



Pegasus spyware used to 'snoop' on journalists; surveillance via phones  
page 8



Ahead of U.P. election, Mayawati tries to win over Brahmins  
page 9



Taliban leader 'favours political settlement' even as offensive rages  
page 11



Dhawan takes India to a commanding win over Sri Lanka in the first ODI  
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



Delhi police's meet with farmers inconclusive

NEW DELHI  
Ahead of the march planned by farmers near Parliament during the monsoon session, the Delhi police's meeting with the farmer unions remained inconclusive on Sunday. A senior police officer said they had requested the farmers to reconsider their protest call citing the DDMA guidelines and the threat of COVID-19 third wave.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## No COVID-19 death reported in the Capital

NEW DELHI  
The Capital on Sunday reported no COVID-related deaths, said a health bulletin released by the Delhi government. The last time Delhi saw zero deaths due to COVID-19 was on March 2 this year. A total of 51 new cases were reported over 24 hours. According to the bulletin, the city had less than a day's stock of COVID-19 vaccines left as of Sunday morning.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 5



Rescue mission: NDRF personnel searching for survivors after a landslip hit a locality in Chembur on Sunday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

## 31 killed as rain triggers mayhem in Mumbai

City records over 200 mm rainfall overnight; alert sounded

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

At least 31 persons, including eight minors, lost their lives as incessant rain, which began on Saturday night and continued throughout Sunday, pummelled Mumbai, triggering landslips, house collapse and electrocution.

The Regional Meteorological Centre predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places in the next 48 hours, with extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said more than 200 mm of rainfall was recorded between 11 p.m. on Saturday and 4 a.m. on Sun-

day. A BMC centre at Dahisar recorded the highest rainfall of 226.82 mm, followed by Chembur with 218.45 mm.

### Landslips, wall collapse

Nineteen persons were killed and five injured at Vashi Naka in Chembur after a retaining wall collapsed on four or five huts due to the force of water and mud around 1 a.m.

A landslip at Panchashel chawl in Vikroli on six houses around 3 a.m. resulted in the death of 10 persons, while one person was injured. A teenager was killed after a wall of his house in the Bhandup area collapsed, while one person

was electrocuted at a shop in Andheri.

Five battalions of the National Disaster Response Force were deployed in Chembur and Vikroli to speed up rescue efforts. The search was on for two more missing individuals at the time of writing this report.

"I visited the 3 locations of landslips ... Relief work is going on and all necessary financial and medical assistance is being provided by the Govt of Maharashtra and BMC," Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray tweeted.

"MPs do not want fancy PowerPoint presentations on #COVID19 from the PM or this Government in some conference room. #Parliament is in session. Come to the FLOOR OF THE HOUSE,"

Mr. O'Brien later tweeted.

"At a separate meeting with all the floor leaders, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged them to "respect the sanctity and dignity of the House", and sought their cooperation for the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

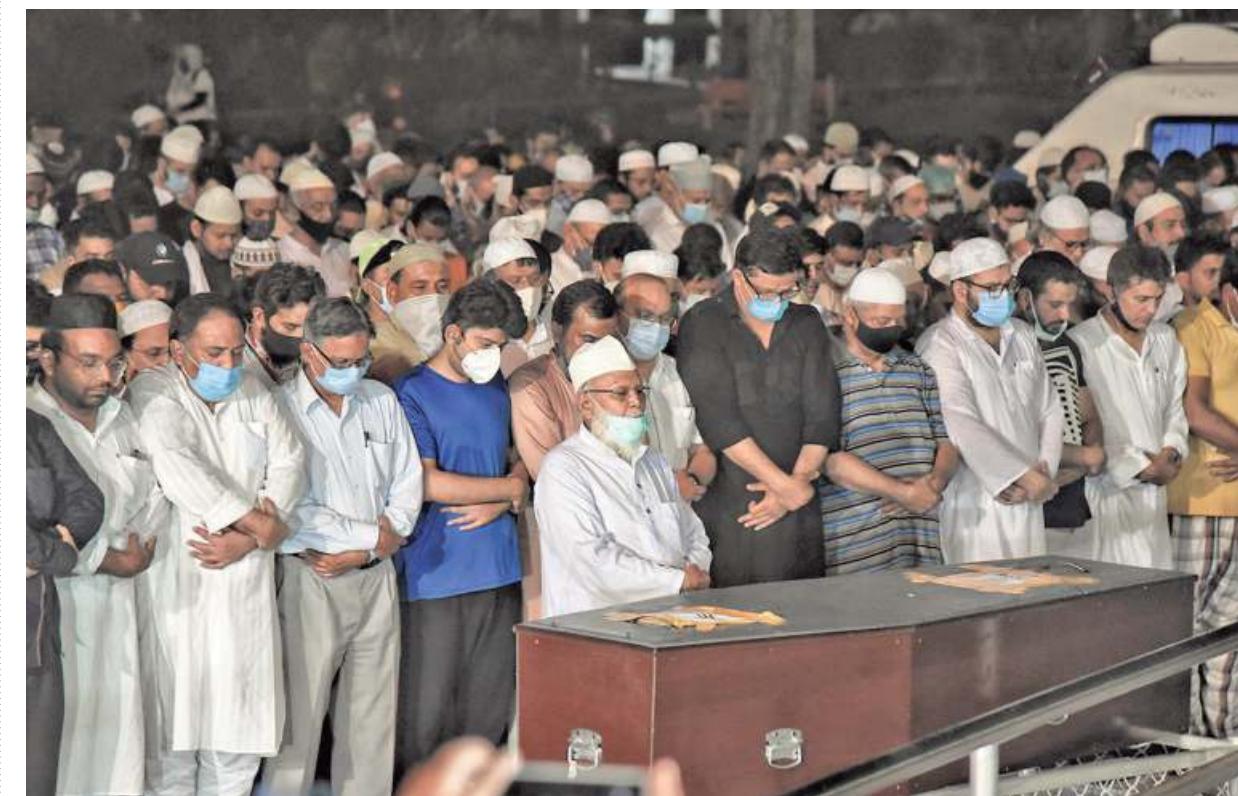
The government plans to take up 31 Bills, including two financial Bills, during the session.

"Took part in the All-Party meeting before the start of Parliament's Monsoon Session. We look forward to a productive session where all issues can be debated as well as discussed in a constructive manner," Mr. Modi tweeted. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister and Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal were present at the meeting.

"At the all-party meeting, Prime Minister Modi said healthy and fruitful debates should take place in Parliament. He said the government is ready to hold discussions on any subject if raised

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Final farewell



In memory: Relatives and friends offering prayers at the funeral of photojournalist Danish Siddiqui, who was killed while covering a clash between Afghan security forces and Taliban fighters near a border crossing with Pakistan, at the Jamia Millia Islamia graveyard in Delhi on Sunday. ■ ANI (REPORT ON PAGE 8)

## After U.P., Delhi calls off Kanwar Yatra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Sunday issued an order that no celebrations, processions and gatherings would be allowed during the upcoming Kanwar Yatra in the Capital.

The order said the yatra is scheduled to commence from July 25 despite being banned/suspended by the Uttarakhand government. "In view of the persisting COVID-19 situation, it is decided that the Kanwar Yatra should not be permitted to prevent the spread of the virus in the territory of NCT of Delhi," the order read. The DDMA order came a day after the yatra was cancelled in Uttar Pradesh.

The order said in case of violation of instructions, the violator will be proceeded against as per the provisions of the DDMA Act, 2005, Section 188 of the IPC and other applicable laws.

## Pre-Bakrid easing draws flak in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The decision by the Kerala government to ease COVID-19 curbs on retail sales for three days from Sunday ahead of Bakrid on July 20, has evoked mixed response. A large section of the public welcomed the brief respite after 71 days of tough curbs.

However, Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi tweeted: "Deplorable act by Kerala Govt. to provide 3 days relaxations for Bakrid celebrations for COVID-19 at present. If Kanwar Yatra is wrong, so is Bakrid puja." The Indian Medical Association also objected to the easing of curbs and threatened to move the Supreme Court against the decision.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Navjot Sidhu appointed Punjab Congress chief

Sonia's decision despite pushback

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH/ NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing infighting in the Punjab Congress, former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu was on Sunday appointed president of the Punjab Congress Committee, along with four working presidents.

An official statement from the All India Congress Committee said Mr. Sidhu and the four working presidents had been appointed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi with immediate effect. The four working presidents are S.S. Gilzian, S.S. Danny, Pawan Goel and K.S. Nagra.

Ms. Gandhi is learnt to have individually spoken to MPs from Punjab on the issue of elevating Mr. Sidhu. A senior leader from Punjab confirmed it to *The Hindu*, and said the Congress chief seemed "determined" on Mr. Sidhu's elevation.



Navjot Singh Sidhu

"Ms. Gandhi spoke to the MPs individually and each one of them was opposed to the idea of making Mr. Sidhu the PCC chief," the leader said.

The decision came at the end of a day of hectic political activity in Punjab and Delhi.

While MPs met at Rajya Sabha member Partap Singh Bajwa's house over lunch in Delhi, a group of MLAs from Punjab issued a statement, urging the high command not to let down the Punjab Chief Minister.

RELATED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Midday meals leave a long-lasting impact: study

Lower stunting among children with mothers who had access to school lunches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Girls who had access to free lunches provided at government schools had children with a higher height-to-age ratio than those who did not, said a new study on the inter-generational benefits of the midday meal scheme, published in *Nature Communications* this week.

Using nationally representative data on cohorts of mothers and their children spanning 23 years, the paper showed that by 2016, the prevalence of stunting was significantly lower in areas where the scheme was implemented in 2005.

More than one in three Indian children are stunted, or too short for their age, which reflects chronic undernutri-



Basic nutrition: A file photo of children having midday meal at a school in Vijayawada. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

tion. The fight against stunting has often focussed on boosting nutrition for young children, but nutritionists have long argued that maternal health and well-being is the key to reducing stunting in their offspring. Noting that "interventions to improve maternal height and education must be imple-

mented years before those girls and young women become mothers", the study has attempted a first-of-its-kind inter-generational analysis of the impacts of a mass feeding programme.

The paper was authored by a researcher from the University of Washington and economists and nutrition ex-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

perts at the International Food Policy Research Institute. It found that the midday meal scheme was associated with 13-32% of the improvement in the height-for-age z-scores in India between 2006 and 2016.

The linkages between midday meals and lower stunting in the next generation were stronger in the lower socio-economic strata and likely work through women's education, fertility, and the use of health services, the paper said.

The scheme was launched in 1995 to provide children in government schools with a free cooked meal with a minimum energy content of 450 kcal.

From undertaking hour-long running to



Transgender persons preparing for the SI job test in Bhubaneswar.

■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

practising yoga and from brushing up general knowledge and English language skills to meditating, these two transgender aspirants and their likes are fully occupied all through the day at Sundarpada

locality of Bhubaneswar. They seem to be on a mission to prove themselves.

When the Odisha government came up with an advertisement last month to appoint transgender persons as sub-inspectors of police, the community considered it an opportunity to change the societal perception about them. For a total of 477 SI posts, 1,32,496 candidates have applied. Of them, 97,506 are males and 34,964 females while 26 belong to the transgender community.

"Not many in our community can plan their future on the basis of their qualifications. There are very few employers for us in the job market," said Kalpana. Pratima said the prospect of joining the police force was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for her, especially after she was forced to flee home and beg for survival just to evade the mocking eyes of her own family members.

"This is a rare occasion when so many transgender candidates have applied for a government job. This is the first permanent, dignified job offered to transgender persons," said Meera Parida, a transgender activist who heads an NGO, Sakha, that works on mainstreaming the transgender community. She is mentoring the transgender candidates for cracking the police job.

## Transgender persons' bid to break new ground

Several members of the community have applied for the job of sub-inspector in Odisha



Transgender persons preparing for the SI job test in Bhubaneswar.

■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

practising yoga and from brushing up general knowledge and English language skills to meditating, these two transgender aspirants and their likes are fully occupied all through the day at Sundarpada



(Clockwise from top right) Family members and relatives of Kiran at her house in Sonipat; a photo of Vinay Dahiya at his residence; Kiran's mother Sheela Dahiya and father Jai Bhagwan.

■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

from local police.

A few days later after the marriage, the village panchayat ruled that the couple should stay out of the village following which both families reportedly snapped contact.

But Aman was still seething with anger. On June 24, he, Vicky and a few other youths entered the couple's house and shot multiple rounds at them, leaving Vinay dead.

"If I had any idea that Aman was going to do something like this, I would have beaten him black and blue myself. I have two children and none of them are with me now," cried Ms. Sheela.

**A house in mourning**  
A few meters away from Kiran's house is Vinay's double-storey residence. His photograph, with a garland of yellow genda, hangs on the wall. His family is vehemently against bringing Kiran to the house and wants nothing to do with her anymore.

But just before his murder, they had begun talking with their son, and though reluctantly, accepted the marriage. "I had spoken to him the day he was killed. She was pregnant and she and Vinay had gone to a hospital for her abortion because of some complications. He had called me to ask for some home remedies and visit them to help the girl," claimed Vinay's mother, who didn't wish to be named.

Half an hour before the murder, Vinay's brother Deepak said they had spoken to him. Now, all that remains of him is a car – he used to drive while working as a driver at the IGI Airport – parked outside their residence. "Bohot samjhaya tha use. Maara bhi tha. Nahin maana. [We tried a lot to make him understand but he didn't. We beat him too]," said Mr. Deepak.

The villagers too were against the relationship, and they pinned the blame on city culture. All this happens in cities like Delhi; not here, said grocery store owner Rakesh.

"They were brother and sister. No girl and boy in this village can marry each other. It's against the rule of nature. It's a sin," he said, assertively.

