

# Aakash

+ BYJU'S

## SUCCESS IS WAITING!

Prepare the right way with Aakash's  
 Repeater / XII Passed Batches

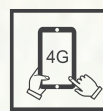
**ADMISSIONS OPEN**

## Repeater / XII Passed Batches

Hybrid Course for Medical (NEET 2022) / Power Step (JEE 2022) with Learning Device



Option to shift to classroom at no additional cost



Continue your learning with learning device (Tablet 26.31 cm) 4G | Wifi Enabled



Get SIM with data plan (if opted for SIM Card)



Easy financing / No Cost EMI options available

Repeater / XII passed batch courses are also available without learning device. Classroom coaching will start as and when our branches re-open as per the state government guidelines.

\*Terms and conditions apply. All pictures shown are for illustration purpose only. Actual product may vary.

**Instant Scholarship & Admission**  
 Get up to 90% Scholarship\*

\*Only on Tuition Fee / Classroom Service Fee, as may be applicable.

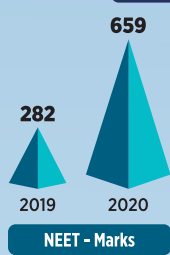
### The Next Success Story is YOU!

#### Success of Aakash Repeater / XII Passed Batch Students

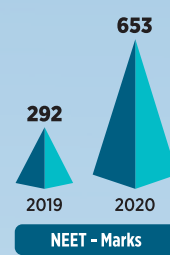
##### NEET (Medical)



**WASEEM KHAN**  
 NEET - Repeater Classroom  
 Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh



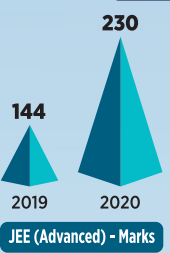
**NISHI PANDEY**  
 NEET - Repeater Classroom  
 Calcutta Medical College, Kolkata



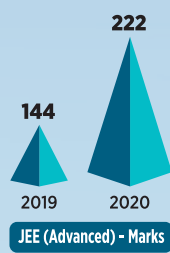
##### JEE (Engineering)



**LOKESH NAHAR**  
 JEE - Power Step Classroom  
 IIT, Guwahati



**AKSHAT BHATNAGAR**  
 JEE - Power Step Classroom  
 IIT (BHU), Varanasi



Though every care has been taken to publish the result correctly, yet the Institute shall not be responsible for error, if any.



**OUR BRANCHES AT:** Janak Puri (Medical Wing): 8800013110 Janak Puri (Engineering & Foundation Wing): 8800013017 South Extn., (Medical Wing): 8800013111 South Extn., (Engineering Wing): 8800015936 South Extn., (Foundation Wing): 8800013018 Dwarka (Sec-11): 8800013019 Pitam Pura (Medical Wing): 9560292031, 9560292036 (Engg. Wing): 9560292026, 9560292028 Model Town-II: 9560197324, 9821396797 Punjabi Bagh: 9560197322, 9560197321 Rohini (Sector-4) Foundation Wing: 9560292029, 9821396805 Rohini (Sector-15) Foundation Wing: 9560292029, 9821396805 Preet Vihar: 8468807500, 8468807501 Noida (Sector-18): 8800013020 Noida (Sector-62): 8800013021 Greater Noida: 8800013024 Faridabad: 8800013022 Ambala: 8800012946 Bhiwani: 8800012950 Hisar: 8800013035 Kaithal: 8800012949 Karnal: 8800012947 Kurukshetra: 8800013036 Narnaul: 8800013042 Palwal: 8800013038 Panchkula: 8800013039 Panipat: 8800013040 Rohtak: 8800013037 Sirsa: 8800012948 Yamuna Nagar: 8800012945 Amritsar: 8800013076 Bathinda: 8800013078 Chandigarh: 8800013079 Ferozepur: 7428490291, 7428490290 Jalandhar: 8800013080 Ludhiana: 8800013081 Patiala: 8800013082 Agra: 8800013098 Aligarh: 8800013099 Prayagraj: 8800013100 Gorakhpur: 8800013101 Jhansi: 8448289995 Kanpur (Kakadeo): 8800013102 Kanpur (Phoolbagh): 8800013103 Mathura: 7428899147 Meerut: 8800013105 Saharanpur: 8800013106 Haridwar: 8800013109 Dehradun (Ballapur Chowk): 8800013108 Dehradun (Rajpur Road): 8800013107 Jaipur (Gopalpura Bypass): 8800013083 Jaipur (Subhash Nagar): 8800013084 Jaipur (Vaishali Nagar): 8800013085 Jodhpur: 8800013088 Kota: 8800013087 Ajmer: 8800013118 Bikaner: 8800015946 Udaipur: 7357621555, 7357628555 Sri Ganganagar: 7428593083, 7428593085 Bhopal: 8800013060 Gwalior: 8800013064 Jabalpur: 8800013063 Indore (Geeta Bhawan): 8800013061 Indore (Ranjeet Hanuman): 8800013062 Ujjain: 8800013119 **OUR CENTRES AT:** Pusa Road: 8447299285, 8447299386, 8377956764, 7011910618 Vasant Kunj: 9711786886 Dilshad Garden: 9350395559 Bareilly: 9997690099, 8881122111 Moradabad: 9119918585, 7455022493, 9720017271 Ghaziabad: 8826050187, 8882546640 Gurugram (Sector-14): 9717508555, 7042494290 (South City-II): 9958064196, 9599488141 Rewari: 9053008274, 9053008275 Bilaspur: 9630098105 Raipur: 7611110515, 7611110512 Bhilai: 7611110533, 7611110534 Haldwani: 9997699977, 8881122111 Rudrapur: 9997693344 Jammu (Gandhi Nagar): 9419607066, 8491907880 (Kachi Chawni): 9419607066, 8899979323 Udhampur: 9419607066, 8899984223 Srinagar (Raj Bagh): (0194) 2454540, 8491047228 / 229 (Nigeen): 9107926842 (Rawalpora): (0194) 2436550, 6006750448.



SCAN FOR NEAREST CENTRE

Download Aakash App



CALL (TOLL-FREE)  
**1800-102-2727**

VISIT  
**aakash.ac.in**







# SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

**74**  
YEARS OF FREEDOM

**37**  
YEARS OF JOURNALISM

**POWERED BY TRUTH & SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER**



**Cover price ₹125**

Periodicity	No. of Issues	Rate @ Cover Price (Rs.)	OFFER PRICE	Discount %
<b>3 months</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>37%</b>
6 months	13	1625	1150	29%
1 Year	26	3250	2085	36%
2 Years	52	6500	3750	42%
Overseas	26	100 USD	NA	NA

To subscribe online, visit [www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe](http://www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe).

**Subscribe Now!**



Scan to Subscribe

**SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

**New Subscription**    **Renewal (Subscription No. \_\_\_\_\_)**  
For subscription, please fill the form, **sign** and send it to Circulation Department, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002. E-mail: [customer@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customer@thehindu.co.in) Toll-Free No.: 1800 102 1878

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Pin: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am remitting ₹ \_\_\_\_\_  for 6 months  for 1 Year  for 2 Years

By  DD/Cheque Number - in favour of THG Publishing Private Limited., (Add ₹10 for non-Chennai cheque)

DD/Cheque Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: ₹ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature with date: \_\_\_\_\_

# SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

**ENJOY THIS FREE-HIT  
WITH SPORTSTAR**



**Cover price ₹ 75**

Periodicity	No. of Issues	Rate @ Cover Price (Rs.)	OFFER PRICE	Discount %
<b>3 months</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>37%</b>
6 months	13	975	599	39%
1 Year	26	1950	999	49%
2 Years	52	3900	1599	59%
Overseas	26	90 USD	NA	NA

To subscribe online, visit [www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe](http://www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe).

**Subscribe Now!**



Scan to Subscribe

**SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

**New Subscription**    **Renewal (Subscription No. \_\_\_\_\_)**  
For subscription, please fill the form, **sign** and send it to Circulation Department, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002. E-mail: [customer@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customer@thehindu.co.in) Toll-Free No.: 1800 102 1878

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Pin: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Landline: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am remitting ₹ \_\_\_\_\_  for 6 months  for 1 Year  for 2 Years

By  DD/Cheque Number - in favour of THG Publishing Private Limited., (Add ₹10 for non-Chennai cheque)

DD/Cheque Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: ₹ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature with date: \_\_\_\_\_





Newly elected Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel takes oath  
page 9



Govt. places funding curbs on 10 more international NGOs  
page 9



Taliban breaking promises, including on women's rights, says UN  
page 12



Medvedev wins maiden Major, ends Djokovic's Grand Slam quest  
page 13

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

## NEARBY



**Civil society demands release of Umar Khalid**  
NEW DELHI  
At a public meeting held at the Press Club of India on Monday to mark a year of activist Umar Khalid's arrest in connection with the Delhi riots, several civil society members demanded his release from "unjust imprisonment" and said the government was "targeting public spirited activists and youth" through the Delhi police.

CITY • PAGE 2

## Priyanka to be face of Cong. in U.P.: Khurshid

GHAZIABAD  
Hinting at the Congress's road map in Uttar Pradesh, senior party leader Salman Khurshid said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would be the face of the party for the upcoming Assembly election in the State, and that the party would not forge any alliance. "We have entered into this battle with the face of Priyanka Gandhi (Vadra). She is working day and night. She will declare the face of the CM if she wants to."

NEWS • PAGE 9

## SOCIOLOGY Counselling Session

On 15 September at 9:30AM  
Aditya Mongra @ DIAS  
011-40079000, 9350934622  
18, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi

# SC to pass interim orders in Pegasus case

Govt. refuses to file 'detailed' affidavit on spying charges

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to pass interim orders after the government refused to respond, through a "detailed" affidavit, to allegations that it used Israeli-based Pegasus software to spy on citizens.

The government said such an affidavit in the top court would be too public and compromise national security.

The petitioners demanded that either the Cabinet Secretary file an affidavit or the court itself form a committee, led by a sitting judge, to probe the snooping controversy.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli said there cannot be any "beating around the bush" on the issue.

The CJI said the court had given the government a fair opportunity to file a detailed affidavit in order to get a clear idea of its stand in the Pegasus case. "We thought the government would file a counter-affidavit... Now we will pass our interim orders," he remarked.

However, after reserving orders, the court told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the government, that he could mention the case if

I am not averse to an enquiry. The government takes individuals' plea of violation of their privacy seriously. It has to be gone into. It is the feeling of the government that such an issue cannot be placed on affidavit. It has to be gone through by a committee. It concerns national security. TUSHAR MEHTA, SOLICITOR GENERAL

We are not interested in matters concerning national security. Our only concern, in the face of allegations made by petitioners about use of some software against citizens, is knowing whether any government agency has used any method of interception other than in accordance with law. N.V. RAMANA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

there were any second thoughts in the next few days before the pronouncement of the order.

**Unbelievable, says Sibal**  
Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for senior journalists N. Ram and Sashi Kumar, said the government's refusal to file a detailed affidavit was "unbelievable".

Mr. Mehta reasoned that a public discourse on whether a particular software was used or not would alert terrorists. He urged the court to allow the government to form a committee of "domain experts" who would look into the allegations of

snooping orchestrated against citizens, including journalists, activists, Ministers, and parliamentarians, among others. He assured the court that the committee members would have "no relationship" with the government, and would place their report before the Supreme Court.

"The committee report will have to withstand the Supreme Court's judicial scrutiny... I am not averse to an enquiry. The government takes individuals' plea of violation of their privacy seriously," Mr. Mehta said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# India, U.S. to tie up on green energy

U.S. climate envoy in Delhi, will help with funds & tech

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The United States is to collaborate with India to work towards installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

"We look forward to partnering with India in bringing finance, technology and other elements needed to achieve it," said John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, on Monday.

Currently, India's installed power capacity is projected to be 476 GW by 2021-22, and is expected to rise to at least



Joint fight: Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel with U.S. special envoy John Kerry in New Delhi. • SANDEEP SAXENA

817 GW by 2030.

Mr. Kerry is on an official visit to India from September 12-14, and is meeting Ministers and industrialists to

"raise global climate ambition and speed India's clean energy transition," according to a communique from the U.S. State Department.

Mr. Kerry was speaking at a public function following a meeting with Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Patel at the launch of the Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD). This was one of the main tracks of the U.S.-India Agenda 2030 Partnership that President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced at the Leaders Summit on Climate in April 2021. Mr. Kerry said Monday's dialogue would serve as a "powerful avenue" for U.S.-India collaboration, and would be based on three pillars.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# IITs put off JEE (Advanced) registrations

Hit by delayed announcement of JEE (Main) results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Twelve days after the last session of the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main) was held, results are yet to be declared, forcing the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to once again postpone registrations for their entrance test JEE (Advanced), which were due to begin on Monday. The top 2.5 lakh ranked students from JEE (Main) are eligible to write JEE (Advanced), which is scheduled to be held on October 3.

**Scam saga** | A look at the alleged cheating scam which took place during the JEE-Main exam in Sonipat

On September 3, the CBI arrested seven persons, including six linked to a private institute, for allegedly subverting the JEE (Main) examination

The accused allegedly helped candidates take their exam through remote access from an examination centre in Haryana's Sonipat

They charged ₹12 lakh to ₹15 lakh per candidate

Three days later, four more persons were arrested in connection with the alleged irregularities

Senior officials said that the postponement of the JEE (Advanced) registrations was not related to the ongoing probe

"The results will be declared tomorrow or latest by Wednesday," said Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare, who did not comment on the reasons for the delay.

Senior officials at the National Testing Agency and the Education Ministry insisted that it was not related to the Central Bureau of Investigation's ongoing probe into an alleged cheating

scandal at a JEE-Main examination centre in Sonipat, Haryana. One senior official said COVID-19 infection among key personnel contributed to the delay.

The JEE (Main) is not just an entrance test for admission to the National Institutes of Technology and other central and State engineering colleges, but is also used as the eligibility test for IIT aspirants. This year, four sessions of JEE (Main) were held, with students allowed to attempt the exam as often as they liked, with their best score to be used for ranking purposes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Inflation dips marginally to 5.3% in August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation cooled to 5.3% in August from 5.6% in July, thanks to food price inflation falling to 3.11% from nearly 4% in July, and the ef-

fect of a high base last August.

This marks the second month of marginal moderation in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), keeping retail inflation below the central

bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6% after hitting 6.3% in May and June this year. The Reserve Bank of India is expected to continue with its accommodative monetary policy stance, with

the headline inflation number edging lower.

However, economists warned that inflationary risks persist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# ED summons AAP national secretary; party hits out at BJP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Aam Aadmi Party's national secretary Pankaj Gupta in connection with an alleged money laundering case.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal claimed it was being done at the behest of the BJP due to "AAP's growing popularity".

"In Delhi they tried to defeat us with IT Dept, CBI, Delhi Police - but we won 62 seats. As we grow in Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Gujarat we get an ED notice! The people of India want honest politics - these tactics of BJP will never succeed, they will make us stronger (sic)," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

The ED has summoned Mr. Gupta next week for recording his statement in connection with a money laundering case involving Sukhpal Singh Khaira, former Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly.

Mr. Khaira is being probed for his alleged links with some suspects in a drugs smuggling case. During the searches against him earlier this year, the ED found some papers indicating that funds to the tune of \$1 lakh had been raised in the United States purportedly for AAP.

AAP national spokesperson Raghav Chadha lashed out at the BJP saying the party could not "electorally assassinate" AAP, so it is trying "character assassination" now.

## SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

# GS FOUNDATION PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2022

Offline Classroom / Live Tablet Batch

**STARTING FROM: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Target 2022	Target 2023
<b>For Delhi Center</b> (5 Days a week classes) 2:00-4:30 CA & QEP For Prelims 2022	<b>For Regional Centers</b> (5 Days a week classes) 2:00-4:30 CA & QEP For Prelims 2023

Mon-Friday GS Classes & Sat-Sunday CA Classes

**OFFLINE / ONLINE WORKSHOP**  
At our Delhi Centre: 25 Pusa Road, 1st Floor, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 5:00 PM | /shubhrranjanias

**COURSE FEATURES:**

- COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE ENTIRE SYLLABUS.
- FOCUS ON CONCEPTUAL CLARITY, INTERLINKING BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS AND THE DYNAMIC ASPECTS OF THE SYLLABUS.
- PRELIMS & MAINS TEST SERIES.
- CRASH COURSE/QUALITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (QEP2022) FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM 2022.
- EXCLUSIVE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS THROUGH GROUP/ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Answer Writing Module 2022

BATCH STARTING FROM 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021

Last opportunity to join Answer Writing Target 2022

Admissions can be taken from any of our centers available across the Country.

ENROLL NOW > Scan QR Code for Registration

> jammu@shubhrranjan.com	+91-8082048324	> patna@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7880015552
> dehradun@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7017255545	> jaipur@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7880015551
> lucknow@shubhrranjan.com	+91-9807105725	> kolkata@shubhrranjan.com	+91-9674345633
> bhubaneswar@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7008986503	> raipur@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7972591436
> indore@shubhrranjan.com	+91-7869815372	> bhupal@shubhrranjan.com	+91-8269075694

011-45612719, 9910812719 | delhi@shubhrranjan.com | www.shubhrranjan.com

25 Pusa Road, 1st Floor, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110005

# MAKE A CAREER OUT OF WHAT YOU LOVE

Let your passion meet its true potential with multi-disciplinary learning and personalised career guidance.

**Apply now for the final phase of the GITAM Admission Test (GAT)**

Last date to apply: **September 20, 2021**  
Date of exam: **September 22, 2021**  
Date of counselling: **September 24 & 25, 2021**

For admission details scan the QR code or apply at: [gat.gitam.edu](http://gat.gitam.edu)

For further details, contact - 88808 84000 or mail at [gat@gitam.edu](mailto:gat@gitam.edu)

**WHY GITAM?**

- A holistic approach to not just education but student life on campus
- We encourage every student to follow their passions to fruition
- Flexibility to choose electives through multi-disciplinary learning
- Entrepreneurship skills through VDC
- Unlimited free access to 7000+ courses on Coursera
- Beautiful campuses with prime infrastructure
- Personalised career guidance
- Merit and sports scholarships

**VISAKHAPATNAM HYDERABAD BENGALURU**

**GITAM**  
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)



# Building collapse leaves 2 dead, 1 injured

The toll could be higher as labourers are feared trapped under debris; rescue operations under way

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Two minor boys died and an elderly man is undergoing treatment after a triple-storey building collapsed in north Delhi's Sabzi Mandi on Monday morning. Rescue operation was under way at the time of filing the report and a few labourers were feared trapped in the building.

Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg informed that they received a call at 11.50 a.m., after which seven fire tenders were pressed into service. Given the impact of the collapse and fearing people trapped under the debris, National Disaster Response Force, District Disaster Management Authority, Delhi Civil Defence and Central Industrial Security Force also reached with district police and fire department.

The deceased children have been identified as brothers Soumya (12) and Prashant (7), residents of Roshanara Road, and the injured has been identified as Ramji Das Aneja (60), a resident of Malka Ganj and owner of a paan shop.

## FIR registered

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Anto Alphonse – who was at the spot till the rescue operation was under way – said that an FIR under section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 34 (common intention) of the



Rescue work in progress at a building collapse site in north Delhi's Sabzi Mandi on Monday.

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Indian Penal Code has been registered to investigate the incident.

On the ground floor of the building were two shops – one selling dairy products including milk, cheese and sweets, and another, a paan and currency notes exchange shop. The three floors above the shop were rooms of three houses behind the lane.

Locals said the shop on the ground floor was sold by the owner to another shopkeeper in the lane about a month ago and the new owner had begun repair and renovation about three days ago. Labourers working inside the shop were feared trapped under the debris.

An eyewitness, who identified himself as Amit Chaud-

hary and runs a footwear shop close to the building, said he was at his shop when the incident happened. "Right outside the milk shop, a rickshaw was standing and two boys were sitting inside. Their parents had gone to a grocery shop. They were just crossing the area and stopped on the way. Labourers were working inside the shop. Suddenly, the entire building collapsed and Ram uncle, who was about to step out of his shop, also got stuck under the debris. He was the first person who was rescued. He was severely injured and rushed to the hospital," he said.

The two children were found hours after, around 2 p.m., he said. They were

rushed to the hospital, where they were later declared dead.

## Late by seconds

The injured Mr. Aneja's nephew Sandeep – who had come to pick a few belongings from the debris – said he had met his uncle who told him that he was getting ready to leave the shop when the incident occurred.

"He got late by a few seconds, he told me. He was just leaving for market to buy some articles," Mr. Sandeep said. Mr. Aneja had lost his wife to COVID-19 three months ago and his son over a year ago to dengue. He takes care of his daughter-in-law and grandson," Mr. Sandeep said.

Himantica Aneja, a resident of the collapsed building, said her family had been asking the new owner of the shop to stop using the drilling machine. "We kept asking him to consult an expert but he kept dodging us and said that it's alright. The incident has happened because of his negligence," she said.

Praveen, a resident of the area, said that most buildings in the locality are nearly 100 years old and do not have concrete iron roofs and foundation. "This area is historic but the buildings are now dilapidated. They demand attention of officials," he said.

Police said that the shop's owner has not been found yet but his family is being questioned.

## 'Was not dangerous'

Meanwhile, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation had carried out a survey of dangerous buildings before monsoon, but had found the aforementioned building not dangerous. "However, the said property was not identified as dangerous as it was apparently not found in dangerous condition during the survey," a North body statement stated.

However, a thorough survey of the areas will be conducted again in the next 48 hours especially, of the buildings which have been already identified as dangerous. Those buildings which are found at imminent risk after the survey will be vacated by the corporation.

# Civil society demands release of Umar Khalid from 'unjust arrest'

'Do citizens have rights to oppose present govt., policies?'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

At a public meeting held at the Press Club of India in New Delhi on Monday to mark a year of student leader Umar Khalid's arrest in connection with the north-east Delhi riots, several civil society members, including activists, journalists and parliamentarians, raised questions over whether the citizens have the right to oppose the government and its policies under the ruling dispensation.

The speakers demanded his release from "unjust imprisonment" and said the government had targeted the "public spirited activists and youth" through the investigation by the Delhi police.

Stating that Mr. Khalid is "one of the brightest and most uncontaminated minds of this age," Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Kumar Jha said, "In these difficult times, you will not find heroes in films but behind bars for speaking against the government."

"The government," he alleged, "could not deal with Shaheen Bagh, hence it resorted to demonising it."

Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan said, "It is nearly two years since the anti-CAA protests began. It was an exemplary protest where political parties were not involved and it were the wo-



Umar Khalid

Umar Khalid's only crime was that he was raising his voice against the CAA-NRC-NPR

SYEDA HAMEED  
Planning Commission ex-member

courageous movement which spread to other parts of the world as well. The protest had become a fountainhead of 'Inquilaab'.

## 'Remove UAPA'

The victims were made conspirators, said Zafarul Islam Khan, former Chairperson of the Delhi Minorities Commission.

"There should be a high level judicial inquiry, which still has not happened. Several of the FIRs were clubbed together so that proper investigation does not happen. Local victims are also not being helped much even though they were the ones most affected. We need to ensure black laws such as the UAPA are removed, else this pattern is bound to continue," he said.

Siddharth Vardarajan, the founding editor of *The Wire*, said, "The manner in which law enforcement is working in Delhi, the actual conspirators of communalism are actually being given a free pass."

Other speakers included senior journalist Bharat Bhushan and farmer leader Jasbeer Kaur.

# HC seeks status report on protection of witnesses in Tihar custodial death case

'They should be kept in a cell with CCTV'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday called for a status report from the prison authority on the steps taken to ensure safety and security of witnesses in the alleged murder of gangster Ankit Gujjar inside Tihar jail.

Justice Mukta Gupta, who last week transferred the investigation in the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), directed that all witnesses be kept in a cell monitored by CCTV.

The High Court also sought the medical report of two witnesses who were allegedly not receiving proper treatment in spite of suffering "grievous injuries" in the same incident of assault.

During the hearing, CBI counsel said the investigating agency has registered an FIR into the case. The 29-year-old was found dead inside his cell in Tihar jail on August 4.

## Witnesses' petition

The court's direction came while hearing a petition by five witnesses in the case seeking directions to ensure their safety and security as well as to restrain the author-



ities from "threatening/coercing/injuring them with a view to prevent them from seeking justice for themselves and the deceased inmate".

"The petitioners are all inmates of Delhi Prisons and are eyewitnesses to the murder of one Ankit Gujjar [deceased], by respondent no.1 officials, inside Central Jail no.3 on 03.08.2021," the petition reads.

"The sequence of events clearly demonstrates the existence of an imminent threat to the lives of the petitioners on account that they are eyewitnesses to a gruesome and brutal murder inside the jail premises by influential and powerful jail officials, at the behest of the highest rung authorities of the administration," they said.

# Alert police save man from ending life

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 42-year-old man, who tried to end his life by jumping off the Andrews Ganj flyover in south Delhi, was saved after police intervened on Sunday.

Police said that the man, who is from Almora in Uttarakhand, has been living in Delhi for nearly four years. He had come to the flyover after drinking with a friend on Sunday evening.

Around 6 p.m., when Kotla Mubarak Pur Station House Officer (SHO) Vinay Kumar Tyagi was patrolling the area, he received an information about the man. He immediately alerted other staffers. The SHO spotted the man, who was shouting that he was disappointed with his life and wanted to die.

The SHO deployed police personnel near the flyover and another team with net under the flyover as he tried to engage the man in talks. Meanwhile, two officials grabbed him and he was rescued. He was counselled and later handed over to his acquaintance, police said.

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

# In a first, IIT to admit students from non-science stream for UG course

Premier institute to start Bachelor of Design programme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

IIT-Delhi's Department of Design will be introducing a new course Bachelor of Design (B.Des.) from the academic session 2022-23, the institute said on Monday. The Board of Governors has approved the four-year programme, which will have 20 seats to start with and will be open to students of all specialisations.

