early 2000s, have stepped up convenience of health insurance immensely.

Cashless claims are available for motor insurance too with insurance company-affiliated network garages, usually vehicle-dealer workshops. This has eased the many headaches of the process of estimating

the damage and repair costs and ensures you get authentic spares and service, plus a much faster return of your vehicle with damages fixed.

### 'Invisible process'

The cashless process is mostly invisible to the insured. In the case of a health insurance claim, the hospital deals with the service provider of the insurance company (the third-party administrator or the TPA) for the documentation and the payment. We can all remember times when these were more painful than the health condition itself!

Remember, the hospital has to give you information about what you are being charged under various heads for your cashless claim. This is so that you can verify that you are not being double-billed for the same expenses.

Pre-approval of claims has added to the ease of the insured and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has even mandated that COVID-related claims should be pre-approved in 60 minutes!

That, if anything, qualifies as insurance at the speed of light! (The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Home Loan Interest Rates			
Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>			
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60	6.65-7.60
State Bank of India	6.70-7.50	6.95-7.65	7.05-7.75
Bank of Baroda	6.75-8.35	6.75-8.35	6.75-8.60
Union Bank of India	6.80-7.60	6.90-7.65	6.90-7.65
Punjab National Bank	6.80-7.75	6.80-7.90	6.80-8.00
Central Bank of India	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30	6.85-7.30
Bank of India	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35	6.85-8.35
Canara Bank	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90	6.90-8.90
UCO Bank	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00	6.90-7.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.90-8.05	6.90-8.40	6.90-8.40
IDBI Bank*	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05	6.95-10.05
Indian Bank**	6.80-7.30	6.80-7.30	6.90-7.40
Indian Overseas Bank	7.05	7.15	7.30
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>			
Kotak Mahindra Bank ^	6.65-7.20	6.65-7.20	6.65-7.20
ICICI Bank ^^	6.75-7.30	6.75-7.45	7.10-7.55
Axis Bank	6.90-11.50	6.90-11.50	6.90-8.55
HSBC Bank^^^	7.20-7.75	7.20-7.75	7.20-7.75
South Indian Bank	7.25-10.00	7.25-10.00	7.25-10.00
Karur Vysya Bank	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35	7.15-9.35
Karnataka Bank	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.85
Federal Bank	7.65-7.70	7.70-7.75	7.75-7.80
Dhanlaxmi Bank	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00	7.85-9.00
<b>TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK</b>			
	8.25	8.25	8.25
Bandhan Bank	8.50-11.75	8.50-11.25	8.75-11.25
RBL Bank	10.20-12.80	10.20-10.70	9.50-10.00
<b>HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCS)</b>			
LIC Housing	6.66-7.85	6.66-8.05	6.90-8.05
HDFC Ltd.***	6.75-7.45	7.00-7.70	7.10-7.80
Bajaj Finserv	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.25
Tata Capital	>=6.90	>=6.90	>=6.90
PNB Housing	7.35-9.35	7.35-9.55	7.70-9.55
GIC Housing Finance	>=7.45	>=7.45	>=7.45
Repco Home Finance	>=7.50	>=7.50	>=7.50
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.65	>=8.65	>=8.65
Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-11.00

\*10 bps concession for women borrowers under limited period offer. Conditions apply.

\*\*Interest rate of 6.85%-7.00% p.a. offered under IND AWAS Scheme

^ Special HLT rates starting at 6.65% p.a. for any loan amount for self employed and 6.60% p.a. for salaried. Rates for salaried are under Freedom offer valid till August 31

^^ HLTB interest rate range of 6.75%-7.55% p.a. for any loan amount, with repayment from ICICI Bank Account

^^^ HLTB offered at an interest rate of 6.64% p.a.

\*\*\*Special interest rates available under limited period offer. Valid for disbursements availed on or before October 30

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates				
Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
<b>SMALL FINANCE BANKS</b>				
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.00	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.25
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.50	6.50
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.35	6.35	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.60	6.25	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.00	6.25	5.75	5.25
AU Small Finance Bank	6.25	5.00	6.25	6.00
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.00
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>				
DCB Bank	5.95	5.55	5.95	5.95
RBL Bank	6.50	6.10	6.30	6.50
State Bank of Mauritius	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
Nainital Bank	6.35	5.25	5.35	5.35
IDFC First Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	6.00
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.25	5.50	5.75
CSB Bank	5.75	5.00	5.25	5.25
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75
South Indian Bank	5.65	5.40	5.50	5.65
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.50	5.25	5.25
Karnataka Bank	5.60	5.20	5.50	5.50
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5.50	5.15	5.30	5.40
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>				
Bandhan Bank	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.00
HDFC Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.30
ICICI Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.35
DBS Bank	5.50	4.25	5.50	5.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.30	5.10	5.30	5.30
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.25	4.50	5.10	5.25
<b>FOREIGN BANKS</b>				
Deutsche Bank	6.25	3.85	4.50	6.25
HSBC Bank	4.00	3.10	4.00	4.00
CitiBank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50