On June 24, Kiran and Vinay were shot multiple times in Dwarka by the girl's family. The episode left Vinay dead and Kiran recuperating in a women's shelter. *The Hindu* visited their village to meet the families who shared what lies behind the murder

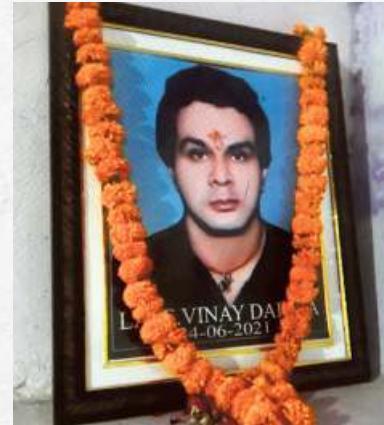
HEMANI BHANDARI  
SONIPAT

The sun was peaking on a summer afternoon in Gopalpur village in Sonipat. A suffocating silence prevailed; most stayed indoors. A 12-year-old boy popped up. Asked about the house of a girl whose husband had recently been killed 'to save the honour', the boy directed promptly: "Everyone in the village knows both the houses, of the girl and the boy, and the whole story," he said with a rather stern face.

Past a bungalow was a double-storey house with cemented exterior. Two wooden cots and chairs were laid out inside the courtyard. Sheela Dahiya had just returned after buying groceries from a nearby shop.

As soon as she heard her daughter Kiran's name, she broke into tears. Her husband Jai Bhagwan – visibly drunk – sat on a chair finding it tough to speak coherently. "I will approach Narendra Modi," he kept repeating.

Ms. Sheela complained that police are not letting her meet her daughter and that the family had visited the police station thrice in the hope that offic-



ers will take them to the hospital because that's the only way they know they'll be able to meet the daughter.

#### Futile visits

"I received a call from her from a police officer's number right after the incident. She asked me to take her home. We went to the hospital to meet her but we were not allowed. We haven't been able to since then," she said, adding that she, her husband, and two sisters-in-law had

gone to Dwarka Sector 23 police station on July 12 and 13. They waited all day long at the police station but without any luck.

However, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said that Kiran was discharged from the hospital and sent to a women's shelter to ensure her safety. She reportedly told officials that she wouldn't be safe at her maternal house.

Kiran's brother Aman (21) and her cousin Vicky (22) have been arrested along with others for shooting her husband Vinay Dahiya dead at their rented accommodation in Ambrahai village on June 24. They fired bullets at both, but she survived.

#### Feuding families

Both families were against the relationship and marriage because they were from the same gotra. But now Ms. Sheela wants her back. "I can even die to keep my daughter safe here. I've never even laid a hand on her. I just want her back. Whatever happened was in the past," the mother cried with a passing mention of Vinay.

The father butted in: "Us ladke ka naam mat le... vo to marr gaya... mujhe bas meri beti wapas chahiye [Don't take the boy's name... he is dead now... I just want my daughter back!]. The mother promptly told him to shut up.

#### Long story

The shooting episode was not an on the spur of the moment incident. The antipathy had been brewing since the lovers fled their houses and got married in Chandigarh in August 2020. Their love story dates further back to 2013 when Kiran was in Class VIII.

Ms. Sheela remembered that Kiran used to go to school in the bus and Vinay used to follow her. The word spread in the village and the family members became aware of it. "Those were the last days when she physically attended the school. We made her drop out and sit at home. She took Class IX exams from home and wasn't allowed to study thereafter," the mother recounted.

She said they did everything they could to salvage their honour. "Sab kuch izrat bachaane ke liye kiya tha," she said.

With a tinge of regret, she says: "Police ko complaint dene ka socha tha us waqt bas izrat ke maare chhor diya. Agar us waqt bola hota to shayad aaj ye din na dekhna padta. [We wished to complain against Vinay but stopped because of

honour. If we would have, then maybe we wouldn't have had to see this day]."

#### Deeper, stronger

The end of studies didn't mean the end of their relationship. Over the next few years, the two families met through mediators and both lovers were instructed not to see each other. But the more they tried to disunite them, the stronger their relationship grew.

Kiran's brother Aman, however, had a streak of violence. "Aman bhai was teased among his peers for didi's relationship. A few years ago, Vinay had told Aman bhai that he was his brother-in-law in front of 25 other boys. It hurt his pride. Vinay had also said that he would kill Aman," recalled Himanshu alias Sunny (15), Kiran's cousin and Vick-y's brother.

Aman allegedly killed a friend of Vinay in 2017 when he refused to call Vinay to a place Aman wanted him to come. Aman was then 17 and spent a year in an observation home. But the panchayat intervened, and the issue was apparently resolved.

Two years later, on August 13, three months after Kiran had turned 18, she left the house when everyone was asleep. The same day, they got married in Chandigarh and sought protection from Kiran's family. The court, however, stat-ed that they should seek protection

## Man kills neighbour for not returning borrowed amount of ₹25,000; arrested

His accomplice also nabbed while another is on the run; police find body in canal

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man allegedly killed his neighbour, beheaded the body, and disposed it in a canal in U.P.'s Muradnagar, the police said on Sunday.

Riyasat, a driver from Old Seemapuri and his 30-year-old accomplice Javed from Garima Garden in Ghaziabad have been arrested, they said.

The case came to the fore when a missing report of a man named Shahjad (52) was registered at Seemapuri police station on Tuesday.

On Friday, the police

found a body in Kheakra, U.P. The family members of Shahjad identified the body. Next, a post-mortem was conducted by the U.P. police.

"On the basis of technical surveillance and call details record, the police identified one of the accused persons. A raid was conducted, and the accused were nabbed," said DCP (Shahdara) R. Sathiyasundaram.

During interrogation, Riyasat picked him up from Seemapuri border in his car and took him to Kheakra. On the way, Riyasat called Javed.

Later, Riyasat also called his nephew Nadeem, who

him. Riyasat then decided to take revenge and planned his murder for five days, the police said.

On Monday, he asked the victim to come to Kheakra for purchasing mangoes and also promised him employment in painting work. He told the police that Shahjad was looking for work.

**Offered liquor to victim**  
Riyasat picked him up from Seemapuri border in his car and took him to Kheakra. On the way, Riyasat called Javed.

Later, Riyasat also called his nephew Nadeem, who

is a resident of Kheakra, to eliminate Shahjad.

Riyasat offered liquor to the victim and got him drunk. After some time, they reached one of the fields in Kheakra, the police said. Riyasat and Nadeem took Shahjad to the field. They attacked him with a chopper, killing him.

After this, they beheaded the body and disposed it in a canal near Village Surana. A manhunt is on for Nadeem, the police said.

Riyasat was a gramin sewa driver and lost work during the lockdown. Javed is also a driver by profession, the police added.

## Driver held for stealing ₹80L of employer

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old driver was arrested from Punjab's Ludhiana for allegedly stealing ₹80 lakh cash from his employer in south Delhi, the police said on Sunday.

The accused – Kinder Pal Singh from Ludhiana – was working with the victim for the last 10-12 years.

Complainant Ajay Gupta from Ludhiana reported on Friday that the incident happened when he went to Sainik Farms in his car along with his driver for making an advance payment of a property, an officer said.

Further probe is under

way, the police added.

## 4 feared trapped as building collapses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A three-storey residential building inside the premises of a cargo company in Pataudi here collapsed on Sunday. Around four labourers were suspected to be trapped under the debris, and one person was rescued.

The building inside the premises of the company in Khawaspur village came crashing down late in the evening. Around four labourers were feared trapped under the debris, according to the security guard at the company's premises.

Local MLA Satya Prakash, Assistant Divisional Magistrate Pradeep Kumar, and fire brigade personnel were present at the spot.

**One person was rescued and taken to hospital and the team was close to pulling out another person from under the debris**

GULSHAN KALRA

Assistant Divisional Fire Officer

and taken to hospital and the team was close to pulling out another person from under the debris.

Yash Garg, Deputy Commissioner, said rescue and relief teams were sent to the spot soon after the incident.

In view of the above facts and since no useful purpose will be served in continuance of the present criminal proceedings, it is directed that the aforesaid FIR and the consequent proceedings arising therefrom are hereby quashed," the court said.

The decision would be subject to payment of cost of ₹3 lakh by the man with the Delhi High Court Bar Association Pandemic Relief Fund within a period of two weeks.

The court also recorded the statement of the complainant that he has settled the matter out of his own free will, volition and without any coercion and he has no objection if the FIR and proceedings are quashed.

employment in the upcoming UN Mission in July, 2021.

The 93 personnel contended that pursuant to similar notices taken out by the CRPF in 2016, they had applied and participated in the selection process comprising written examination, physical standards, physical efficiency and medical tests and were selected.

In June, 2017, they cleared the Pre-Deployment Training and from time to time, till the year 2019, they were subjected to further training for deployment in the UN Mission. However, they were not deployed at any of the UN Missions.

The direction came on a petition filed by the personnel challenging the decision of the CRPF inviting fresh applications for deployment in the UN Missions.



### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest for Selection of Agency for Evaluation of Promotion of Organic Farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the State of Odisha

Sealed offers/proposals are invited from reputed Govt./Semi-Govt./Institutions, Professional Firms, Pvt. Companies, Cooperative Societies, for empanelment as Agency for Evaluation of Promotion of Organic Farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the State of Odisha. The Agency should not be involved in the implementation process of the scheme Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in current year or previous years either in the State level or in the GoI level. The proposals should come in sealed envelope super scriped as "Application for Registration of Agency for Evaluation of Promotion of Organic Farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the State of Odisha" from the Organisations as per the enclosed application format by registered / speed post. No. e-mail will be entertained for submission of proposals in this regard. Interested parties should apply with a non-refundable application fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred) only in the form of DD / Pay Order in favour of Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Filled EoI should reach in the Office of the State Bio-Chemist, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, Dist-Khurda, Odisha on behalf of the undersigned. Last date for receipt of application is 30th July 2021 upto 2.00PM and the same shall be opened on the next working day at 11.00 AM in the office of State Bio-Chemist, Bhubaneswar in the presence of authorized signatory or representative. The application form and the terms & conditions are available at the website of www.agrisnetodisha.or nic.in / www.odisha.gov.in.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha  
OIPR-01034/11/0010/2122

L-30

CM YK

### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited by the Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar from the experienced and interested Organizations/ Agencies for engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha. Interested Organizations/ Agencies are required to submit proposals in sealed envelope super-scribed as "Application for Engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha" as per the enclosed application format by registered/ speed post. Proposals in e-mail will not be entertained in this regard. The EOI should be addressed to Director, Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, 2nd floor, Krushi Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, Pin-751001. Last date for receipt of proposal is 9th August 2021 upto 1.00 PM and the same shall be opened on the same day at 03:30 PM in presence of authorized signatory and representatives. The application form and detail terms & conditions are available in the official website of [www.odisha.gov.in/](http://www.odisha.gov.in/) and [www.agrisnetodisha.or nic.in/](http://www.agrisnetodisha.or nic.in/).

The Authority shall not be responsible for any sort of postal delay and proposal received beyond scheduled date and time shall not be entertained & out rightly be rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any or all the EOI without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha  
OIPR-01034/11/0010/2122

L-31

### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited by the Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar from the experienced and interested Organizations/ Agencies for engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha. Interested Organizations/ Agencies are required to submit proposals in sealed envelope super-scribed as "Application for Engagement of State Level Agency for Project Management Unit for Integrated Farming System in the State of Odisha" as per the enclosed application format by registered/ speed post. Proposals in e-mail will not be entertained in this regard. The EOI should be addressed to Director, Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, 2nd floor, Krushi Bhawan,

# Vikas Divyakriti Sir Hindi literature Full Course

Year - 2020-21

Total - 157 Video lectures + 20 Booklet Pdf

👉(Real Price - 40000/-)  
👉We Provide only ₹1499 ✓



Contact on Telegram ➤ @prakashstudy24

The image displays three screenshots of a Telegram channel named "Live Class - UPSC" with 1585 subscribers. The channel contains 157 media files (video lectures) and 20 document attachments (booklets).

**Screenshot 1 (Left):** Shows a list of attachments for "Hindi Sahitya Notes - Drishti". The attachments are:

- Vol = 01: हिंदी\_भाषा\_और\_नागरी\_लिपि\_का\_इतिहास.pdf (86.6 MB PDF)
- Vol = 02: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_1.pdf (42.0 MB PDF)
- Vol = 03: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_2.pdf (29.7 MB PDF)
- Vol = 04: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_3.pdf (50.0 MB PDF)
- पद्य\_साहित्य\_मध्यकालीन\_कविता.pdf (61.5 MB PDF)

**Screenshot 2 (Middle):** Shows a grid of thumbnail images for 157 video lectures. Each thumbnail includes a play button and a timestamp (e.g., 58:44, 2:26:06, 2:50:28, 2:22:37, 2:22:26, 2:18:06, 2:31:21).

**Screenshot 3 (Right):** Shows two video player frames. The top frame shows a lecture titled "Orientation class" with a duration of 2:13:48 and a file size of 451.1 MB. The bottom frame shows a lecture titled "Lecture = 01" with a duration of 2:23:46 and a file size of 501.3 MB.

**Timings****DELHI**

MONDAY, JUL. 19
● RISE 05:36 SET 19:20
● SUNRISE 14:34 SET 00:53
TUESDAY, JUL. 20
● RISE 05:37 SET 19:19
● SUNRISE 15:43 SET 01:36
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 21
● RISE 05:37 SET 19:19
● SUNRISE 16:52 SET 02:24

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max	min
Delhi City	36	28
Safdarjung	36	28
Palam	36	27

**Delhi Palam Today**  
32°C Few spells of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower likely at some places with humid condition.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
33°C Light rain & thunderstorm likely at some places with cloudy sky. Warm and humid day.

© 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 particular statement made by the Owner or Publisher of this newspaper, THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper does not vouch for the accuracy of any statement, comment or advertisement or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In an event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Manager or any other staff of the company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## No COVID-19 death reported in the Capital

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded zero deaths due to COVID-19 on Sunday, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

The last time the Capital had zero deaths was on March 2. The number of new cases added was 51 after 71,546 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 0.07%.

There are currently 592 active cases in the Capital, of which 203 are under home isolation. The total number of cases since the pandemic began has climbed to 14,35,529 and the total fatalities stand at 25,027.