Director of IIT-Delhi, V. Ramgopal Rao, said this is for the first time that IIT-Delhi would be admitting undergraduate students for the B.Des programme from backgrounds other than Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. "We expect that the students who graduate with a B.Des. degree from IIT-Delhi would take



up leadership positions in industry, academia, government, consulting, and entrepreneurship over a period of time," Mr. Rao said.

## Bridging gap

He added that the B.Des. programme and other programmes in design, which are in pipeline at IIT-Delhi, will bridge the huge demand-supply gap of quality design professionals, which our country needs to

excel as a creative economy.

P.V. Madhusudhan Rao, Head of Department of Design, IIT-Delhi said that the programme is designed to produce industry-ready and socially conscious design professionals for addressing some of the grand challenges facing our society/country.

The institute said that the students for the B.Des. programme will be admitted based on Undergraduate Common Entrance Examination for Design ranks for which registration has begun. IIT-Delhi has been running a Master of Design (M.Des.) programme since 1994 and also has a PhD programme in place with more than 35 research scholars presently enrolled.

# Nizamuddin centre can't be kept locked forever: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The case registered in relation to the alleged violation of COVID-19 protocols at Nizamuddin Markaz (centre) – where the Tablighi Jamaat congregation was held in March last year amid COVID-19 pandemic – is serious and has "cross borders implications", the Centre told the High Court which on Monday remarked that the premises can't be kept locked forever.

Justice Mukta Gupta, who was hearing the Delhi Waqf Board's plea to reopen the centre which has remained shut since March 31 last year, questioned the Centre as to how long it intended to keep the Nizamuddin centre

locked, saying it can't be "kept forever".

Counsel for the Centre stated that a legal action to reopen the centre can only be initiated by the lessee of the property and a resident of the premises has already filed a plea to handover the residential portion of the centre, which is pending final adjudication before another judge of the High Court.

However, the judge said "some persons were in possession of the property. Due to the pandemic, an FIR was registered.. [and] you take possession as case property. It has to be handed over. It can't be that the property is kept forever [subject to court orders]"

# Delhi riots: police to file separate chargesheets after court objection

Five incidents were clubbed in a single FIR and chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

After a Delhi court questioned the police over a wrongly-clubbed FIR based on multiple complaints of alleged rioting during the 2020 communal violence, it decided to segregate and file separate chargesheets in the cases involved.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav had asked the police why five incidents of alleged rioting, theft, and arson which took place at three different blocks - C, D, and E of Delhi's Bhajanpura area on different dates were clubbed in a single FIR and chargesheet.

In a status report submitted on September 10, the Bhajanpura SHO replied that complaints of rioting that took place in D and E blocks "will be investigated separately and in all these three incidents separate chargesheets will be filed". The court agreed.

Besides, in the other two complaints related to the alleged rioting at C block, the court has agreed to consider the chargesheet already submitted in the case.



A scene from Bhajanpura during north-east Delhi riots. • FILE PHOTO

cused persons to be part of the riotous mob which had vandalised their shops," ASJ Yadav said in an order dated September 10.

He noted that there are no allegations by the complainants regarding the commission of arson in their shops and as such ingredients of Section 436 IPC [mischievous or explosive substance] are not at all made out.

"Even from the photographs filed on record, no incident of committing mischief by fire or explosive substance is borne out," he said, adding that there is no CCTV footage or video clip of the incident on record.

The court also noted that the complaints of different dates were clubbed together. While one complainant alleged that the alleged crime took place on February 24, while the others claimed that it happened on February 25. "Whether these complaints of different dates could have been clubbed by the investigating agency in one FIR is a question which will be seen during the course of the trial," the judge said.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)					
The Executive Engineer, Bhawarna Division, HPPWD Bhawarna on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invite the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-					
Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Starting date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Providing and laying Annual Surfacing (Periodic Maintenance) on Devi to Malehar road Km 0/0 to 1/0 (Financial Incentive 2019-20 for the year 2020-21) in the state of HP (S.W.- Providing and laying Tack coat, Bituminous Concrete in Km 0/0 to 1/0).	9,29,826/-	16/09/2021	18600/-	29/09/2021
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> .					
HP / 4055/21-22			Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Bhawarna, Pin-176083, Tel:01894-247777, e-mail: cepwd-bhaw-hp@gov.in on behalf of Governor of H.P.		

e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)					
The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rampur Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering, system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.					
Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting date for down-loading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/O CHC building at Dhar Gaura in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla H.P. (SH- C/O site development, building portion W.S. & S.I. work, septic tank soakpit and rain harvesting tank)	Rs. 2,83,81,817/-	20.09.2021	Rs. 3,20,000/-	27.09.2021
2.	C/O Primary Health Center building Level-II at Delath in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla H.P. (SH- C/O Civil work, P/L W.S. and S.I. site development rain water harvesting system and boundary wall and C/O septic tank).	Rs. 1,64,38,333/-	20.09.2021	Rs. 1,97,000/-	27.09.2021
The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website <a href="http://www.hptenders.gov.in">www.hptenders.gov.in</a> .					
HP / 4046/21-22			Executive Engineer, Rampur Division (B&R), HPPWD, Rampur Bushahr, On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh		

GOVT OF ASSAM DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE, ASSAM UZANBAZAR :: GUAHATI-01	
No. DSW(G)Misc/1/2021-22/Pt/-	
<b>Notice</b>	
The Director of Social Welfare invites proposal from firm / organization for 1. UDID registration campaign and 2. Sample survey of Differently able persons in few selected districts in Assam. Interested parties may submit proposal in the office of the Director, Social Welfare, Assam on or before 24 <sup>th</sup> September / 2021 up to 3 PM.	
Janasanyog /C/5495/21	Director Social Welfare, Assam



**Timings**  
**DELHI**

**TUESDAY, SEP. 14**  
RISE 06:06 SET 18:28  
RISE 13:40 SET 00:00

**WEDNESDAY, SEP. 15**  
RISE 06:06 SET 18:26  
RISE 14:41 SET 00:02

**THURSDAY, SEP. 16**  
RISE 06:07 SET 18:25  
RISE 15:38 SET 01:03

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	33	26
Safdarjang	33	26
Palam	34	26

**Delhi Palam Today**  
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night remains comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower to occur.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
33°C The weather will be little warm and humid. Night remains comfortable. Few spells of rain and thundershower to continue.

© Copyright SkyMet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

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

**IN BRIEF**



**Gahlot lays foundation for EV charging plaza**

**NEW DELHI**  
Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Monday laid the foundation stone for the first public EV charging plaza at Nehru Place DTC bus terminal, in addition to inaugurating a public charging station. The EV-charging plaza will be completed within a month, the government stated.

**AAP elects new political affairs committee**

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Aam Aadmi Party has elected a new Political Affairs Committee (PAC), the top-most national-level body of the party, sources said.

Delhi MLAs Raghav Chadha, Rakhi Birla and Delhi Minister Imran Husain are the new entries to the PAC.

The National Executive (NE) was elected by the National Council on Saturday and the PAC was elected by the NE on Sunday.

**11-member panel**

The party did not officially release a list or statement on the new PAC.

The other members of the 11-member PAC are Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Gopal Rai, Atishi, N.D. Gupta, Durgesh Pathak and Pan-kaj Gupta.

Mr. Chadha, Mr. Husain, and Ms. Birla are now part of both, the PAC and the National Executive.

# Centre should direct States to use bio-decomposer: CM

Audit shows technique effective in stubble management, farmers happy with solution, says Kejriwal; BJP alleges corruption in the process

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

Termining the bio-decomposer technique a "smashing success" at curbing stubble burning in the Capital, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday appealed to the Centre to ask the neighbouring States to use the same to prevent pollution.

The bio-decomposer technique utilised by the Delhi government last winter had turned out to be highly effective in dealing with agricultural stubble, he said. Mr. Kejriwal claimed the farmers were "very happy" and the neighbouring States should also implement the technique with winter around the corner and the city's air quality expected to deteriorate during the months of October and November.

Even as the Chief Minister announced he would meet Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav to seek his intervention regard-

ing the same, the Delhi BJP accused Mr. Kejriwal of utilising the technique only to garner publicity at the cost of the taxpayers' money.

"From October 10 onwards, we will start witnessing rising pollution levels till the end of November. A big reason behind this is the smoke that is generated due to stubble burning in Delhi's neighbouring States," Mr. Kejriwal said during a digital briefing.

**End blame game**

"Till now, all the governments used to blame each other on this issue. State governments would accuse the Centre of not releasing funds, the Centre would claim that the States are doing nothing. But no one's going to earn anything out of this blame game," he said.

In October, Mr. Kejriwal explained, farmers harvest their paddy crop. When they cut the crop to harvest it, they leave a significant por-



A farmer sprinkles the bio-decomposer solution on the fields at Hiranki village. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tion of the lower stem behind. This leftover part is called stubble or 'Paraali'.

Post the harvest season, a farmer barely has 20-25 days to sow the next crop of wheat. During this time, the farmers need to get rid of the stubble to clear their fields. The most convenient method to do this is to burn the stubble, he added.

"Till now, all the governments did was to target the

farmers. They'd penalise the farmers burning stubble. But what did the governments actually do? The entire problem is a mistake of the governments," Mr. Kejriwal alleged.

The Delhi government, however, had found a solution to the problem in the Pusa Institute's bio-decomposer which was both cost-effective and had proven highly effective, Mr. Ke-

**Over 90% of the farmers said that the stubble decomposed within 15-20 days, whereas it would previously take 40-50 days**

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL**  
Chief Minister

riwal said.

According to him, the government had sprayed the solution on 1,935 acres of land in 39 villages.

"The Delhi government approached the Commission for Air Quality Management with the solution. The Delhi government got WAPCOS – a PSU of the Jal Shakti Ministry of the Centre – to do an audit of our solution. WAPCOS conducted a full-fledged investigation. They surveyed 79 farmers in 15 villages spread across four districts," he said.

"After completing the process they have very clearly stated that farmers are ex-

tremely happy with the performance of the bio-decomposer. I reiterate, WAPCOS is a company of the Centre which has independently investigated the solution," he added.

**Less time taken**

According to findings of the WAPCOS audit, Mr. Kejriwal said, 90% of the farmers said that the stubble decomposed within 15-20 days, whereas it would previously take 40-50 days. The soil needed to be ploughed 6-7 times earlier, after using the spray the soil needs to be ploughed only once or twice.

The organic carbon, nitrogen, bacterial and fungal content in the soil increased after using the bio-decomposer and the stubble essentially ended up becoming a manure for the soil, he said.

"Just like how the farmers and the people of Delhi are happy with this solution, the same can happen in other States. All that the State go-

vernments have to do is to adopt the bio-decomposer method. All that the Centre needs to do is to mandate the States to use this solution," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"I appeal to the Centre to intervene and ask the States to implement it. This is how all of us will get freedom from pollution. I will meet with the Union Environment Minister with this report and urge him to take up the solution," he said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana, citing an RTI response on the bio-decomposer technique, alleged corruption in the process which was undertaken last year.

"According to the RTI response, the cost of the decomposer solution was just ₹75,780 while ₹22,84,150 was spent on spraying it; only 310 farmers reaped the so-called benefits of the initiative on which crores were spent on publicity," Mr. Khurana alleged.

## Woman seeks compensation for mother's death due to COVID-19

HC asks Centre, NDMA to submit replies before Nov. 18

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to respond to a petition filed by a woman seeking ex gratia for her mother's death due to COVID-19.

Justice Rekha Palli asked the authorities to submit their replies before the next date of hearing on November 18.

The woman said her mother Bimla Devi complained of fever and other problems and was admitted to the Saroj Medical Institute



here on April 28 after her RT-PCR report came positive.

The plea said Devi was discharged in a critical condition by the hospital and the family could not arrange bed in any other hospital as there was shortage during

the second wave of COVID-19.

The patient died at her home on May 3. The woman claimed that she could not get the death certificate of her mother from the Municipal Corporation office as her brother was not cooperating in the process.

The petition said it was not only a statutory obligation under the Disaster Management Act to provide ex gratia assistance on account of loss of life but it was the constitutional obligation also since it affected the right to life guaranteed under the Constitution.

## No COVID-19 deaths for sixth day

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Capital reported no new COVID-19 death in 24 hours for the sixth consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,083, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

Also, 17 new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,38,250. A total of 40,399 tests were done in a day and that test positivity rate was 0.04%. Of the total cases, 14,12,790 people have recovered and there are only 377 active cases. The low number of cases can also be attributed to fewer tests conducted the previous day.

## Govt. to provide ₹50K aid for rooftop rainwater harvesting

10% rebate on water bills; certificate from DJB not needed

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government will provide financial assistance up to ₹50,000 and a rebate of 10% on water bills to instal rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, authorities said on Monday.

**Nod from architect**

Also, a certificate from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is no longer needed for rainwater harvesting systems and the people can instead take a certificate from any architect registered with the Council of Architecture.

The government has also

extended the last date for compulsory implementation of the rooftop Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) system to December 31.

The DJB had earlier issued guidelines mandating owners of existing and new properties measuring 100 square metres and above to instal RWH structures.

**Conserve rainwater**

"The government is working to ensure that the water received through rain is conserved as much as possible," an official statement said.

"To increase the ground-

water levels and efficiently utilise the rainwater, the government has adopted several measures. The adoption of the Dungarpur model of rainwater harvesting (RWH) is one of them. This model is also known as the INLINE Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) system. This model is cost-effective and is being implemented in the tribal-dominated Dungarpur district of Rajasthan," the official statement added.

In this method, the rainwater is directed to a borewell, instead of a regular rainwater-harvesting pit.

## Pandemic crisis: BJP demands that AAP govt. disburse rent amount

Kejriwal had promised to pay if tenants failed to do so

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Monday demanded that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal fulfil his promise of disbursing the amount due towards six months' rent of 9 lakh citizens residing in the Capital.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said Mr. Kejriwal had, during the first wave of COVID-19 infection, promised that if a tenant was not able to pay rent due to financial reasons, the Delhi government would pay the landlord concerned.

**'Unfulfilled promises'**

"Whatever promises the Chief Minister had made during the pandemic remain unfulfilled so far. Even COVID-19 warriors like doctors, safai workers, paramedical staff, police personnel who were promised ₹1 crore each



have not been given anything. More than 100 doctors died in Delhi alone in the line of duty," Mr. Gupta alleged.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said there were about 9 lakh people living in Delhi on rent all of whom "feel betrayed" by the Chief Minister.

"In spite of the court-mandated period of six

**In spite of the court-mandated period of six weeks, two weeks have already lapsed but not a single tenant has been given money till date**

**RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI**  
Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly

weeks, two weeks have already lapsed but not a single tenant has been given money by the State government till date," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

"The petitioners even wrote a letter to Mr. Kejriwal on August 29 and they even tried to contact him on phone so that they would know how many tenants have been given money so far, but to no avail," the BJP leader added.

## Fully loaded



A worker travels on top of a vegetable truck near Ghazipur sabzi mandi in Delhi on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## 62,000 beneficiaries get vaccine doses in Gurguram mega drive

Jabs administered at 230 sites; no prior registration needed

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM**

More than 62,000 beneficiaries were administered COVID-19 vaccine doses in the Millennium City in a mega drive on Monday, taking the cumulative numbers of doses in the district to over 26 lakh.

The doses were administered at 230 sites across the district.

Immunisation Officer M.P. Singh said 24,468 beneficiaries in the 18-45 age group were administered the first

dose and 26,817 were given the second dose. Similarly, 5,177 beneficiaries above 45 years were given the first dose and 4,598 were administered the second dose.

Four health workers and one front-line worker were given the first dose, whereas 246 health workers and 1,119 were given the second dose.

Mr. Singh said no prior registration was required for the vaccination and the beneficiaries were administered the doses on "first-come-first-serve" basis. The

beneficiaries were kept under 30-minute mandatory observation as per the protocol before they were allowed to leave.

More than 1.83 crore doses have been administered in Haryana so far.

Meanwhile, no death due to COVID-19 was recorded in the State on Sunday, while five new cases were reported. Of the new cases, three were reported from Gurugram, while one each was from Karnal and Yamunagar districts.

## BJP looting money in name of clearing landfills: AAP

'If garbage is cleaned at current rate, then it will not be removed even after 100 yrs'

**STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI**

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday alleged corruption in clearing of landfills by BJP-governed municipal corporations and added that if the garbage is cleaned at the current rate, then the landfills will not be removed even after 100 years.

**Target of 25%**

AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said that the landfills in the city were supposed to be reduced by 25% till now. "Bhalswa had a deadline



Garbage at Bhalswa landfill in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

of April 2021. Okhla of October 2021. Similarly, Ghazipur, too was supposed to be reduced by 25%. A Delhi

Pollution Control Committee report states that the work is going on very slowly," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

**Waste generation**

"North Corporation generates 4,500 metric tonnes of waste. Of this, 2500-2600 tonnes of garbage go to Bhalswa every day. In the last two years, 19 lakh metric tonnes of garbage have come, and 18.5 lakh metric tonnes is being processed at Bhalswa. More garbage is coming there than what can be processed. At this rate, this garbage won't be processed in the next 100

years," he added.

The AAP leader said that the BJP-government corporations are "looting" the money of Delhi government in the name of clearing these "mountains of garbage".

"The BJP is looting the money given by the Delhi government by paying more as rent for trommel machines than what they cost. According to the DPCC, the environment is being harmed by about ₹500 crore because of the three garbage mountains of the municipal corporations," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

## City reports 158 dengue cases so far

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI**

At least 158 cases of dengue have been reported in the national capital this year, according to a civic report released on Monday.

The number of dengue cases for January 1-September 11 period is also the highest this year since 2019, when the count had stood at 171 in that same duration.

Over 700 cases were reported in August, which is about 45% of the total cases. At least 34 cases have been recorded in the first 11 days of September.



**CLASSIFIEDS MART**  
TO ADVERTISE:  
www.thehinduads.com  
011-43579738 • 43579797

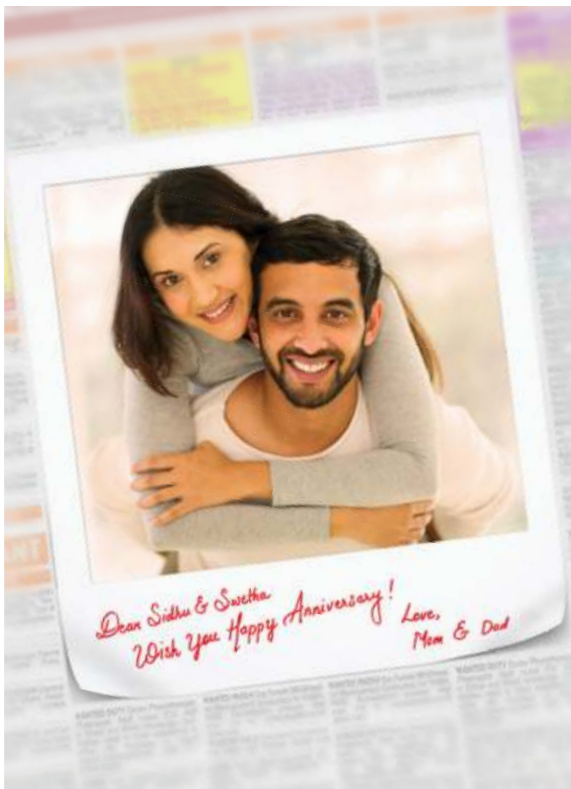
**EDUCATIONAL**

**Triumph IAS**  
An Institute for Civil Services Examination & Expert Guidance for IAS  
**SOCIOLOGY FOUNDATION** WITH DAILY ANSWER WRITING FOCUSED ON APPLIED SOCIOLOGY  
Under Mentorship of **Vikash Ranjan Sir**  
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR **OFFLINE BATCH**  
**BATCH START 20th Sept.** ONLY 100 SEATS  
AIR 26 MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY 302 IN JUST 4 MONTHS PREPARATION  
www.triumphias.com  
SOCIOLOGY TOPPERS CSE Under the Guidance of Vikash Ranjan Sir  
G.R. RAGHAVENDRA AIR 2018 MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY 318  
GAURAVIET SINGH AIR 2019 MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY 309  
NAMRATA JAIN AIR 2019 MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY 301  
DESPANISH KURHANA AIR 2017 MARKS IN SOCIOLOGY 303  
7678628820, 7840888102

**AGRI** Mains Test Series  
Regular Batch Starts: 20 Sept  
Last Date for Admission: 18 Sept  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
Regular Batch Starts: 20 Sept  
Last Date for Admission: 18 Sept  
8750602193  
KAVERI'S IAS 56, Opp. Kotak Mahindra Bank, ORN, New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN  
This is to inform the General Public that following share certificates of Raymond Limited having its registered office at Plot 156, H.No.2, Ratnagiri 415612 Maharashtra, registered in the name of following Shareholder has been lost by her: S/o Name of the Folio No Certificate Distinctive No. of Shares Shareholder Numbers 1 MANJU GUPTA Y0011869 3571767 17600936 to 50 17600985 2 MANJU GUPTA Y0011869 3571768 17600986 to 50 17601035 The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Ltd 247 Park, C-101 1st Floor, L.B.S.Marg, Vikrol (W), Mumbai 400083 Tel: 022 49186270 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates

**A GREETING TO REMEMBER**



Be it an anniversary, a birthday, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on

THE HINDU  
**CLASSIFIEDS**  
LIFE MADE SIMPLE

For more details, email: classifiedscustomer@thehindu.co.in  
Contact Toll Free Number: 18003070040  
For Placing Advertisements Online Log on to www.thehinduads.com

**HISTORY'S. BALLYAN**  
REGULAR OFFLINE CLASSES | SEPARATE BATCHES FOR OPTIONAL & GS PAPER-1 MODULE | SEATS ARE LIMITED\*

**CLASSES COMMENCE 20 SEPT. INSIGHT**



73, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR NEW DELHI - 110060  
011-45090051, 9818333201

**ANTHROPOLOGY FOUNDATION BATCH**  
by Vijay Singh  
(Author "Social & Physical Anthropology" 34 Year Guiding Experience)  
OFFLINE/ONLINE CLASSES  
**FREE WORKSHOP 15th Sept @ 11:30am**  
NEXT BATCH FROM **28th SEPT @ 5:30pm**  
www.vijayasclasses.com  
C 6203561263, 9560633328  
4th Floor, Cross Building, Near Karol Bagh Metro, Delhi

**BSP will not go with BJP to form govt. in U.P., says Misra**

It's 200% final, says close confidant of party chief Mayawati

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW  
Senior Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Satish Chandra Misra on Monday ruled out "200%" any post-poll alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Uttar Pradesh, asserting that his party would form a government with a clear-cut majority.



BSP leader Satish Misra

The BSP would also not tie up with any other party, the close confidant of party supremo Mayawati, said.

"We will neither form an alliance with any other party nor take support. We would prefer to sit in the Opposition," the BSP general secretary said.

"The BSP is forming its government in 2022 with a full majority. In case of any other scenario arising after the elections, we will never go with the BJP and this is 200 per cent final," he said.

Mr. Misra's assertion came amid a growing perception that the BSP could again join hands with the BJP if the 2022 Assembly elections throw a hung House. The BSP has in the past formed governments in the country's most populous State both with the BJP and the Samajwadi Party (SP).

In 1993, it tied up with the SP, whose Mulayam Singh Yadav-headed the government. In 1995, it pulled out and Mayawati became CM with the BJP's support for a few months.

In 1997 and in 2002, the BSP again formed the government in coalition with the BJP. In 2007, relying on a Dalit-Brahmin combination, the party formed the government on its own, winning 206 seats in the 403-member assembly.

**Winning formula**  
The BSP is once again trying to revive this winning "Dalit-Brahmin" combination, holding a series of 'Brahmin sammelans' across the State. Dalits constitute an estimated 20% of the population of Uttar Pradesh and the Brahmins are said to form 13%.

"The BSP started the trend and all the parties are now aiming to rope in the Brahmins and going all out to woo them," Mr. Misra, the BSP's Brahmin face, said, referring to similar "sammelans" held by the BJP and the SP.

"But 80% of the Brahmins are with us. Only those Brahmins who are office-bearers of any party or are themselves contesting the elections are not with the BSP, and all these parties are fighting for them through the outreach programmes," he said.

**'BSP in sweep polls'**

Mr. Misra claimed that not just the Brahmins but members of all other castes and religious groups who have a first-hand experience of the Mayawati government are supporting the party this time.

He said the party is all set to surpass its showing in the 2007 elections.

In an apparent reference to All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi, Mr. Misra claimed there is a trend of leaders coming from other States at election time to target Muslims in Uttar Pradesh.

**Akali Dal names candidates for Assembly polls**

List of 64 released by party chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Taking a lead over its political rivals in the run-up to next year's Assembly polls, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has announced names of 64 candidates for the 117-member House.



SAD chief Sukhbir Badal

On Monday, party president and Lok Sabha MP Sukhbir Singh Badal, who will contest from Jalalabad, released the names of 64 party candidates. The longer list comes days after the party announced the names of 22 candidates.

According to the party statement, former Agriculture Minister Tota Singh will contest from Dharmot. Former Education Minister Dr. Daljit Singh Cheema will contest from Ropar. The other senior leaders on the candidate list include Janmeja Singh Sekhon from Zira, Maheshinder Singh Grewal from Ludhiana West, Sikander Singh Maluka from Rampura Phul, Jagmeet Brar from Maur, Sharanjit Singh Dhillon from Sahnewal and Gulzar Singh Ranike from Attari (SC) constituency.

The SAD and the Bahujan

Samaj Party (BSP) have inked an electoral alliance for the 2022 polls, with former contesting 97 seats and the latter 20.

**'Cong. betrayed people'**

"We have been raising the issues surrounding public interest and anti-people stance of the ruling government during the last four and half years. Already our party cadre are on the ground and have been working hard to convey to the masses about betrayals committed by the ruling Congress government. In this chain, taking a lead we have formally announced names of 64 candidates," said Dr. Daljit Cheema.

The SAD earlier had an alliance with the BJP but parted ways with the NDA over the farm laws issue.