Rates as on August 17

Source: Paisabazaar.com

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# Shaili leaps into the big league

The 17-year-old from Jhansi wins silver after agonisingly missing out on gold by 1cm

## ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN

Robert Bobby George and Anju George, who coach and guide Shaili Singh in Bengaluru, expect her to win medals at the Olympics and World championships in the next few years.

And the 17-year-old from Jhansi, raised by a single mother who works as a tailor, offered a glimpse of what she was capable of by claiming the women's long jump silver with a 6.59m leap (wind advantage +2.2). She missed the gold by just one centimetre to Sweden's Maja Askag, at the World Athletics under-20 championships in Nairobi on Sunday.

After two mediocre 6.34m jumps, Shaili (world No. 2 in under-18) produced the big one that carried her to the top of the pack briefly before European champion Askag came up with 6.60m which would give her the second gold of the championships after the triple jump triumph.

Shaili's silver is the first long jump medal at the under-20 Worlds for India while Anju's 2003 Worlds long jump bronze is the lone medal at the 'senior' Worlds.

"Shaili was brilliant. Of course, gold would have



**What an effort!** Shaili produced the big one (6.59m) in her third attempt to win India's first long jump medal at the World under-20 championships. • TWITTER/SAIMEDIA

been prettier," her coach Bobby George told *The Hindu* from Nairobi. "She was capable of even 6.65 or 6.70m this evening."

### Personal best

Donald Makimairaj missed the bronze by three centimetres despite a personal best 15.82m. He finished fourth in men's triple jump, which was won by Sweden's Gabriel Wallmark with 16.43m. The Indian women's 4x400m relay team comprising Payal Vohra, Summy, Rajitha Kunja and Priya H. Mohan also finished fourth, clocking a season-best 3:40.45s. In the women's

5000m, Ankita was eighth in 17:17.68s with Ethiopia's Mizan Alem pocketing the gold in 16:05.61s.

India finished with three medals (two silver and a bronze) in the five-day meet for its best-ever tally at a World championship. Host Kenya topped the table with 16 medals, including eight gold.

### Records

South Africa men (38.51s) and Jamaica women (42.94s) broke the under-20 world records while winning the men's and women's 4x100m relay while Botswana men (3:05.22s) and Nigeria wo-

men (3:31.46s) won the 4x400m relay titles with world-leading performances.

Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi (men's 800m, 1:43.76s), Purity Chepkirui (women's 1500m, 4:16.07s), Amos Serem (men's 3000m steeplechase, 8:30.72s), Finland's Heidi Salminen (women's 400m hurdles, 56.94s), Turkey's Berke Akcam (men's 400m hurdles, 49.38s), neutral athlete Natalya Spiridonova (women's high jump, 1.91m) and Lithuania's Mykolas Alekna (men's discus, 69.81m) were some of the other gold medalists on the final day.

# 'Shaili will rule for the next 10 to 12 years'

STAN RAYAN

Shaili Singh may be just 17 but her coach Robert Bobby George feels she has a mature head on her young shoulders.

"She may be just a teen but she has the spirit and determination of an adult," said Bobby from Nairobi. "She will rule the international circuit for the next 10 to 12 years."

Bobby revealed that he had made a runway and dug out a pit for Shaili to train since the stadiums were closed. "We had taken a risk then but it has given us this silver," he said.

Since Shaili is very young, Bobby said he had to handle her with care. "Once she is 18, we can start pushing her more as she will be capable of taking more load," he said.

Meanwhile in Bengaluru, watching Shaili, Anju went through a range of emotions. "When she was on the runway, I felt that I was doing the jumps," said Anju. "She is still in the learning process, but her style of running and jumping is similar to mine."

Adille Sumariwalla was happy that the work done by the AFI was paying rewards. "This is the first time we have won three medals," the AFI chief said.

# Footballer Hakim passes away

Took part in the 1960 Olympics and later coached India

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

Olympic footballer and former National coach Syed Shahid Hakim passed away in Kalaburagi on Sunday morning. He was 82 and survived by wife and two daughters.

"He suffered a cardiac arrest at 8 a.m. and passed away half an hour later. He has been getting treatment after he was admitted in the hospital two days ago following a stroke," Hakim's wife Sadia Syeda told *The Hindu*.