According to the bulletin, the Capital has less than a day's stock of COVID-19 vaccines left as of Sunday morning. There are 72,240 doses of Covishield remaining, of which 60,000 doses were added on July 17, the bulletin said. There are 2,05,630 doses of Covaxin available but due to irregular delivery cycles, only 20% of stocks can be used for first dose.

## Police's meet with farmers inconclusive

Protesters requested to reconsider planned march to Parliament; SKM leaders assure peaceful rally

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the march planned by farmers near Parliament during the monsoon session, the Delhi police's meeting with the farmer unions' remained inconclusive on Sunday.

A senior police officer said they had requested the farmers to reconsider their protest call citing the DDMA guidelines and the outbreak of COVID-19 third wave.

Samyukt Kisan Morcha leaders have given assurances of "peaceful" protest.

### No plans to gherao

"We laid out the plan. We don't plan to do any gherao [or laying siege], and the idea of trying to enter Parliament is ruled out. We have no intent whatsoever to disrupt the functioning of Parliament in any way," said SKM leader Yogendra Yadav, who was part of the farmers' delegation.

The monsoon session be-



**Keeping watch:** A security officer on duty at the Ghazipur border in Delhi. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

gins on Monday, and the farmers intend to begin their daily protest from July 22.

"We told them [the police] we would not take unlimited crowds. We are only taking 200 select persons. To be doubly sure, we have said these 200 will leave only from the Singhu border. They would leave in pre-decided buses. Each of them will carry an identity card, and the list will be supplied

to the police in advance. So we have taken all precautions possible," said Mr. Yadav.

"We wanted to be extremely careful and ensure that no disruptionist uses this opportunity to do something that will bring a bad name to the movement," he added, noting that the Sikhs for Justice group, which was not part of the SKM, had already given a call for a siege

of Parliament.

The monsoon session of Parliament will start on Monday and is scheduled to conclude on August 13.

Every detail about each protester will be given to the police, including a demonstrator's Aadhaar card and the mobile phone number, said the farmers at the meeting.

Farmers have been protesting against the Central laws since November last year at the Delhi border points of Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur.

The Delhi police said they would consult and get back to the SKM, said Mr. Yadav, who added that the farm unions did not apply for permission to protest, and intend to continue their preparations.

### 'Equal share'

"All the 40 farm unions involved in the SKM will have an equal share in the protest, with five members from each

## Farmers' protest: police ask DMRC to be alert

'Shut seven metro stations if required'

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police has written to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to keep extra vigil at seven metro stations and close them if needed in view of the farmers' protest near Parliament during its monsoon session, officials said on Sunday.

The metro stations are Janpath, Lok Kalyan Marg, Patel Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Central Secretariat, Mandi House and Udyog Bhawan.

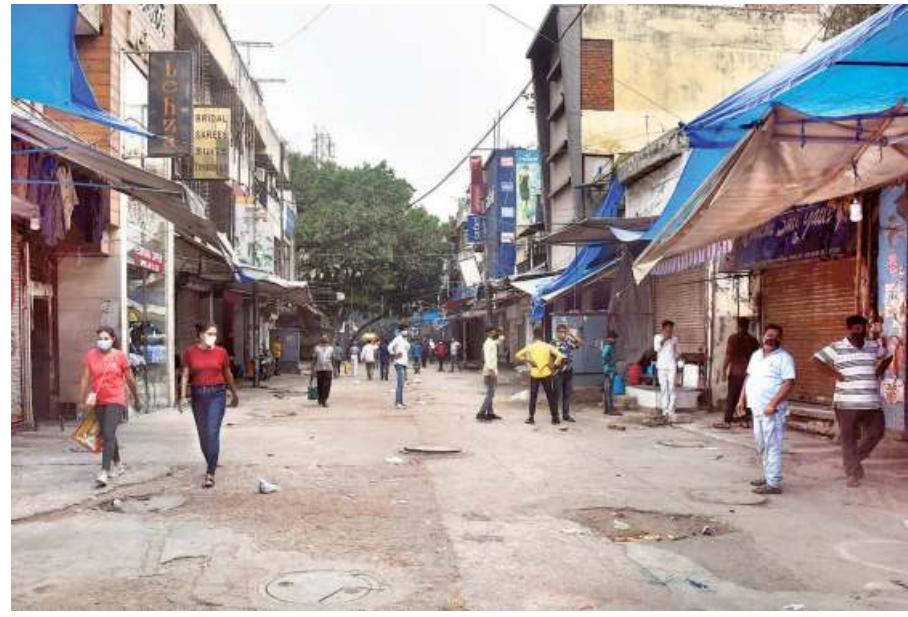


Commuters wait outside the Rajiv Chowk metro station in the Capital. ■ FILE PHOTO

missioner of Police (New Delhi) has also requested to keep an extra vigil on the seven metro stations as well as other metro stations which lies in the New Delhi area, it stated.

The farmer unions' have planned to protest near Parliament against the three farm laws from July 22.

Besides, Deputy Com-



Export market in Sarojini Nagar was closed until further orders on Sunday for violating COVID-19 norms. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Sarojini Nagar's export market shut for violating COVID norms

No social distancing was being followed, stated SDM order

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Sunday closed the export market at Sarojini Nagar till further orders for violating COVID-19 safety protocols.

The market was found to be overcrowded with people

not following COVID-19 appropriate behaviour.

### Sudden inspection

The shops that fall under the export market will be closed from Sunday, according to an order issued by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Va-

sant Kunj) Ankur Prakash Meshram. Officials surveyed the market at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday and found that it was very crowded with COVID norms being "grossly violated and no social distancing being followed at all", the order added.

Mr. Kumar wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that the church was demolished by the Block Development Officer without

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar on Sunday visited the site where Little Flower Church was demolished in South Delhi last week and assured the church authorities that he would do his best to ensure that the church is re-built at the same site.

Mr. Kumar wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that the church was demolished by the Block Development Officer without

giving proper notice or reasons.

He hit out at Mr. Kejriwal

for issuing a statement in

Goa saying that the DDA had

demolished the church.

Saying that the church was in existence since 2005, and its demolition had hurt religious sentiments of the Christian community and had created a sense of alienation and insecurity among the Christian community, Mr. Kumar demanded that the church be reconstructed immediately so that no attempt is consciously

made to cause deep hurt to the religious sentiments of people.

"Mr. Kejriwal's silence on the issue was proof enough that he was in tacit support of the BJP agenda of subjugating the minority community in a systematic manner," Mr. Kumar said.

He added that the Congress has always upheld religious freedom and allowed people to worship the faith of their choice, and strongly condemned the demolition of the church.

## Reconstruct demolished church, says Cong.

DPCC president hits out at Kejriwal for putting blame on DDA for razing it

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar on Sunday visited the site where Little Flower Church was demolished in South Delhi last week and assured the church authorities that he would do his best to ensure that the church is re-built at the same site.

Mr. Kumar wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal saying that the church was demolished by the Block Development Officer without

## Efforts on to ensure water supply to all'

Water production reaches 955 MGD, which is above average

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that his government was constantly making efforts towards ensuring regular water supply for the people of Delhi and that the engineers were working 24x7 to achieve the goal.

The Chief Minister said this on a day when the Delhi Jal Board said that water pro-

duction in the city reached 955 MGD whereas the usual average production was 910 MGD of water. The Capital had been facing a severe water crisis as its share of water was not released by Haryana.

DJB Vice-Chairman Raghav Chadha said that this feat was made possible by improved engineering solutions and an adequate water supply in the Yamuna after

16,000 cusec water had reached Delhi from Haryana on Friday.

The efforts and struggle of all the people of Delhi have now borne fruit. This has exposed the true face of the Haryana government. They had earlier withheld our share of water, which dried up not only the Yamuna but also left the people of Delhi thirsty for water," Mr. Chadha said.

### TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

**THE HINDU**

India's National Newspaper

## Prisoners, out on bail, arrested as they return to crime

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**

NEW DELHI

Several inmates, released on emergency parole or interim bail from Delhi prisons to decongest jails amid the COVID-19 outbreak, have been arrested again for being allegedly involved in various criminal cases, said a Delhi police officer on Sunday.

The Supreme Court had on Friday ordered that prisoners, who were released by the high powered committees (HPCs) of States during the second wave of COVID-19 following its May 7 directions, will not be asked to surrender until further orders.

### Keeping a watch

The officer said that each police district has a separate jail-bail cell to keep track on criminals on bail. All police stations have been instructed to keep a watch on them. The inmates were lodged in the jails in West, South, Dwarka and Outer Delhi districts.

The North district police on July 5 this year, arrested a man released on bail after being allegedly involved in a murder case. Out on bail, he tried to put pressure on the witnesses using several methods but when he failed to win them over, he decided to take the other alternative by implicating them in a

### In 2020, decongestion process started in March-end

**TOTAL INMATES RELEASED**

- 5,500 undertrial prisoners released on interim bail
- 1,184 convicts released on emergency parole

### NOT YET SURRENDERED

● Undertrial prisoners:

Over 2,400

● Convicts:

Over 90

### Undue risk



In 2021, decongestion process started in second week of May

**TOTAL RELEASED SO FAR**

● Undertrial prisoners:

Over 3,000

● Convicts:

Over 800

SOURCE: DELHI PRISONS

er, the police said they protested against the bail of an inmate who was involved in several criminal cases, following which his bail plea got rejected.

Four people were arrested in the West district. Among them, two were arrested in theft cases, one in robbery and one for violation of the Excise Act, the police said.

In South East district, three such criminals, out on bail, were arrested for allegedly being involved in robbery and snatching cases.

### Different picture

According to the police, at least 90 inmates of North West district and 95 of North East district jails were released. However, no one has been arrested again so far.

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:  
[www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)  
 011-43579738 • 43579797

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd that Mr. Harmeetpal Singh Bindra & Mrs. Monica Bindra intends to purchase & mortgage the with our client Front Porion of Bungalow and Front Portion of Ground Floor of Property bearing No. A-10/2, land measuring 1200 Sq. Yards, situated at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi Axis Bank Ltd against the financial assistance. Whereas Mrs. Kowsiki Viswanathan was the owner of the above-said property vide Conveyance Deed dt. 30.10.2000 and after her death Mr. Priya Kumar Viswanathan becomes the owner on the basis of Will dt. 01.02.2006 and after her death Mrs. Radhika Hoon became the owner of said property on the basis of Will dt. 11.11.2011 & Family Settlement Deed dt. 15.02.2021. Now Mrs. Radhika intends to sell the above-said property to Mr. Harmeetpal Singh Bindra & Mrs. Monica Bindra.

If any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

Deepyoti Singh, Advocate

A13, LGF, South Ex-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-2626210, 11, 12

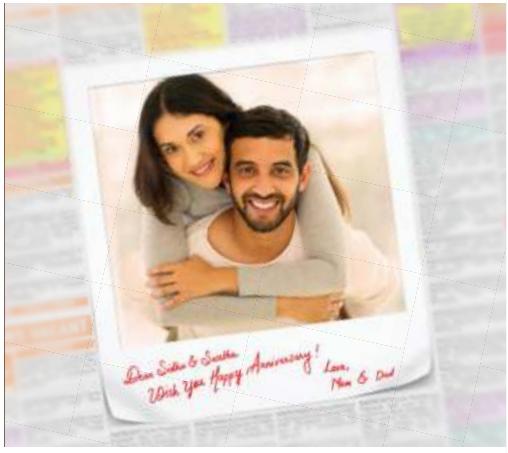
## READ

SPORTSTAR  
EVERY FORTNIGHT

## PERSONAL

## LOST &amp; FOUND

LOSS OF Share Certificate. Shareholder: Beacon Trusteeship Limited - Sauc Consumer Venture Capital I issued by Merekhi Foods and Nutrition Pvt Ltd. CIN U151400RJ2017PTC059188. Folio No. PS-7, No. of shares held : 13181. Share certificate no. 8 Distinctive no.(s) from 921564 to 1053374 (both inclusive).

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

For more details, email: [classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in](mailto:classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in)  
 Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404  
 For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to [www.thehinduads.com](http://www.thehinduads.com)

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

## E-TENDER NOTICE NO. N235-62

Tel Tender-03-2021

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ TelHQ/ N. E. Railway, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender for the following works from the contractors having sufficient experience as per eligibility criteria mentioned in tender document.