**Spare Punjab, move protests to Delhi: Amarinder to farmers**

Chief Minister alleges Akali Dal 'double crossed' agriculturists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday urged farmers' unions not to hold protests across Punjab against the farm reform laws as the demonstrations were not in the "economic interest of the State" and advised the protesters to shift their sit-in venues to Delhi's borders or in Haryana.



Amarinder Singh

The Constitution has been amended 127 times since 1950. So why not one more time to repeal the farm laws...

The Chief Minister said the Constitution has been amended 127 times since 1950. "So why not one more time to repeal the farm laws for providing succour to the farmers who have been sitting at the Singhu and Tikri borders," he asked.

In Hoshiarpur, Capt. Amarinder appealed to the representatives of various farmers' unions to spare Punjab from their protests and mount pressure on the Centre from the Delhi borders or Haryana instead.

Reacting to Captain Amarinder's statement, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij accused him of instigating the farmers.

"It is a very irresponsible statement of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to tell farmers that do whatever you want in Haryana or at Delhi borders but do not do it in Punjab," Mr. Vij said in a tweet. "This proves that Amarinder Singh has done the work of instigating farmers," he added.

(With inputs from PTI)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**



Deepak Kumar

General public is hereby informed that one person namely **Deepak Kumar S/o Santosh** R/o WZ-212, Sunar Wali Gali, Palam Village, New Delhi. Age 25 years, Height 5'4", Complexion Shallow, Face Round, Built Slim, Hair Black, Eyes Black, Wearing Red colour Shirt, Black colour Pant & Hawai Chappal in feet is missing since 11.08.2021 from Palam Village, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this person, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a DD No. 76-A dated 31.08.2021 has been lodged at PS Palam Village, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-23011334  
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218  
DP/813/SW/2021

SHO

PS Palam Village, New Delhi  
Ph. 011-25365979, 25365981

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



POONAM

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Poonam, D/o: Madan Ram, R/o: Servant Qtr No. 304, Block A, Central Govt. Officers Residential Complex, DDU Marg, Delhi, Age: 13 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Pink Colour Forck** has been missing/kidnapped since 02.09.2021 from the jurisdiction of P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 255/21, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 03.09.2021, has been registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped girl please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-23011334  
DP/980/CD/2021

SHO

P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi  
Ph: 011-23370928, 23370999

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**DEATH**

**OBITUARY**

**Mrs. KOTHA SUNDARAM**  
(W/o Late Mr. P. M. Balasundaram)  
Age: 92Yrs  
Passed away on 13th September.  
Her last rites will be performed at 10 am on 14th September.  
"Her hugs last long after she lets go"  
Deeply Mourned by  
Ramesh Kumar & Sujata  
Ravi Kumar & Rajini  
Shyamala  
Maheshwari & Azhalavan  
Yashodara & Radhakrishnan  
Grand & Great Grand Children  
Ct: 98410 14114

In memory of your loved ones  
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:  
011-43579797  
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &  
For Placing Advertisements  
Online log on to  
[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**1st Anniversary**

**Mr. V. Ramalingam Mudaliyar**  
(A) Ramu  
DOB: 28-09-1940 DOD: 14-09-2020

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.  
New Delhi : 011- 43579797  
Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines  
Extra Line - Rs.160/-)  
(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm  
(Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm  
Log on to [www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)  
For Placing Advertisements Online

**Former BJP, INLD leaders join Congress in Haryana**

BJP anti-farmer and anti-labourer: Selja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and a former leader of the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) joined the Haryana Congress on Monday in the presence of All India Congress Committee State in-charge Vivek Bansal and Pradesh Congress chief Kumari Selja.



Cong. leader Kumari Selja

Those who joined the party are industrialist Ashok Goel Mangaliwala, former BJP leader Pawan Beniwal and former INLD leader Kanwarjit Singh.

While Mr. Beniwal was BJP's candidate from Ellanabad constituency in the last Assembly polls who unsuccessfully contested against INLD's Abhay Chautala, Mr. Singh is the son of former Congress MP Tara Singh.

**Scheme for COVID orphans withdrawn**

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has suddenly discontinued a special scheme 'Ashirwad' for children, who were losing their parents to COVID-19, barely three and half months after its launch.

The State government had on June 20 announced ₹2,500 a month for children, who lost both their parents, in the pandemic.

The comprehensive package was meant for orphans while beneficiaries were divided into three categories - children having lost parents and one of earning parents.

Now, the government said children losing parents after September 15 would no more be covered under scheme.



IN BRIEF



Jumbos arrive in Mysuru for Dasara festivities

**MYSURU**  
Elephants participating in this year's low-key Dasara festivities arrived in Mysuru on Monday after the traditional and colourful 'Gajapayana' was flagged off at Veeranahosahalli on the outskirts of Nagarahole, near Hunsur, earlier in the day.

TTD to sell incense sticks made from used flowers

**TIRUMALA**  
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Monday ventured into the manufacturing and sale of 'agarbattis' (incense sticks) made from the flowers used in the daily rituals of deities at various temples under its purview. Four sales counters have been opened near the laddu counters adjacent to the Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala. The incense sticks will be available in seven brands for devotees.

# More support pours in for Pala Bishop

### Kerala BJP, Metropolitan Archbishop express solidarity

**STAFF REPORTER KOTTAYAM**  
Days after Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt set off a controversy with his remarks about jihad by way of love and narcotics, the issue continued to boil over on Monday with more support pouring in for the prelate. Addressing mediapersons here on Monday, Kerala BJP president K. Surendran said the party would not stand as mute spectator to attempts to intimidate the bishop. He also highlighted the need for society to debate on the subject.

"What the bishop has said is a relevant issue and the BJP does not want to cash in on it politically. At the same time, we will not stand as silent spectators if a few goons from Erattupetta stage protest in Pala and issue threats to the bishop," he said. Asserting that there were



Sharing their views: BJP leaders with Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt in Pala on Monday.

ample evidence for the existence of narcotic jihad, he accused the United Democratic Front and the Left Democratic Front for finding fault with the bishop to appease extremists. During the day, a delegation from the BJP comprising senior leaders P.K. Krishna Das and A.N. Radhakrishnan visited Mar Joseph Kallarangatt at the Bishop's House at

Pala. Meanwhile, the Nair Service Society (NSS) came up with a statement expressing concern over the forced conversion of girls. "That the terrorist activity of forced religious conversion of girls using the weapon of love or other means is indeed a matter of concern. The State and Union governments have the responsibility to find out and quell such

## Bid to destroy communal amity, says Satheesan

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Political sparring over Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt's controversial sermon on 'narcotic jihad' intensified on Monday.

In an open letter to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan expressed deep worry over, what he termed, a well-entrenched

"covert and overt" bid to destroy communal amity in the State.

Without directly referring to the prelate's speech about an active Islamist plot to entrap Catholic and non-Muslim youth with addictive narcotic drugs, Mr. Satheesan demanded that a probe be ordered into the "attempt to stoke up communal enmity".

elements," read the statement issued by G. Sukumaran Nair, general secretary of the organisation.

Earlier in the day, the *Deepika* daily, mouthpiece of the church, published an article by Metropolitan Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam in support of the Pala bishop.

"There are a few elements who are defrauding women by pretending love and in the

cover of married life to abuse them for other purposes. It could be narcotics trafficking, terrorism, religious fundamentalism, or even prostitution.

"No matter if it is love jihad or narcotic jihad, enslaving to such elements on one's own or by force or fraud is dangerous to any family or any community," noted the Archbishop.

## Oscar Fernandes passes away at 80

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MANGALURU**

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Oscar Fernandes, who was a confidant of the Gandhi family, passed away after nearly a two-month unsuccessful battle for life at a private hospital here. He was 80.

An MP since 1980 - six times as a Lok Sabha member and twice as a Rajya Sabha member - Mr. Fernandes was admitted to the Yenepoya Hospital here on July 19 for treatment of a blood clot in the brain. The injury



Oscar Fernandes

occurred after a fall during his routine workout at home in Udipi the previous day. He was operated on July 27 for removal of the clot and was undergoing regular dialysis.

## T.N. Assembly passes Bill against NEET

### AIADMK extends support to government while BJP members stage a walkout

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI**

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday passed a Bill seeking to 'dispense' with the requirement for candidates to qualify in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses in the State.

The Tamil Nadu Admis-sion to Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021, further sought to provide admission to these courses on the basis of the marks obtained in the qualifying examination (Class XII marks in Tamil Nadu)

through "normalisation methods", as done before 2017.

[Two similar legislation passed in the Assembly during the erstwhile AIADMK regime did not receive Presidential assent.]

The Bill, moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, contended that admission to medical courses was traceable to entry 25 of List III, Schedule VII of the Constitution, and the State was "competent to regulate" the same for the underprivileged social groups.

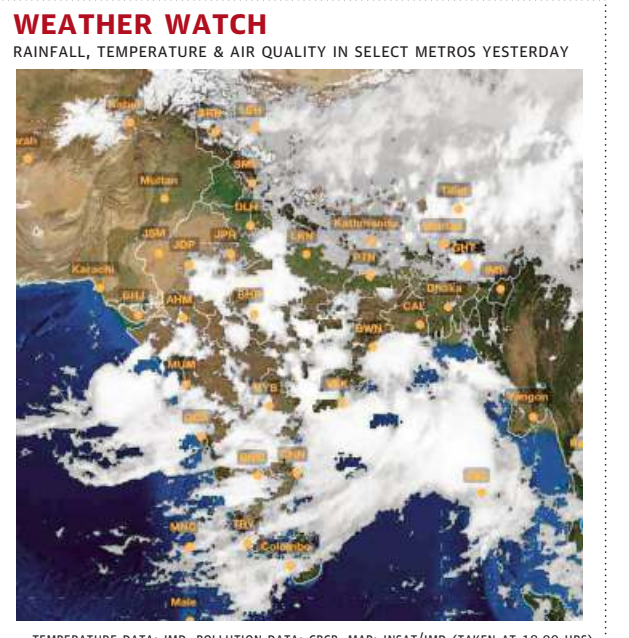
While the principal Opposition party, the AIADMK, ex-

tended its support to the government in passing the Bill, BJP members staged a walkout.

"It [NEET] fosters inequality as it favours the rich and the more privileged class of society, who are able to afford special coaching apart from pursuing Class XII. It virtually barricades the underprivileged social groups from medical and dental education," the Bill contended. It argued that NEET was against the equality clause enshrined in the Constitution.

After the UG course, stu-

dents from the affluent class do not serve in rural areas, and often pursue postgraduate courses abroad, it said, adding that the number of serving doctors in the State was declining. It also termed 'spurious' the suggestion that NEET improved the standard of medical education. "The standard of medical education is maintained during the UG course by following the syllabus and curriculum prescribed by the National Medical Commission and through exams conducted by the university. Students who are not able to pass the university exams are not awarded degrees."



**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, north central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, north Konkan, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Bihar, Jharkhand, Marathwada and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...	34.2	26.8	Kozhikode	...	41.1	29.8
Ahmedabad	...	33.1	25.6	Kurnool	...	33.3	25.3
Aizawl	...	29.0	19.2	Lucknow	...	36.2	27.7
Allahabad	...	35.3	26.8	Madurai	...	39.2	25.7
Bengaluru	0.1	28.2	20.9	Mangaluru	10.1	27.9	24.2
Bhopal	3.4	29.3	24.4	Mumbai	...	39.1	28.2
Bhubaneswar	32.1	25.6	23.2	Mysuru	...	4.2	28.9
Chandigarh	17	34.5	24.6	New Delhi	...	2	33.4
Chennai	...	35.3	27.0	Patna	...	31	34.2
Coimbatore	...	29.8	22.8	Port Blair	...	15	29.9
Dehradun	...	33.9	24.0	Puducherry	...	...	...
Gangtok	1.6	23.6	17.1	Pune	...	5	28.0
Goa	...	29.0	25.2	Raipur	...	9.2	...
Guwahati	...	36.9	27.2	Ranchi	...	29	25.6
Hubbali	...	26.0	22.0	Shillong	...	...	...
Hyderabad	...	30.6	24.2	Shimla	...	8	25.8
Imphal	...	28.8	20.4	Srinagar	...	...	...
Jaipur	2	32.9	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	...	32	30.4
Kochi	37	28.4	24.0	Tiruchi	...	...	...
Kohima	...	30.2	18.4	Vijayawada	...	9	34.6
Kolkata	2	30.8	26.9	Visakhapatnam	...	4	31.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday
	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	
Ahmedabad	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengaluru	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chennai	...	...	...	...	...	...
Delhi	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hyderabad	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kolkata	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mumbai	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pune	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visakhapatnam	...	...	...	...	...	...

**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

## Maharashtra's active tally drops as recoveries surpass new cases

### Fewer samples tested compared to daily average; 27 more succumb to COVID-19

**STAFF REPORTER PUNE**

After witnessing a case surge in the last few days, Maharashtra rallied again on Monday as recoveries outweighed cases with the State recording 3,233 patient discharges against 2,740 new COVID-19 infections.

The active case tally has dipped to 49,880. However, the drop must be viewed in the context of a declining sample testing rate, with a little over one lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours against the daily average of two lakh.

As many as 27 deaths took the cumulative fatalities to 1,38,169. The case fatality rate remains constant at 2.12%.

The total cases now stand at 65,00,617 while the State's cumulative recoveries have risen to 63,09,021 with the recovery rate at 97.05%.



A health worker conducts rapid antigen test on a passenger arriving from Gujarat, at Dadar railway station in Mumbai on Monday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

"Of a total 5,60,88,114 laboratory samples tested thus far, 65,00,617 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 11.59%) have returned positive with 1.08 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said.

Pune reported 549 new cases, taking its total case tally to 11,26,799 while seven deaths pushed the toll to 18,806. As per district authorities, the active cases have exceeded 8,200.

Mumbai recorded 345 new cases to take its total tally to 7,35,400 while the ac-

tive count declined to 5,033. Six deaths took the city's fatality toll to 16,028.

Ahmednagar registered 600 new cases and two deaths, taking its total cases to 3,19,687 of whom 6,625 are active. The district's death toll went up to 6,672.

Satara added 177 new cases and 10 deaths, taking the total case tally to 2,44,158 of whom 4,919 are active, while the death toll climbed to 6,156.

Neighbouring Sangli logged 191 new cases and two deaths. The total tally stands at 2,05,547 with the active cases rising to 1,826 while its death toll stands at 5,533.

Kolhapur saw its lowest surge in months, reporting just 28 new cases and no deaths, pushing its total cases to 2,05,538. The active cases stand at 1,246 while the death toll remains constant at 5,822.

## Kirit Somaiya accuses Minister of ₹127 cr. money laundering scam

### Hasan Mushrif threatens to file ₹100 crore defamation suit

**SHOUMAJIT BANERJEE PUNE**

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kirit Somaiya on Monday accused senior NCP leader and Maharashtra Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif and his relatives of being involved in a ₹127 crore money laundering scam.

Minutes after Mr. Somaiya's allegations, Mr. Mushrif, an influential leader from Kolhapur, said he would file a ₹100-crore defamation suit against the BJP leader at the Kolhapur district court within the next fortnight.

"Mr. Mushrif and his family, including his son, have created companies which in turn have had transactions with Kolkata-based shell companies. Their financial transactions shown in their bank accounts received income from those companies which did not exist," alleged the former BJP MP, who is also the vice-president of the

party's Maharashtra unit.

**Complaint and documents**  
Mr. Somaiya, who has been targeting senior leaders in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government with alleged scam exposures, said he had already filed a complaint and submitted documents with Income Tax authorities in Mumbai and was in the process of giving documents to the Enforcement Directorate.

Last week, the BJP leader had threatened that he would be firing a salvo at a senior Minister in the Thackeray Cabinet, without naming Mr. Mushrif.

Dismissing Mr. Somaiya's allegations as "utterly baseless" and "without any shred of evidence", Mr. Mushrif claimed that the BJP leader was woefully uninformed and was uttering ill-informed allegations at the behest of BJP State president Chandrakant Patil.

## Car rams into house, 2 dead

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NAGPUR**

A teen girl and a woman were killed in Nagpur after their speeding car rammed into a house along Amravati Road, the police said on Monday.

An Ambazari police station official said the incident occurred on Sunday night and identified the deceased as Bhavna Yadav (18) and Rashi Yadav (22).

A case under IPC and Motor Vehicles Act has been registered for causing death by negligence and rash driving, he said.

**TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT**  
**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**  
PH: 9820350726  
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in  
**THE HINDU**  
India's National Newspaper

## 12 landslide-affected families in Raigad get 'container homes'

**RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI**

Of the 24 families from Taliye village in Raigad district, who were affected by a landslide, 12 have received 'container homes' as temporary accommodation. This followed several attempts by former Collector Nidhi Chaudhari and present Collector Mahendra Kalyankar to make such homes available through corporate social responsibility activity.

Each container has a kitchen, table, and toilet. The district administration

provided water connections, and landowners Yogiraj Chaudhari, Sundarabai Mane, Lakmabai Mane and Krishnabai Pande made the land available free of cost to place the containers.

"Another 12 containers will be procured and installed soon. Our efforts to make permanent homes are on," Mr. Kalyankar said.

Around 17 hectares are being procured by the administration for the rehabilitation. On July 22, following heavy rain, 84 people lost their lives in a landslide.

## Have you vaccinated the homeless: HC

### It asks Maharashtra govt. for details on identification, coverage

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI**

The Bombay High Court on Monday asked the Maharashtra government to file an affidavit on COVID-19 immunisation for mentally ill, homeless people.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni asked the State about how many mentally ill have been identified and registered. The court directed the State and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to file an affidavit on this in three weeks.

Anil Singh told the court that the Centre has issued the standard operating procedure for vaccinating the homeless and mentally ill. He said around 21,000 urban homeless people have been registered across the country and around 8,000 have been vaccinated.

Additional government pleader Gita Shastri said in Maharashtra, 1,761 mentally ill have been vaccinated.

**Greater risk**  
Referring to the affidavit filed by the State, the court said, "The affi-

davit is silent on the number of mentally ill people who were homeless, without legal guardians and not in a position to give their consent for vaccination. Such people posed a greater risk of spreading the virus."

**PIL on vaccination**  
The Bench added, "Every citizen, no matter in which condition, needs to be taken care of by the State."

The court was hearing a public interest litigation concerning the vaccination for homeless mentally ill people.

**MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Garden Cell, Plot Nos. R5, R6 & R12, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051. Tel: 022-26590001/4000 Fax: 022-26591264  
Website : <https://mmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>

**SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE**

Name of Work : Plantation & maintenance of trees by Miyawaki concept/method at BKC.

Estimated Cost	Cost of Blank Tender Form (Per Each)	Earnest Money Deposit	Contract Period
Rs.7,99,675 /- (Excluding GST)	Rs. 500/- Plus 12% GST	Rs. 7,997/-	13 Months (Including monsoon)

• Bid documents download : 15/09/2021 (15.01 hrs.) to 23/09/2021 (15.00 hrs.)  
• Last date of online submission : 24/09/2021 (15.00 hrs.)

Note :- The e-Tender can be downloaded from e-Tendering Portal : <https://etendermmrda.maharashtra.gov.in>. Any additional information, Corrigendum & help for uploading & downloading the e-tender, may be availed by contacting MMRDA's e-tendering service desk at the following id : [etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:etendersupport@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in) or call us on 022-26597445.

For further information if required you may please contact **Shri. Tushar Shinde, Superintendent of Gardens** on Telephone number 022-26597971 or on  
E-mail : [tushar.shinde@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in](mailto:tushar.shinde@mailmmrda.maharashtra.gov.in)

Date : 14/09/2021  
Place : Mumbai

Sd/-  
Chief, Land & Estate Cell,  
MMRDA





## Talking amid conflict

China and the U.S. must engage each other without expecting quick results on all issues

Relations between the world's two biggest powers, the U.S. and China, have been in free fall over the past five years amid the trade war launched by the Trump administration. Ties have remained strained despite the change in administration in Washington, with meetings between top officials, in Alaska and then in Tianjin, marked by their rancour. It is this perilous state of ties that likely prompted U.S. President Joe Biden to call his counterpart Xi Jinping on Friday, the first time they spoke since a conversation in February not long after Mr. Biden's inauguration. While Mr. Biden wanted "to ensure competition does not veer into conflict", Mr. Xi agreed both sides needed to "get the relationship right", but underlined the repeated Chinese view that the troubles were "due to the U.S. policy on China". Part of the Biden administration's stated broader approach of competing with China where required but cooperating where possible, the U.S. has sought Chinese cooperation in Afghanistan after its disastrous exit, which has been celebrated by the state media in China, and also on climate change, which is a priority for this administration. At the same time, both sides have clashed on issues including human rights in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South China Sea actions, and the contentious inquiry into the origins of COVID-19.

The Chinese side, for its part, has made clear it seeks concessions on some of the thorny issues before it will agree to discuss working together on others. In the July talks in Tianjin, Chinese officials presented two "lists" of demands to the U.S., including unconditionally revoking visa restrictions on Communist Party members and withdrawing an extradition request for Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of tech firm Huawei who is on trial in Canada. The Chinese side has also demanded the U.S. change its stance on the COVID-19 inquiry, where Washington has led calls for a more transparent investigation. The Chinese Foreign Minister likened U.S. calls for cooperation on climate change as seeking "an oasis" surrounded by desert. The "oasis", he argued, would "sooner or later be desertified". With the U.S. unlikely to agree to China's preconditions, the state of relations is likely to endure. If the Chinese argument that it is unrealistic to insulate points of discord from a broader relationship is not entirely unreasonable, it is notable that Beijing's officials have rejected that precise argument with regard to the strained relations with India, which has said cooperation on trade and other fronts cannot continue while the LAC remains in crisis. On the contrary, Beijing has hit out at New Delhi for "wavering and backpedalling" in its China policy, demanding that it keep the border "in an appropriate position". If cooperating while in conflict appears an unreasonable proposition for China when it comes to ties with the U.S., it is unfathomable how it expects India to take a very different stand on bilateral relations.

## The first time

The US Open saw new champions as Djokovic failed to keep his date with history

Daniil Medvedev's stunning straight-sets victory over World No.1 Novak Djokovic brought the curtains down on one of the most eventful editions of the US Open in recent memory. In the lead-up, the script was laid out perfectly – of Djokovic trying to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Majors of the year and securing a record 21st Grand Slam title to take him past Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in the all-time tally. But Medvedev flipped that narrative with an astonishing display of power and creativity to secure his maiden Major trophy in his third final. The 25-year-old appeared the better player coming into the match. But to beat someone so skilled at turning pursuits of history and record-breaking feats into prime driving forces should count among the greatest of achievements. Medvedev is an unconventional counter-puncher, in that he has a blistering serve. On Sunday, the Russian ensured that one of the greatest returners of the modern era could not lay as much as a racquet on many serves, and remarkably, left the master of lateral baseline movement doubting his own patented game. The physical and emotional toll of the past fortnight was evident in the way Djokovic wept towards the end, with the only solace to be had from the notoriously fickle New York crowd finally warming up to him.

Things might have seemed straightforward for Djokovic. Nadal and Federer were absent and he had beaten a rising star for each of his last three Majors, including Medvedev in a lopsided contest in Australia. But to overcome three of them in succession – here Matteo Berrettini, the Wimbledon finalist, Alexander Zverev, who beat Djokovic en route to the Tokyo Olympics gold, and Medvedev – proved beyond him. This is the kind of challenge that also awaits Federer and Nadal – more advanced in their careers than Djokovic – as they plot their return amidst growing evidence that the next generation is ready to contend. The women's game, more amiable to the young and the fledgling, still managed to surprise as 18-year-old British qualifier Emma Raducanu triumphed over an equally unheralded Canadian teenager, Leylah Fernandez. For Raducanu, whose only previous appearance at a Slam was at Wimbledon 2021 where she capitalised on a wild card and reached the fourth round, to go three full weeks without losing a set was astounding. Fernandez should hold her head high too, for she beat two former champions in Naomi Osaka and Angelique Kerber, and two top-five players in Elina Svitolina and Aryna Sabalenka, all in three-setters. Raducanu's technically solid game and Fernandez's lefty flair can only be worthy additions to the fascinating mix of playing styles that adorns women's tennis.

# Returning to school 17 months later

The post-COVID-19 situation is complex and the 'where we left it' approach will not do for any stage of school education



KRISHNA KUMAR

As children return to the classroom after an unprecedentedly long gap, many among their teachers realise that teaching will be tougher. And there are others who assume that it will be business as usual. In fact, they have already started teaching from the point 'where we left it', meaning where they were in their online classes. Teachers who stick to the syllabus no matter what happens in the outside world, like to identify themselves as teachers of this or that subject. They see their role purely in terms of the knowledge they enable children to acquire. They view the purpose of education in terms of success in examinations and, consequently, in life. With a sense of purpose so firmly held in their minds, such teachers stay clear of the personal life of children, especially its emotional aspect. We can understand how such teachers define learning – in terms of the prescribed syllabus as articulated in the textbook. There is no harm in acknowledging that teachers of this sort form the majority in the profession.

Though in a minority, there are other teachers who realise that education is more than about completing the syllabus to prepare children to face examinations. These teachers know that their success as teachers depends on how they relate to children, no matter what subject they teach. For this reason, they worry about their children's emotional well-being. When a child is not feeling well, such teachers ask what is

wrong. They recognise individual differences and engage with children as persons with specific habits of mind and behaviour. For such teachers, the world outside the school matters because it makes an impact on children, their spirit and enthusiasm for what they are being taught in the classroom. For teachers of this kind, the long gap caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic in their daily routine interaction with children has made it problematic to resume teaching. They know that 17 months without teaching in a physical classroom has made a strange impact on themselves as well as on the children they teach.