Hakim, son of the legendary football coach S.A. Rahim, was part of the Indian squad for the 1960 Rome Olympics where it finished sixth.

The Hyderabad, besides playing for nearly 25 years, was also a qualified FIFA referee, officiating in 33 international games, including the 1988 AFC Asian Cup in Qatar.

### Notable accolade

Hakim became the second footballer, after Shabbir Ali, to win the Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievement (2017) and also served as the chief project director at Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Only last week, he was among the many former internationals who were felicitated in Hyderabad.

"I was not in the starting eleven. The team was packed with heavyweights; only in case of an injury to some of the big names, players like me had a chance in the Rome Olympics," said Hakim in a recent interview to *The Sportstar*, while recapping his experiences, before the Tokyo Games.

Former India captains Victor Amalraj, Shabbir Ali, Telangana Football Association secretary G.P. Palguna were among those who expressed their condolences.



S.S. Hakim. • FILE PHOTO



**Honoured:** Hakim received the Dhyan Chand award in 2017.

# Limited Indian presence in opening ceremony

Though there is no cap, only five athletes and six officials will take part

## PARALYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TOKYO

Only six officials from the Indian contingent will be allowed to take part in the opening ceremony of Tokyo Paralympics on Tuesday, chef de mission Gursharan Singh said on Sunday.

India will have 11 members participating in the opening ceremony, the remaining five being athletes.

### Mariyappan to lead

The five athletes expected to take part in the opening ceremony are flag-bearer T. Mariyappan, discus thrower Vinod Kumar, javelin thrower Tek Chand and powerlifters Jaideep and Sakina Khatun.

There is no cap on the number of athletes for the opening ceremony but only seven Indian participants have reached Tokyo so far.

Of the seven, two table tennis players – Sonal Patel and Bhavina Patel – have competitions on Wednesday

- Around 4,400 competitors from nearly 160 countries and territories will be in Japan for the Paralympics
- Tokyo is the only city to host the Paralympics twice. In 1964, 378 athletes competed in nine sports
- Medals are up for grabs in 22 sports, with two new this year – taekwondo and badminton
- For each of the 539 events, a complex classification system groups Paralympians
- Around 5,000 gold, silver and bronze medals have been made for the Games, with the words Tokyo 2020 in Braille
- China has topped the gold medal tally at every Games since Athens 2004

and will not take part in the ceremony, during which Japanese Emperor Naruhito will declare the Games open.

"Two table tennis players have competitions on Wed-



**Action time:** The Tokyo Paralympics is all set to open on Tuesday. • REUTERS

nesday, so they are not taking part in the opening ceremony," said Gursharan.

Out of the six officials for the opening ceremony, four have been decided – Gursharan, deputy chef de mis-

sion Arhan Bagati, COVID-19 chief liaison officer V.K. Dabas and Mariyappan's coach and para athletics chairperson Satyanarayana.

A third batch of Indians will leave on Monday, but

they will have to serve a quarantine period before being allowed to train. India will be represented by 54 athletes – the biggest ever – and the country is expecting its best medal haul this time.

# Fawad returns to the crease, Pakistan 231/5

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KINGSTON

Pakistan was 231 for five when play started for the second time on Sunday afternoon on the third day of the second Test against the West Indies at the Sabina Park. Fawad Alam was unbeaten on 83.

After the entire second day's play was lost on Saturday to rain and a sodden outfield, there was a further 90-minute delay on Sunday as concerns remained about a damp area in line with the bowlers' run-ups at the southern end of the pitch.

When play eventually started, only eight balls were bowled.

Jason Holder, operating from that troublesome southern end, struggled through the first two deliveries of his over before getting the support of his captain, Kraigg Brathwaite, over his concern about the conditions. The action was suspended following lengthy deliberations involving the on-field umpires, both captains, coaches and the match referee.

**The scores:** Pakistan 231/5 in 91 overs (Fawad Alam 83 batting, Babar Azam 75, Kemar Roach 3/56) vs West Indies.

# Sreeja sets her targets high after the thrilling WTT-Contender run

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
CHENNAI

What Sreeja Akula did as a qualifier in the WTT-Contender table tennis tournament in Budapest recently was quite a revelation.

Ranked 150th in the world, the 23-year-old played three draining rounds in qualifying, went on to outplay Linda Bergstrom (world ranking 78) from Sweden in the first round, and overcame Barboora Balazova (53) of Slovakia. Her fairytale run ended in the quarterfinals at the hands of Manika Batra (60).