1. Tender no. & date: N235-62 TelTender-03-2021. 2. Name of work: Augmentation of Rainfall/ Internet Connectivity along with Improvement in LAN/Intercom/ Railway Telephone Wiring in the Offices and residences of officers of NER Headquarters, Gorakhpur. 3. Tender Value: ₹ 1,94,18,403.61/- (Rupees One Crore, ninety four lakh, eighteen thousand, four hundred three and Sixty one paisa). 4. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,47,100.00. 5. Validity of Earnest money after opening of tender: 45 days. 6. Validity of offer: 45 days. 7. Place, Date & Time of closing and Opening of Tender: Office of the DSTE/Tele. N.E. Ry. Gorakhpur. 17.08.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. 8. Completion Period: 4 months. 9. Website where details of the tender notice & documents are available: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). 10. For any changes of tender: Please check on internet website for Corrigendum of the original tender notice. 11. (1) Earnest money is to be paid through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like Net Banking, Debit card, Credit card etc. Manual payments like Demand Draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit Receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. (2) The manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offers received shall be ignored. 12. The tenders/bidders must have Class III digital signatures and must have to register on IREPS portal. Only, registered tenders/bidders can participate on e-tendering. 13. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in tendering process. 14. Detailed tender notice, Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions are available at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ CPRO/Signal-22 Tel/Hq. Gorakhpur

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 9794545955

Do not travel with inflammable article in train

## ABRIDGED NIT

On behalf of Herambagopalpur Gram Panchayat of Pitharpuram Block under south 24 pargans dist. invites bids through e-tendering process for Est. Cost. of Rs.2720548/- (ExclGST&Cess), vid NIT No.01/190/XVFC-UN-TIED/NIT/HGP/2021, dt.-19.07.2021. The last Date of submission of Bid (online) is 2021 up to 2.00 p.m. For details please visit <https://whbidders.gov.in> and SDO/BDO/GP office. Pradhan, Herambagopalpur GP

## LEGAL NOTICE

## LEGAL NOTICE

## COURT NOTICE

In the Supreme Court of India Extra-Ordinary Appellate Jurisdiction

Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. (S) 23156-23157 of 2019

Heera Lal and others..... Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)

Versus

The State of Haryana and others ....., Respondent(s)

To,

1. Kamla Widow of Lal Singh, Village Budhena Teh. and Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62976/2021 for R[4] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

2. Vidya D/o Lal Singh Village Budhena Teh. And Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62977/2021 for R[5] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

3. Ajudhya D/o Lal Singh Village Budhena Teh. And Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62978/2021 for R[6] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

4. Shanti D/o Lal Singh Village Budhena Teh. And Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62979/2021 for R[7] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

5. Devi Chauhan S/o Man Raj, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62980/2021 for R[8] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

6. Kanhaiya S/o Lal S/o Man Raj, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62981/2021 for R[9] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

7. Kinna D/o Man Raj, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62982/2021 for R[10] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

8. Kashturi D/o Man Raj, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62983/2021 for R[11] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

9. Sunil Kumar, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62984/2021 for R[12] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

10. Buland S/o Lal Chand, 2476 Sector-16, District Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62985/2021 for R[13] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

11. Satish Kumar S/o Village Budhena Teh. And Distt. Faridabad, Haryana

PID : 62986/2021 for R[14] in SLP (C) No. 23156/2019, SLP (C) No. 23157/2019 SLP (C) No. 23156-23157/2019 SECIV-B

WHEREAS the Petition for special leave to appeal with application for CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING SLP EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. Shantaram Singh, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named listed for hearing before the court on 20th September 2019, when the court was pleased to pass the following order:

"Delay condoned.  
Issue Notice"

And Whereas, the matter above-mentioned was listed before Hon'ble Court (In Chambers) on 26.02.2021. When the following order was passed:-

"Learned counsel for the petitioner is granted three weeks' time to serve respondents no. 4 to 32, 35 and 37 to 46 through dasti and to file proof thereof. Learned counsel is also permitted to effect substituted service on the unversed respondents through publication."

NOW, Therefore, Take Notice that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court in due course and you may enter appearance before this Court either in person or through an advocate on record of this Court duly appointed by him that within thirty days from the date of publish of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why Special Leave Petition be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14 (1) of Order XXI, S.C.R. 2013 within 30 days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Institution against whose order the SLPs filed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to appear before the Court as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated: 30th June, 2021  
Assistant Registrar

## EDUCATIONAL

STOP FAILING  
IN IAS  
PRELIMS

CORRECTLY SOLVE 80+ QUES  
IN GS PAPER

BEAT THE COMPETITION ON 10TH OCT

Visit Website & Check Live Demo

BestCurrentAffairs.com

PHONE: 9463737373

## TENDERS

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Producers Stations of Bovine Sex Sorted Semen are requested to send their complete particulars of production facilities in India, semen donating Bulls & Breed (cattle & buffalo) in India with Pedigree details, annual production capacity and CMU grade. Please submit all details within 31st July 2021.

Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Assam Livestock  
Development Agency, GS  
Road, Khanapara,  
Guwahati-781022.  
Email: ceoalda@gmail.com

## Protest at former Minister's residence in Haryana ends

He speaks to women on dharna over misbehaviour allegation

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Former Minister Manish Grover touched the feet of the women

protesters seeking their blessings,

causing the five-day-long sit-in outside his residence in Rohtak to end late on Saturday night.

Farmers unions had been

staging a sit-in against alleged

obscene gestures to women

protesters in Hisar on July 10.

The protests concluded fol-

lowing a meeting between prot-

esting farmers and Mr. Grover

at the initiative of some distin-

guished persons with the med-

iation of the local administra-

tion.

The former Minister spoke to

the enraged women who sup-

posedly had witnessed a man

sitting in a car with him and

Hansi MLA Vinod Bhayana and

making obscene gestures to

them in front of Guru Jamb-

heshwar University, Hisar.

After listening to their ver-

sion that they did not exactly re-

cognise the person sitting close

to Mr. Bhayana, the former Mi-

nister touched the feet of women

and sought their blessings, said a press statement issued by Samyukt Kisan Morcha.

All the aggrieved women led

by Jagmati Sangwan, national

vice-president, All-India Demo-

cratic Women's Association and

the farmers leaders expressed

their satisfaction over the delib-

eration and the outcome.

# Shoppers trickle in as Kerala opens for Bakrid

Many shops did business after 71 days, amid fears of next wave; Karnataka to allow higher education classes from July 26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala dialled down COVID-19 curbs on retail for three days from Sunday for Bakrid on July 20. Police were deployed in strength to enforce the mask and physical distancing mandate. They also warned traders against allowing crowding.

The spectre of a third wave loomed with the relaxing of government orders on business, mobility, and social life for 72 hours. The administration was worried about the average test positivity rate (TPR) remaining above 10%. Kerala has requested the Centre for at least 60 lakh vaccine doses in the next 45 days.

The relaxing of pandemic regulations prompted shop-

pers to trickle into textile, footwear and fancy stores that opened on Sunday after a hiatus of 71 days.

Showrooms of jewellery, home appliances, and electronic goods also opened at 7 a.m. All establishments should close at 8 p.m. before the State-wide night curfew commenced an hour later.

The easing of restrictions was applicable only in localities where the average TPR was less than 15%. In areas where it was higher, the relaxations would be applicable only on Monday, Bakrid eve.

Mosques, temples, and churches admitted less than 40 worshippers. Mosques insisted that worshippers bring prayer mats, rinse in running water, observe physical dis-



**Guarded shopping:** The police regulating movement of public at Broadway in Kochi on Sunday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

tancing, and wear masks.

Beauty parlours and barbershops were allowed to function on alternate weekdays in localities with TPR less than 10%. However, the government allowed them to

open between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on all days in the run-up to Bakrid.

## Kerala entry norms

Fully vaccinated individuals entering Kerala were not re-

quired to produce RT-PCR negative certification. A COVID-19 vaccination-completed certificate would suffice.

The government allowed cinema and television serial shooting in localities where the average TPR was below 15%. Artists and crew should have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose.

The government also allowed engineering colleges and polytechnic hostels to admit students preparing for their semester examinations.

The Karnataka government on Sunday further pared down COVID-19 restrictions by keeping the curfew hours from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. besides allowing cinema theatres to open with 50% capacity.

(With inputs from Bengaluru bureau)

would commence from July 26, and students who had taken one vaccine dose could attend. The decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

The teaching and non-teaching staff with at least one dose would be allowed. However, student attendance was optional.

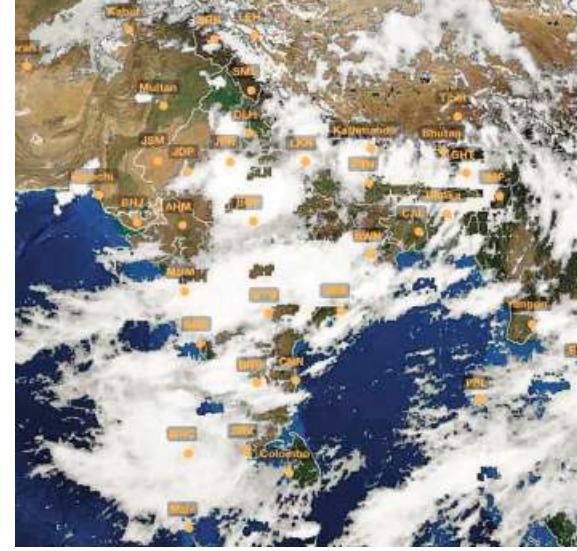
Special surveillance measures to screen those coming from Kerala and Maharashtra would continue.

Health Minister K. Sudhakar was absent at the meeting. Sources in the Government said that the Health Minister was opposed to opening cinema theatres with 50% capacity.

(With inputs from Bengaluru bureau)

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Uttarakhand, coastal Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala, among others

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... .9	33.5	26.1	Kozhikode	... -	25.8	23.8
Ahmedabad	2...	32.9	28.3	Kurnool	3...	29.1	25.3
Aizawl	18...	26.0	20.0	Lucknow	0.5...	30.1	26.8
Allahabad	... -	32.8	27.8	Madurai	... -	32.4	25.0
Bengaluru	17.8...	28.2	20.0	Mangaluru	114.5...	24.4	22.0
Bhopal	... -	35.3	26.7	Mumbai	197...	28.4	24.0
Bhubaneswar	... -	35.6	27.5	Mysuru	... 6...	28.7	19.4
Chandigarh	... -	32.5	30.3	New Delhi	... -	35.8	26.8
Chennai	77...	32.7	25.2	Patna	0.7...	33.0	26.9
Coimbatore	4...	26.1	21.4	Port Blair	53...	29.4	23.6
Dehradun	1.9...	25.8	24.3	Puducherry	12.8...	30.8	20.4
Gangtok	3...	21.5...	18.4	Pune	1.4...	28.8	22.0
Goa	35...	25.5	23.7	Raipur	0.00...	0.00	0.00
Guwahati	1...	34.6	26.0	Ranchi	2...	30.9	23.9
Hubballi	... -	26.0	22.0	Shillong	0.2...	35.0	27.6
Hyderabad	16...	30.9	23.5	Shimla	0.8...	21.6	19.0
Imphal	... -	32.0	22.0	Srinagar	... -	35.0	23.2
Jaipur	4...	32.4	26.6	Tiruvananthapuram	2...	30.0	23.7
Kochi	16...	29.6	23.2	Tiruchi	... -	31.1	26.0
Kohima	10...	25.2	17.3	Vijayawada	... -	32.0	26.0
Kolkata	... -	36.1	28.9	Visakhapatnam	8...	34.0	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	24	42	20	60	90	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.8	12	18	15	18	■■■■■
Chennai	.4	23	66	14	21	■■■■■
Delhi	.5	14	42	37	135	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.6	64	12	12	21	■■■■■
Kolkata	13	13	11	16	31	■■■■■
Lucknow	.3	10	22	24	7	■■■■■
Mumbai	24	11	39	29	35	■■■■■
Pune	60	16	110	88	62	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	14	29	.29	-	39	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat in Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 167, indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong in Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11.

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>x</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, 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.

**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

## Kerala keeping watch on reservoirs after rain alert

Low pressure area to form in Bay of Bengal by July 23: IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



**Recharge season:** Water level has been rising in the Malampuzha dam in Palakkad. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

With the southwest monsoon turning active over Kerala, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) has been asked to keep a close watch on dam storage and increase hydel generation to maintain safe water levels.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday that a low pressure area was likely to form in the Bay of Bengal only by July 23, two days later than earlier expected.

Rainfall-related alerts have been suitably modified. Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod can expect heavy to very heavy rainfall and are on orange alert on July 21 and 22.

Minister for Electricity K. Krishnankutty said the combined storage in dams managed by the KSEB stood at 52.57% as of 7 a.m. on Sunday. While the storage in the big reservoirs was not an immediate cause for concern, the KSEB had nevertheless

been directed to increase hydropower generation to keep water at safe levels, Mr. Krishnankutty said.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority has directed district authorities to make preparations in view of the rain alert.

## Nothing to do with audio clip: Karnataka BJP chief

It allegedly talks of leadership change

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MANGALURU

An audio clip, in which Karnataka BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel allegedly hints at a possible change in leadership, went viral on Sunday. However, Mr. Kateel clarified that he had nothing to do with the clip and that it was not his voice.

In the clip, Mr. Kateel is heard saying in Tulu: "Don't tell anybody. The K.S. Eshwarappa and Jagadish Shettar team will be changed. We are forming a new team. Don't tell anybody..."

Hinting at a leadership change, the BJP chief purportedly says: "There are three names. Anyone can be selected. If any one of them gets selected, they will be in our hands. The choice will be made from Delhi only."

In a release later, Mr. Kateel said: "It is a case of impersonation. Such a fake audio clip is being circulated to defame the party and the government. I have requested the Chief Minister to conduct a probe to verify the authenticity of the audio clip and to identify the culprits behind it." He maintained that there was no discussion on leadership change in the State.

The audio clip has been released at a time when the State is gripped by speculation of a possible leadership change.

The speculation has been gaining momentum ever since Mr. Yediyurappa visited Delhi recently and met party top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

THE HINDU

# EDUCATION PLUS

GET THE EDGE

www.thehindu.com/education

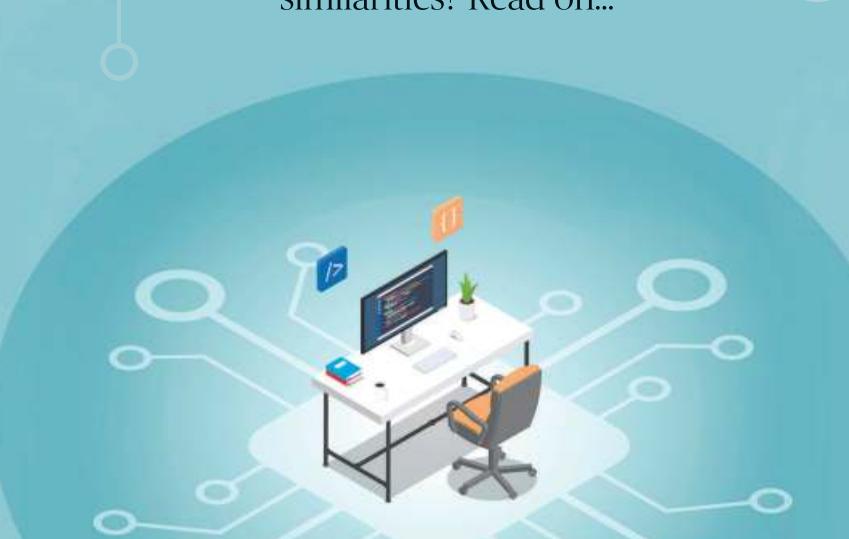
www.facebook.com/thehindude

www.twitter.com/thehindude

■ RAJ DESAI

## Code your moves

Did you know that chess and coding have many similarities? Read on...