### Gap impact

Several obvious reasons can be cited. One that has been widely discussed comes under a poorly conceptualised title: 'learning loss'. If small children cannot read at the level they had attained before the pandemic struck, this can hardly be described as a loss. The terminology of loss and gain seems natural in our times, but it is unsuitable for discussing children and their development at school. When they are small, children do not easily retain for long what they had picked up unless it is put to daily use. This is just as true of the facility in reading as in intellectual capacities to comprehend, analyse and judge. However, the facility once acquired returns when its need is created again – under circumstances that are not threatening. And that is where our systemic conditions pose a problem.

These conditions encourage teachers to be impatient and short-tempered. It is not easy for people who have never worked in a school in our country to grasp the nature of the stress teachers chronically face and absorb. It is so general that it cannot be attri-



buted to any one source, such as a principal or parents. The pressure to perform is a factor of the ethos and the ethos does not distinguish between smaller and older children. From the day a child enters school, he or she comes under this pressure. A minority of teachers realise that it is unsuitable for growth in the primary years, but these teachers have little influence on others. The wider social culture and government norms relentlessly push the child from the first month at school towards higher levels of performance.

One suspects that this pressure will shape the classrooms most children return to after the COVID-19 gap. Many among them will find it difficult to join in at a higher level of efficiency in solving problems in math or language than they can feel comfortable with. This will be seen as a sign of weakness and the usual remedies will be applied to suppress such signs. The remedies endemic to our system are increased drill, coached collective answer-parroting and harder preparation for tests. Each one of these remedies will be counter-productive for the child's development when classes resume and regain the dreaded full steam.

Among teachers I have placed in the second category above, i.e., those who try to relate to children individually and not just teach

them, there will be some who can reasonably guess the kind of psychological problems children might be facing as a result of the long COVID-19 closure of schools. The total withdrawal of a space so intimately linked to childhood must necessarily have been hard to endure for a lot of children. These would include children who might not have greatly enjoyed their daily chores at school and the curriculum, as well as many children who might have taken on-line in their stride, despite the relentless stress it brought them.

### Impact of the online mode

Digital learning is known to bring with it certain addictive behaviours that may persist at school and take new and disturbing mutations. When children return to school, they may well feel off-balance, experiencing the uncanny sense of deprivation that hits the mind after an ordeal is over. For teachers to assume that such children will simply carry on with the remaining syllabus will be quite wrong, although this will not become obvious till later.

Online teaching had extremely limited reach in most regions, and even more limited value for its receivers. The idea that teaching simply switched to online mode was little more than a myth. That there was nothing else that could have been done was another myth. Why schools were the absolute last priority for reopening, lower than shopping malls, says something about the importance attached to education. In several other countries, every attempt was made to help schools function, after periodic closure. Nor were primary teachers in other countries given other duties, at airports and vaccination centres. Why mid-day meals were stopped along with teaching is hard to ex-

plain. Nor is it possible to calculate the loss incurred by hunger. No estimate has yet been made of the number of children who have left school altogether.

Now that schools have at last reopened, the educationally better off States, for example, in the South, need to recognise two new priorities. Both concern aspects of children's psychological comfort generally ignored in our system. If given some attention, it will enhance both children's and teachers' readjustment after the long gap they have endured without each others' company.

### Space for these priorities

The first of these two priorities is a space for the arts: music, painting, theatre and dance. Aesthetic experience has great healing powers, especially when it is not too focused on performance or ceremonial purpose. If State governments and private schools can devote resources and time to this otherwise marginalised area, they will make the resumption of routine life at school more nourishing. The other priority for school resumption is the reorganisation of this year's curriculum. The 'where we left it' approach will not do for any stage of school education. A linear syllabus coverage approach does not serve children well even in normal times. The post-COVID-19 situation is far too complex to respond to the wooden pedagogy stuck to the chapters of the prescribed textbook. A team of subject-specialists and teachers must sit together to look at the syllabus designed for every grade level and deliberate on ways to reorganise it for this unusual academic session.

Krishna Kumar is a former Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). He is the author of the book, 'Smaller Citizens'

# COVID-19, kidney injury and need for a vaccine shot

A Mayo Clinic study into the body's immune response to the virus supports the need for widespread vaccination



MARIAM PRIYA ALEXANDER & TIMUCIN TANER

As of early September 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus has affected over 200 million people and led to 4.4 million deaths worldwide. In India alone, 3,30,00,000 COVID-19 cases and 4,42,000 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported to date. While most infections are mild with respiratory symptoms, a severe form of the disease is seen in older adults and people with chronic heart, kidney and lung diseases, diabetes or other conditions that render the immune system weak. COVID-19 damages many organs including the lungs, heart and kidneys.

**Commonly seen complication** Kidney injury as a complication of COVID-19 is more commonly seen in hospitalised patients. While the reported prevalence of kidney injury was 7% in a study of 2,650 patients admitted to a large hospital in southern India, a recent large study in the United States reported kidney injury in as many as 46% of 3,993 hospitalised patients, of whom 19% required dialysis. Patients with COVID-19 kidney injury also have increased duration of

hospitalisation, with increased health-care costs. Unfortunately, there are many more deaths in those who have acute kidney injury.

Understanding the microscopic changes in kidneys after infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus is important and has been the focus of extensive research. Researchers, especially pathologists, across the globe have been unified in their observations of COVID-19 kidney injury – i.e., acute tubular injury (injury of the transporting channels in the kidney) is the hallmark of kidney pathology. Thrombi or blood clots, as seen in the lungs and heart, may also be seen in the kidney. Inflammation (influx of white blood cells) in the kidney has also been described by researchers. The kidney injury is more commonly seen in kidneys that already have chronic injury, such as that seen in diabetes or severe blood vessel diseases.

The exact process in which the SARS-CoV-2 virus brings on the kidney injury has been studied to varying detail by different centres. The first question asked is: does the virus directly damage the kidney? Many centres across the globe have used a very special microscope called the electron microscope to look for evidence of virus in the kidney. The initial studies that emerged from China and the United States seemed to identify structures within kidney cells that looked like viral particles. This seemed to be logical, given that the kidney has a high con-



centration of ACE2, which is the key protein structure on a cell that the SARS-CoV-2 virus attaches to. This step is critical for the virus to enter the cell. However, as more research was done, it became clear that what was once thought to be viral particles in cells were, in fact, increased numbers of vesicles (structures in the cell that are used in sending important signals) and were mere viral mimics. Even specific staining techniques to detect very small amounts of viral proteins failed to show virus in the kidneys. All of this suggested that direct viral injury was not the main method of kidney injury. If not, then how was the SARS-CoV-2 virus injuring the kidney?

### Changes after infection

The main focus of our own research was to understand how SARS-CoV-2 causes kidney injury and how the proteins and genes change in kidneys after COVID-19 infection. This study from Mayo Clinic, recently published in *The Mayo Clinic Proceedings* (<https://mayoclinic.org/3C52bsy>), points to a strong immune response (immune

response is the way the body fights against substances it sees as foreign or harmful) in the kidneys. The immune response was seen in all parts of the kidney tissue, including the small blood vessels and in the glomerulus (filtering unit of the kidney). This was mostly seen in those with severe cases of COVID-19. We were able to show two pathways of immune response to the kidneys; Innate immunity, which is the non-specific response you are born with, to fight harmful organisms. In COVID-19 kidneys, we found a rich infiltrate of white blood cells (called macrophages) in the kidneys. Adaptive immune response, which is the body's acquired immune response to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, was evident by an increase in specific type of immune (T cells) in the kidney tissue. This was shown using state-of-the-art techniques, including transcriptomic, proteomic and mass-cytometry.

### Like sepsis-associated injury

Several experts in the field had been suggesting that the kidney injury in severe COVID-19 behaves similar to kidney injury from sepsis, which is the body's extreme response to an infection. In our study, we were able to compare the findings in COVID-19 kidney injury with kidneys from individuals with known sepsis, and indeed, found that the immune response in the two were very similar. This finding perhaps emphasises the need to manage COVID-19 patients in the same way as patients with sepsis.

The observations from our tissue proteins analysis and ultrastructural analysis points also to mitochondria, (which is the powerhouse of the cell) bearing the final insult of the SARS-CoV-2. While this finding is unique to COVID-19 kidney injury, it lends important insight into potential treatment strategies that could be used in managing COVID-19.

### Key takeaways

In conclusion, this Mayo Clinic study is important in that it emphasises a few important facts. First, there is a great need for researchers to capitalise on the patient specimens collected during the pandemic and gather and store data for current and future use. Data archived for future studies will potentially provide valuable information in the event of another pandemic. Second, it will allow the study of COVID-19 associated tissue injury in different populations. Third, by using state-of-the-art technology tools, we were able to analyse the body's immune response to the virus, and how this response might be injuring kidneys. Taken together, the severe kidney injury seen in COVID-19 further supports the need for widespread vaccination to protect everyone from this viral infection.

Dr. Mariam Priya Alexander is Associate Professor of Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.

Dr. Timucin Taner is Associate Professor, Transplant Surgeon and Immunologist, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.

## 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.

### Change in Gujarat

The selection of first-time MLA Bhupendra Patel as the next Chief Minister of Gujarat causes little surprise to a discerning political observer (Page 1, September 13). Given his political clout with the BJP high command and the support from the dominant Patidar community, his elevation has become a *fait accompli*. However, it is unfortunate that the caste syndrome still prevails despite vociferous claims by the political class to create a casteless and an egalitarian society. Will he prove to be a game-changer in 2022?  
P.K. VARADARAJAN,  
Chennai

### Farewell write-up

The column, "From the Readers' Editor - Not

dropping the vase" (OpEd page, September 13), was a finely crafted farewell message from Mr. A.S. Panneerselvan. He has been a visible yet nuanced link between readers and the editorial team, bringing in all the clarity of how a news desk functions in the daily. I have always looked forward to his column every Monday. Mr. Panneerselvan has not dropped the vase. He has preserved it.

NIRMALA NARAYANAN,  
Bengaluru

As a corrective force, the RE held the flag high, and at the same time took pains to set right the genuine misgivings of many a learned reader. To go through his weekly columns was an edifying experience. To use

the analogy of the vase, I would say that he held the vase with grace and ease.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,  
Aranmula, Kerala

Mr. Panneerselvan's swan song has all the right tunes. While articulating measured satisfaction about a job well done, he has left the final judgment about his performance to the readers. It is unrealistic to expect an internal ombudsman to have an arm's-length relationship with the newspaper in letter and spirit. What matters is the perception that the RE is responsive to readers' queries, feedback and complaints. I am sure he might have received a fair share of uncharitable and *ad hominem* remarks from disgruntled readers. He responded to criticism that

was communicated in a civil language by identifiable readers. He cited my complaint about *The Hindu's* coverage of the pandemic's second wave verbatim, even if it was couched in a harsh and highly emotional tone. My verdict is Mr. Panneerselvan did not drop the vase while sidestepping pitfalls inherent in his job.  
V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

### Raducanu's win

What an impressive victory for 18-year-old Emma Raducanu in the U.S. Open women's title. She rocked the court making the match of a teenager versus another teenager very interesting. Both players were full of energy and enthusiasm and had a powerful spirit. Age is clearly no barrier in success

("Sport" page, September 13).  
KIRTI WADHWAN,  
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

### Delay in CAPF letter

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) selects candidates every year for the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Assistant Commandant (Group A) – this is for the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) – on the basis of a written exam, physical efficiency test, medical standard test and interview. In 2019, the UPSC had notified the CAPF Asst. Commandant recruitment on April 24, 2019 to fill up 330 vacancies in all the CAPFs. The break-up was 108

seats in the CRPF, 100 in the BSF, 66 in the SSB, 28 in the ITBP, and 28 in the CISF. The final result was announced by the UPSC on February 5 this year, but the selected candidates of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) 2019 examination have yet to receive their joining letters. The authorities concerned have not communicated to the candidates the reasons for such an inordinate delay. Over two years later, the UPSC CAPF 2019 process awaits its logical conclusion, resulting in despair and confusion for many young minds who are enthusiastic about serving the country through the CAPFs.  
R. RAVI,  
New Delhi



# In Manipur, a case for asymmetric federalism

Institutionally accommodating tribal distinctiveness as an enduring good will promote the State's integrity



KHAM KHAN SUAN HAUSING

As a normative idea and an institutional arrangement which supports the recognition and provision of an expansive 'self-rule' for territorially concentrated minority groups, asymmetric federalism has recently received bad press in India. The dissolution of Article 370 in 2019 which gave Jammu and Kashmir a special constitutional status, and intermittent attempts to dilute and dissolve the omnibus Article 371 which, among others, gives expansive constitutional powers to Nagas over land and resources (Article 371A), and to Manipur's Hill Areas Committee (Article 371C) over tribal identity, culture, development and local administration, are exemplars.

Driven by the argument that giving distinctive constitutional status to territorially concentrated minorities fosters centrifugal tendencies which over time inhibit national/State integration, development, and peace, antagonists of asymmetric federalism increasingly rallied around the majoritarian idea of a monolithic, homogenous nation.

On close scrutiny, however, this argument is neither novel nor new. Charles Tarlton, the American political scientist who developed the idea of asymmetric federalism in the mid-1960s, was mindful about its destabilising potential, if not properly harnessed. In fact, the unsuccessful experience of east European communist states to 'hold together' in the 1990s spawned deep suspicion about asymmetric federalism.

## An integrationist approach

Indeed, the argument that asymmetric federalism fosters subversive institutions, political instability and breakup of States had also informed the minds of some of the founding fathers of the nation, when they participated in India's Constituent Assembly debates. For some, the question of envisioning distinctive rights and asymmetric constitutional provisions is considered inconsequential given that India has become a 'homogenous Hindu nation' after Partition.



File photo of women waiting to cast their votes in Tengenpoul constituency in Chandel district of Manipur. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

Such a majoritarianist standpoint sits uneasy with the idea of 'autonomous' district councils proposed by the Gopinath Bordoloi Committee, a sub-committee of the Constituent Assembly which sought to accommodate the distinctive identity, culture and way of life of tribal groups in the Northeast by envisioning 'self-rule'.

While members like Jaipal Singh and B.R. Ambedkar recognised tribal distinctiveness and underscored the need for separate institutional accommodation, Kuladhar Chaliha, a prominent member from Assam, for example, broached an integrationist approach when he openly advocated assimilation of tribal groups. This approach is also informed by a deep suspicion over the ability of tribal groups to self-govern and institute a semblance of 'law and order' given – to wit Chaliha – their practice of "summary justice". Chaliha reinforced his integrationist push by contending that tribal "self-rule" would leverage "tribalstan" or "communistan" and would be inimical to India's territorial integrity and security.

This integrationist approach has been conveniently invoked to delegitimise continuing demand for constitutional asymmetry in Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh and in various other places in Northeast India. This integrationist approach resonates powerfully in two recent attempts by Manipur's government to (i) stall the introduction and passage of the Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Council (Amendment) Bill, 2021, and (ii) induct nine Assembly members from the valley areas into the Hill Areas Committee.

While the Manipur government's standpoint that the Bill is a "sensitive" matter requiring legal vetting

by the Department of Law and Advocate General of the State is plausible and can hardly be contested, the Speaker's order of September 1 to induct nine Assembly members from the valley areas is seen by Lorho S. Pfoze, the lone MP representing Outer Manipur constituency, as a "malicious" and "direct assault" on the Hill Areas Committee and the constitutional protection accorded to the Hill Areas of Manipur under Article 371C. Clearly, in his overenthusiastic drive to cave in to the growing pressure from powerful valley-based civil society organisations (CSOs), which actively mobilised to ramp up majoritarian support for dissolution of long-standing constitutional asymmetry enjoyed by the hill people, the Speaker was too clever by half in applying his mind as it amounts to transgression of a domain exclusively reserved for the President of India under the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Order, 1972. The Speaker dragged his feet until he was compelled to rescind the order on September 8 after Chief Minister Biren Singh was greeted with black flags and widespread call for boycott of his pet political project, 'Go to the hills', by various tribal CSOs during his tour to Churachandpur.

Interestingly, this project is increasingly seen by these CSOs as a camouflage of the majoritarian state's attempt to transgress and snatch away tribal lands by stealth through legal manipulation and sacralisation projects. The recent attempts to declare areas around Chivu in the Indo-Myanmar border as a protected site and sacralise it by replacing one of the three controversial monoliths with that of Thangjing (a Meitei god-

dess), invoke the Forest Reserve Act, sacralise Koubru hills as a *lai-pham* (deity-place) and encourage *ching-kaba* (hill-climbing) to effectuate this are clear pointers.

## A double-edged sword

Although the timing chosen by the Hill Areas Committee to recommend, introduce and pass the Bill is questionable, it marks a calculated move to use this as a double-edged sword to simultaneously set apace electoral agenda for the upcoming Assembly elections in early 2022 and reclaim its agency to fortify state-level constitutional asymmetry. The attempt to increase membership of the six district councils to 31 members each and secure more powers to the councils by giving more developmental mandate are welcome. Yet, the reservation of one-fourth of the seats to socio-economically backward communities may complicate delimitation of constituencies. Earmarking merely three nominated members for unrepresented tribes/women is also simply not enough.

If history is any guide, the task of reclaiming the Hill Areas Committee's agency is not going to be easy as its 20-odd members often leverage tribe/party loyalty over commitment to protect constitutional asymmetry and common tribals' cause. How the Hill Areas Committee and various tribal groups strategically navigate their politics to offset the majoritarian impulse to manipulate the legal and political process to dilute/dissolve extant constitutional asymmetry remains to be seen. A recent revelation by a tribal MLA in the Assembly that the hill areas attracted barely ₹419 crore (1.91%) out of the ₹21,900 crore budgetary expenditure of Manipur from 2017-18 to 2020-21 has unmasked Mr. Singh's sincerity to 'Go to the hills'. The lack of sincere commitment to promote tribal development, identity and culture that Article 371C seeks to bridge could not have come out starker. Recognising and institutionally accommodating tribal distinctiveness not just as a matter of political convenience, but as a valuable and enduring good will be key to promote the State's integrity, stability and peace in the long run.

Kham Khan Suan Hausing is Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

# Archakas of all hues

Caste orthodoxy and patriarchy entrenched within the realm of the HR&CE Act can be eliminated together



MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

On August 14, 2021, the Tamil Nadu government appointed 24 trained *archakas* (priests) in temples across the State which come under the control of the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE). On the same day, posts for *odhuvar*, *poosari*, mahout, garland stringers and an umbrella carrier were also filled. In the weeks since, a series of writ petitions have been filed before the Madras High Court assailing these appointments.

## State and temple

The Tamil Nadu HR&CE Act, 1959, is the governing law on the administration of Hindu temples and religious institutions. In 1971, Section 55 of the HR&CE Act was amended to abolish hereditary priesthood. In 2006, the amendment provided for appointment of sufficiently trained Hindus irrespective of their caste as *archakas* to Hindu temples by the government. Challenges to both amendments were taken to the Supreme Court, which upheld the law, as amended.

Nevertheless, calls to whittle down the scope and authority of the HR&CE Act have not diminished. In recent years, there has been a campaign seeking to "liberate temples" from the "clutches of government". Building on this, the BJP's manifesto for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in 2021 even included a proposal to hand over administration of Hindu temples to a "separate board consisting of Hindu scholars and saints".

The constitutional courts have had plenty of opportunities to consider the various challenges made to the HR&CE Act. In *Sesham v. Union* (1972), the Supreme Court observed that the amendment to the HR&CE Act abolishing hereditary priesthood did not mean that the government intended to bring about any "change in the rituals and ceremonies". Similarly, in *Adi Saiva Sivachariyargal v. Govt. of Tamil Nadu* (2015), it observed that "the constitutional legitimacy, naturally, must supersede all religious beliefs or practices". The Court further went on to state that appointments should be tested on a case-by-case basis and any appointment that is not in line with the *Agamas* will be against the constitutional freedoms enshrined under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court has recognised that the arguments using *Agamas* have been commonly used in petitions filed against any

perceived government interference in the matters of temple administration. It has consistently held that any contention of violation of *Agamas* must be tested on a case-by-case basis. This is to say that no relief can be granted based on a bald averment that an executive decision or order has infringed *Agamas* or essential religious practices.

## Evolving jurisprudence

Nevertheless, the evolution of rights-based jurisprudence over the last three years is of relevance. In *Indian Young Lawyers' Association v. State of Kerala* (the Sabarimala case) and *Joseph Shine v. Union of India* (2018), the Supreme Court reiterated the need to eliminate "historical discrimination which has pervaded certain identities", "systemic discrimination against disadvantaged groups", and rejected stereotypical notions used to justify such discrimination.

In all these cases, the Court prioritised judicial balancing of various constitutional rights. In the Sabarimala case, it held that "in the constitutional order of priorities, the individual right to the freedom of religion was not intended to prevail over but was subject to the overriding constitutional postulates of equality, liberty and personal freedoms recognised in the other provisions of Part III". It went on to further clarify that "though our Constitution protects religious freedom and consequent rights and practices essential to religion, this Court will be guided by the pursuit to uphold the values of the Constitution, based in dignity, liberty and equality."

The constitutional courts will now be called upon to build on the gains of the Sabarimala case when it comes to administration of temples, insofar as it concerns matters that are not essentially religious. While doing so, they would be guided by principles of constitutional morality and substantive equality. The Supreme Court, in *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018), interpreted Article 15 as being wide, progressive and intersectional. The Court explained the intersectional nature of sex discrimination. Today, while most of the debate is around whether men from all caste groups can become *archakas*, we have failed to recognise the gender bias inherent in these discussions. Therefore, the present cases before the Madras High Court provide us with the opportunity to ask why women and trans persons should not be appointed as *archakas*. At once, caste orthodoxy and patriarchy entrenched within the realm of the HR&CE Act can be eliminated and supplanted with a vision of a just, equal and dignified society.

Manuraj Shunmugasundaram is DMK Spokesperson & Advocate, Madras High Court. This article was written with research inputs from Haripriya Venkatakrishnan

# Contentment in chaos

Some argue that women's tennis is too unpredictable, but that is what makes it thrilling

PREETHI RAMAMOORTHY

The US Open this year was supposed to be the unfurling of Novak Djokovic's immortality, chasing a Calendar Grand Slam and a record-breaking 21st title. Tennis cognoscenti argued about just how washed out it would be as crowds returned to nil star power – Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams and Venus Williams were all absent for the first time in 25 years.

But the enduring storyline is of the emergence of fresh, charismatic talent on the women's side unleashing a distinctive sort of chaos. Only this time, chaos led to hope and reassurance for the future.

## The women's Next Gen

Since 2017, the men's tour has tirelessly marketed its '#NextGen' campaign, a year-end event created to showcase its young crop. Finally, a leader has emerged from the pack in Daniil Medvedev, who defeated Djokovic in resounding fashion, signalling a real generational shift in men's tennis that has been several years coming now.

But the WTA doesn't really need a splashy tournament or hashtagged extravaganza to build hype for its young players. They tend to go out and do it on their own. Exhibit A: the emphatic, definitive and astonishing exploits of teenagers Emma Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez at the US Open. In a closely fought final, Raducanu emerged victorious. It felt like the earth shifted a bit under New York.

In tennis, critical acclaim is cyclical, often spurred by the defeats of legends. Federer's early popularity came on the back of his win against Pete Sampras. It has, therefore, become something of a cardinal rule that the Next Gen must play and beat the veterans, instead of coming to the top after they have naturally faded.

This is why Naomi Osaka and Bianca Andreescu's title wins over Serena in 2018 and 2019 matter. A few years ago, one way to understand women's tennis was to divide players into two groups: Serena Williams and everyone else. But not anymore. For fans of Serena and casual watchers of the

sport, the wins might appear to deprive the world of history. But it is really a revelation, much like the recent triumphs of Raducanu and Fernandez. Their wins offer a sense of contentment: women's tennis after Serena will not be starved of superlative star power.

## Collapsing constructs

But the same could not be imagined of the men's tour after the Big Three, until recently. For more than a decade, they have shut door after door on young stars-in-waiting who have tried to claim Grand Slam glory. In 2020, Dominic Thiem, often dubbed the eternal Prince Charles of men's tennis, finally managed to break down the walls of the Big Three hierarchy – but without beating a single member of them. It felt exciting, promising and disappointing all at once. With Medvedev's win, however, it seemed the sun had well and truly begun to set on the empire.

Then again, this US Open showed what it would be like if we chose not to focus on constructs like 'Big Three' or 'William Sisters'. These ideas in subtle ways direct how we think about tennis. Certain names shine brighter in draws wherever they're placed. Tournaments become less about pitting a variety of talent from across the world against one another and more about micro-battles between a select few. These ideas need to lose their validity, because they no longer subscribe to what we can expect from a tournament. The 2021 US Open, in that regard, was a much-needed inflection point.

It is the start of a fresh decade, and the depth of the women's field is such that a player you haven't heard of today can win a Major in the next two years. Some would argue that this is the problem with women's tennis: it is too unpredictable. But this is the chaos that is inherent to the sport, and we need more of it. We need this new grammar to capture the men's tour, too. There are countless opportunities to seize and openings to exploit. It is uncertain and confusing, but it is also thrilling because it is full of possibility.