### Running Manika close

In fact, in the last-eight clash against Manika, the 23-year-old was up two games to one and leading 9-3. Just two points away from sealing a place in the semifinals, Sreeja allowed the reigning National champion to make a comeback.

"Against Manika di, I should have won. She used her experience well. But on the whole, I am happy with the way I played in Budapest. This is my best show at a global event with such higher-ranked players. Beating Linda, a defensive paddler, against whom we don't get



**Optimistic:** Coach Ghosh expects Sreeja to be part of the Indian team for the Asian championships. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to play regularly, and over-coming Balazova, were huge morale-boosters," Sreeja told *The Hindu*.

Somnath Ghosh, Sreeja's personal coach, said his pupil aggravated her right shoulder injury after the senior National championships in February 2021, and to play the way she did at Budapest was fantastic. "Her performance is certainly a big boost though losing to Manika from a good position was heartbreaking," he said.

### Good results

Ghosh said the Lakshya Sports-backed paddler has been getting good results the last couple of years. "In 2019, Sreeja won two National-ranking tournaments in

Sonepat and Thane, and reached the semifinals of the 2021 senior Nationals before losing to Manika."

Ghosh expects Sreeja to be part of the Indian women's team for the Asian championships from September 28 to October 5 in Doha. "She is the sixth-ranked Indian in the world according to the International Table Tennis Federation rankings, but No. 1 in the domestic rankings. I believe the Table Tennis Federation of India will make the right call," he said.

Sreeja is currently in Olomouc for the Czech International Open, a WTT Feeder series. "I want to go all out and do well in the tournament," she said.

# Lukaku bosses Arsenal into submission

United draws at Southampton; Depay salvages point for Barca

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Romelu Lukaku scored on his second Chelsea debut as the club's record signing inspired a 2-0 win at troubled Arsenal, while Harry Kane made his first appearance for Tottenham this season in a 1-0 victory against Wolves.

In Sunday's other game, Mason Greenwood salvaged a 1-1 draw for Manchester United at Southampton.

Lukaku took just 15 minutes to showcase his power and predatory instincts. Holding off Pablo Mari, Lukaku kept the Chelsea attack going before shrugging aside the Arsenal defender as he surged into the six-yard box to tap in Reece James' cross.

James scored Chelsea's second himself, with a superb strike into the far corner after Mason Mount picked out the unmarked defender inside the Arsenal area.

Barcelona was given a torrid time by Athletic Bilbao but escaped from its trip to San Mames with a point as Memphis Depay's superb late strike secured a 1-1 draw for the Catalans in the LaLiga on Saturday. Depay found the net with a fine left-foot

half-volley 15 minutes from time in the Basque Country for his first goal since moving to Barcelona.

**The results: Premier League:** Southampton 1 (Fred 30-og) drew with Manchester United 1 (Greenwood 55); Wolves 0 lost to Tottenham 1 (Alli 9-pen); Arsenal 0 lost to Chelsea 2 (Lukaku 15, James 35).

**LaLiga:** Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 68-pen) bt Rayo Vallecano 0.

**Bundesliga:** Hoffenheim 2 (Akpoguma 14, Bruun Larsen 30) drew with Union Berlin 2 (Gieselsmann 10, Awoniyi 7); Bayern Munich 3 (Lewandowski 50, Gnabry 59, 71) bt Cologne 2 (Modeste 60, Uth 62).

**On Saturday: LaLiga:** Espanyol 0 drew with Villarreal 0; Granada 1 (Luis Suarez 16) drew with Valencia 1 (Carlos Soler 88-pen); Athletic Bilbao 1 (Martinez 50) drew with Barcelona 1 (Depay 75).

**Serie A:** Inter Milan 4 (Skriiniar 6, Calhanoglu 16, Vidal 74, Dzeko 87) bt Genoa 0; Verona 2 (Zaccagni 71-pen, 90) lost to Sassuolo 3 (Raspadori 32, Djuricic 51, Traore 77); Empoli 1 (Bandinelli 4) lost to Lazio 3 (Mitinkovic-Savic 6, Lazzari 31, Immobile 41-pen); Torino 1 (Belotti 79) lost to Atalanta 2 (Muriel 6, Piccoli 93).

**Bundesliga:** Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Sommer 3-og, Schick 8, Diaby 55, Amiri 87) bt Borussia Mönchengladbach 0.