FREEPIK

Both require analytical thinking, problem-solving, cognitive skills, and pattern recognition...

development, which openings lead to what kind of vulnerabilities, or opportunities, and so on. It is the same for coding. You need to grasp the basics such as arrays, objects, and functions, and also understand how each

works when you code, when used together, which of them will lead to what kind of output, or what type of functionality they can create.

**Learn the syntax:**

Chess has precise notations to mark and record moves.

Therefore, it is essential to know the difference between QxH6 and QxH6#. This is a unique language specific to chess. Similarly, for coding, learning the syntax for functions, arrays, objects, and so on is critical. It is important to know the difference between =, == and ===. So, be it coding or chess, understand and know the language well to master it.

**Understand advanced moves:** Once you understand all this, you need to take your game to the next level. You learn more advanced moves such as Forks and Discovered Checks, to keep your opponents on their toes. In programming, you learn advanced concepts such as Object-Oriented Programming (OOP), Nested Functions and Classes, which help you create more nuanced programmes and keep your code clean.

**Figure out your style:** Once you have mastered the building blocks, start figuring your style. In chess, you could be aggressive like Carlsen, or persistent like Vidit. You do the same while programming. You could be innovative like Steve Wozniak, robust like



## Leaving the past behind

Afghanistan's neighbours must help it protect the democratic gains of the last two decades

**T**wo events in Central Asia last week, which India attended, saw Afghanistan's neighbours seeking solutions to the conflict there. The first was a meeting in Dushanbe, of the Contact group on Afghanistan of SCO Foreign Ministers, and the second, a Central and South Asia connectivity conference in Tashkent. The meetings also took on a special salience due to their timing. Just days after the U.S. and NATO completed their pullout from the Bagram air base, and most other key locations, it is clear that the Taliban are making advances to return to power, by force if necessary. Of particular concern are the Taliban's attacks on border posts, particularly the border with Central Asian countries, and the Spin Boldak-Chaman border with Pakistan, which are for territorial control and to cut off crucial supply chains to the government in Kabul. At such a time for the SCO Ministers' grouping that includes Russia and China, India and Pakistan, and four Central Asian countries to have issued a joint statement, albeit without naming the Taliban directly, that decried the violence by terrorist groups, was significant. At Tashkent, the host, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, also gave Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani the opportunity to confront Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for Pakistan's failure to keep its promises on stopping the Taliban from crossing over and ensuring the Taliban conduct peace negotiations in earnest. Despite Mr. Khan's protests, the message is that the region, and global players, will not support the Taliban to enforce its brutal regime in Afghanistan through violent means. For India and the Central Asian States, the worries are about the violence at the frontiers and the resultant refugee influx, extremism, and support to transnational groups such as al Qaeda, LeT, JeM, ETIM and IMU, as it happened earlier under Taliban rule.

As External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said, Afghanistan's past cannot be its future, and in an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Ghani made it clear that the Afghan forces will not simply crumble this time. The emergence of the regional consensus to shun any attempt to take power by force will also give the Taliban and its backers in Pakistan reason to pause, and the high-level intra-Afghan talks in Doha over the weekend, and the Taliban's Eid announcement that they will pursue a political solution "seriously" and to assure neighbours they will not allow Afghan territory to be "used against any other country" may be evidence that the message has been received. As the future of Afghanistan is decided in the weeks ahead, it is necessary for the neighbourhood's voice, Central and South Asia included, to emerge more united and determined to protect the gains the nation has made over two decades.

## Sensitive and precise

Trafficking needs a wholesome approach that is cognisant of the causative factors

**U**ndoubtedly, trafficking is a pernicious offence, one that societies and governments must have zero tolerance for, and yet, handling the offence of trafficking needs precision, not a sledgehammer. In its current form, the draft Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2021 seems to be lacking in nuance, even if well intentioned, to stamp out exploitative trafficking. The Bill, which will shortly be introduced in Parliament, aims at preventing and countering trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, to provide for care, protection and rehabilitation to the victims, while respecting their rights, and creating a supportive legal, economic and social environment for them. This is the Bill's second iteration; the first was passed in the Lok Sabha, in 2018, but then meandered into nothingness as it was never introduced in the Upper House. Notably, the Bill has expanded the area under coverage to include offences taking place, not only within India but also outside it. It envisages the setting up of anti-trafficking committees at the State and national levels to implement the provisions, when passed. In the days the Bill was up in the public domain for comments, civil society activists and legal experts have criticised its various provisions, and submitted that an overzealous approach would blur the nuances and an understanding of the contributing factors, including vicious poverty, debt, lack of opportunity, and development schemes missing their mark.

Vociferous opposition has arisen over the key aspect of handing over investigation in trafficking crimes to the NIA both by those who believe that it would burden the already stretched unit further, and those arguing that this move would be an attack on federalism, by removing local enforcement agencies out of the picture. Another key criticism of the Bill has been its broad definitions of victims, smacking of refusal to consider consensual sexual activity for commerce. This would only land up criminalising sex work and victimisation of the exploited. Bringing pornography into the definition of sexual exploitation would not allow even for any adult consumption of non-exploitative, consensual material. Reporting of offences has been made mandatory with penalties for non-reporting, but those with an understanding of the tortuous processes, point to the fact that victims often do not want a complaint to be recorded. The mention of the death penalty for various forms of aggravated trafficking offences needs to be flagged too. The Government would do well to scan and incorporate the responses to its Bill in order to ensure that the fence does not eat the crop. While sexual exploitation and trafficking can be ghastly crimes invoking public horror, for the state to not employ a wholesome approach, cognisant of the causative factors, one that would be sensitive and precise, would be equally horrific.

## A 'tolerant' India can be majoritarian

Mere toleration or empirical plurality of cultures is not the same as a conscious democratic project of multiculturalism



NISSIM MANNATHUKKAREN

**B**.R. Ambedkar once said, "... fraternity can be a fact only when there is a nation. Without fraternity, equality and liberty will be no deeper than coats of paint."

In a recent comprehensive face-to-face survey (of nearly 30,000 people) on religious identity, nationalism and tolerance in Indian society, and conducted in 17 languages between late 2019 and early 2020 by the reputed United States-based Pew Research Center (<https://pewrsr.ch/3xQqlVO>), 85% of Hindus affirmed that "respecting all religions is very important to being truly Indian". But, paradoxically, 64% of Hindus think "it is very important to be Hindu to be 'truly' Indian". And 80% among them say, "it is very important to speak Hindi to truly Indian", giving credence to the slogan of Hindutva.

Rather than celebrating toleration, or seeing the paradoxes as a peculiarity of the Indic mind, it is crucial to recognise that a virulent majoritarianism can coexist with the professions of tolerance. It is misleading to treat the latter as a paradox because mere toleration or an empirical plurality of cultures is not the same as a conscious democratic project of multiculturalism or composite culture.

Thus, in the last two Lok Sabha elections, not a single Muslim has been elected on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket. This obliteration of political representation of a signif-

icant minority (numbering 200 million) – which arguably has no parallel in any established democracy in the world – has become completely normalised in India, and is not a matter of discussion at all.

### Other findings and paradoxes

The Survey abounds in other paradoxes: 80% (across all religions, in almost same proportion) think that respecting other religions is a very important part of their own religious identity, 91% assert that they are free to practise their religion, 77% of Muslims believe in the Hindu notion of karma, but when it comes to inter-religious marriages, friendships and neighbours, there is a marked tendency to keep communities separate. Thus, 67% of Hindus and 80% of Muslims believe it is important to stop women of their communities from marrying outside; 86% of Hindus have their close friends come mainly or entirely from their religion.

Scholar Bhikhu Parekh argues that plural cultures have always existed in the past, but what marks out contemporary multi-cultural societies is the premise of equality of cultures, and not just self-contained co-existence. The key features of multi-culturalism/composite culture are, as Prof. Lord Parekh asserts, cultures beyond compartments, constant dialogues and mutual change, and a strong streak of interrogation of "settled beliefs" across all cultures, especially the dominant culture.

It is a mistake to see the electoral success of religious majoritarianism in recent years as constructed in a vacuum. Instead, it is precisely the decades-long compartmentalisation of different religious communities, and the absence of solid state and civil



society arrangements in educational pedagogy, personal relationships, workplace, to facilitate inter-cultural interaction, and based on equality and respect, even under supposedly secular regimes, that has made the soil politically fertile for the demonisation of the minority, especially the Muslim (and occasionally the Sikh, as in the recent farmer protests).

This is despite the Survey breaking the Hindutva appellation of the anti-national Muslim. In fact, 95% of Muslims (and Sikhs) declare that they "are very proud to be Indian".

### India's 'skyboxification'

The American philosopher Michael J. Sandel argued that under rising extreme inequalities of capitalism, there is a "skyboxification of American life", in which the affluent classes and people of poor means have no connection at all, and they "live and work and shop and play in different places" and their "children go to different schools". In India, this plays out differently not just in economic terms, but also in religion, and more starkly, caste, the fundamental divide.

Every religion is riven by caste. Like with religion, 64% say that it is "very important" to prevent wo-

men from crossing caste boundaries in marriage, and 70% affirm that "most or all of their close friends share their caste". Again, the Survey brings to the fore the central contradiction of a democratic nation that is divided by compartmentalised hierarchies. Thus, it is vital to note that amidst the gathering clouds of majoritarianism, it is a minority of upper castes that holds the reins of power, across religions, and it is the lower castes among the religious minority that face the brunt of majoritarian attacks. Glossing over this reality, ironically, reinforces religious majoritarianism, and reduces conflicts to merely religion.

This can only be overcome by the unison of social groups, especially the oppressed, across, religious and caste boundaries. As B.R. Ambedkar recognised a long time ago, the central barrier to the making of a nation is "separation in social life". It cannot be eliminated simply by elements like, as the Survey shows, a quarter of Muslims and a third of Christians believing in the purifying power of the Ganga, or the same kind of numbers believing in reincarnation, etc.

The antidote to the fear of other social groups, especially minorities, often is increased interaction among them in a variety of public and private settings. This is demonstrated in earlier Pew surveys in India, and those elsewhere. In the United States and West Europe, there is a big difference in positive attitudes towards other social/religious groups when members of those groups are personally known. Despite anti-Muslim sentiments, much higher numbers than India are willing to accept Muslims as neighbours. In the Pew Survey on 11 Emerging Economies including India

(<https://pewrsr.ch/2VVyEBV>), a higher percentage of the majority community in countries such as Lebanon, Venezuela, and South Africa interact with the minorities than India.

### Attitudes in South India

But contrary voices to the majoritarian and segregated vision can be seen within the present Survey too. In several aspects such as the superiority of one's own religion, having friends and neighbours from other religions, preventing inter-religious marriages, the importance of being a Hindu and speaking Hindi to be a true Indian, prohibition of beef, the attitudes in South India differ, not by a small, but a substantial margin to the rest of India, especially the North and the Central parts. This enhanced willingness to break differences permeates both Hindus and Muslims in the South, showing the wider reinforcing effects of increased mutual interaction. Since culture affects politics, Hindu nationalism has had much less electoral success in the South, at least so far.

Social reality and complexity cannot be reduced to numbers. After all, one cannot compare attitudes of different social groups blandly without understanding power differences. But quantitative surveys are still necessary tools. Majoritarianism, accompanied by mere tolerant acceptance of minority communities as non-interacting enclaves, is the death knell of democracy. To the extent that the Pew Survey hints at majoritarian attitudes and compartmentalisation, it can only be ignored at our own peril.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is with Dalhousie University, Canada, and tweets @nmannathukkaren

## A new chapter in Nepal's quest for political stability

The Supreme Court order offers some respite amidst the political uncertainty, with lessons for Indian diplomacy too



SUJEET SHAKYA

**O**n July 12, 2021, the Supreme Court of Nepal handed over a 168-page verdict on a case filed by 149 lawmakers out of the 275 parliamentarians demanding that Sher Bahadur Deuba be made the Prime Minister. Although the parliamentarians had gone to the Supreme Court as Mr. Deuba had gathered enough support to become the Prime Minister of Nepal under Article 76(5) of the Constitution, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari refused to entertain it. Instead, the President re-appointed K.P. Sharma Oli as the caretaker Prime Minister till the elections that they decided to hold in October and November 2021 were concluded. This ends now.

**Impact of court intervention**  
Amidst such circumstances, the Supreme Court verdict has ended the collusion between Mr. Oli and Ms. Bhandari to continuously take decisions that were against the provisions of the Constitution. In

December, when the President dissolved Parliament at the behest of Mr. Oli, the Supreme Court ruled against this order and reinstated Parliament. The Supreme Court even had a piece of warning for the President to remind her that the office of the President is also defined by the Constitution and hence, cannot be above it.

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, Mr. Oli left his official residence at Baluwatar which, for the past three and half years, had become his office, party headquarters and the centre of power in Nepal comparable to Narayanhiti Palace during the direct rule of the Kings. He left his residence after addressing the nation in a manner similar to when King Gyanendra left the Narayanhiti Palace on June 11, 2008. His supporters had a procession.

**The Oli years**  
In the past, Mr. Oli's popularity rose when he challenged India during the blockade in September 2015 and whipped up nationalism to emerge as the leader who could lead Nepal. For the 2017 Federal and Provincial elections, the two major communist parties, the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) and the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist Leninist-UML), joined hands, and with a landslide

victory, were to provide a stable government in Nepal in three decades. This coalition between the two parties had laid out some conditions, one of which was that Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda and Mr. Oli were supposed to rotate the prime ministership. Even amidst these conditions and party coalitions, for the general Nepali public, Mr. Oli came with many expectations. He appointed a technocrat Finance Minister, a former Governor of the central bank, and other team members who, in people's eyes, were perceived to deliver the goods. Prior to taking over, he held various consultations. In one of the long sessions, he gave the impression that he means business. He had a slogan, 'Prosperous Nepal-Happy Nepali', that appealed to Nepalis both in the country and abroad, giving a feeling that, perhaps, the great mo-

ment has arrived for Nepal's transformation.