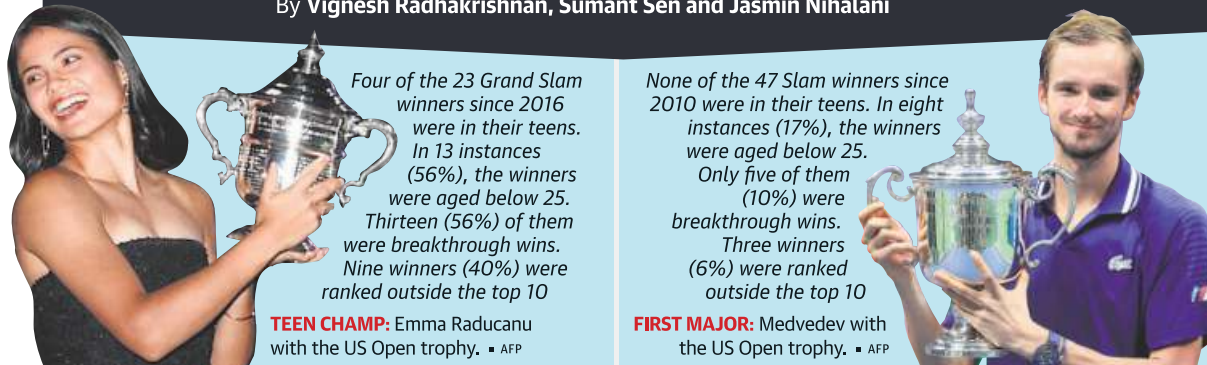
preethi.r@thehindu.co.in

## DATA POINT

# Two stories in the singles game

On Saturday, 18-year-old Emma Raducanu won her first Grand Slam title. She was ranked 150th when she entered the 2021 US Open. This is part of a recent trend in women's tennis. After Serena Williams' dominance waned, new and younger champions have burst onto the scene. Thirteen of the last 23 wins were breakthroughs – a player's first Grand Slam win – and most of the winners were relatively young, pushing down the average age of women champions since 2016. Until Sunday, the trio – Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal – had won 60 of the 72 Majors played since Wimbledon 2003. On Sunday, Daniil Medvedev swam against the tide and defeated Djokovic. However, he was ranked No. 2 and is 25 years old, and so the trend of higher ranked and relatively older men becoming winners continues unabated in men's tennis.

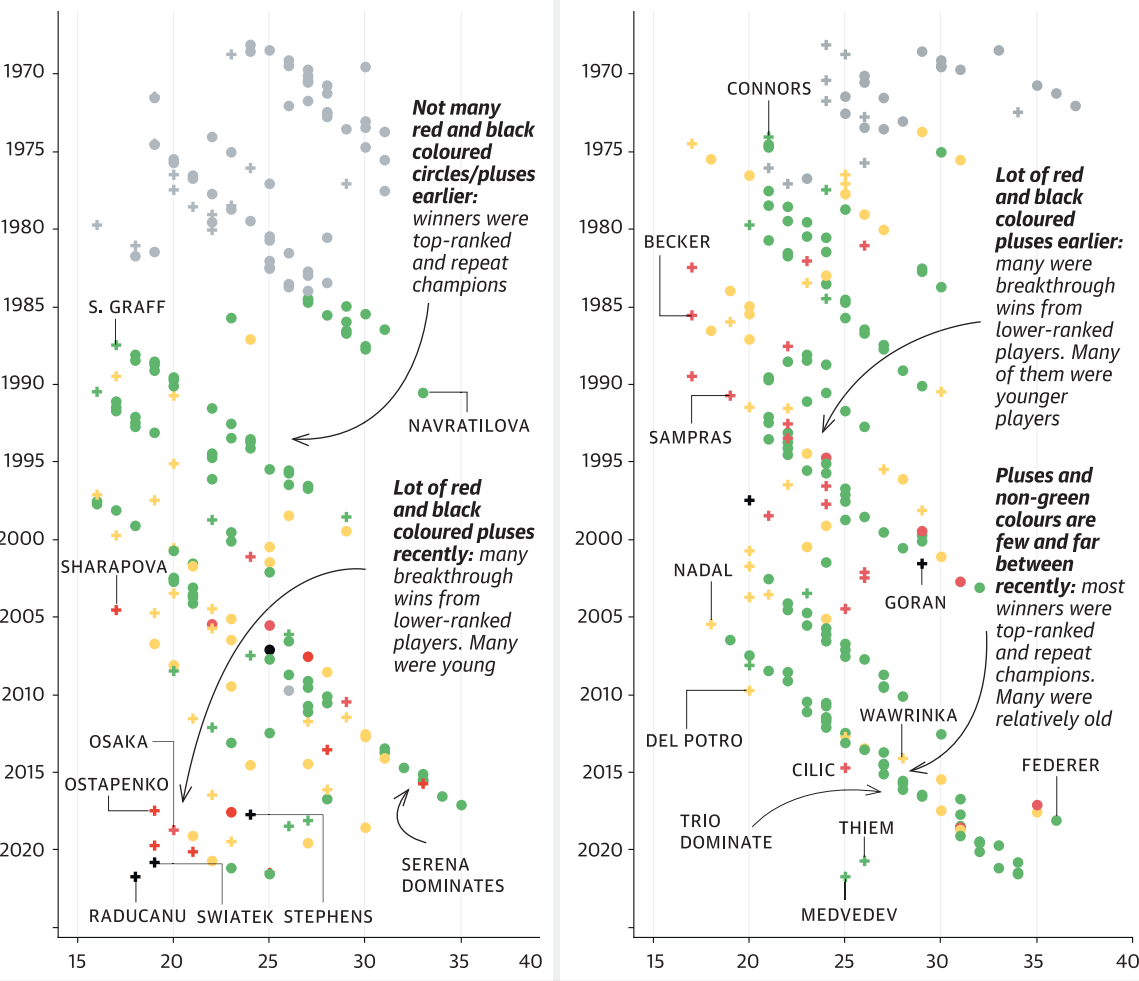
By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sumant Sen and Jasmin Nihalani



TEEN CHAMP: Emma Raducanu with the US Open trophy. ■ AFP

FIRST MAJOR: Medvedev with the US Open trophy. ■ AFP

HOW TO READ THE CHARTS | The charts show the age of winners (horizontal axis) in Grand Slams in the men's and women's singles in the open era. Players' rankings when they entered a Slam are depicted by colours: ● 1-3; ● 4-10; ● 10-50; ● >50. + corresponds to breakthrough wins



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 14, 1971

## Reception of American blacks in Africa

Lagos, Sept. 13: A Cambridge-educated Nigerian judge and a visiting American civil rights leader met at a diplomatic reception in Lagos not long ago, and their conversation turned to the race problem in the United States. The black American told of brutal treatment he had received at the hands of Alabama policemen, and moving to unbutton his shirt, he offered to show the scars that they had left on his back. But the Nigerian stopped him saying, "I am simply not interested." He later explained. "That young American assumed that he and I had some special common bond. But all we really have in common is that we both have black skin, and that's evidently more important to him than it is to me." The incident reflects what some regard as a new estrangement between American [blacks], many of whom look to Africa for their cultural heritage, and black Africans who are in charge here after a century of colonial domination. A black man who advises the black President of a country in southern Africa recalled a meeting with American [blacks]. "The Americans were talking about racism, and about burning down buildings in Detroit. Well, we sympathise, but now we're in charge of our country, we're trying to develop it, and we need all the buildings we have." As tourists and as diplomats, as businessmen and even as potential settlers, American blacks are still streaming to Africa, but often it turns out not what to be they expected.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 14, 1921

## Mahatma Gandhi's visit

(From an Editorial)

Mahatma Gandhi and party will arrive in Madras tomorrow and it is needless to predict that he will be received with the heartiness and enthusiasm that have made of his peregrinations in the country triumphal progresses. The problems that await him in Madras are so complicated and urgent that it were well for the public to keep them in the forefront and to discuss in advance the pros and cons of their solution. It is of course a matter of common knowledge that the Mahatma arrives here in order to provide the driving force, or at best to reinforce it as only he can, necessary for the prosecution of the intensive campaign which the Congress has decreed. It is also a fact less well known but unfortunately too true that there is a perceptible slackening of effort when the Mahatma has come and gone.



FROM PAGE ONE

## SC to pass interim orders in Pegasus case

"It has to be gone into, it must be gone into... It is the feeling of the government that such an issue cannot be placed on affidavit. It has to be gone through by a committee. It concerns national security," Mr. Mehta said.

The government could not afford to "sensationalise" such an "important" issue, he stated. He objected to assertions by petitioners that the "government is denying protection to its own citizens" or is "assaulting democracy".

**Concern about privacy** Justice Kant said the court was equally concerned about national security, but it cannot turn a deaf ear to concerns about privacy raised by citizens.

"We just wanted you to clarify whether their privacy was violated or not. Whether surveillance, if done at all, was after lawful permission. Was the interception done by any agency unlawfully? Should the government not be concerned if any 'outside agency' had violated our citizens' privacy?" Justice Kant asked the law officer.

"We are not interested in matters concerning national

security. Our only concern, in the face of allegations made by petitioners about use of some software against citizens, is knowing whether any government agency has used any method of interception other than in accordance with law," Chief Justice Ramana told Mr. Mehta.

At one point, the CJ questioned the practicality behind the government's insistence on refusing to discuss the Pegasus allegations in open court, saying that even if an expert committee was formed, its work and the report would eventually become public.

Mr. Sibal referred to a 2019 parliamentary response of the government taking note of the use of Pegasus... because they were using it. The government is committed to protecting the rights of citizens, including their privacy," he submitted. He urged the court to have the allegations investigated by a sitting judge. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, for a petitioner, said the Cabinet Secretary should have filed a detailed affidavit.

## India, U.S. to tie up on green energy

One would be a "climate action pillar" which would have joint proposals looking at ways in emissions could be reduced in the next decade. The second pillar would be setting out a roadmap to achieving the 450GW in transportation, buildings and industry. The final pillar, or the "Finance Pillar" would involve collaborating on attracting finance to deploy 450 GW of renewable energy and demonstrate at scale clean energy technologies. Six banks in the U.S., Mr. Kerry said, have already committed to "investing" \$4.5 trillion in the next decade towards clean energy.

Following his meeting, Mr. Yadav tweeted: "CAFMD will provide both countries

an opportunity to renew collaborations on climate change while addressing financing aspects and deliver climate finances primarily as grants and concessional finance as envisaged under the Paris Agreement."

A key mission of Mr. Kerry is to build global support for "Net Zero", or carbon neutrality, which is when more carbon is sucked out from the atmosphere or prevented from being emitted than what a country emits and is critical to ensuring that the planet doesn't heat up an additional half a degree by 2100. "We have to reach a net zero global standard by 2050. This is not a matter of politics or ideology but one of arithmetic and physics," said Mr. Kerry.

## IITs put off registrations for JEE (Advanced)

The fourth session, initially scheduled to be held in May, was delayed because of COVID-19, and then delayed again to allow a greater gap from the third session. The last session for B.E./B.Tech aspirants was completed on September 1, and the provisional answer keys released on September 6. The final results and the all-India ranking was expected to be released by September 10, in time for the JEE (Advanced) registrations to begin the next day.

As the JEE (Main) results

were delayed, JEE (Advanced) registrations were initially postponed to September 13. Faced with further delays, a Monday evening notice to candidates on the JEE (Advanced) website simply asked them to "keep visiting for updates on registration".

The CBI has arrested 11 people in connection with an alleged scam where students were charged up to ₹15 lakh for help in solving the JEE (Main) through remote access to computers at a Sonipat centre.

Statistical Office (NSO). "On the whole, the comfort level from the lower CPI inflation is not commensurate with the level of decline. For the next two months, inflation will trend downwards as the base effect will provide this support," said CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis, adding that the dip in food inflation was "more due to the fall in vegetable inflation which has moved to -11.7%".

"Inflation for clothing and footwear firmed up to 6.8% in August 2021, which may be a signal of a demand recovery," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar, estimating that core-CPI inflation eased to 5.5% in August 2021 from 5.7% in July.

# Estimated cost of 3 Central Secretariat buildings lowered

### Technical reasons led to cut; last date of submission of bids extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department has reduced the estimated cost of construction and maintenance of three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat, for which bids were to be opened this week but has been postponed till September 28, according to tender documents.

On September 11, the CPWD issued a further modified tender and extended the last date of submission of bids and opening of bids from September 17 to 28, the seventh extension since the tender was floated.

#### 10 buildings

As part of the larger Central Vista redevelopment project, the CPWD has proposed construction of 10 buildings for the Common Central Secretariat to house all Union



Changing face: The site of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, near the Parliament House, in New Delhi. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Ministries. So far, the CPWD has invited bids for the construction of the first three buildings at the site of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts campus.

The estimated cost of construction and maintenance for five years was reduced from ₹3,408 crore to ₹3,254 crore. A CPWD official said the estimated cost was lo-

wered due to technical reasons.

The official said the last date for bids had been postponed again due to "administrative reasons".

## 6 Chinese grenades recovered in Srinagar

### They were handed over to the police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Panic gripped the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday morning when a CRPF patrol spotted and seized a bag full of hand grenades placed on the national highway.

"During a routine road opening exercise along National Highway 44, troopers recovered six Chinese grenades from a sandbag, which was placed on the divider of the road. The alertness of the troops averted an incident on the busy highway," CRPF spokesman Abhiram said.

Due to the rush on the highway, the grenades were not defused on the spot. "They were handed over to

the police for disposal," he stated.

The grenades were placed at a location in the Bemina area where the CRPF would deploy its quick reaction team during the day, officials said. Security was heightened on the highway.

The grenades' recovery comes two days after militants executed twin attacks in the capital. A grenade attack was carried out on a police picket in Chanapora on September 11 and a policeman was shot dead the next day in Khanyar area.

An anti-militancy operation entered the second day on Monday in the Pir Panjal valley's Rajouri district.

# Huge turnout at policeman's funeral

### Adviser to J&K Lieutenant Governor says militants losing support among people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Farooq Khan, Adviser to J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Monday described the large participation of people at a police officer's funeral in the Valley as a sign of the "changing times", and said "people will teach the self-styled *mujahids* a lesson soon".

Hundreds of residents participated in the funeral of sub-inspector Arshid Ashraf Mir, who was shot dead by a militant near the Khanyar police station in Srinagar on Sunday.

Mir was buried at his native place at Kalmona in Handwara of north Kashmir on Sunday evening.

"The situation is chang-



Last tributes: Policemen paying homage to their colleague, killed in a militant attack in Srinagar on Sunday. ■PTI

ing. People's participation is an indication that people will now teach a lesson to these cowards, who themselves call self-styled *mujahids*. These cowards will beg for their mercy," Mr. Khan, a former police officer, said.

Kashmir has witnessed growing attacks on police patrolling this year, with five policemen killed in four hit-and-run cases in Srinagar.

Apni Party president Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said the violence in all its ma-

peasement" by previous governments, said that now the BJP did not look at anyone's face before providing them benefits such as toilets or foodgrains.

"Are you getting ration? Did you get this ration prior to 2017? Back then, those who say *abba jaan* would digest all the ration. Kushi-nagar's ration will end up in Nepal and Bangladesh. If today anyone tries to swallow the ration of the poor, that person will land in jail," he said.

The SP ruled Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 2017. Recently, in an interview to a television channel, when asked about the work done in the State since 2017, Mr. Adityanath took a swipe at Mr. Yadav's father and referred to the firing on 'kar sevaks' in 1990 under his tenure.

"His *abba jaan* would say he would not allow even a bird to fly [around the mosque enclosure]," he said.

nifestations has severely impacted peace, progress and good governance in J&K.

"The impact of armed violence negatively influences development, peace and good governance, often by creating a climate of impunity, corruption and by undermining public institutions," he said.

Mr. Bukhari appealed to the youth to shun the path of violence and contribute in the promotion of peace and stability in the region.

"The young police officer, who was yet to be confirmed, was killed in cold blood. The incident didn't inflict miseries to his family alone but added to the already agonising situation in Kashmir," he added.

## Post-poll violence: Bengal govt. says NHRC panel biased

### 'Members either belong to BJP or are associated with it'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The West Bengal government on Monday accused a committee appointed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to look into "post-poll violence" in the State of "apparent bias".

The accusation was made by the State in the Supreme Court during the hearing of its appeal challenging a five-judge Bench judgment of the Calcutta High Court transferring the investigation of the cases, involving murder and rape, to the CBI. The High Court, on August 19, had directed the State to immediately pay compensation to the victims of the crime.

The High Court's judgment was based on the findings of the NHRC committee on July 12.



West Bengal argued that the members of the committee were either "members of the Bharatiya Janata Party or were closely associated" with it.

It named two members, Atif Rasheed and Rajulben L. Desai, in this regard. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for West Bengal, orally referred to another member, Rajiv Jain, during the hearing though the State's petition did not refer to him.

"Can you imagine these people have been appointed to collect the data? Is this a BJP investigation committee," Mr. Sibal asked the court.

But the Bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose asked whether a person's political past could be treated as conclusive proof of bias.

The court scheduled the case for further hearing on September 20.

"The inclusion of the aforesaid members in the committee indeed gave rise to a reasonable likelihood of bias and vitiated the independence of the entire committee, especially given their admitted leadership position within the committee and their rank when compared to others," the petition said.

## Bengal Speaker issues summons to CBI, ED

### State's Industry Minister questioned

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

Speaker of West Bengal Assembly Biman Banerjee on Monday issued summonses to officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to appear in the State Assembly on September 22.

The officers have been summoned to explain why the Speaker was not informed when the agencies filed chargesheets against elected representatives of the State Assembly.

Recently the Central investigation agencies had filed chargesheets against Ministers Firdah Hakim, Subrata Mukherjee and Trinamool Congress MLA Madan Mitra in the Narada sting videos case. The CBI had arrested four political heavyweights, including the two Ministers, the TMC MLA

and former TMC Minister Sovan Chatterjee in the Narada case in May 2021. The accused were granted bail by the Calcutta High Court.

Meanwhile, CBI officials on Monday questioned State Industry Minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with chit fund case involving the I-Core group. Three members of the CBI met the Minister at his office. Along with Narada sting tapes the CBI and ED are also probing the chit fund case in the State.

Speaking to journalists later, Mr. Chatterjee said that he tried to answer the questions of the CBI to best of his knowledge. The CBI had sent summonses to Mr. Chatterjee to appear before the agency, but the Minister wrote back suggesting that the officers can come to his residence.

IN BRIEF



**NIA asked to respond to Teltumbde plea**

MUMBAI The Bombay High Court on Monday granted three weeks to the National Investigation Agency, probing the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, to file its reply on a plea by accused Anand Teltumbde, who has challenged the NIA court rejecting his bail. A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamadar was hearing a plea by Mr. Teltumbde challenging an order passed by Special NIA court judge D.E. Kothalikar on July 12 rejecting his default bail.

**Adhikari asks Speaker to disqualify 2 MLAs**

KOLKATA Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari on Monday wrote to Speaker Biman Banerjee demanding disqualification of two MLAs, Biswajit Das and Tanmoy Ghosh, who recently crossed over to the TMC after having won the State elections on BJP tickets. "Both are free to join any party but they have to resign as BJP MLAs. Let's see what measures the Speaker takes. We will then decide on our next course of action," he said.

**Collegium recommends elevation of 3 HC judges**

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana has on September 9 recommended to the government appointment of three Additional Judges of the Gauhati High Court as Permanent Judges of the High Court. The three judges are Justices Soumitra Saikia, Parthivjyoti Saikia and S. Hukato Swu. This follows the recent recommendation of 68 names to various High Courts.

## BJP, Left candidates file papers in Bhabanipur

### BJP demands deployment of Central Armed Police Forces at all polling booths for the byelection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Priyanka Tibrewal and Left Front candidate Sri-jib Biswas on Monday filed their nominations for the Bhabanipur Assembly byelection in West Bengal. Mr. Biswas is contesting on CPI (M) ticket.

The two candidates are up against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who filed her papers on September 10. The Chief Minister also took part in the campaign and spoke to voters in the Ekbalpur area.

Ms. Tibrewal was accompanied by Leader of the Op-



Ready for battle: BJP candidate Priyanka Tibrewal with Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari after filing papers. ■PTI

position in the Assembly Suwendu Adhikari and BJP Lok Sabha member Arjun Singh. Mr. Adhikari, who contested against the Chief Minister in

Nandigram and defeated her by a margin of 1,956 votes, urged the voters to elect Ms. Tibrewal.

Later in the day, the BJP

wrote to the Election Commission of India demanding free and fair elections to the Samsanganj, Jangipur and Bhabanipur Assembly seats. It sought deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) at all polling booths. It urged the ECI to transfer officers posted for more than three years, and said no officer of the State government should be employed on polling duty since the employees' union had openly pledged its support to Ms. Banerjee.

In the 2021 Assembly election, Trinamool candidate Sovandeb Chattopadhyay won the seat by a margin of

nearly 27,000 votes. He resigned paving the way for Ms. Banerjee to contest the byelection. Ms. Banerjee represented the constituency in 2011 and 2016.

During the day, the Calcutta High Court heard a public interest litigation petition challenging the byelection.

A Division Bench led by Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindaal asked why the petition was filed long after the ECI's announcement.

The matter will come up for hearing again on September 20.

The bypolls to the three seats are scheduled to be held on September 30.





# Bhupendra Patel takes over as Gujarat CM

Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled States attend function: Cabinet members yet to be decided

MAHESH LANGA  
AHMEDABAD

Bhupendra Patel was on Monday sworn in as the 17th Chief Minister of Gujarat at the Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar, a day after he was unanimously elected the leader of the BJP Legislature Party. Immediately after he was sworn in by Governor Acharya Devvrat, Mr. Patel took charge at the Chief Minister's Office and held a meeting with the top bureaucrats to review the flood situation in Jamnagar and Rajkot in the Saurashtra region. The Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure that people living in the low-lying areas are shifted to safer locations. Earlier Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his Ca-

# Priyanka to be face of Cong. in U.P.: Khurshid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

Hinting at the Congress's road map in Uttar Pradesh, senior party leader Salman Khurshid said on Sunday that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra would be the face of the party for the upcoming Assembly election in the State, and that the party would not forge any alliance. Speaking to reporters in Agra, Mr. Khurshid said, "We have entered into this battle with the face of Priyanka Gandhi (Vadra). She is working day and night. She is our face. Beyond that, she will declare the face of the Chief Minister if she wants to."

The former Cabinet Minister said that there was no point in forging an alliance if the party would not get the number of seats that it asked for. Mr. Khurshid, along with national spokesperson Supriya Shrinete, was in Agra to hold meetings with local leaders regarding the party's election manifesto. "Some of the important issues that we have come across include the poor state of farmers, lack of employment and the crumbling health infrastructure that has been exposed during the pandemic," he said.

# Govt. curbs funding for 10 climate change, child labour NGOs

RBI note says U.S., Australian, and European entities would be placed on PRC list for foreign contributions as per the Union Home Ministry

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Five years after it cancelled the registration of international non-governmental organisation (NGO) Greenpeace to receive foreign funds, the government has moved to restrict the funding for a group of 10 American, Australian and European NGOs dealing with environmental, climate change and child labour issues. An internal Reserve Bank of India note, dated July 1, 2021, which was sent to all banks, said the government had specified a number of foreign entities to be placed on the "Prior Reference Cate-

gory" (PRC list) using the stringent Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010, which was tightened in September 2020, making both banks and chartered accountants accountable for any unauthorised funds that come through. The NGOs are the European Climate Foundation; the U.S.-based Omidyar Network International, Humanity United and Stardust Foundation; the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation and Minderoo Foundation; the U.K.-based Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Freedom Fund and Laudes Foundation, and the U.K./UAE-based Legatum Fund.

They add to the more than 80 international voluntary agencies now on the PRC list of the government. "The RBI has instructed that any fund flow from the (specified) donor agencies to any NGO/voluntary organisation/ persons in India should be brought to the Ministry of Home Affairs so that the funds are allowed to be credited to the recipients only after clearance/ prior permission from the MHA's Foreigners Division of the FCRA wing," the notice sent out recently by a private bank to its branches, which *The Hindu* obtained a copy of, said. The RBI did not respond to a request for a com-

ment, but officials confirmed informally that the note had been sent out, in line with previous such circulars sent to banks warning them of NGOs banned or suspended from acquiring or disbursing foreign funds. Significantly all the NGOs on the latest list work on climate change and environmental projects and/or child rights and slavery projects, subjects where the government has been sensitive to international criticism. **Focus on coal** When asked why so many environmental NGOs are on the list, given the government's stated international commitments on fighting climate change, an official said that despite India's record in complying with the Paris agreement, "global pressures are intensifying on India to raise the Nationally Determined Contributions". "In order to create noise in the media, several pro-climate NGOs are focusing on advocacy against coal, which is considered a violation of FCRA provisions," the official added. In 2017, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had also objected strongly to the International Labour Organisation's Global Slavery Index, "questioning the credibility of data" which had ranked

India 53rd of 167 countries where "modern slavery" was prevalent, and as the country with highest number of people in forced labour, according to a reply in Parliament. The index is part of the Australian Walk Free Foundation's annual survey that is used by other NGOs working in the field. Both the Walk Free Foundation, and its founding agency Minderoo Foundation did not respond to emails from *The Hindu* requesting a response. The MHA too declined to comment on the PCR listing, which is not made public, although the government has released numbers of

leaders will decide the names to be included in the Cabinet, as many senior leaders and members of the outgoing Cabinet are likely to be dropped to bring in new faces and infuse dynamism in the administration. **Deputy CM** There is yet no clarity on the continuation of the post of Deputy Chief Minister. "We don't know yet whether there will be a new Deputy Chief Minister or just Cabinet Ministers," a party leader said. There is also no clarity on whether Nitin Patel, the outgoing Deputy Chief Minister, will be a part of the new Cabinet. On Monday, he broke down before mediapersons after he was overlooked but subsequently stated that he had no issues with the party and that he was a disciplined worker of the BJP. He also denied reports that the top leadership's decision to pick Mr. Bhupendra Patel, a first-time legislator and protégé of Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, as the successor to Vijay Rupani. In the Cabinet, the party is likely to give larger representation to legislators from Saurashtra and north Gujarat, where the BJP expects to improve its prospects in the next Assembly election. The State BJP's parliamentary board is likely to meet on Tuesday to finalise the names for the new Cabinet.

tors, including Rajya Sabha member and former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, was present at the event. Union Minister and estranged uncle of Mr. Chirag Paswan, Pashupati Kumar Paras, was also present. Mr. Singh's statement fuelled speculation about a possible reunion in the family and in the party. "Everyone who has been keenly following politics in Bihar must be aware that LJP means Ram Vilas Paswan, and now it's Chirag Paswan, with whom his caste vote bank can easily be identified with, instead of Mr. Paras and other party MPs. Politics is always pregnant with possibilities," a senior BJP leader told *The Hindu*.