**Back with a bang:** Romelu Lukaku shrugged off Arsenal's defence to score Chelsea's opener. • GETTY IMAGES

## TV PICKS

**Premier League:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

## IN BRIEF



## Ugas sends Pacquiao closer to retirement

**LAS VEGAS**  
Yordenis Ugas bludgeoned Manny Pacquiao, ever closer to retirement on Saturday, upsetting the veteran Filipino boxing icon with a comprehensive defeat. In his first fight after a two-year absence from the ring, Pacquiao was made to look every bit of his 42 years as the younger Ugas dominated with a stinging jab and cleaner punching to retain his WBA welterweight crown. **AFP**

## Aditi has an off-day, slips to T-58

**CARNUSTIE**  
Aditi Ashok had an off-day at the Carnoustie Links as she carded a roller-coaster three-over 75 in tough and challenging weather conditions to slip to T-58 with one round to go in the AIG Women's Open. Aditi, who began the week nicely with 71, had a rough start with three bogeys in a row from second to fourth but made up with three birdies in a row from sixth to eighth and turned in even par. **PTI**

## Shiv Kapur drops to T-54th

**PRAGUE**  
Shiv Kapur fell down the leaderboard after a disappointing 4-over 76 on the third day of the D+D REAL Czech Masters. Kapur, who opened the week with encouraging 70-70 suffered two bogeys and a double bogey and is now tied 54th. India's other stars SSP Chawrasia and Ajeetesh Sandhu had already missed the cut. **PTI**

## Exhausted Lahiri cards 71 in third round

**NEW JERSEY**  
A tired Anirban Lahiri endured a wild ride in the third round of The Northern Trust, compiling a level par 71 to drop to T-60th from overnight T-38th. The Indian golfer will have a lot of work to do to get into the top-10 for a place in next week's BMW Championship in the FedExCup Playoffs. Lahiri, who admitted to feeling fatigue at the Liberty National Golf Club, mixed his card with six birdies, including four over his last six holes, four bogeys and one double bogey. **PTI**

## Fazli named ACB acting chairman

**KABUL**  
Azizullah Fazli was on Sunday named acting chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). Fazli earlier served as ACB chairman from September 2018 to July 2019. **PTI**

## Sameer to lead team for U-19 Worlds

## VOLLEYBALL

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI**

Delhi's Sameer Chaudhary will lead the Indian team in the FIVB World Under-19 volleyball championship to be held in Tehran from August 24 to September 2. Achyuta Samanta, the president of the Volleyball Federation of India, announced the team on Sunday.

India is in Group 'A' with host Iran, Nigeria, Poland and Guatemala for company.

**The team:** Sandeep (Raj), Sameer Chaudhary (captain, Del), Aman Kumar (Har), Harshit Giri (Chd), Ajay Kumar (Har), Tanish Choudhary (Del), Jashnoor Dhindsa (Pun), Jibin Job (Ker), Dushyant Singh (Raj), Srinath Selvakumar (TN), Dibyam Shahi (UP), Chikkanna Venu (libero, TN).

**Officials:** Pritam Singh Chauhan (head coach), Praveen Kumar Sharma & Bijoy Babu (assistant coaches), Gaganden Dash (manager), Digvijay Singh Rathore (physiotherapist).

## Rajini and Jagan speed off with a double each

Alwin, Kevin, Kevin, Rakshith, and Jinendra also finish with two titles apiece; Ryhana makes it count on her return

## MOTORSPORTS

**SPORTS REPORTER  
CHENNAI**

Chennai veterans Rajini Krishnan and Jagan Kumar stamped their class, with a double each in the two premium categories, as did young Alwin Sundar in the Novice class as the first round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship concluded at the MMRT, here on Sunday.

## Rolling back the years

Rajini, 41, who made his National Championship debut in 2003 and also forayed abroad for stints in superbike racing, rolled back the years with two stunning performances while winning both the races in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category for his team RACR Castrol Power Racing, astride a Yamaha R3. Jagan, 31, winner of a cumulative nine National titles, was outstanding in repeating his Saturday's victory in the Pro-Stock 165cc class by taking top honours in Race-2 today, though he had to work hard for it.

In between, Chennai collegian Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports) also completed a



**Proving his worth:** The experienced Rajini Krishnan produced two stunning performances while winning in the Pro-Stock 301-400cc category. **\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

double in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category with another dominating ride in a race that was marred by multiple crashes.

## Ryhana's winning return

Earlier, another Chennai rider, Ryhana Bee (RACR Castrol Power Racing), returning to racing after a year's gap following injury, topped the Girls race (Stock 165cc).

Kavin Quintal (NSF 250R), Rakshith S Dave (CBR 150) and Kevin Kannan (Hornet

2.0), all from Chennai, finished with a double apiece in the Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup One-Make Championship, while Kolhapur's Jinendra Kiran Sangave also won both the races in the rookie category of the TVS One-Make Championship.