However, the infighting within the ruling party that united in May 2018 began to surface in December 2019. Mr. Oli had, in two years of his rule, ensured that his kitchen cabinet ran the country while his image and international relations were being handled by prominent citizens who kept defending him till the end. He unleashed crony capitalism. Many business groups gained from his rule.

International relations plummeted with Mr. Oli taking on India with an amended map of the country, which only affected bilateral relations. With the United States Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant not being ratified (<https://bit.ly/3BhClSs>), ties have been hit as far as U.S. investors are concerned. With China, while he hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping during a whirlwind transit stop, the agreements never saw the light of the day when it came to implementation. The complaints of Chinese investors in Nepal in terms of governance and bureaucracy have been no different than the complaints of others.

However, his handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic created a public outcry due to a lack of health-care facilities. He was per-

sonally dragged into the Nepal vaccine scam in the purchase of vaccines from the Serum Institute of India. In his swan song, he tried to take credit for the support that Nepal received, which was more due to the goodwill Nepal has and the efforts of many known and unknown activists who ran from pillar to post in different countries to get support and vaccines for Nepal.

**Looking ahead**  
The newly appointed Prime Minister, Mr. Deuba, has served as Prime Minister four times but does not have a great track record. He may have won the confidence vote of July 18 (picture). But in this, there is a great lesson for India to be learnt: on how not to push relationships through intelligence agencies and other tacit ways as it fails each time. This has been seen in earlier decades. India needs to continue to build on people-to-people relationships and engage through official channels of bilateral platforms and diplomacy. Let us not forget that geopolitics is changing as Nepal is now free from being 'India locked'.

Sujeet Shakya is the author of *'Unleashing Nepal'* and *'Unleashing The Vajra - Nepal's Journey Between India and China'*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Afghan's stability

Though the Afghanistan President, Ashraf Ghani, sounds optimistic in the face of grave adversity (Page 1, "Taliban won battles, we will win the war: Ghani", July 18), will optimism alone be enough to turn things around in the troubled country? Dependence on foreign aid to quell terrorism has clearly dented the country's ability to defend itself, and the Taliban, more than anybody else, know this very well. Whatever the U.S. and its allies have done so far has been undone in one stroke by their sudden withdrawal, leaving the present regime at the mercy of the Taliban. Fundamentalist forces from Pakistan are fomenting trouble, which Islamabad is either unwilling or unable to control. Pakistan also does not seem to have realised what the growth of fundamentalism can do to a country; it has a great example right next door.

### India is in a vulnerable position

New Delhi must explore all means to facilitate a lasting solution to ensure the neighbourhood's peace. YOGANANDH T., Salem, Tamil Nadu

### Punjab politics

The Punjab Chief Minister eventually blinked (Page 1, "Sidhu may captain Congress in Punjab", July 18). There will now be two power centres, probably working at cross purposes and each turning out to the nemesis of the other. Captain Amarinder Singh may have bought peace to buy time and recalibrate his strategy. One has to consider his good job in governance and a high possibility of his getting re-elected being pretty high now being damaged. The Gandhi family according precedence to sycophancy over performance will prove inimical to the Congress party.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

### Astrology and India

Though the writer of the article, "No pseudoscience, please" (OpEd page, July 15), has tried to make out a strong case against a degree course in astrology, I believe that people's faith in India is too deeply entrenched for any amount of rationalist thinking to be successful in the real sense. Such beliefs have been in practice for years when even kings relied on sages for a "propitious time" to carry out duties. And our own elected representatives arrange their swearing-in as advised by astrologers. A fear of the unknown, fear of divine wrath, societal or peer pressure are probable reasons why there is blind belief in all kinds of rituals and propitiatory ceremonies. These fears are skillfully fuelled by astrologers, especially in the rural areas, ensuring a steady income stream for themselves. Education, which is the normally touted panacea for most of society's ills, is

also not a cure! One finds even educated families immersed in the subject.

India needs a central anti-superstition statute. But given the ideology of the government of the day, such a statute may exist only on paper. V.V. KOUSHIK, Chennai

■ "I don't believe in astrology; I'm Sagittarius and we're skeptical," was what Arthur C. Clarke once said, amply expounding how profoundly we are enveloped in this truism. In every walk of life the influence of astrological predictions, warnings, remedies, etc. are so inextricably entwined that opposing or favouring IGNOU launching a degree course in astrology is of no significance. There is no foreseeable end to the exploitation of the masses seeking solace from these so-called astrology gurus wielding considerable influence on their clients. Any great astrologer, if he is

to bare his conscience, would admit that all the build-up of astrological analysis is to gain the confidence of anxious seekers.

VADUVAMBAL SANKARAN, Bangalore

■ As a teenager who avidly loves science, I am shocked by the number of people who support astrology and affiliated courses. I wonder whether we will soon have a situation where there will be courses on black magic and witchcraft. There are many who believe in these too. If one reads treatises written on astrology by some of the famous astrologers, one finds these books lack a proper and honest scientific approach. The definitions and methods used in these books are vague and lack rigor. I wonder what the IGNOU course will be like.

RUSHI SUNIL, Valiyapadam, Kollam, Kerala

■ One of the letter writers (Letters to the Editor) is averse to calling 'astrology a

pseudo science'. What is it then? Does he want it to be called a 'science'? Yes, there are lakhs of people in India who consult astrologers. It works at a subconscious level. My deep fear is that if astrology becomes a discipline of study, it may not be far-fetched to say that some government could make it formal for departments to function according to predictions.

M. GANDHI, Puducherry

**Biomedical waste**  
The acceleration in the statistical rates in the accumulation of biomedical waste is a serious issue. It calls for adequate disposal measures to save the environment. Rather than use landfills, proper disposal mechanisms such as incineration and microwave irradiation should be considered even at the district level.

# Calculating the benefits of lockdowns

Lockdowns need to be guided by trade-offs between harsh and mild policies



DIPANKAR DASGUPTA

Data show that as of now 26.2% of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of them, only 1% live in low-income countries. By contrast, the richer nations, such as the U.S., Canada, Germany and Britain, registered above 50% vaccination by July 17. For India, the percentage of the adult population that has received at least one dose stands at 34.1% as of July 18. How long it will take to eliminate the inequality in the administration of vaccines is shrouded in mystery. Till that happens, long or short lockdowns from time to time will remain the only defence against the virus. Several researchers have studied the effectiveness of the lockdowns in economic terms. It is important, therefore, to take stock of the issues that have materialised in this context.

## A trilemma

The Economist has come up with a paradox of sorts in an article concerning the trade-off between lives and livelihoods. The article is rooted in the COVID-19 disaster and questions the practicability or even desirability of simultaneously protecting lives and livelihoods with the aid of lockdowns. The discipline of economics, or its dominant school at least, is intimately linked to trade-offs and its fundamental teaching is that one cannot have one's cake and eat it too. During pandemic-driven lockdowns, this boils down not to a dilemma but a trilemma perhaps. Draconian lockdowns help you to keep on living, but they prevent you from earning a living. With incomes drying up, essential expenditures such as those on food, health and education cannot be sustained, implying that life cannot be lived. Extreme lockdown policies imply that you cannot quite have your life and live it too – at least not meaningfully.

The vicious trilemma needs to be torn down if humanity is to be preserved. This calls for a careful assessment of the severity of lockdowns, their costs, and the resulting gains



Migrant workers in search of work in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

they hopefully lead to in terms of lives saved. If the expected benefit of a policy falls short of cost, economists will reject it and suggest the adoption of alternative policies, involving an excess of benefits over costs. In other words, one needs to understand the nature of the trade-off. Is the suffering caused by a lockdown sufficiently compensated for in terms of lives saved?

The question is probably less simple than it appears to be at first sight. The New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo, said, "To me, I say the cost of a human life is priceless." In technical economic language, this amounts to asserting that the (monetary) price of a human life is infinitely high. If this be so, saving a life calls for endless sacrifice. If such sacrifice assumes the form of extreme lockdowns, then the line of argument precipitates the trilemma all over again. It is counterproductive to start off with infinity. Clearly, the Governor had failed to come up with a meaningful definition of the value of a human life.

Let us push aside this question for now and estimate instead the cost of a lockdown. Some researchers believe this can be measured by the value of lost GDP. The Economist quotes the case of two European countries – France and Italy. Both imposed heavy lockdowns and suffered 3% shrinkage in GDP. Not that people did not die, but the 3% shrinkage cost of keeping a number of people alive was not insignificant. Similarly, Finland, which experienced a negligible rise in the mortality rate, experienced a 1% fall in per capita GDP. On the other hand, Lithuania performed miserably on its death rate front, but its GDP per person is expected to rise by 2%. The Economist points out yet another horrifying estimate of the cost of saving COVID-19-infected lives. Research, it says, has established that for every infected person cured in poorer countries, 1.76 children die on account of a fall in the quality of life, which is not enviable high even in the absence of lockdowns. This is worse than the trilemma scenario outlined earlier.

There are other costs too that should not be overlooked. The horrors faced by migrant labourers in India will continue to jolt our collective memory. One wonders also if life expectancy itself has not been adversely affected in poor as well as emerging economies. Children are held back from school. One cannot rule out the emergence of child labour either. If and when the pandemic takes leave, researchers will surely

impose heavy lockdowns and suffer 3% shrinkage in GDP. Not that people did not die, but the 3% shrinkage cost of keeping a number of people alive was not insignificant. Similarly, Finland, which experienced a negligible rise in the mortality rate, experienced a 1% fall in per capita GDP. On the other hand, Lithuania performed miserably on its death rate front, but its GDP per person is expected to rise by 2%. The Economist points out yet another horrifying estimate of the cost of saving COVID-19-infected lives. Research, it says, has established that for every infected person cured in poorer countries, 1.76 children die on account of a fall in the quality of life, which is not enviable high even in the absence of lockdowns. This is worse than the trilemma scenario outlined earlier.

There are other costs too that should not be overlooked. The horrors faced by migrant labourers in India will continue to jolt our collective memory. One wonders also if life expectancy itself has not been adversely affected in poor as well as emerging economies. Children are held back from school. One cannot rule out the emergence of child labour either. If and when the pandemic takes leave, researchers will surely

address the child labour question in India caught in the iron grip of COVID-19.

The benefits of a lockdown, seen in isolation, do not appear to be all that clear. Lockdowns – severe or mild – prevent the spread of the disease so long as they last. Mortality falls perhaps, only to resurface once the lockdown lifted. For the U.S., a researcher has come up with the disappointing conclusion that there is no lifesaving impact of lockdowns at all.

How, then, should the benefit of a lockdown be computed? However absurd this may sound, the question takes us back to the value of a human life, which the New York Governor had calculated more emotionally than he should have only to end up in a paradox. Interestingly enough, a good deal of theoretical and empirical research has been done by economists on this issue for the past 50 years at least. The pandemic has merely generated new interest in the subject.

## The value of a human life

There are many different ways in which the value of a human life may be calculated. A straightforward method is to study the life insurance premiums people are willing to pay to ensure proper treatment if afflicted by fatal diseases. In rich societies, large amounts will be paid. This could well be used to compute the social benefits of lockdowns, which will probably have higher values in rich societies than in poor societies where few are covered by life insurance. Further, all lives cannot command the same value. It is not criminal to ask if an aged person's life has the same value as that of a younger person. This means that a person's own valuation of his life may well differ from the way policymakers are likely to value it. Consequently, the social benefit of lockdowns continues to be a puzzle.

This is not to suggest that lockdowns ought to be avoided. Quite clearly, they are unavoidable for now, but they need to be carefully designed, guided by trade-offs between harsh and mild policies. Or else, the damaged economies of the world will not revive too soon.

Dipankar Dasgupta is former professor of Economics, Indian Statistical Institute

## FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Humanity is the fulcrum of journalism

The core requirement for a media house is to foster humanity



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Last Saturday, we had readers discuss various aspects of news coverage, editorial choices and visual elements at *The Hindu's* virtual Open House. One of the suggestions was to reimagine the newspaper for the next generation of readers. There were intense discussions about how to provide credible information and in-depth analysis for a small device such as a mobile phone.

As a news ombudsman, I have one non-negotiable condition. Reaching out to newer generations is a logical necessity. According to the online reference section of Britannica, India's population is young: "Its birth and death rates are both near the global average. More than half the population is under age 30 and less than one-fourth is age 45 or older." Many newsrooms, *The Hindu* included, keep debating on what should be the right wordage and mix of visuals and words for various devices. In my view, these essential elements seem to be external factors. The core internal and intrinsic requirement for a news organisation is its ability to foster humanity.

## Rise in online hate speech

The spread of social media has contributed to a substantial rise in hate speech-related violence. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) has documented the spike in violence that is directly attributed to online hate speech. It says users' experiences online were originally designed to maximise their engagement. However, with an increase in algorithm-mediated customisation, there is promotion of extreme content. An investigation in *The Wall Street Journal*, "How YouTube Drives People to the Internet's Darkest Corners," was on how the site often recommends divisive or misleading material. A report in CFR recorded that in many ways, the debates in courts, legislatures, and among the public about how to reconcile the competing values of free expression and non-discrimination have been around for a century or longer.

This is the context that we need credible media outlets that can halt the spread of hate, vitriol and misogyny and once again work towards an inclusive public sphere. Though no one has quantified the cost of hate that is generated by social media, we are able to sense its corrosive effect on social harmony. A credible news media has two major functions: bearing witness and making sense. The growth of toxicity on social media has delegitimised the act of bearing witness. The recording of pain, the poignancy of loss, and the space for democratic aspirations are filtered through a narrow partisan lens.

**The photojournalist who bore witness**  
Nothing illustrates this inhuman delegitimisation of bearing witness than the racist campaign on social media against photojournalist Danish Siddiqui who was killed while doing his job of documenting the newly emerging politico-military situation in Afghanistan. Siddiqui, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist, was working for Reuters. According to the news agency, he was embedded with a convoy of Afghan forces that was ambushed by Taliban militants near a key border post with Pakistan. In 2018, he won the Pulitzer Prize in feature photography. He won it alongside colleague Adnan Abidi and five others for their work documenting the violence faced by Myanmar's minority, the Rohingya. Much has been written about the power of his images of the mass funerals held at the peak of India's devastating second wave of COVID-19. Empathy was central to his documentation process. "While I enjoy covering news stories – from business to politics to sports – what I enjoy most is capturing the human face of a breaking story," Siddiqui had told Reuters.