# Congress eyes Rajya Sabha seats in Maharashtra, T.N.

DMK has not made anything official on tentative poll pact

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The Congress will have to choose from several hopefuls for a Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra and another from Tamil Nadu that ally DMK had promised them, though the latter has so far not officially conveyed whether they will concede the seat now or in June 2022, when five Upper House seats from the State go to the polls out of 20 countrywide. The vacancy in Maharashtra arose on the Congress's Rajeev Satav's death, and his wife is among the claimants for the secure seat. Five Rajya Sabha seats will go to the polls on October 4 - two from Tamil Nadu and one each from Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam. In Tamil Nadu, the two seats fell vacant following the resignation of AIADMK MPs K.P. Munusamy and R. Vaithilingam, after being elected to the Assembly. For Mr.

Vaithilingam's seat, only an 11-month tenure is left. During the seat-sharing discussions ahead of the last Assembly election between the DMK and the Congress, a tentative agreement was reached between the two on a Rajya Sabha seat. A section of the Congress is hopeful that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will push for senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, considering the latter's warm relationship with the late M. Karunanidhi. Mr. Azad retired on February 15 last after serving 28 years in the House. Sources in both the DMK and the Congress said that in case the DMK concedes the seat to the Congress, it won't dictate terms and will go with whoever the Congress chooses. "It is unlikely they will press for Mr. Azad's nomination if the Congress is not on board with it. They usually believe in writing a blank

cheque," a senior DMK leader said. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been pushing for a generational change in the party's Upper House team and is said to favour Praveen Chakravarty, chairperson of the Data Analytics department of the party, for the Tamil Nadu seat. Mr. Chakravarty, a Tamil, has been a critical member of Mr. Gandhi's team and also close to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Former IAS officer S. Sankanth Senthil, who quit the civil services last year citing a "totalitarian attack on the country" and joined the Congress in November, is also in the list of contenders. Tamil Nadu State Congress president K.S. Alagiri is also hoping that he will be awarded for delivering victory in both the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections where he did not seek ticket for himself.

# 'Gear up for 2022 U.P. polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said on Monday that he has advised the media panellists and spokespersons of the BJP to increase their activity ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls. He also told them to update themselves and issue statements daily.

**TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
Unit 1 - Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist, Tamil Nadu  
Ph. : 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines) Fax : 04324-277025 / 276368

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
212213 002816	Procurement of 180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit 1 & 2 (Qty : 712 MT)	27.09.2021
212213 002799	Procurement of Sulphamic Acid Commercial for Unit 1 & 2	28.09.2021
212213 002800	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline	29.09.2021

212213002816 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in  
212213002799 & 2800 - purchase.rawmatt@tnpl.co.in

**CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
(A Government of India Society)  
P.B. No. 8066, Bangalore - 560 080

**Advt.No.CPRI/R&D/02/2021**

CPRI invites applications for **Research Fellow (JRF and SRF)**. Candidates with B.E./B.Tech./M.Sc./M.Phil./M.E./M.Tech. (Electrical/Mechanical/Civil/Chemical Engineering and Chemistry) and valid GATE/UGC NET Score are eligible to apply. For details and application format, please refer website ([www.cpri.res.in](http://www.cpri.res.in))

Candidates who had applied against the Advertisement No. CPRI/R&D/01/2021 need not apply again, as all applications received against both the advertisements will be processed together.

**Last date of receipt of filled in application form: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

Chief Administrative Officer

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli - 627 002.  
Notice Inviting Tenders Lumpsum Contract (Rate Tender System)  
Tender Notice No. 04 / 2021-2022 / Dated 09.09.2021

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of the Special Chief Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 16.09.2021 to 20.10.2021 up to 5.45 PM  
Tender Schedule Receiving last Date : Up to 3.00 PM on 21.10.2021.  
Tender Opening Date : 3.30 PM on 21.10.2021.  
Total No. of Works : 1  
Total Approximate Value of Works : Rs.376.70 Lakhs

For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)

Special Chief Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli

DIPR/2673/Tender/2021

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)**  
(An Autonomous Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500 030.  
Ph.No.:040-24594509, Fax: 040-24015388  
Website: [www.manage.gov.in](http://www.manage.gov.in), Email: [pgccel@manage.gov.in](mailto:pgccel@manage.gov.in)

**POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT (AGRI-BUSINESS MANAGEMENT)  
PGDM (ABM) 2022-24**

MANAGE invites applications for admission to the 27th batch of its prestigious two year full time PGDM (ABM) program. (Approved by AICTE)

**ELIGIBILITY:** The minimum qualification for admission is a **Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university or institution with at least 50% marks or equivalent CGPA (45% in case of SC, ST and Persons with Disability)** in agricultural and allied sciences or any other discipline. Details such as eligibility, selection criteria, reservation, application form, application procedure etc., are placed on MANAGE website [www.manage.gov.in](http://www.manage.gov.in).

**The candidate must have a valid Score of CAT-2021 conducted by Indian Institutes of Management.**

Note: Candidates may apply in anticipation of CAT 2021 results. Score card can be submitted separately after declaration of results.

**Last Date for Receipt of Applications: 31st December, 2021**

# Zail Singh's grandson joins BJP, says fulfilled grandfather's wish

Congress did not behave properly with him: Inderjeet Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Inderjeet Singh, left, being welcomed by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. ■PTI

Inderjeet Singh, grandson of former President Giani Zail Singh, joined the BJP on Monday in the presence of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri. Welcoming him, BJP general secretary and Punjab unit in-charge Dushyant Gautam said this showed that the party held a special place in the hearts of the people of Punjab. After joining the BJP at the party's headquarters in New Delhi, Mr. Inderjeet Singh said he had "fulfilled" his grandfather's wishes. "The Congress did not behave properly with my

grandfather. I campaigned for the BJP during the Madan Lal Khurana days in Delhi. My grandfather wanted me to join the BJP. He had introduced me to late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna

Advani," he said. Mr. Singh hails from the Ramgarhia Sikh community, which comes under the OBC category. The community has a substantial presence in the Doaba and Majha belts of Punjab. The BJP has parted ways with one its oldest allies, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), after the latter walked out of the NDA over the three contentious farm laws The SAD has been part of the protests asking for the repeal of the three laws. Mr. Singh's entry is an attempt to broaden the BJP's appeal among Sikhs in the State especially those on the margins of the community.

**DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE DY.DIRECTOR (HORTICULTURE) EAST  
CHANDRAWAL WATER WORKS CIVIL LINES DELHI-110054**  
Office Telephone No. :- 23811418  
Email :- [ddheast12019@gmail.com](mailto:ddheast12019@gmail.com)

**STOP CORONA : Wash Your Hands, Wear Mask, Maintain Social Distance**  
PRESS NIT No. 08 ITEM No. (01) DD (H) EAST (2021-2022)

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Const.	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Processing Fees (Fresh)	Publication of tender in e-procurement System	Last date & time for receipt of tender in e-procurement System
01	Preparation of Path way and Development of Garden at Conduit Areas Majnu ka Tib Chandrawal	68,87,762/-	Exempted vide office Memorandum no. DJB/2020-21 Misc-II (PT)/971 Dated 23/12/2020 of Jt. Director (F & A) DJB	1000/-	13/09/2021	04/10/2021

The more detail required above can be seen in e-Tendering system Government of NCT of Delhi.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 383(2021)-22

(HUKAM SINGH)  
DY. DIRECTOR (HORT)-EAST

**ANNA UNIVERSITY**  
CHENNAI - 600 025  
Ph : 044-2235 7923 Fax : 91-44 2235 1956 Web : [www.annauniv.edu](http://www.annauniv.edu)

**TENDER NOTICE - TENDER Ref. No. 165/CPO/DCC/COE/2021**  
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for the procurement of following items for the Controller of Examinations, Anna University, Chennai - 600 025.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the Item	Approximate quantity per semester	Approx. cost Rs.
1.	165/CPO/DCC/COE/2021	Deluxe Cloth lined Covers	Refer Tender Document	₹30,00,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 11.00 am on 14.09.2021. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.30 pm on 30.09.2021 and will be opened at 03.30 pm on 01.10.2021. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).

DIPR/2671/Tender/2021 **REGISTRAR /c**

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU  
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES  
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE**

Tenders for purchase of 60sC Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn and Polyester Texturised Yarn invited by the Department of Handlooms and Textiles vide reference no.DIPR/2240/Tender/2021, dated 29.07.2021 and DIPR/2239/Tender/2021, dated 29.07.2021 are hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

**Joint Director (Uniforms) / Tender Inviting Authority**

DIPR/2679/Tender/2021

**ODISHA MINERAL EXPLORATION CORPORATION LTD.**  
3rd floor, Bayan Bhawan, Unit-3, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Marg  
Bhubaneswar, 751001, Odisha Tel: 0674-2399914

**OMECL**  
ODISHA MINERAL EXPLORATION CORPORATION LIMITED

**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

**NIT No: 11/OMECL/e-PROC/2021** Date: 14.09.2021

1	Name of the work	Engagement of Strategic Technical Consultant (STC) for providing services related to Technical Supervision and Quality Assurance / Quality Control for Mineral Resource Mapping to OMECL
2	Availability of tender documents on the e-tendering portal of Government of Odisha	Date: 14.09.2021; Time: 5:00 PM (IST)
3	Type of tender	Open Tender
4	Last date for sending queries to OMECL	Date: 28.09.2021; Time: 5:00 PM (IST); queries may be sent by email to <a href="mailto:omecloffice@gmail.com">omecloffice@gmail.com</a>
5	Pre-bid meeting	Date: 04.10.2021; Time: 11:00 AM (IST); Venue: To be held via Video Conferencing (VC) - Link shall be shared via email with the prospective bidders
6	Issue of responses to pre-bid queries, addendum/ corrigendum, if required	Date: 11.10.2021
7	Bid Due Date	Date: 01.11.2021; Time: 6:30 PM (IST)
8	Opening of Technical Bid	Date: 02.11.2021; Time: 3:30 PM (IST)
9	Opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the Technically Qualified Bidders
10	Tender document fee (non-refundable) including GST	Amount: INR 11,800 (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) including GST@18%. Payable online on the e-tender portal of Government of Odisha ( <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> )
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Amount: INR 6,00,000 (Rupees Six lakhs only) - exclusive of GST Payable online on the e-tender portal of Government of Odisha ( <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> )

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha ([www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)) and on the website of OMECL ([www.omecl.in](http://www.omecl.in)). OMECL reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/- Director (Geology)  
OIPR - 30024/11/0009/2122  
CAD-1164



# Booster shots not required now: study

It will dent vaccine acceptance, says Lancet review

RAMYA KANNAN  
CHENNAI

An expert review published in medical journal *The Lancet* has recommended that booster doses for the general population are not appropriate at this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, weighing in on the global debate that calls for caution in administering booster doses.

An international group of scientists, including those at the World Health Organisation and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration agency, concluded that even for the Delta variant, vaccine efficacy against severe COVID is so high at this stage that boosters would not be appropriate, and not required. The review summarises the currently available evidence from studies published in

peer-reviewed journals and pre-print servers.

"The message that boosting might soon be needed, if not justified by robust data and analysis, could adversely affect confidence in vaccines and undermine messaging about the value of primary vaccination," the paper states.

Further, it goes on to explain: there could be risks if boosters are widely introduced too soon, or too frequently, especially with vaccines that can have immune-mediated side-effects. If unnecessary boosting causes significant adverse reactions, there could be implications for vaccine acceptance that go beyond COVID-19 vaccines.

A consistent finding from the observational studies is that vaccines remain highly effective against severe disease, including that from all the main viral variants, a release states. Averaging the



Vaccine efficacy for severe COVID is high even for Delta variants, the study says.

results reported from the observational studies, vaccination had 95% efficacy against severe disease both from the Delta variant and from the Alpha variant, and over 80% efficacy at protecting against any infection from these variants, the release adds.

The authors note that even if antibody levels in vaccinated individuals wane, it did not necessarily mean reduction in the efficacy of vac-

cines against severe disease. This could be because protection against severe disease is mediated not only by antibody responses, but also by long-lived memory responses and cell-mediated immunity.

### Variant-specific boosters

The ability of vaccines to elicit an antibody response against current variants indicates that these variants have not yet evolved to the point at which they are likely to escape the memory immune response induced by the vaccines. Even if new variants that can escape the current vaccines do evolve, they are most likely to do so from strains that have already become widely prevalent, and it makes sense to use boosters that have been specifically made to attack potential new variants.

"The limited supply of these vaccines will save the most lives if made available

to people who are at appreciable risk of serious disease and have not yet received any vaccine. Even if some gain can ultimately be obtained from boosting, it will not outweigh the benefits of providing initial protection to the unvaccinated. If vaccines are deployed where they would do the most good, they could hasten the end of the pandemic by inhibiting further evolution of variants," says lead author Ana-Maria Henao-Restrepo of the WHO.

"Although the idea of further reducing the number of COVID-19 cases by enhancing immunity in vaccinated people is appealing, any decision to do so should be evidence-based and consider the benefits and risks for individuals and society. These high-stakes decisions should be based on robust evidence," added Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist, and co author.

# Supplements for COVID fatigue pass clinical trials

Study was conducted on 200 patients across three centres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Advanced Enzyme Technologies Ltd. (AETL) has said its systemic enzyme and probiotic supplements – ImmunoSEB and ProbioSEB CSC3 – have passed the randomised controlled clinical trials in terms of efficacy to resolve post-COVID-19 fatigue symptoms.

"With an aim to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the health supplements, ImmunoSEB [systemic enzyme complex] and ProbioSEB CSC3 [probiotic complex] in patients suffering from COVID-19 induced fatigue, a randomised, multi-centric, double blind and placebo-controlled trial was conducted in 200 patients suffering from post COVID-19 fatigue



Patients were required to have a positive COVID-19 test at any time in the past.

symptoms," said Dr. Abhijit K. Rathi, Principal Scientist, AETL.

"The randomised clinical trial was conducted on 200 patients who did not have an active SARS-CoV-2 infection, as determined by a negative

COVID-19 test, with a complaint of post COVID-19 fatigue," he stated.

Patients were required to have a positive COVID-19 test at any time in the past and the trial was conducted across three centres in India – Swasthya Hospital, Bhopal; Samvedna Hospital, Varanasi; and Chirayu Medical College & Hospital, Bhopal – by investigators for 14 days.

"According to the clinical research paper published by the Switzerland-based *Medicines* journal on August 30, 2021, the treatment efficacy was compared using the Chalder Fatigue Scale (CFQ-11) for 14 days. The supplemental treatment resulted in resolution of fatigue in a greater percentage in patients," he observed.

# Cong. questions CONCOR divestment

Container Corporation of India has been earning profits in past 10 years, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday questioned the Central government's proposal to reduce its stake in the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), a public sector undertaking (PSU) under the Indian Railways, saying that the PSU had been consistently earning profits in the past 10 years.

At a press conference at

the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, party spokesperson Gourav Vallabh charged the Railways with changing the terms of leasing its land to CONCOR in a way that would put the company at a financial disadvantage and eventually affect its market value.

"The Modi government has given its nod to sell 30.8% out of its 54.8% holding in CONCOR and manage-

ment control to strategic buyers. CONCOR has over 60 Inland Container Depots and 24 are situated on railway land," Mr. Vallabh told reporters. He pointed out that the company had earned a net profit of ₹ 503 crore.

"Once decided for divestment, why the government is considering changing land licensing fees (LLF) from the existing 6% to

2%-3% and lease period from 5 years to 35 years? It is of more significance when Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone says 'acquiring CONCOR will be a breeze'," he stated.

"How can the Railway land acquired from farmers at concessional rates be handed over to a private party for commercial use in a backdoor arrangement," he added.

# Be compassionate in issuing COVID death certificates: SC

Govt. norms exclude deaths caused by poisoning, suicide

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said the government should consider certifying COVID-19 as a reason for death in case of patients who chose to take their own lives.

A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah urged the government, while perusing the new guidelines issued by the Health Ministry which has simplified the process of issuing death certificates for the pandemic patients, to be compassionate.

The guidelines exclude deaths caused by poisoning, suicide, homicide and accident even if the deceased was positive.

The court also sought details of the implementation of the guidelines by the States.

It asked the government about the formation of a grievance redressal mechanism in connection with the policy and also how the go-



The court had earlier directed that death certificates of patients should show the "exact cause of death". FILE PHOTO

vernment was going to deal with death certificates which had already been issued to families of COVID patients.

### Earlier judgement

In a judgment in June, the court had directed that death certificates of patients should show the "exact cause of death".

The court had reasoned that by not issuing the correct/accurate death certificates mentioning the correct cause of death, that is CO-

VID-19, even the other citizens would be misled and the correct figure of deaths would not be known.

On Monday, the court also asked about compliance by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to its June 30 judgment on framing uniform guidelines for payment of ex gratia to the families of COVID patients who had died.

The court had pulled up the NDMA for "failing to perform its duty" to recommend ex gratia.

# SC upholds refund of unutilised ITC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday confirmed a Madras High Court judgment which upheld a fiscal formula included in the Central Goods and Service Tax Rules to execute refund of unutilised Input Tax Credit (ITC) accumulated on account of input services.

The Supreme Court Bench led, by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, passed the judgment in the face of two contradicting judgments of Gujarat and Madras High Courts on the validity of Rule 89(5) of the Central Goods and Service Tax Rules, 2017.

Rule 89(5) provides a formula for the refund of ITC, in "a case of refund on account of inverted duty structure".

The Bench said though the formula suffers from "inequities", it did not deserve to be struck down. "We strongly urge the GST Council to reconsider the formula and take a policy decision," the court said.

# Braving all odds for a trek to Siachen

A team of disabled persons creates history by scaling the world's highest battlefield

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

A team of eight persons with disabilities created a new world record for the "largest number of people with disabilities" to scale the world's highest battlefield, Siachen Glacier, by scaling up to the Kumar Post at an altitude of 15,632 ft. The team with disabilities was trained and led by CLAW Global, a team of Special Forces veterans who had left the service due to disabilities.

"The expedition team climbed a total distance of 60 km atop the spine of the Siachen Glacier over a period of five days from September 7 to finally reach Kumar Post on September 11," said Major Arun Prakash Ambathy (retd) of CLAW Global. The expedition was actively supported throughout by the Army, he said.

Stating that the team



Resilience unlimited: The team climbed a total distance of 60 km atop the spine of the Siachen Glacier. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ascended 4,000 ft gradually while scaling the Glacier, Major Ambathy said the route involved crossing several deep crevasses, icy glacial water streams, hard-ice stretches and undulating rocky moraines. "This not only tested the physical endurance and

mental stamina, but also the ice-craft skills of the participants, in use of ice axe, crampons, ladder crossing and rope skills," he said.

On the challenges faced by the team, Major Ambathy said the extremely rough, rocky and undulating

terrain along the moraines of the glacier made the climb particularly challenging for the visually impaired and the leg amputees. "They displayed phenomenal grit despite the challenges," he said adding that the participants with hand amputation had to constantly work on their balance, managing the rope and work on adaptations for emergency rescue procedures.

This is the land world record expedition part of "Operation Blue Freedom Triple World Records" being undertaken by CLAW Global. CLAW Global was set up in January 2019 by Major Vivek Jacob (retd), a Para Special Forces officer, who had to hang up his boots following a combat skydive injury after 14 years of service in the Army, with the aim of teaching life skills to adventurers and people with disabilities.

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

**THE CROSSWORD + 13351** (set by Dr. X)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				9			
10			11				
12				13			
	14			15		16	
17							
18			19	20			
							21
22	23		24				
					26		
27						28	

- 14 Some praise a mercurial bowler (6)
  - 15 Good-natured female crushed by a lie (7)
  - 18 Editor harassed model in American city (7)
  - 20 Pay for fine ready-made clothes (6)
  - 22 Cave is right inside volcanic mount, going west (5)
  - 24 Piece of cake given by owner in bar leaves wife happy (2-7)
  - 25 Remains enthralled by heavenly body, most attractive (9)
  - 26 Listens to husband expressing new desires (5)
  - 27 Bear in river swamp (6)
  - 28 Move to have payment distributed proportionately in America (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Wild time for fellow getting three-card sequence of same suit (6)
  - 2 Nasty workers involved in troubling client (9)
  - 3 What a kabaddi player might do to deceive playfully? (4,8,3)
  - 4 Father finished hollow muffin (7)
  - 6 Like-minded people's efforts to control Republican oaf after he lost (5,2,1,7)
  - 7 Editor inspires chaps to improve (5)
  - 8 Chained revolutionary after smashing teeth (8)
  - 9 Famous song a girl composed about love (6)
  - 16 Most powerful star consuming fresh dope endlessly (9)
  - 17 Commercial vehicle reviewed last month is state-of-the-art (8)
  - 19 Painful time, isolating millions, about to conclude (6)
  - 20 Delivering a concoction of tea and bread for panellist (7)
  - 21 Forced spider out (6)
  - 23 Onset of melanoma in dog's tongue (5)

- ACROSS
- 1 Inform about trouble with power converter's core in part of vehicle (8)
  - 5 Gone in a second, stolen by criminal (6)
  - 10 Beat slippery character smuggling unknown drug (5)
  - 11 Most miserable friend seeks bit of therapy (9)
  - 12 Thinks about models in film (5,4)
  - 13 Creep in party, suppressing liberal (5)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13350**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

## FAITH

### Test for disciple Janaka

The main postulate of the Advaita philosophy is the belief that liberation is automatic in the process of establishing oneself firmly and instinctively with the self. Self knowledge confers the perception that the self is not the jiva. The self is not in the category of any object, person or place in the world that can be described and perceived in normal terms. It has to be recognised as already abiding in all beings.

The unique quality of the text Ashtavakra Gita is the manner in which the Advaita stance is unfolded by the preceptor Ashtavakra to the disciple Janaka, pointed out Sri R. Rajagopal Sarma in a discourse. Herein both are knowers of the Absolute Self, but they represent different ashrams, that is, the preceptor is a sanyasi who has renounced the world and Janaka, in spite of his realised state, is a king who actively participates in the conduct of his kingdom Mithila.

As a preceptor, Ashtavakra knows the level of realisation attained by Janaka. Yet to make the world understand the exceptional quality of Janaka's spiritual attainment, he poses very sharp questions meant to test the disciple. Are you not a Vairagya Sampanna, one who has renounced the world? Are you not already poised with the knowledge of the Advaita standpoint that the Self is Supreme and without a second, Ekameva Advitiyam? Then why are you still holding on to kingship and getting involved in worldly matters such as accumulation of wealth, state administration, law and order, etc, even if it is for the sake of protecting the kingdom? Does this not show clearly that you are still deluded by the pulls of the world? Janaka's reply reinforces the fact that atma jnana is not the sole prerogative of sanyasa ashrama and that many of our forebears have continued to remain in the world of senses with a renunciate's frame of mind.



A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

# TRANSCENDING TIME

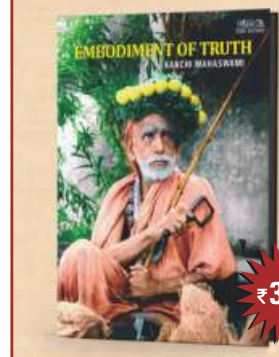
The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



BOOK  
YOUR COPY  
ONLINE

Visit: [publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/](http://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/) | For bulk booking, e-mail: [bookstore@thehindu.co.in](mailto:bookstore@thehindu.co.in) | For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

\*Shipping charges extra | Terms & Conditions apply



₹ 399

## MARKET WATCH

	13-09-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	58,178	-0.22
US Dollar	73.68	-0.24
Gold	45,952	0.00
Brent oil	73.39	---

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	745.10	-4.60
Asian Paints	3367.05	20.70
Axis Bank	788.35	-1.80
Bajaj Auto	3699.55	-1.05
Bajaj Finserv	16938.20	187.70
Bajaj Finance	7445.55	14.90
Bharti Airtel	693.30	7.15
BPL	498.10	6.95
Britannia Ind	4093.85	23.05
Cipla	950.45	1.15
Coal India	154.60	5.95
Divis Lab	5085.20	30.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4931.40	19.35
Eicher Motors	2805.00	-13.20
Grasim Ind	1606.35	8.45
HCL Tech	1208.40	9.85
HDFC	2849.80	19.70
HDFC Bank	1555.55	-13.05
HDFC Life	734.90	-2.45
Hero MotoCorp	2789.80	-6.90
Hindalco	478.35	14.80
Hind Unilever	2786.35	-24.30
ICI Bank	707.40	-12.85
Indusind Bank	996.30	-3.20
Infosys	1691.90	0.30
Indian Oil Corp	114.00	1.20
ITC	214.15	1.50
JSW Steel	694.40	5.45
Kotak Bank	1840.05	22.20
L&T	1671.70	1.65
M&M	745.55	-5.20
Maruti Suzuki	6873.70	71.45
Nestle India Ltd.	20452.25	-4.95
NTPC	115.00	0.45
ONGC	123.05	0.90
PowerGrid Corp	173.90	0.40
Reliance Ind	2371.55	-54.05
SBI Life	1165.15	-8.05
State Bank	432.85	0.55
Shree Cement	30663.35	-8.00
Sun Pharma	780.30	-4.00
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	882.10	6.50
Tata Motors	301.20	2.25
Tata Steel	1463.45	16.45
TCS	3845.35	53.95
Tech Mahindra	1429.50	-3.75
Titan	2030.65	-3.65
UltraTech Cement	7944.45	4.80
UPL	756.00	-1.90
Wipro	670.75	8.40

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.47	73.79
Euro	86.52	86.90
British Pound	101.56	102.00
Japanese Yen (100)	66.72	67.01
Chinese Yuan	11.38	11.43
Swiss Franc	79.54	79.89
Singapore Dollar	54.69	54.93
Canadian Dollar	57.92	58.20
Malaysian Ringgit	17.70	17.78

Source: Indian Bank

## Return to fiscal rectitude a must: Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

India should take credible steps to return to the path of fiscal rectitude once the COVID pandemic is over, 15th Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh said on Monday.

Stating that the country's current debt profile is neither worrisome nor comforting, he said people have to be mindful of the debt situation while seeking more fiscal stimulus.