**The results (provisional, six laps unless mentioned): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc (Race-Two):** 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power Racing, Chennai) (11mins, 28.636secs), 2. Rahul

Shetty (Gusto Racing, Hyderabad) (11:30.050), 3. Anish Damodara Shetty (Race Concepts, Hubballi) (11:30.267).

**Race-Two (8 laps):** 1. Rajini Krishnan (15:15.580), 2. K.Y. Ahamed (TVS Racing, Chennai) (15:17.169), 3. Anish Damodara Shetty (15:17.977).

**Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-Two, 8 laps):** 1. Jagan Kumar (TVS Racing, Chennai) (15:48.429), 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing, Chennai) (15:48.476), 3. Deepak Ravikumar (TVS Racing, Chennai) (15:54.822).



**A champion returns:** Ryhana Bee, flanked by Baddam Deepika Reddy and Jagruthi Kiran, was back at her best after missing a year due to an injury. **\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

**Novice (Stock, 165cc Race-2):** 1. Alwin Sundar (AS Motorsports, Chennai) (13:04.324), 2. Anfal A (Rockstar Racing, Thrissur) (13:05.899), 3. Jinendra Kiran Sangave (Pvt, Kolhapur).

**Girls (Stock 165cc, 5 laps):** 1. Ryhana Bee (RACR, Chennai) (10:59.842), 2. Baddam Deepika Reddy (Gusto Racing, Hyderabad) (11:21.426), 3. Jagruthi Kiran (Sparks Racing, Mumbai) (11:21.647).

**One-Make Championships: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - NSF 250 Open (Race-Two, 8 laps):** 1. Kavin Quintal (Chennai) (14:51.472), 2. Sartak Chavan (Pune) (15:01.335), 3. Samuel Martin (Bengaluru) (15:09.450).

**Honda CBR 150 (Race-Two):** 1. Rakshith S Dave (Chennai) (13:20.170), 2. Prakash Kamath (Bokaro Steel City) (13:26.483), 3. Shyam Babu (Chennai) (13:55.118).

**Honda Hornet 2.0 (Race-Two):** 1. Kevin Kannan (Chennai) (13:28.307), 2. Sudheer Sudhakar (New Delhi) (13:28.317), 3. Alwin Sundar (Chennai) (13:28.696).

**TVS Apache RR 310 Open (Race-Two):** 1. Yashas RL (Bengaluru) (11:54.802), 2. Manoj Yesudayan (Chennai) (11:57.307), 3. Amarnath Menon (Calicut) (11:57.376).

**TVS Rookie (RTR 200, Race-Two):** 1. Jinendra Kiran Sangave (Kolhapur) (12:58.183), 2. Jagathishree (Chennai) (13:09.244), 3. Zenas Bailey (Auroville) (13:09.286).

**TVS Media (RTR 200, 5 laps):** 1. Soham Thakur (Mumbai) (11:56.577), 2. Ajinkya Lad (Mumbai) (12:26.279), 3. Vishal Joshi (Pune) (12:28.684).

## Muneeruddin, Mobasshir top first round

Deepa leads in the women's section

## CARROM

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

Muneeruddin of Uttar Pradesh and Mohd. Mobasshir of Bihar executed a white slam each as they topped the table with eight and 11 points respectively in the men's first round of the Indian online carrom challenge organised by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF).

In the best of four board format, Abdul Rahman, Mohammed Sheikh, Fazal Ahmed, Abdul Jabbar, Kalpesh Nalawade, Abdul Asif, Gautam Prasad Bhol were the other leading performers. The top-16 will qualify for the super league, which will be followed by the

■ Muneeruddin and Mobasshir had a white slam each

■ The top-16 will qualify for the super league.

champions league leading up to the knock-out stage in the semifinals.

In the women's event, Deepa Naik of Odisha led with 20 points, and was followed by Kavya Shree (21), Nidhi Gupta (25), Aakanksha Kadam (29), Mantasha Iqbal (31), Khushboo Kumari (32), Tanishka Vishwakarma (32), Palak Patel (34), Stelina S (35) and Shruti Sonawane (35).

There were no slams in the women's event, which will also see the top 16 make the super league.

## Toyota makes it four-in-a-row

## LE MANS

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LE MANS (FRANCE)**

The pole-sitting Toyota of Kamui Kobayashi, Mike Conway and Jose Maria Lopez claimed the Japanese manufacturer's fourth straight Le Mans 24 Hour Race success on Sunday. Toyota's second car, with Kazuki Nakajima, Sebastian Buemi and Brendon Hartley, took second.