His untimely death also brought out the pitfalls of the amplification of partisan politics on social media. There were hate posts about Siddiqui; some celebrated his death. The Editor's Guild statement explained the significance of a photojournalist bearing witness to an event. After listing out some of the key assignments of Siddiqui – the 2019 Easter blasts in Sri Lanka, the riots in north-east Delhi in 2020, and the devastating human tragedy caused by the pandemic, the Editor's Guild observed: "His work was therefore a living testament to the axiom of photojournalism, 'if your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough.' Hence, in our quest to reinvent journalism for the new age, we need to ensure that humanity remains the fulcrum of any public discourse."

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

# Time to build a valuable economy

COVID-19 has brought home to us the absence from the economy of certain crucial services

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The reforms were also meant to raise the rate of growth of the Indian economy, which they did. Though the acceleration took some time coming, the rate of growth of the Indian economy has been higher after 2001. However, it started slowing progressively after the demonetisation of 2016, dropping to less than pre-reform levels even before we were struck by the pandemic. Since then, output has actually contracted, and there is no certainty on how growth will play out in the immediate future. Much depends upon whether there will be a third COVID-19 wave, necessitating the shutting down of economic activity yet again. Returning to the question of long-term growth, it needs to be pointed out that its acceleration after the reforms of 1991 was not the first time it happened. Not only had this occurred before, in the early 1950s and the late 1970s, but also the degree of acceleration had been greater then.

In 1991, we were, in effect, dealing with a cash-flow problem, albeit in foreign exchange. Now COVID-19 has brought home to us something larger, the absence from the economy of certain crucial services and the underlying assets that enable their production.

We realised how inadequate our health system is, as we watched helplessly the scramble for oxygen, the overflowing hospital wards and the overburdened crematoria. But our rickety healthcare infrastructure is merely a metaphor for the absent ecosystem for living in India. Sanitation, transportation, urban governance and the producer services, from power supply to waste management, needed to undertake economic activity, are all inadequately available. This deficit cannot be bridged by legislating changes to the policy regime as was done in 1991. The necessary infrastructure would have to be first created and then managed to supply the stream of services expected. We have learned the hard way that the value of an economy depends on the extent to which it serves our needs. The current crisis of lives and livelihood in India is the time to start building a valuable one.

## Financial inflows

A disappointing feature, though, is that the foreign exchange reserves have accumulated as a result of financial inflows rather than export surpluses, as was expected. It is now apparent that competitiveness cannot be established by simply reducing government control over the private sector. The history of globally successful economies shows that publicly provided infrastructure, private R&D and a facilitating government machinery are crucial for a country's export competitiveness. Most of these ingredients have been present in the case of India's software services-exporters but are not equally available for exporters of goods. The occasions since 1991 when there has been a trade surplus have been rare. The balance of payments has been shored up by portfolio capital. Such capital can flow out just as easily, leaving reserves to deplete rapidly. The only guarantee against balance of payments stress is a consistently strong export performance. The reforms are yet to take us there.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana

## DATA POINT

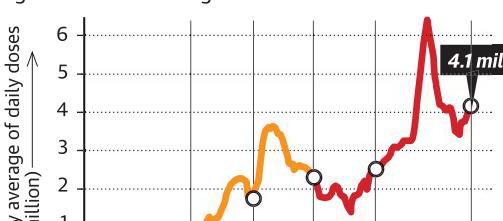
### Vaccination progress report

More than 400 million doses have been administered at an average rate of 2.22 million per day since India's vaccination drive started on January 16. The daily rate has improved considerably after the introduction of the new COVID-19 vaccine policy. Between June 18 and July 17, about 4.53 million doses have been administered daily on average, significantly higher than the previous periods. However, to fully vaccinate all adults by the end of this year, 8.84 million doses per day must be administered in the remaining days. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Suman Sen

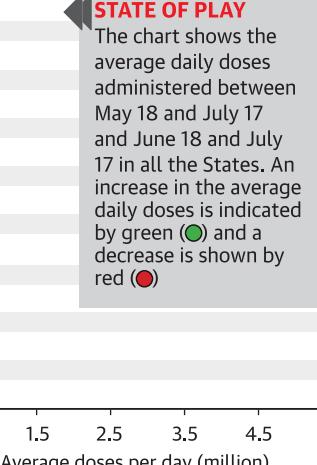
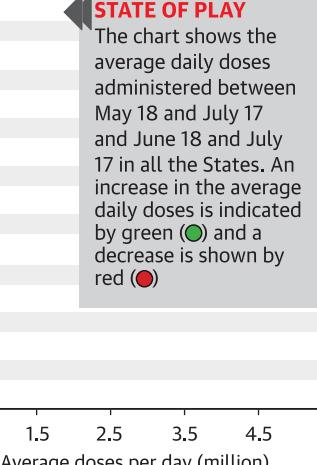
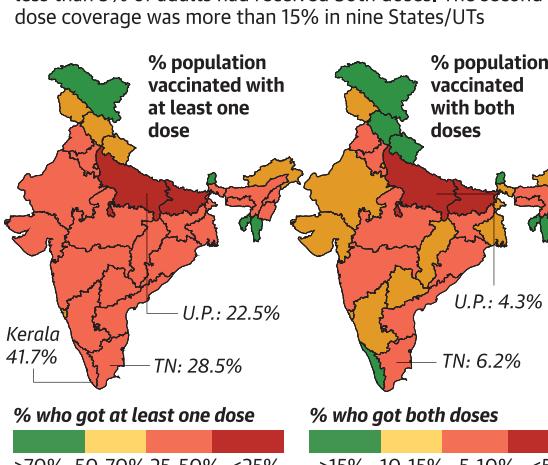
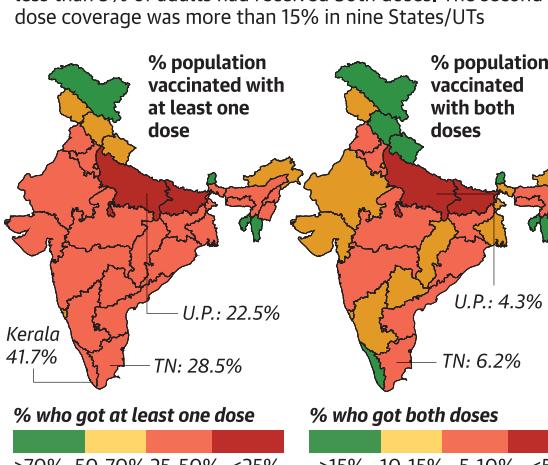
- The seven-day rolling average of daily doses administered fell drastically after peaking at 6.4 million/day on June 26 to 3.4 million/day on July 12. Since then, it has increased again to 4.1 million on July 17
- Between June 18 and July 17, the daily administration rate increased in almost all the States and UTs compared to the previous month
- If the vaccination rate continues at the same pace in the remaining days of the year, 1,166.37 million doses can be administered, about 720 million doses fewer than what is needed to fully vaccinate all adults by the end of 2021

Phase	Doses per day (mn)	Total doses by Dec. 31 (mn)
Jan. 16 - Feb. 17	0.29	103.06
Feb. 18 - Mar. 17	0.99	324.25
Mar. 18 - Apr. 17	2.76	836.79
Apr. 18 - May. 17	2.06	656.43
May. 18 - June 17	2.73	808.72
June 18 - July 17	4.53	1166.37
Target pace (July 18 - Dec. 31)	8.84	1,889.41

**HIGHS AND LOWS |** A sharp spike was recorded in average daily doses since June 18. The rate peaked on June 26 at 6.4 million. While it fell in the following few days, it gained momentum again last week



**POPULATION COVERAGE |** Around 8.8% of the country's adult population was fully vaccinated, while 34.07% had received at least one dose as of July 17. In U.P. and Bihar, less than 5% of adults had received both doses. The second dose coverage was more than 15% in nine States/UTs



## FROM PAGE ONE

## Govt. ready to discuss all issues, says Modi

Apart from Mr. Kharge, Mr. Chowdhury and Mr. O'Brien, other prominent Opposition leaders who attended the meeting included Anand Sharma (Congress), DMK's T.R.Baalu and Tiruchi Siva, Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) leader Satish Mishra, among others.

Several Opposition parties separately met in Mr. Kharge's room for floor coordination and the issues to be raised. Besides farmers' agitation and price rise, other important issues the Opposition plans to raise include the pace of vaccination, unemployment, "mis-

&lt;/

## Modi meets NDA floor leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A day ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presided over a meeting of NDA floor leaders, emphasising coordination among the various constituents of the alliance during the session.

Leaders of the NDA constituent parties present at the meeting included Apna Dal leader Anupriya Patel, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Pashupati Kumar Paras, Janata Dal (U) leader R.C.P. Singh, AIADMK leader A. Navaneethakrishnan and Republican Party of India (RPI) leader Ramdas Athawale.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J.P. Nadda were also present at the meeting. Apart from asking for coordinating on floor strategy through the session, Mr. Modi told the NDA leaders to ensure the presence of their MPs in both Houses on a regular basis.

# Cong. set to disrupt Lok Sabha proceedings over price rise

Sonia calls for coordination with other Oppn. parties for a common strategy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress and its allies are all set to disrupt proceedings in the Lok Sabha on Monday over price rise and the continuous hike in prices of petrol, diesel and LPG.

The floor strategy of the principal Opposition party emerged after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi virtually met the party's MPs on Sunday evening.

Ms. Gandhi is said to have flagged the issue of effective coordination with other Opposition parties to formulate a common strategy on the floor of the House.

"We have been told there would be disruptions tomorrow [Monday] as there has been consensus among other Opposition parties about price rise," said one MP.

### Issues identified

On June 14, the parliamentary strategy group had identified a number of issues to



**Gearing up:** A worker cutting grass at the lawns of the Parliament House on the eve of the Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

corner the Narendra Modi government. They include the devastating second wave, pace of vaccination and preparation for a possible third wave, the economic situation and growing unemployment, restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and border hostilities with China in Eastern Ladakh.

Ahead of the monsoon session, Ms. Gandhi has also recast the parliamentary

team for both the Houses.

While Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury continues to be the leader with Gaurav Gogoi as his deputy, Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari have been part of the team. The inclusion of Mr. Tharoor and Mr. Tewari is significant as both belong to the group of 23 dissenters (G-23) who had demanded a complete revamp of the party's functioning in a letter to Ms. Gandhi.

In the Rajya Sabha, Malli-

karjun Kharge is the leader of the group while Anand Sharma is his deputy. Jairam Ramesh (chief whip), Ambika Soni, P. Chidambaram, Digvijaya Singh and K.C. Venugopal are the other members.

"These groups will meet daily during the session and can meet during the inter-session period as well where Parliament issues are concerned," read a July 15 internal memo of Sonia Gandhi.

## Assembly poll: Mayawati tries to win over Brahmins

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati is again trying to win the support of the dominant Brahmin community ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election in 2022 despite suffering repeated failures since 2012.

On Sunday, Ms. Mayawati appealed to the community to take 'inspiration' from the Dalits and remain 'firm' in not falling for any lure or gimmicks deployed by other parties especially the ruling BJP. She said she was 'proud' that the Dalit community, to which she belongs, did not fall for any amount of lure they were tempted with by other parties especially the BJP in the last few elections.

She claimed that the Dalits voted one-way for her despite attempts to mislead them with money, visits to their homes by BJP leaders and khichdi (meal).

To attract the community to her party and build consensus among them that their interests were secure only under a BSP govern-

ment, Ms. Mayawati has deputed Satish Chandra Mishra, Raja Sabha MP and Brahmin face of the BSP, to start a campaign with special meetings for the community. The campaign will start from Ayodhya.

In the 2017 Assembly polls, the BSP was reduced to 19 seats. It was a huge fall for the party since it came to power with a full majority in the 403-member Assembly in 2007.

Ms. Mayawati admitted that the BSP did not win many seats in 2017 but stressed that her vote percentage did not fall that drastically. "Our vote percentage was even more than the Samajwadi Party's," she said.

While the BSP secured over 22% votes, the SP, which contested less number of seats due to an alliance with the Congress, got around 21.8% though it won more than double the seats won by the BSP.

Ms. Mayawati said the "upper caste" communities especially Brahmins were in distress in U.P. under the BJP rule.

## Open-minded on alliance in U.P.: Priyanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday said her party is "open-minded" about forging an alliance with other parties for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Asked whether the Congress will go it alone on all the 403 Assembly seats in the State or align with some political party, Ms. Vadra told reporters, "It is too early to say."

On whether she is ruling out an alliance, she said, "I do not rule it out. We are absolutely not closed-minded. We are keeping an open mind."

"Our aim is to defeat the BJP," Ms. Vadra said, adding that other political parties should also be "open-minded".

She said the organisation is also her area of focus and a lot of work has been done on it in a silent manner. "I have an open mind, but my priority is my party," she said.

# Congress allegations misleading: Ravi Shankar Prasad

CSC has done the BharatNet operation and maintenance work at a lesser cost than any other organisation: ex-Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A day after the Congress linked the ouster of Ravi Shankar Prasad with large-scale corruption in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the former Union Minister termed the allegations false and misleading.

Mr. Prasad said the allegations were made in the context of some preliminary observations in the audit report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

In its preliminary finding, the CAG said the Narendra Modi government's BharatNet programme failed to take

**C** It is to be noted that under the present government, the Ministry of Communications has grown from the dark days of 2G during the UPA to the 4G regime and it is on the way to 5G. It is difficult for the Congress to understand that under the NDA government, decisions are being taken on merit and fairness

RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD  
Former IT Minister



off due to financial irregularities, and despite a huge payment to the common service centres (CSCs), the maintenance of cable and other infrastructure was not found efficient in various circles.