Addressing a seminar, he said, "If you look at the total fiscal stimulus of the government which is upwards of 12-13%, when people advocate greater fiscal stimulus, I think we need to be careful."

## NFRA for single stakeholders' advisory body

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

As it seeks to enhance engagement with stakeholders, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) will set up a single stakeholders' advisory group as well as a research cell to support the group while on-site inspection is not a priority for the almost three-year-old watchdog at this stage.

Besides, NFRA – an independent regulator for accounting and auditing in India – is of the view that introduction of a 'settlement mechanism' for cases is only one aspect of many changes that need to be brought about in the law to properly define its remit.

## Centre-industry trust critical during pandemic: Sitharaman

Govt. focus is on ramping up vaccination, boosting health infrastructure, says FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHENNAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the trust between government and industry is critical for leveraging opportunities thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also gave the assurance that the proposed development finance institution, the National Bank for Infrastructure Financing and Development, would become functional 'soon'. She was addressing members of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here.

This trust is also reflected in the government's actions,



In progress: The proposed development finance institution would become functional 'soon', says the Minister. ■ N. RAJESH

she said. Elaborating on the government's strategy for handling the pandemic, the Minister said that on the one hand the focus was on ramping up vaccination as that

was the biggest protection against the pandemic, while on the other hand, the government was working on ramping up health infrastructure, including in the

tier 2 and tier 3 cities, by supporting the private sector.

Liquidity is no longer a major concern, she said, while pointing out that the Bank-NBFC-MFI channel had been de-clogged. From October 15, there would be a special drive to reach credit to those who need it, the Finance Minister said.

Parliament had earlier this year passed a Bill to set up a ₹20,000 crore DFI with a view to mobilise ₹11 lakh crore required for funding of the ambitious national infrastructure pipeline, which has more than 7,000 greenfield and brownfield projects.

## NCLT can't allow tweaks in a successful resolution plan: SC

'Such a move will create negotiations unregulated by IBC'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cannot permit withdrawals or modifications of a successful resolution plan, once it has been submitted to it after due compliance with the procedural requirements and timelines, solely at the behest of the resolution applicant.

This would only create another tier of negotiations wholly unregulated by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), the apex court observed.

"Since the 330 days outer

limit of the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Proceedings (CIRP) under Section 12 (3) of the IBC, including judicial proceedings, can be extended only in exceptional circumstances, this opened process for further negotiations or a withdrawal, would have a deleterious impact on the corporate debtor, its creditors, and the economy at large as the liquidation value depletes with the passage of time," a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah observed in a 190-page judgment.

The court said the NCLT cannot read too much into

its residual powers under the IBC and create procedural remedies which have substantive outcomes on the process of insolvency.

The judgment pertained to the NCLT's decision to allow Ebix Singapore Private Limited to withdraw its resolution plan submitted for Educomp Solutions.

The National Companies Law Appellate Tribunal had, however, reversed the NCLT order, saying the latter did not have jurisdiction to permit such withdrawal.

The correctness of the NCLAT decision had come up in appeal before the Supreme Court.

## 'Don't let judicial delays fail IBC'

Clear pending resolution plans at once: SC to NCLT, NCLAT

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that judicial delay should not be a reason leading to the failure of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) regime like the way it did in the days before the Code came into existence.

"We urge the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Appellate Law Tribunal (NCLAT) to be sensitive to the effect of such delays on the insolvency resolution process and be cognisant that adjournments hamper the efficacy of the judicial process," a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah appealed.

The judgment is significant as NCLT and NCLAT are



among the key tribunals struggling with a burgeoning backlog only matched by their increasing vacancies. The NCLT and the NCLAT should endeavour to strictly adhere to the timelines stipulated under the IBC, it said.

"Judicial delay was one of the major reasons for the failure of the insolvency regime that was in effect prior to the IBC. We cannot let the present insolvency regime meet the same fate," Justice Chandrachud observed.

The Bench observed that

'long delays' in approving resolution plans under the IBC by the NCLT affect their implementation.

"These delays, if systemic and frequent, will have an undeniable impact on the commercial assessment that the parties undertake during the course of the negotiation," the Bench highlighted.

The court drew attention to a report filed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' Standing Committee on Finance on the implementation of IBC.

The report had noted that a delay in the resolution process with more than 71% cases pending for over 180 days was in deviation of the original objective and timeline for corporate insolvency resolution process envisaged by the IBC.

## Kotak fund invests ₹200 cr. in TVS Supply Chain Solutions

KSSF also lends ₹800 cr. to help promoter buy CDPQ stake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

A Kotak Mahindra Bank arm on Monday announced a ₹1,000-crore investment into a third-party logistics (3PL) business promoted by the South-based TVS family.

Kotak Special Situations Fund (KSSF) has invested ₹200 crore in TVS Supply Chain Solutions and has provided ₹800-crore finance to T.S. Rajam Rubbers Private Ltd. through a non-convertible debentures route.

The loan will help TVS SCS promoter R. Dinesh acquire Canadian pension

The investments are intended to help the TVS family consolidate holdings in TVS SCS

fund CDPQ's stake in TVS SCS, according to an official statement.

"The investments will help the TVS family consolidate their holdings in TVS SCS," it said.

"We are delighted to support the TVS group and R. Dinesh in consolidating their ownership in a valuable and high-growth, technology-led business," Srinu Srinivasan,

managing director at KSSF's parent Kotak Investment Advisors, said.

'Growth-oriented focus' KSSF's chief executive Eshwar Karra said the investment was in line with the fund's objective of participating in growth-oriented businesses.

The fund is registered as an alternate investment fund with regulator SEBI and currently manages \$1 billion with a mandate to invest in special situations, credit and distressed space in the domestic arena.

## Vedanta cuts net debt by \$300 mn in H1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Vedanta Resources Ltd. (VRL) on Monday announced that the company had reduced its net debt by \$300 million in the first half of this fiscal and expects to further reduce it by \$500 million in the second half of FY22.

With the entire debt repayment at Volcan, the pledge on all the equity shares of VRL had been released, the company said.

Volcan Investments is an investment arm of mining magnate Anil Agarwal.

Shares of VRL's subsidiary Vedanta Ltd. rose 2.2% to ₹308.40.

## New deadline for COVID policies is Mar. 31: IRDAI

Hard copy exemptions also get time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has extended the timelines for insurers to sell and renew short-term COVID-specific health insurance policies by another six months till March 31.

The partial modification of an earlier circular, in which it had set September 30 as last date for sale and renewal of Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak, is bound to come as a relief for both existing and prospective policyholders given the lurking threat of another wave of the pandemic.

Introduced last year by

insurers on the directions of IRDAI, customer response to the COVID-specific health covers has been encouraging. The mounting claims, in the face of a number of people hospitalised for COVID-19, however, led to reports of insurers keen on a tariff revision.

All other terms and conditions remain valid as specified under the respective guidelines, the regulator said. Separately, IRDAI also extended till March 31 exemptions granted to general insurers for obtaining wet signature on applications as well as issuing hard copies of the policy documents.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The asset under management of the non-banking financial company segment declined in Q1 of 2021-22 on lower disbursements and portfolio rundown, ICRA Ratings said in a report.

After witnessing an uptick in Q3 and Q4 FY21, disbursements for NBFCs and housing finance companies declined again in Q1 FY22. "Given this subdued disbursements and portfolio rundown in the absence of any moratorium like in Q1 FY21, the [AUM] for NBFC-segment shrunk in Q1 FY2022, while HFCs' AUM remained flat," it said.

## PharmEasy parent names independent directors

Company plans to hire 200 engineers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

API Holdings Ltd., the parent firm of digital healthcare brand PharmEasy has announced the appointment of five independent directors to strengthen the composition of its board.

These directors include Vineeta Rai, IAS (Retd.), former Revenue Secretary of India; Subramanian Somasundaram, ex-CFO of Titan Company; Ramakant Sharma, founder and COO, Livspace; Dr. Jaydeep Tank, Gynaecologist, and Deepak

Vaidya, who has decades of experience in the fields of pharmaceuticals, microfinance, healthcare and private equity. The company said it would hire more than 200 engineers for its soon-to-be-opened development centres in Hyderabad, Pune and NCR.

"Ahead of the opening of the new centres, PharmEasy will provide opportunities for inquisitive technology professionals, with a flexible work model," Abhinav Yajurvedi, CTO, PharmEasy, said in a statement.

## Kinetic forays into EV kit business

Company targeting three-wheeler makers, says MD Firodia

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

Kinetic Engineering Ltd. said it had transformed itself into an auto components firm making mainly gear boxes and EV parts.

The company, which had earlier been making losses, had been in the profit zone for the last two quarters, said managing director Ajinkya Firodia.

In its former avatar, it used to make the Luna brand of mopeds and the Kinetic Honda scooter. It had outstanding debt of ₹250 crore that it has now repaid. It has come out with an



Electric Vehicle (EV) kit for the manufacture of EV three-wheelers that are in demand, following incentives provided by the government, the company said. Since the government is encouraging EV supplies from domestic sources, the company is expecting major

demand for EV kits, "We are celebrating 50 years... our company has now converted into an auto component manufacturer," Mr. Firodia said. "We have developed a complete EV kit that is 100% Indian. We are supplying the axle and gear box, and have sourced the motor and controller from domestic third parties," he said. Demand in India for EV three-wheelers is about 20,000, sourced mostly from China.

The firm is expecting ₹40 crore of business from this business and will soon introduce a kit for EV two-wheeler assembly, he said.

## 'Sizeable tariff increase must for Vodafone Idea'

'Policy aid, fundraising only a breather'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Measures reportedly being mullied by the government to ease telecom industry's stress and fundraising may give Vodafone Idea the much-needed breather, but structural issues undermining the sector can be fixed only with a 'sizeable' tariff increases for 4G prepaid customers, as per a note by Edelweiss.

It observed that as Vodafone Idea's large liabilities are falling due, and given the impending launch of Jio



Phone Next (whose roll-out timeline has now been pushed to before Diwali), "the sooner the government measures as well as tariff hikes are rolled out, the better." A moratorium on AGR and spectrum payments are reportedly among key relief measures being lined up.



# Taliban breaking promises: UN official

Afghanistan is in a perilous phase; there are credible allegations of reprisal killings, says Michelle Bachelet

REUTERS  
GENEVA

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers have contradicted public promises on rights, including by ordering women to stay at home, blocking teenage girls from school and holding house-to-house searches for former foes, a United Nations official said on Monday.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said Afghanistan was in a "new and perilous phase" since the militant Islamist group seized power last month, with many women and members of ethnic



Qatari Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, left, and Afghan PM Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund. • AFP

and religious communities deeply worried.

"In contradiction to assurances that the Taliban would uphold women's

rights, over the past three weeks, women have instead been progressively excluded from the public sphere," she told the Human Rights Council

in Geneva.

Ms. Bachelet expressed dismay at the composition of the Taliban government, noting the absence of women and its dominance by ethnic Pashtun.

In some places, girls over 12 were barred from school while women were told to stay at home, she said, in throwbacks to the Taliban's oppressive rule between 1996-2001 prior to a U.S.-led invasion that toppled them.

Ms. Bachelet pointed to other broken pledges on granting amnesty to former civil servants and security officers linked to the previous

government and prohibiting house-to-house searches.

The United Nations has received multiple allegations of searches for those who worked with U.S. companies and security forces while some UN staff have reported increasing attacks and threats, she added.

Credible allegations of reprisal killings of some former Afghan military members have also been received, she said.

"I reiterate my appeal to this Council to take bold and vigorous action, commensurate with the gravity of this crisis," she said.

# Blinken defends Afghan withdrawal before Congress

He also defended the pull-out process in the last weeks of August, characterised by chaos and violence

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

Testifying before a U.S. House of Representatives Committee, Secretary of State Antony Blinken defended the Biden administration's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan after two decades, as well as the actual withdrawal process in the last weeks of August, characterised by chaos and violence focused around Kabul's airport.

Mr. Blinken, in his opening remarks, which he delivered via video-link to the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) on Monday af-

ternoon, suggested that President Joe Biden had inherited a bad deal on Afghanistan from his predecessor, Donald Trump, that the alternative to withdrawal would have cost lives, and that the withdrawal was coordinated with America's partners.

He said the Trump administration had pressed the (former) Afghan government to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners, including "top war commanders" and had reduced U.S. troop strength to 2,500. This put the Taliban in their strongest position since September 2001 and

the U.S. had its smallest troop level since the invasion, Mr. Blinken said.

Mr. Biden had a choice between ending the war or escalating it — which would have come at the cost of casualties and resulted in a "stalemate", according to Mr. Blinken.

"There's no evidence that staying longer would have made the Afghan security forces or the Afghan government any more resilient or self-sustaining," he said.

"Even the most pessimistic assessments did not predict that government forces in Kabul would collapse while

U.S. forces remained," he told U.S. lawmakers.

Mr. Blinken also said he was in "constant contact" with U.S. allies and partners "to hear their views and factor them" into U.S. thinking on withdrawal.

"I want to acknowledge the more than two dozen countries that have helped with the relocation effort — some serving as transit hubs, some welcoming Afghan evacuees for longer periods of time," he said.

Among the current activities of the State Department were efforts to help evacuate any remaining Americans,

Afghans and citizens of partner countries who wanted to leave Afghanistan, Mr. Blinken said.

The U.S. was also focused on counterterrorism, as per the Secretary, who said the Taliban had committed to prevent terrorist groups from using Afghanistan as a safe haven. (This has been India's central concern with the unfolding situation in Afghanistan). "That does not mean we will rely on them [the Taliban]," he said, adding that the U.S. would remain vigilant and maintain robust counterterrorism capabilities in the region.

# Climate change could cause 216 mn to migrate: World Bank

In most optimistic scenario, 44 mn would still be displaced

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BARCELONA

Climate change could push more than 200 million people to leave their homes in the next three decades and create migration hot spots unless urgent action is taken to reduce global emissions and bridge the development gap, a World Bank report has found.

The second part of the Groundswell report published on Monday examined how the impacts of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, decreasing crop productivity and rising sea levels, could lead to millions of what it describes as "climate migrants" by 2050 under three different scenarios with varying degrees of climate action and development.

Under the most pessimistic scenario, with a high level of emissions and unequal development, the report forecasts up to 216 million people moving within their own countries across the six regions analysed. Those regions are Latin America; North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; Eastern Europe and Central Asia; South Asia; and East Asia and the Pacific.

In the most climate-friendly scenario, with a low level of emissions and inclusive, sustainable development, the world could still see 44 million people being forced to leave their homes.



Alarming situation: A flood-affected family on a boat in Morigaon district of Assam, in this file photo. • AP

The findings "reaffirm the potency of climate to induce migration within countries," said Viviane Wei Chen Clement, a senior climate change specialist at the World Bank and one of the report's authors.

**Most vulnerable region**

In the worst-case scenario, Sub-Saharan Africa — the most vulnerable region due to desertification, fragile coastlines and the population's dependence on agriculture — would see the most migrants, with up to 86 million people moving within national borders.

North Africa, however, is predicted to have the largest proportion of climate migrants, with 19 million people moving, equivalent to roughly 9% of its population, due mainly to increased water scarcity in northeastern Tunisia, northwestern Algeria, western and southern Morocco, and the central Atlas foothills, the report said.

In South Asia, Bangladesh is particularly affected by flooding and crop failures, accounting for almost half of the predicted climate migrants, with 19.9 million people, including an increasing number of women, moving by 2050 under the pessimistic scenario.

"This is our humanitarian reality right now and we are concerned this is going to be even worse, where vulnerability is more acute," said Prof. Maarten van Aalst, director of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, who wasn't involved with the report.

Many scientists say the world is no longer on track to the worst-case scenario for emissions. But even under a more moderate scenario, Mr. van Aalst said many impacts are occurring faster than expected, "including the extremes we are experiencing, as well as potential implications for migration and displacement."

# U.K. may give nod to jabs for 12 year olds

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Britain's chief medical officers said on Monday that children aged 12 to 15 should be vaccinated against coronavirus, despite a ruling by the government's vaccine advisers that the step would have only marginal health benefits.

Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty and his counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland said that the age group should be given a single dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. They have yet to decide on whether to give the students a second dose. The government has said it's highly likely to follow the recommendation.

# HRC chief calls for 'close attention' on Sri Lanka

She seeks 'credible progress' in advancing reconciliation, accountability and human rights in the nation

MEERA SRINIVASAN

The UN human rights chief on Monday said she looks forward to "concrete actions" from the Sri Lankan government on its promises, while urging members of the UN Human Rights Council to continue paying "close attention" to the island nation, whose rights record remains in international focus after a decade since its civil war ended.

High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet was referring to President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's remarks in June, when he told a domestic panel probing allegations of rights abuse that his government was "committed to work with the UN to ensure accountability" and will

implement "necessary institutional reforms", evidently departing from his earlier position that Sri Lanka would pull out of UN mechanisms.

Delivering an oral update on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Ms. Bachelet sought "credible progress" in advancing reconciliation, accountability and human rights in the country. Her statement on Monday is a follow-up on her scathing report in January this year, where she noted that Sri Lanka was "on an alarming path towards recurrence of grave human rights violations". Her report informed the debate in March this year, before the Council



Michelle Bachelet

adopted a resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka', with 22 of the 47 member-states voting in its favour. India had abstained.

In her update to the Council, the High Commissioner observed that the current social, economic and governance challenges faced by

Sri Lanka indicate "the corrosive impact that militarisation and the lack of accountability continue to have on fundamental rights, civic space, democratic institutions, social cohesion and sustainable development."

She spoke of Sri Lanka's draconian terrorism law, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which activists want repealed, pointing to the prolonged detention of lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah, for 16 months now, and of Ahnaf Jazeem, a poet, detained without charge since May 2020.

**TNA welcomes concerns**  
Observing that "surveillance, intimidation and judicial harassment of human rights defenders, journalists

and families of the disappeared" has not only continued, but "broadened" to a wider spectrum of students, academics, medical professionals and religious leaders critical of government policies, she said: "Several peaceful protests and commemorations have been met with excessive use of force and the arrest or detention of demonstrators in quarantine centres."

Responding to the High Commissioner's statement in a tweet, the Tamil National Alliance, the main grouping representing war-affected Tamils in the north and east in Parliament, said: "We welcome the HC's concerns and appeal to the Member States to reflect this at the discussion and follow up."

# North Korea tests new 'long-range cruise missile'

'They can hit targets 1,500 km away'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SEOUL

North Korea said on Monday that it successfully tested newly developed long-range cruise missiles over the weekend, the first known testing activity in months, underscoring how the country continues to expand its military capabilities amid a stalemate in nuclear negotiations with the United States.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that the missiles showed they can hit targets 1,500 Km away on Saturday and Sunday. State media published photos of a projectile being fired from a launcher truck and what looked like a missile travel-

ing in the air. The North hailed its new missiles as a "strategic weapon of great significance" — wording that implies they were developed with the intent to arm them with nuclear warheads.

North Korea says it needs nuclear weapons in order to deter what it claims is hostility from the U.S. and South Korea — and has long attempted to use the threat of such an arsenal to extract economic aid or otherwise apply pressure. The North and ally China faced off against South Korea and U.S.-led UN forces in the 1950-53 Korean War, a conflict that ended in an armistice that has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty.

# Malaysian PM signs key pact with opposition MPs

He offers to carry out major reforms

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
KUALA LUMPUR

Barely a month in office, Malaysia's new leader has won opposition support to shore up his fragile government in exchange for a slew of reforms as Parliament reopened on Monday.

Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob signed an unprecedented cooperation pact in Parliament with the main Opposition bloc led by Anwar Ibrahim, in a move to prevent any bid to undermine his rule ahead of general elections due in two years.

The "political stability and transformation" pact will give Mr. Ismail the backing of 88 lawmakers in Anwar's bloc, in addition to 114 that support him in the 222-member house.

Mr. Ismail said in a statement that the pact will lead to bipartisan cooperation and political reforms that will bolster governance, fight the COVID-19 crisis, and help to revive the economy.

"The government is confident that this memorandum of understanding will not only help cast aside all political differences but also ensure the country's recovery is holistic and inclusive,"



Ismail Sabri Yaakob

Mr. Ismail said.

Officials said further details of the agreement will be unveiled soon.

**New laws**

The pact came after Mr. Ismail last week offered reforms, including new laws to prevent party defections and limiting the Prime Minister's tenure to 10 years. He also pledged to immediately lower the minimum voting age from 21 to 18, ensure bipartisan agreement on any new Bill and get opposition input on the country's economic recovery. He also made it so the role of Opposition leader gets the same remuneration and privileges as a Cabinet Minister.

Malaysia has recorded close to two million COVID-19 infections, with more than 20,000 deaths.

# 'Unwell' Suu Kyi skips Myanmar trial hearing

She returned home after a pre-hearing meeting with her legal team due to car sickness, says lawyer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
YANGON

Ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi skipped the resumption of her coronavirus-delayed trial in a junta court because she felt ill, her lawyer said on Monday.

Ms. Suu Kyi was deposed by the military in a February coup that sparked a mass uprising. The junta launched a brutal crackdown to suppress opposition, and its forces have killed more than 1,000 civilians since, according to a local monitoring group.

**Israeli firm unveils armed robot to patrol borders**

Critics fear this marks another dangerous step toward robots making life-or-death decisions

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LOD

An Israeli defence contractor on Monday unveiled a remote-controlled armed robot it says can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield.

Proponents say such semi-autonomous machines allow armies to protect their sol-

as she had "car sickness", her lawyer Min Min Soe said. "She hasn't gone anywhere by car in the last two months. That's why she felt car sickness today... She said she needs to go back home to take a proper rest."

"We are really worried about her health," Ms. Min Min Soe added.

The lawyer said she understood that a doctor and nurse were on call at the compound where Ms. Suu Kyi is being held under house arrest.

Two prosecution witness-

es failed to appear at Ms. Suu Kyi's last hearing in July after becoming infected with the coronavirus as Myanmar battled a third COVID-19 wave.

The country's virus response has been hampered by a mass civil disobedience campaign that has seen thousands of doctors, volunteers and civil servants stop work to protest against the military.

Ms. Suu Kyi and her staff have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 since being taken into military custody, her lawyer said in July.

The Israeli military is currently using a smaller but similar vehicle, called the Jaguar, to patrol the border with the Gaza Strip.

robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets.

It is the most advanced of more than half a dozen unmanned vehicles developed by Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, ELTA Systems, over the past 15 years.

The Israeli military is currently using a smaller but similar vehicle, called the Jaguar, to patrol the border with the Gaza Strip.

# Israeli firm unveils armed robot to patrol borders

Critics fear this marks another dangerous step toward robots making life-or-death decisions

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LOD

An Israeli defence contractor on Monday unveiled a remote-controlled armed robot it says can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield.

Proponents say such semi-autonomous machines allow armies to protect their sol-

as she had "car sickness", her lawyer Min Min Soe said. "She hasn't gone anywhere by car in the last two months. That's why she felt car sickness today... She said she needs to go back home to take a proper rest."

"We are really worried about her health," Ms. Min Min Soe added.

The lawyer said she understood that a doctor and nurse were on call at the compound where Ms. Suu Kyi is being held under house arrest.

robot can gather intelligence for ground troops, carry injured soldiers and supplies in and out of battle, and strike nearby targets.

It is the most advanced of more than half a dozen unmanned vehicles developed by Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, ELTA Systems, over the past 15 years.

The Israeli military is currently using a smaller but similar vehicle, called the Jaguar, to patrol the border with the Gaza Strip.

# Elsewhere



Ahead of California poll, Biden hits campaign trail

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden kicked off a visit to scorched western States on Monday to hammer home his case on climate change and big public investments, as well as to campaign in California's recall election. He will be there to support Governor Gavin Newsom, who is facing a referendum that could cost him his job. Before hitting the Golden State, Mr. Biden departed for Boise, Idaho, where he will visit the federal firefighting coordination centre. • AFP

# Gunmen free 240 from Nigeria prison

ABUJA

Heavily armed gunmen stormed a jail in Nigeria's central Kogi State overnight, freeing scores of inmates, a prison spokesman said on Monday. It was unclear who the gunmen were but central and northwest Nigeria have been terrorised by criminal gangs for years. In a separate incident, a military base in northwest Zamfara state was attacked at the weekend. Gunmen killed 12 Nigerian security forces in that attack, two security sources said on Monday. • AFP



Fighting machines: The unmanned vehicle REX MKII near the central Israeli city of Lod, in this file photo. • AP



# Clinical Medvedev dashes Djokovic's Grand Slam dream

Russian picks up his first Major title, salutes rival as the 'greatest ever'; the Serb's bid to emulate Laver collapses at the final hurdle

## U.S. OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW YORK  
Daniil Medvedev shattered Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam dream with a straight-set victory in the US Open final here on Sunday, denying the World No. 1 a record-breaking 21st Major men's singles title.

**Dominant**  
Russia's second-ranked Medvedev dominated Djokovic 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 to prevent the first calendar-year Grand Slam since 1969 and keep Djokovic level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal atop the career Slam title list.

"Sorry for you fans and Novak because we all know what he was going for," Medvedev said. "What you have accomplished in your career... for me, you are the greatest tennis player in history."

Medvedev captured his first Grand Slam title in his third Slam final, a rematch of February's Australian Open final, won in straight sets by the 34-year-old Serbian to launch his Slam quest.

"Congratulations to Daniil. Amazing match," Djokovic said. "If there's anyone that deserves a Grand Slam title right now, it's you."

Djokovic's bid to sweep the US, French and Australian Opens and Wimbledon in the

same year for the first time since Rod Laver did it 52 years ago collapsed at the last hurdle, with the 83-year-old Aussie legend Laver among 23,700 watching at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Djokovic missed out on his fourth US Open title and will enter 2022 tied with 'Big Three' rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, both absent with injuries, on an all-time record 20 men's Slam titles.

A tearful Djokovic paid tribute to the crowd that roared support for him even when all seemed lost down two sets and two breaks.