After 1,440 minutes, 370 laps, over 5,000 kilometres and 33 pit stops, Toyota's number seven car's trio of drivers finally came good after years of ill luck behind their sister car.

In third, came the elite Hypercar category rival Alpine of Andre Negrao, Nicolas Lapierre and Matthieu Vaxiviere.

## Yachting in India has improved a lot: Motivala

Says the future is bright for the sport in the country

**C.K. MURALIDHARAN  
MYSURU**

Homi Motivala, 63, a recipient of the Arjuna Award (1993), Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award jointly with P.K. Garg (1994-95), Dronacharya Award (2002) and Shaurya Chakra gallantry award (1993), said that "Yachting in India has improved a lot" in a chat with *The Hindu* while on a visit to the Royal Mysore Sailing Club, Mysuru, for the National sailing championship at the KRS backwaters.

**Excerpts:**  
How is the yachting scene in the country?

It has improved a lot. Definitely more emphasis is being given by the Yachting Association of India and the Government of India for the



Homi Motivala. **\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

development of the sport in different centres. India has fared well in the Olympics, Asian Games and many youngsters are taking up the sport.

**Your views on India's recent performance in Tokyo?**

The performance of the four

sailors was very good. Vishnu Saravanan was the best performer and did well above our expectations. Ganapathy Chengappa, Varun Thakkar and Nethra Kumaran also performed well and it was a good learning experience for them in a world class field.

**Tell us about your exploits in yachting**

I was a Commander in the Indian Navy, which gave me full support. I represented the country in the Asian Games in 1990 (Beijing) and 1994 (Hiroshima) partnering P. Garg and won bronze medals, in the Enterprise class. Garg and I were also world champions in the Enterprise class in 1993. I was also an International race officer. I served as the chief national

coach from 1999 to 2006.

**How do you see the future of yachting in India?**

The future bright. Youngsters are competing at the highest level. For the first time we had four sailors in the Olympics.

**Your advice to upcoming youngsters**

I give them 10 points to follow: 1. Know the rules properly; 2. Seek knowledge from wherever you get it, 3. Should be extremely methodical and scientific in your approach, 4. Willing to do hard work and effort, 5. Realistic goal setting is a must, 6. Should have a routine, 7. Be critical of yourself, 8. Never dwell in the past, 9. Have fun, 10. Winning and losing is all in the head.

## Thompson-Herah runs second-fastest women's 100m

de Grasse takes the men's event; many Olympic champions taste success

## PREFONTAINE CLASSIC

**REUTERS  
EUGENE**

Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah won the women's 100 metres in the second-fastest time ever at the Prefontaine Classic, a Diamond League event, crossing the finishing line in 10.54 seconds on Saturday.

Thompson-Herah said she surprised even herself, beating Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce by nearly two-tenths of a second. Shericka Jackson finished third to repeat the Jamaicans' Tokyo podium sweep. American Florence Grif-



**Terrific trio:** Elaine Thompson-Herah, left, bested Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, second from right, and Shericka Jackson as the Jamaicans reprised their Tokyo show. **\*AP**

fith-Joyner is the only woman to have clocked a faster time over the distance, having set the world record of 10.49 seconds in 1988.

In the men's 100m event, Tokyo bronze medallist Andre de Grasse won in a wind-aided 9.74, with Americans Fred Kerley and Ronnie

Baker finishing in 9.78 and 9.82, respectively.

American Noah Lyles surged out of the turn to win the men's 200 metres in a

world-leading 19.52 seconds.

Olympic champion Athing Mu won the women's 800 metres in 1:55.04.

Dalilah Muhammad made light work of the 400m hurdles, winning in 52.77, while in the women's 3,000m steeplechase, Kenya's Norah Jeruto put up a world-leading 8:53.65 to win.

There were also wins for Canada's Marco Arop (men's 800m, 1:44.51s), Kenyan Norah Jeruto (steeplechase, 8:53.65), Faith Kipyegon of Kenya (women's 1,500, 3:53.230), USA's Ryan Crouser (men's shot put, 23.15m), Pedro Pecharo of Portugal (men's triple jump, 17.63m).