"Even though I have not won the match, my heart is filled with joy and I'm the happiest man alive because you guys have made me feel special on the court," Djokovic said. "You guys touch my soul. I've never felt like this in New York."

Djokovic saw his 27-match Slam win streak halted three shy of the record he set in 2015 and 2016 when he won four consecutive Slams, ending with the 2016 French Open. Medvedev, 25, became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.

ic said. "You guys touch my soul. I've never felt like this in New York."

Djokovic saw his 27-match Slam win streak halted three shy of the record he set in 2015 and 2016 when he won four consecutive Slams, ending with the 2016 French Open. Medvedev, 25, became the third Russian man to win a Grand Slam title after Yevgeny Kafelnikov at the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin at the 2000 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.

## THE RESULTS

**Finals: Men:** 2-Medvedev (Rus) bt 1-Djokovic (Srb) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.  
**Women: Doubles:** 14-Stosur & Shuai (Aus/Chn) bt 11-Gauff & McNally (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

## MATCH STATS

	DJOKOVIC	MEDVEDEV
Aces	6	16
Double faults	3	9
Net points won	31/47 (66%)	6/12 (50%)
Break points won	1/6 (17%)	4/8 (50%)
Winners	27	38
Unforced errors	38	31
Total points won	83	99
Distance covered/point	85.7 ft	89.9 ft
<b>MATCH DURATION</b>	<b>2hr 15m</b>	
<b>FINAL SCORELINE</b>	<b>Medvedev won 6-4, 6-4, 6-4</b>	

## Daniil's day out

Medvedev proved third time lucky in summit clashes at the Majors

- The Russian lost in straight sets to Djokovic at the Australian Open final in 2021. He had suffered a five-set reverse against Nadal at the US Open final in 2019
- First man since Nadal (2010) and second since Lendl (1987) to win the US Open dropping just one set
- Third Russian man to win a Major after Kafelnikov (1996 French Open, 1999 Australian Open) and Safin (2000 US Open, 2005 Australian Open)
- Second man born in the 1990s to win a Grand Slam singles title after Thiem (2020 US Open)
- Ninth different US Open men's champion in the last 14 years
- Djokovic finished 27-1 in 2021 Slams to remain tied with Federer and Nadal on 20 Majors
- Djokovic's 11th loss in 31 Slam finals, the same as Federer
- The Serb joined Jack Crawford (1933) and Lew Hoad (1956) who had also won the first three Slams of the year before losing the US final (men)
- Medvedev and Raducanu became the first pair of first time Slam singles champions at the same event since Gaudjo and Myskina (2004 French Open)
- Sampras and Sabatini (1990) were the previous set of first time singles champions at the US Open

Even though I did not win, my heart is filled with joy, I am the happiest man alive because you guys made me feel very special on the court. You guys touched my soul. **DJOKOVIC**

[I feel] a lot of happiness. That's my first Grand Slam. I don't know how I'm going to feel if I win a second or third one. I hope that tennis will stay on the rise in Russia. **MEDVEDEV**

**MOST HARD-COURT TITLES SINCE 2018**

Medvedev	12
Djokovic	10
Zverev	7
Rublev	6
Federer	6

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

## IN BRIEF

**Dwarshuis in for Woakes in DC squad**  
DUBAI  
Uncapped Australian left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis was on Monday named as Chris Woakes' replacement in the Delhi Capitals squad for the second half of the Indian Premier League. The 27-year-old has picked up 12 and 100 wickets from seven and 82 List-A and T20 matches so far. PTI

**Pakistan appoints Hayden, Philander as coaches**  
LAHORE  
Former Australia Test opener Matthew Hayden and ex-South Africa pacer Vernon Philander have been appointed as coaches of the Pakistan team for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, the board announced on Monday. PTI

**Root pips Bumrah to ICC monthly award**  
DUBAI  
England captain Joe Root pipped India's Jasprit Bumrah and Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi to claim the ICC's Player-of-the-Month award for August. Ireland all-rounder Eimear Richardson picked up the women's award. PTI

**Ramiz is PCB chairman**  
LAHORE  
Former captain Ramiz Raja was on Monday unanimously elected chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for a three-year term, succeeding Ehsan Mani who stepped down last month. Ramiz said resumption of bilateral assignments with India is "impossible right now" and he is "not in a hurry" for it either as his focus is solely on his country's domestic circuit at this point. PTI

## India takes on Finland in first round tie

The players assemble in Helsinki from different places

### DAVIS CUP

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI  
The Indian Davis Cup team, spearheaded by Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Ramkumar Ramanathan, has assembled in strength in Helsinki for the Davis Cup World Group first round tie against Finland.

The players arrived from different places, and Ramkumar was the last to reach after he had won the Challenger doubles title in France on Saturday.

Asian Games gold medalists Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan will play the doubles rubber in the tie scheduled for September 17 and 18.

Saketh Myneni stepped in to support the team after Sumit Nagal had opted out of the tie.

The team has been train-

ing at the Smash Tennis Centre ever since the players reached Helsinki. The venue for the tie, Espoo Metro Arena, is a ice-hockey stadium, which will have a temporary tennis court, which is expected to be ready for practice from Tuesday.

The team is also scheduled to get into a bubble on Tuesday, after which it will be restricted movement from hotel to venue for the

whole team, which has Rohit Rajpal as the captain and Zeeshan Ali as the coach.

AITA president Anil Jain and secretary-general Anil Dhupar have strengthened the team with their presence. Gaurang Shukla and Yash Pandey are the physios.

The Indian Ambassador Raveesh Kumar hosted a dinner for the Indian team on Sunday, with the number restricted to 25 as per the

rules. With the emphasis on vaccination, people are not required to sport masks.

With the whole Indian team vaccinated, the members have been exempted from going through any COVID-19 test. They will only have the temperature check on a daily basis.

Despite rains and a cold weather over the weekend, the team has been training indoors without any hitch.



Here we come: The Indian Davis Cup team, along with coach and support staff, strikes a pose after arriving in Helsinki. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Raducanu and her Indian sojourn

She won a couple of junior events here a few years back

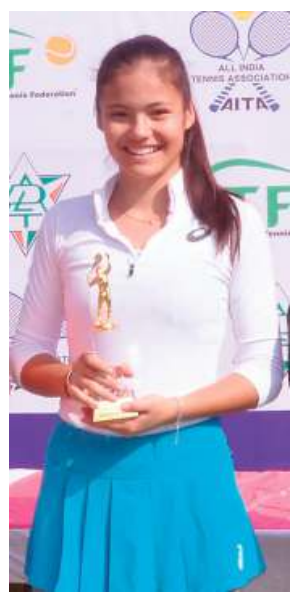
### KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI  
When Mahak Jain won the girls' title in the Road to Wimbledon UK under-14 tennis championship in 2015, Emma Raducanu had given a hint of her future by winning a doubles quarterfinal against the Indian 6-2, 6-0.

Raducanu, about 12 then, had partnered Andre Lukosiute to beat Mahak and her partner Mathilde Sreeves.

Queried about Indian players dominating the tournament, British coach Dan Bloxham had mentioned then that English players were "working doubly hard".

The 18-year-old Raducanu has taken the quickest steps, as a qualifier ranked 150, to a Grand Slam title in New York. Her best title before this was the \$25,000 tournament she won in Pune in De-



Raducanu. •FILE PHOTO

with the grade-2 title in Delhi.

Vaidehi Chaudhari had a good match against Raducanu in Delhi, but retired at 4-6, 2-4 owing to a sprained ankle

"I remember Emma being very energetic and getting every ball back. She was very quick on court. I feel very proud to have played a good match against her," recalled Vaidehi, who trains with coach Jignesh Raval in Ahmedabad.

"Emma was on a mission then. She was winning a series of junior titles at that time. She was on fire," recalled Raval.

Conceding that Raducanu's incredible success has lent a lot of clarity to the right approach, Raval said that he would make a series of videos to educate players and parents about, "what to do, and what not to do".

## 'Unfortunate to end up here early'

### ASHWIN ACHAL

BENGALURU  
India and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) captain Virat Kohli stated that COVID-19 has thrown the cricket schedule out of gear, and that "anything can happen".

Kohli arrived in UAE for the second leg of the IPL a few days earlier than planned, after the fifth Test between India and England was called off. The final Test at Manchester took the hit after members of the Indian contingent, including head



Kohli. •FILE PHOTO

coach Ravi Shastri, tested positive for COVID-19.

"It is unfortunate that we had to end up here (in UAE) early, but with COVID-19,

things are very uncertain. Anything can happen at any time.

Hopefully we will be able to maintain a good, strong, and secure environment, and have a quality IPL," Kohli said in a RCB Bold Diaries video.

Kohli and pacer Mohammed Siraj - both of whom travelled from Manchester to Dubai via a chartered flight - will serve a quarantine period of six days before joining the RCB squad for training.

## Technology will play a bigger role: Kumble

### S. DIPAK RAGAV

CHENNAI  
Former India captain and head coach Anil Kumble felt that analytics and data intelligence in the sport is going to play a bigger role going forward especially in the shorter formats of the game like T20 and The Hundred.

"I think the shorter the game, the sort of influence that data will have will be more and more. The dependence on data is far more in putting together a squad, strategies and match-ups.



Anil Kumble. •FILE PHOTO

And we keep talking about match-ups and that's how you build a strategy around

teams, so that will be the driving factor," said Kumble. India's highest Test wicket-taker was speaking at a panel discussion on Building Competitive Advantage through Sports Analytics and Data Intelligence, organised by Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, with Deakin University South Asia.

The 50-year-old who is currently the head coach of IPL side Punjab Kings, also added that players will need to adapt to new technologies

and data if they don't want to be left behind.

"I know that we are still sort of having that debate over, is this too much technology in sport or should I just go back to my own belief of 'I just watch the ball and hit the ball'?"

"Yes, that's a simple way. But then I think, if you don't sort of adapt to technology that's coming in and use that technology for the good of the game, I think people will be left behind," he added.

## India gets past Ukraine, enters semifinals

### RAKESH RAO

Making amends for its failure to finish the job in the second set, India scripted a commanding 5-1 victory in the blitz tiebreaker against Ukraine to enter the semifinals of the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad on Monday.

After India comfortably won the first set 4-2, Ukraine rallied from 0.5-2.5 in the second to win the last three games, involving Vidit Gujrathi, R. Vaishali and K. Humpy, in that order.

In the tiebreaker, played under the time-control of three minutes for each player and a two-second increment per move, India dominated in great style after resting Viswanathan Anand and P. Harikrishna on the top two boards. Nihal Sarin, beneficiary of

a 12-minute advantage on the clock after Platon Galperin reported late in the first set, won against the same rival when the Ukrainian's internet connection dropped.

Soon, Vidit drew with Vassily Ivanchuk and Harika scored her third victory of the day by destroying Nataliya Buska with a fine display of tactics. Vaishali returned to winning ways before Humpy drew to complete India's triumph.

**Anand relieved**  
"Relieved", was how Anand described the feeling after the match, before adding, "Obviously disappointed not to score in the second game, which would have clinched it (for India). When I made the draw, I thought we had clinched it anyway.



D. Harika. •FILE PHOTO

"I looked at the three (ongoing) games and thought on at least two, we were safe. Then a dramatic turnaround happened after which India did extremely well in the blitz."

Harika's return to form was great news for India. Recovering from viral during the league phase during which she was involved in three draws, Harika pro-

duced a scintillating performance by winning against inform Nataliya Buska and Natalia Zhukova.

**The results (quarterfinals):**  
**Set I:** Ukraine lost to India 2-4 (Vassily Ivanchuk drew with Viswanathan Anand; Kirill Shevchenko drew with P. Harikrishna; Lulija Osmak drew with K. Humpy; Nataliya Buska lost to D. Harika; Platon Galperin lost to Nihal Sarin; Maria Berdnyk drew with R. Vaishali).

**Set II:** India lost to Ukraine 2.5-3.5 (Anand drew with Ivanchuk; Vidit lost to Kirill Shevchenko; Humpy lost to Osmak; Harika bt Natalia Zhukova; R. Pragganandhaa bt Galperin; Vaishali lost to Berdnyk).

**Blitz tie-breaker:** Ukraine lost to India 1-5 (Ivanchuk drew with Vidit; Shevchenko lost to B. Adhiban; Osmak drew with Humpy; Buska lost to Harika; Galperin lost to Sarin; Berdnyk lost to Vaishali).

## Real sails on Benzema hat-trick

### EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MADRID

Real Madrid returned to the Santiago Bernabeu after 560 days and Karim Benzema ensured it was a happy homecoming as his hat-trick inspired a 5-2 fightback against Celta Vigo on Sunday.

Liverpool's teenage midfielder Harvey Elliott said he had been overwhelmed by the "love and support" he has received since dislocating his ankle in Sunday's 3-0 win at Leeds.

Elliott sustained the gruesome injury after a challenge by Leeds defender Pascal Struijk, who was sent off after a VAR review.

**The results: LaLiga:** Cadiz 0 lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Oyar-



Hat-trick hero: Karim Benzema converts from the spot for Real Madrid's fifth goal and his third. •AFP

zabal 71, 84-pen); Real Madrid 5 (Benzema 24, 46, 87-pen, Vinicius Junior 55, Camavinga 72) bt Celta Vigo 2 (Lorenzo 4, Cervi 31).

**Bundesliga:** Borussia M'Gladbach 3 (Stindl 35, 69, Zakaria 72) bt Arminia Bielefeld 1 (Oku-

gawa 45+2).  
**Serie A:** Roma 2 (Cristante 37, El Shaarawy 90+1) bt Sassuolo 1 (Djuricic 57); AC Milan 2 (Leao 45, Ibrahimovic 67) bt Lazio 0.  
**Premier League:** Leeds 0 lost to Liverpool 3 (Salah 20, Fabinho 50, Mane 90).



TV PICKS

**Sri Lanka vs South Africa:** 3rd T20I, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

**Champions League:** Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



**Paine to undergo neck surgery**

**BRISBANE**  
Australia Test captain Tim Paine is set to undergo surgery on his neck in a bid to be fit for the Ashes series in December. Cricket Australia said on Monday the 36-year-old wicketkeeper would undergo surgery this week for a pinched nerve in his neck and was likely to be back at training in October. Australia is scheduled to host the Ashes from December 8.

**Asian volley: Qatar's turn to beat India**

**CHIBA**  
Qatar beat India 25-22, 25-14, 25-20 in the Asian men's volleyball championship here on Monday. For India, Jerom Vinth was top-scorer with 19 points. After a second successive defeat, India's chances of making the quarterfinals appear bleak as it takes on World No. 10 Japan, bronze medalist at the last edition in 2019, on Tuesday.



**Winner disqualified for wearing wrong shoes**

**VIENNA**  
Ethiopia's Derar Huriisa was disqualified for wearing the wrong shoes after winning the Vienna Marathon on Sunday. The 24-year-old Huriisa was told he had been disqualified because the soles of his shoes were 1cm thicker than the maximum 4cm allowed. Leonard Langat of Kenya, who had originally finished second (2:9:25) — was declared winner.



**Shubhankar grabs top-10 finish at BMW meet**

**WENTWORTH (UK)**  
Shubhankar Sharma fired a six-under 66, his best of the week, to finish tied ninth at the 2021 BMW PGA Championship, here on Sunday. As a result Shubhankar has risen 26 places in the Race to Dubai rankings to 78th. American Billy Horschel emerged winner.

# A Messi-less Barca faces Bayern

Solskjaer may rest Ronaldo for Young Boys trip; Juve's Allegri faces a tough task

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCIES  
MADRID

Sergio Busquets said on Monday he was still in a "state of shock" after Lionel Messi's departure as Barcelona prepares to start its first Champions League without the Argentinian since 2003.

Barca faces Bayern Munich at Camp Nou in Group E on Tuesday — the first time after the 8-2 thrashing last year — and will begin the competition as outsiders following a traumatic summer transfer window.

"I felt like everyone else, I was in a state of shock," Busquets said in a press conference.

Meanwhile, Bayern coach Julian Nagelsmann said things were changing at Barcelona and added that players like midfielders Pedri and Frenkie De Jong and forward Memphis Depay would get opportunities to shine.

Managing game time

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said he will carefully manage Cristiano Ronaldo's playing time.

United returns to action in



**In a good mood:** While Bayern will not take Barca lightly, a strike force of Kingsley Coman, middle, and Robert Lewandowski should be expected to shade the contest. ■ AFP

Tuesday's match against Swiss club Young Boys and Solskjaer said he would not rule out resting Ronaldo.

Massimiliano Allegri is the man who has taken Juventus closest to its dream of Champions League glory in recent seasons, but he begins this season's European campaign in the midst of a dreadful start to the domestic season.

Juventus kicks off at Mal-

mo, a relatively soft start to Group H which before the Napoli defeat Allegri called the "most important" game of a group which also contains current European

Tuesday's fixtures

- Sevilla vs Salzburg, Young Boys vs Man. United (10.15 p.m.)
- Lille vs Wolfsburg, Villarreal vs Atalanta, Chelsea vs Zenit, Malmo vs Juventus, Barcelona vs Bayern, Dynamo Kiev vs Benfica (12.30 a.m. Wednesday)

champion Chelsea. He should have most of his first choice XI back for the trip to Sweden, with Juve's South American internationals ready to play.

## Raikkonen confirms return to F1 action

ANI  
BERN

Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen will return to Formula One action for the Russian GP at Sochi scheduled for September 24 to 26.

Raikkonen was sidelined for the Dutch and Italian GPs after he tested positive for COVID-19, earlier this month. One of the Alfa Romeo's reserve drivers — Robert Kubica — replaced Raikkonen for both races.

The 41-year-old Finn posted an Instagram message which read: "I am all good. See you at the next GP."

Raikkonen now has a maximum of eight races remaining in his Formula 1 ca-



Kimi Raikkonen. ■ AFP

reer as he has already announced his retirement at the end of the season. The Finn, who won the world title in 2007, will be 42 at the end of the season.

## Hamilton praises halo for 'saving' him

ANI  
MONZA

Lewis Hamilton has praised the halo device for keeping him safe following the dramatic crash at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday that saw Max Verstappen's Red Bull launched over Hamilton's Mercedes.

Speaking to the media after the incident, Hamilton

praised the job that the halo had done in protecting him — while revealing that he would seek specialist medical help for pain in his neck as a result of the crash.

"Honestly, I feel very fortunate today," said Hamilton, as per formula1.com.

"Thank God for the halo."

## Red Bull's Verstappen handed three-place grid penalty

For his role in the frightening crash with Hamilton

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MONZA

Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen was handed a three-place grid penalty for his role in the frightening crash with Lewis Hamilton in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, the stewards at Monza announced.

The Dutch driver was "predominantly to blame" for the incident that wiped him and his Mercedes rival out of the race won by McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo, a statement read.

The penalty will be applied at the Russian GP.



Verstappen. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Verstappen, who leads Hamilton by five points, had tried to muscle past Hamilton who had just rejoined

## ATKMB takes on Blasters in opener

Goa to host entire Indian Super League at three venues

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Last year's finalist ATK-Mohun Bagan will lock horns with Kerala Blasters FC in the opening match of the Hero-Indian Super League 2021-22 season, at the P.J.N Stadium, Fatorda, Goa, on November 19.

The organisers said on Monday, the initial schedule — featuring 55 matches — will run until January 9, 2022. The remaining fixtures will be announced in December.

Three venues in Goa — P.J.N, Athletic Stadium, Bam-

bolim, and Tilak Maidan Stadium — will host 115 matches this season.

Late kick-off

The league has introduced a 9.30 p.m. kick-off for the second match of the double-headers on Saturdays from November 27. The other matches will have a 7.30 p.m. start.

SC East Bengal, another Kolkata giant that overcame internal issues to enter the league at the last minute, will play its first match against Jamshedpur FC at Ti-

lak Maidan on November 21.

The first Kolkata derby, between ATKMB and SCEB, will be at the Tilak Maidan at 7.30 p.m. on November 27.

**ATKMB's fixtures:** Nov. 19: vs Blasters; Nov. 27: SCEB; Dec. 1: MCFC; Dec. 6: JFC; Dec. 11: CFC; Dec. 16: BFC; Dec. 21: NEUFC; Dec. 29: FC Goa; Jan. 5: HFC; Jan. 8: OFC (all matches at 7.30 p.m.).

**SCEB's schedule:** Nov. 21: JFC; Nov. 27: ATKMB; Nov. 30: OFC; Dec. 3: CFC; Dec. 7: FC Goa; Dec. 12: Blasters; Dec. 17: NEUFC; Dec. 23: HFC; Jan. 4: BFC; Jan. 7: MCFC (all matches at 7.30 p.m.).

## FC Goa books quarterfinal spot

DURAND CUP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Muhammed Nemil and Jorge Ortiz Mendoza scored a goal apiece as FC Goa defeated Sudeva Delhi FC 2-1 to record its second consecutive victory in Group B and become the third team to assure itself of a place in the quarterfinals of the 130th Durand Cup football tournament here on Monday.

As rain lashed the city

throughout the day, the players found the conditions difficult and witnessed a finish under the floodlights at the Salt Lake Stadium.

In the closing stages of the first half, midfielder Nemil scored through a powerful left-footer from outside the box to put the Goan team ahead.

Sudeva tried to catch up after the change of ends but could not succeed.

Goa doubled its lead in the 80th minute as Mendoza

shot from outside the area to beat keeper Legend Singh, who replaced first-choice custodian Sachin Jha due to an injury.

Sudeva, which suffered its second successive loss, reduced the margin through William Pauliankhum's penalty conversion in injury time.

**The result: Group B:** FC Goa 2 (Muhammed Nemil 45+2, Jorge Ortiz Mendoza 80) bt Sudeva Delhi FC 1 (William Pauliankhum 90+8-pen).

## Double podium finish for Team MRF Tyres



**Tough fight:** Paolo Andreucci and Rudy Briani on the podium with their second-place trophy. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**CHENNAI:** Team MRF Tyres secured a double podium finish in the Italian Gravel Rally Championship (CIRT) at the Rally dei Nuraghi e del Vermentino. The fifth round of the CIRT saw seven stages and 68.08km of competitive action in which the team of Paolo Andreucci and Rudy Briani finished second in their Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo while the team of Simone

Campedelli and Gianfrancesco Rappa, in their VW Polo GTI R5 came home third.

The team of Tamara Molinaro and Piercarlo Capolongo in their Citroen C3 Rally2 meanwhile clinched the Female Championship with one round to spare after securing a top ten finish in the rally and fourth position in the under-25 category.

## AFI takes tough measures

Sreeshankar, Tajinder and Annu to have new coaches

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHI

They all broke national records this year but the slump in their performance at the Tokyo Olympics has forced the Athletics Federation of India to change the coaches of long jumper M. Sreeshankar, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Annu and javelin thrower Annu Rani.

"Sreeshankar's coach, his father (former international S. Murali), had given in writing that if he did not perform at the Olympics, if he did not cross 8m, he will stop coaching him and he will listen to us and we can get him another coach, foreign coach or whatever. The first action has already been taken, we have changed his coach," said AFI president Adille Sumariwalla after the federation's executive council meeting in Jaipur on Monday evening.

"Annu's and Shivpal Singh's coach Uwe Hohn (former world record holder) is also being sent home and we are looking for a foreign coach for Toor." Two new javelin coaches will be appointed.



Sreeshankar.



Annu Rani.

However, the fate of Russian Galina Bukharina, the relays and quartermilers coach, is not clear. For years, the AFI had been harping that the women's 4x400m relay team had the potential to win an Olympic medal. This time, however, India could not qualify for the Olympics with many of the leading quartermilers injured.

"We are evaluating the reasons: what happened in the women's, the injuries, the causes... but don't forget the men broke the Asian record, so the 400m coach has one good and one bad... we have to evaluate, there is no love for anybody, if you don't perform, you perish," said

Sumariwalla. Despite the many setbacks, this has also been India's best-ever Olympics with javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra bringing the country its first athletics gold. And with three medals coming in the under-20 Worlds in Nairobi, the AFI has decided to focus on the juniors in a big way.

Foreign coaches will be brought for the juniors in select events like the 400m, javelin throw, long jump, triple jump and race walking. They will have more competitions too.

The AFI president also revealed that Tata Steel will be the host of the National Open championships for the next five years in Jamshedpur.

## CWG — only athletes with medal-winning potential to be sent

Full-strength likely for Asian Games

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The AFI is likely to focus only on events which are likely to bring medals in next year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham while a full-strength team could go for the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

"We are trying to identify the people who will participate in which competition. There are certain events where we have good chances of winning medals in the Commonwealth Games, they (athletes who are good in these events) will only be sent only for this," said Lalit K. Bhanot, the chairman of AFI's Planning Committee, on Monday evening.

"But definitely we will go with full strength to the Asian Games. And those who qualify, we will send them to the World Championships (in the US)."

The three majors will be held within the space of some two months from July

15, next year.

But AFI president Adille Sumariwalla made it clear that there will be a last meet, before the Worlds and the Olympics, where athletes will have to prove themselves even if they make the qualification cut earlier.

Final trial

"We have seen that the qualification period for the Olympics and Worlds is a very long one. So, athletes have sometimes qualified even a year before. Now, we have taken a decision that there will be one final trial (most probably a championship) where they will have to perform even if they had already qualified," said Sumariwalla. "If they are close to the qualifying performance, it's fine, otherwise those people will be dropped."

The AFI also made it clear again than non-campers will not be picked for relay teams.

SAI UNIVERSITY

Presents

A WEBINAR ON

### NEW EDUCATION POLICY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

in association with

THE HINDU

**K Kasturirangan**  
Former Chairman, ISRO  
Chairman, Drafting Committee  
National Education Policy

**K V Ramani**  
Founder & Chancellor  
Sai University

**Jamshed Bharucha**  
Founding Vice Chancellor  
Sai University

**R Sujatha**  
Deputy Editor-Reporting,  
The Hindu (Moderator)

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 5:00 PM**

Inviting parents and students planning their career to register for the webinar at <https://bit.ly/SAINEP>

Scan the QR code