## RACING

## Consigliori claims Governor's Cup

**HYDERABAD:** Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Consigliori (Akshay Kumar) up claimed the Governor's Cup, the chief event of Sunday's (Aug. 22) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Subodh Chand Bothra. Jockey Akshay Kumar stole the limelight by winning four races, while Trainer Sequeira saddled three winners. 1. DONCASTER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): MAXIMUM GLAMOUR (Akshay Kumar) 1, Able Love (B. Nikhil) 2, Moonlight Ruby (Koushik) 3 and Inside Story (B.R. Kumar) 4. 4-1/2, 2-1/4 and 2-1/2. Im, 26.24s. ₹15 (w), 10, 27 and 44 (p). SHP: 79, THP: 62, FP: 164, Q: 126, Tanala: 1,497. Favourite: Maximum Glamour. Owners: Mr. Donald Anthony Netto, Mr. C. Parthasarthy, Mr. Veeramachaneni Bharat & Mr. Rajat Parthasarthy. Trainer: D. Netto. 2. OCEAN STAR PLATE (DIV. III) (1,400m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. II): SUBLIME (Santosh Raj) 1, Lockhart (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Rhine (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Explosive (Gaurav Singh) 4.

1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 3/4. Im, 26.99s. ₹62 (w), 15, 18 and 28 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 63, FP: 412, Q: 220, Tanala: 2,806. Favourite: Explosive. Owners: Mr. Sudarshan Singh Rathore Kanwar & Mr. Rishiraj Singh Rathore. Trainer: Laxman Singh. 3. DONCASTER PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m) (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): SOLOIST (Akshay Kumar) 1, Special Effort (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Dreams Station (Zervan) 3 and My Master (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3-1/4, Sh and 1. Im, 27.98s. ₹13 (w), 13, 10 and 21 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 50, FP: 53, Q: 44, Tanala: 258. Favourite: Soloist. Owners: Mr. Guralp Singh, Mr. N.P. Sharma & Mr. Alluri Ajay Kumar. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira. 4. SAI RAMA PLATE (1,600m) rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): LAMHA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Cheltenham (Gaurav Singh) 2, Sweet Melody (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Steve Rogers (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 2-3/4, Hd and 2. Im, 40.83s. ₹16 (w), 10, 14 and 27 (p). SHP: 44, THP: 69, FP: 83, Q: 47, Tanala: 638. Favourite:

Lamha. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyyunni & Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira. 5. BEANDAZ PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m) rated up to 25 (Cat. III): SACRED LAMP (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Secret Command (Kiran Naidu) 2, Star Babe (Koushik) 3 and Let It Be Me (B.R. Kumar) 4. Not run: Proud Legacy. 1-1/4, Nk and 1/2. Im, 8.15s. ₹41 (w), 17, 19 and 15 (p). SHP: 74, THP: 72, FP: 436, Q: 244, Tanala: 1,352. Favourite: Let It Be Me. Owner: Mr. H. Thambuswamy. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh. 6. HYDERABAD CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CUP (1,200m) 5-y-o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): MAXWELL (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Her Legacy (P.S. Chouhan) 2, City Of Wisdom (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Incredible (Md. Ismail) 4. 1, 3/4 and 1/2. Im, 12.75s. ₹126 (w), 29, 15 and 20 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 67, FP: 595, Q: 242, Tanala: 9,966. Favourite: Her Legacy. Owner: Col. K.S. Garcha. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

7. GOVERNOR'S CUP (1,400m) (Terms), 3-y-o & upward (Cat. I): CONSIGLIORI (Akshay Kumar) 1, Victory Parade (B.R. Kumar) 2, Corfe Castle (Sandesh) 3 and Prince Valiant (P. Gaddam) 4. Nk, 1-1/2 and 1/2. Im, 25.67s. ₹44 (w), 14, 14 and 10 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 109, FP: 595, Q: 249, Tanala: 811. Favourite: Corfe Castle. Owner: Mr. Subodh Chand Bothra. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira. 8. BEANDAZ PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III): AIBAK (Afroz Khan) 1, Berkeley (Gaurav Singh) 2, Stark (Ajit Singh) 3 and Cephalonia (N.B. Kuldeep) 4. 3/4, Hd and 1/2. Im, 8.84s. ₹68 (w), 24, 14 and 19 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 71, FP: 262, Q: 81, Tanala: 1,024. Favourite: Berkeley. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: Mir Faiyaz Ali Khan. Jackpot: 70%: ₹88,852 (4 tkts.) & 30%: 2,456 (62 tkts.). Treble: (i) 257 (170 tkts.), (ii) 160 (191 tkts.), (iii) 2,838 (20 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,671 (24 tkts.), (ii) 32, 507 (2 tkts.).

## Shining bright



**Delightful day:** Yuvakumar of Hero Motorsports, winner of the Group B (upto 260cc) class in Round 1 of the Motorsport Inc FMSCI Indian National Rally Sprint Championship for Motorcycles in Bengaluru on Sunday. **\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**