"CSC has done the BharatNet operation and maintenance work at a much lesser cost than any other organisation. Due to the efforts made by CSC in improving the BharatNet network, the utilisa-

tion of the network in terms of number of FTTH connections and data consumption has increased immensely," Mr. Prasad said.

"It is to be noted that under the present government, the Ministry of Communications has grown from the dark days of 2G during the UPA to the 4G regime and it is on the way to 5G. It is difficult for the Congress to understand that under the NDA government, the role of middlemen and lobbyists has been eliminated and decisions are being taken on merit and fairness," Mr. Prasad said.

Government sources said

the CAG report was a preliminary one and that a suitable response to the queries raised was being prepared. "The work of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of BharatNet was awarded to CSC at very competitive cost of ₹800 per km per month for O&M of Optical Fiber and installation of WiFi Access points at ₹80,000 per WiFi access point. Therefore, giving the work of O&M of BharatNet to Common Services Centre (CSC) led to significant savings to the government," said a government source.

Sources said even according to the preliminary report

of the CAG, works have been awarded on nomination basis by BBNL to BSNL, Railtel and Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) for NOFN-Phase-I in May 2013; to CDOT for Network Management Solutions on 22.04.2013; and to TCIL for Primavera on 25.03.2013.

Later work for WiFi Access Points was awarded to CSC on 31.03.2017, 02.02.2018 and to RajCOMP Info Services Private Limited (RISL) on 29.09.2018 on nomination basis. "So not just CSC, but other government organisations have also been awarded BharatNet works," said the source.

# 16 held in Bihar hooch tragedy as toll rises to 12

Search on for other suspects in case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BIHAR

search operation to nab the others is under way. Station House Officer (SHO) Rajeev Kumar and other personnel attached with the Lauriya police station have been shifted. The officer in-charge K.P. Yadav and one watchman have been suspended," said a press release issued by the district administration.

A number of spurious liquor outlets in several villages of Lauriya and Ram Nagar police stations too were demolished by the police and excise officials after the hooch tragedy on Ju-

## J&K speeds up work for return of Pandits

State is setting up 6,000 transit flats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor's administration is speeding up work on 6,000 transit accommodations in Kashmir and registering Kashmiri Pandits in a bid to spur the migrant community's return to the Valley from different parts of the country.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, who chaired a meeting of the Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R) Department on Saturday, directed the officials "to take proactive steps to facilitate the return of Kashmiri Pandits community".

Mr. Sinha said many people yearned for their old lives and would like to return to their homeland.

The J&K administration is setting up 6,000 transit flats for migrant Pandit employees in Kashmir, which included 208 in south Kashmir's Kulgam and 96 in central Kashmir's Budgam.

Mr. Sinha said many people yearned for their old lives and would like to return to their homeland.

"It's the government's responsibility to make sure this dream of thousands of people turns into reality with the proactive approach of the administration," he added.



**CSIR - Central Drug Research Institute**  
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)  
Sector 10, Janakipuram Extension, Sitarap Road, Lucknow-226031 (India)

**SCIENTIST RECRUITMENT**  
Advertisement No-07/2021

URL for Online Application : <https://recruit.cdri.res.in>

OR

Access link 'SCIENTIST RECRUITMENT-07/2021' on <https://cdri.res.in>

Start Date for Registration for Online Application : 19 July, 2021, 13:00 Hrs IST  
Last Date for Registration & Submission of Online application : 27 August, 2021, 17:30 Hrs IST  
Last date of Receipt of physical copy of application at CDRI : 20 Sept., 2021, 17:30 Hrs IST

Applications are invited from motivated young Indian Nationals with requisite qualification and experience for the following posts as per the details given below. The emoluments and age limit for various posts as per norms is summarized as below:-

Designation	No. of Posts	Pay Level	Basic	*Total Emoluments	**Upper Age Limit not exceeding (as on 27.08.2021)
Scientist	01 [UR-1] & 01 ST Backlog Post	11	Rs. 67700/-	98465/-	32 years
Senior Scientist	07 UR/Lateral Entry	12	Rs.78800/-	113228/-	37 years
Principal Scientist	02 UR/Lateral Entry	13	Rs. 123100/-	172147/-	45 years

Note: For detailed advertisement and filling up online application form please visit our website <https://cdri.res.in/> and access link 'SCIENTIST RECRUITMENT-2021' or <https://recruit.cdri.res.in>.

Controller of Administration

**OFFICE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR, SPMU, ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT, JAIPUR**  
72-B, JHALANA INSTITUTIONAL AREA, JHALANA DOONGRI, JAIPUR  
EMAIL ID: PD.ATAL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN  
NO.F.2(22)PD/SPMU/GWD/JPR/2020/406  
CONTACT: 0141-2703799  
DATED:11.07.2021  
Notice Inviting Bid 3-10/2021-22

On behalf of his Excellency the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited through E-Procurement for the Selection of District Implementation Partners to Support in Implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal) In 8 clusters through 8 NIBs amounting Rs. 4373.8 Lac.  
Other particular of bids may be visited on procurement portal ([www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in), <http://spmu.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in>) Departmental website.  
UBN: GWD2122SLOB00108, GWD2122SLOB00109, GWD2122SLOB00110, GWD2122SLOB00111, GWD2122SLOB00112, GWD2122SLOB00113, GWD2122SLOB00114, GWD2122SLOB00115  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
SPMU, ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA  
DIPR/C/6790

For detailed advertisement and filling up online application form please visit our website <https://cdri.res.in/> and access link 'SCIENTIST RECRUITMENT-2021' or <https://recruit.cdri.res.in>.

Controller of Administration

2. Interested applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) and submit the bids and EMD (electronically) through e-procurement portal only.

3. The calendar of events for various activities are as follows:  
(i) Pre-bid meeting will be held on 30-07-2021 at 11:30 hours in the KRDCL, Board Room, Bengaluru at the above address. The applicants may submit their queries through electronic mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com  
(ii) The Last Date and time for submission of Bids is 19-08-2021 up to 17:30 hours.  
(iii) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bids is on 21-08-2021 at 11.00 hours

Note: Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News Papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal Website.

DIPR/Bengaluru/R.O.No.878/2021-22

**Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited**

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

"Samparka Soudha", No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block,

Bengaluru-560 010. Tele Fax: 080-22024000

E-mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com Website: [www.krdcl.in](http://www.krdcl.in)

Dated: 17-07-2021

## TENDER NOTIFICATION

(on e-procurement basis)

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Crore)	Earnest Money Deposit through e-portal & remaining in the form EMD Declaration to be provided by Tenderers as per the Annexure provided in tender document (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion (including monsoon)



<tbl\_r cells="5" ix="3" maxcspan="1

# SC mulls limit to role as policy watchdog

Division Bench remarks on judiciary's reach runs counter to earlier judgment that courts cannot be silent spectators

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The resolve voiced by a Division Bench of the Supreme Court in July to "examine" the extent to which the judiciary can question the government's COVID-19 policies drifts from the court's three-judge Bench judgment in May, which held that courts cannot be "silent spectators when constitutional rights of citizens are infringed by executive policies".

The May 31 judgment by a Supreme Court Bench of justices D.Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravinder Bhat was associated with the Centre's reversal of its dual vaccine pricing policy.

On July 14, a Bench of justices Vineet Saran and Dipesh Maheshwari said courts should not undermine the executive at a time when a "collective effort" was required to overcome the public health crisis.

"Can the court tell the Executive to get the formula



**Keeping track:** In May 2021, the Supreme Court had asked the Centre to come up with a formula for allocation of oxygen to States. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

(for vaccines) from companies abroad or decide the number of ventilators... These are times of crisis when everybody has to be cautious... Is this when the court should get into all this? Executive has the benefit of experts with their expert knowledge... We will hear submissions on how far con-

situtional courts should go into these matters... How much we should restrain ourselves," Justice Saran had observed orally.

"There are certain norms based on which every institution should function," Justice Maheshwari had noted.

The oral remarks from the Division Bench hardly gel

with the observations made under a sub-heading 'Separation of Powers' in the May judgment authored by Justice Chandrachud that a public health crisis like COVID-19 does not mean the Constitution should be "kept away and forgotten" by the government.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

The Justice Saran Bench was hearing an appeal by the Uttar Pradesh government against an Allahabad High Court order of May 17, which had described the medical system in smaller cities and villages of the State during the pandemic as "Ram Bharose" (at the mercy of the gods).

The High Court had issued a slew of directions for the government, which included ensuring that nursing homes in the State have oxygen facility for every bed and provide ventilators, among other facilities.

The top court had stayed

the High Court order just days before the Justice Chandrachud Bench pronounced judgment in *In Re: Distribution of Essential Supplies and Services During the Pandemic*.

## Constitutional mandate

"Our Constitution does not envisage courts to be silent spectators when constitutional rights of citizens are infringed by executive policies. Judicial review and soliciting constitutional justification for policies formulated by the executive is an essential function, which the courts are entrusted to perform," Justice Chandrachud had clarified.

The judgment highlighted that courts across the globe have responded to constitutional challenges to executive policies which violate rights and liberties of citizens.

Responding to the government's argument that it should have "room for free play in the joints" while dealing with the pandemic, Justice Chandrachud said the court had no intention to "second-guess the wisdom of the executive".

"However, it (judiciary) continues to exercise juris-

diction to determine if the chosen policy measure conforms to the standards of reasonableness, militates against manifest arbitrariness and protects the right to life of all persons. This Court is presently assuming a dialogic jurisdiction where various stakeholders are provided a forum to raise constitutional grievances with respect to the management of the pandemic," Justice Chandrachud had said.

The judgment highlighted that courts across the globe have responded to constitutional challenges to executive policies which violate rights and liberties of citizens.

Justice Chandrachud took the example of the United States' Supreme Court, which said "a public health emergency does not give Governors and other public officials *carte blanche* to disregard the Constitution for as long as the medical problem persists".

2.57 crore jabs available with States, says Centre

'41.99 crore doses provided so far'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Over 41.99 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses have so far been provided to States and Union territories, and more than 2.56 crore jabs are available with them and private hospitals, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

In a statement, the Ministry said 15,75,140 more doses are in the process of being supplied.

It said 41.99 crore (41,99,68,590) vaccine doses have been provided to States and Union Territories (UTs) so far through all sources.



The Central government will procure 75% of doses from vaccine makers.

private hospitals. The new phase of universalisation of COVID-19 vaccination programme commenced from June 21.

In the new phase of the drive, the Union government will procure and supply free of cost 75% of the vaccines being produced by vaccine manufacturers in the country to States and Union Territories.

The remaining 25% can be procured by private hospitals.

## Students unable to travel to Italy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Indian students who had rushed back home from Italy to be with their family members or take part in last rites of the loved ones at the peak of the second wave of COVID-19 are now stranded here as air travel remains banned to the European country.

Those who returned to India before April 28, when air travel to and from Italy was suspended, are now stuck in India even though their peers back in Italy have gone back to their normal lives in universities.

Zeeshan Ahmed, a cyber security student at Sapienza University of Rome, arrived in India when he got news of his sister being ill due to COVID-19. He is now unable to go back.

Aligarh resident Owais R. Khan, who is pursuing an M.Sc. in Computer Science at the same university in Rome, says he came back to India in February.

"We have been reaching out to the Embassy, sending emails to the Ministry to raise the issue with their counterparts in Italy but nothing has worked," Mr. Khan said.

While there is no official update on the expected timeline of the travel ban being eased, Indian Ambassador to Italy Neena Malhotra on July 9 had a virtual meeting with community representatives where she briefed them about the efforts on seeking relaxations.

## Fair and square



**Preventive steps:** Students maintain social distancing amid the COVID-19 pandemic as they queue up to enter an examination hall to sit for the West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination in Kolkata on Sunday. ■ AFP

## J&K colleges to reopen in phases

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The J&K administration on Sunday decided to allow on-site re-opening of higher educational institutions and skill development centres for the vaccinated population from July 31, in the wake of a significant dip in the number of cases in the past two months.

Higher educational institutes and skill development centres may be considered from phased re-opening for on-site learning after July 31,

subject to the vaccination status of the students and staff. The public and private educational institutions are permitted to seek personal attendance of limited vaccinated staff for administrative purposes," a government order said.

### Testing and tracking

All Deputy Commissioners have been directed to keep active track of the positivity rates and consider implementing stricter control measures in case the weekly

positivity rate goes beyond 4%.

In the wake of the upcoming Id festival, shops will be allowed to open at 6 a.m. instead of 7 a.m. "to avoid rush on July 19 and 20".

The Union Territory on Saturday recorded 179 new cases and one death, a significant dip compared to the figures of April-May.

"99% targeted population of 45 and above age group have been inoculated with the first dose of vaccine," an official said.

"The measures related to

## Civil services aspirants to be heard today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A young man from a farming family, the son of a frontline worker and the father of a six-month-old are among several aspirants who will urge the Supreme Court on Monday to intervene on their behalf with the government for a second chance after their final attempt at cracking the rigorous civil services exam was marred by the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown in 2020.

curbing the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty attached to it had immense negative ramifications on the mental health of the candidates.

It was in these circumstances, coupled with lack of



proper infrastructure, poor preparation, lack of study materials, that the applicants appeared for their final attempt at fulfilling their dreams of becoming a civil servant," Shambhu Sharani Kumar, one of the aspirants, told the court in his plea.

The candidates are aggrieved from appearing in the exam in 2021. However, they have asked the court to take a "lenient view" and grant them a second chance as a one-time measure.

A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Sanjeev Khanna is scheduled to hear their case on Monday.

In fact, two categories of UPSC aspirants have moved the top court separately.

The first are candidates who were unable to take their final attempt on October 4, 2020.

The second group are aspirants who managed to take the exam on October 4. These applicants, who are last attempts, have requested a one-time age relaxation to appear this year.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13303

(set by Dr. X)

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



SCAN TO PLAY

- 14 Movement of migrants ultimately let pandemic spread (12)
- 18 Spectacular cooking, eating hot treat happily (12)
- 21 New Time edition features essentially amazing Italian composer (9)
- 23 Confusion after snorting drug, getting more miserable (5)
- 24 Saw English force arresting brute (7)
- 25 Tigers easily consuming large cartilaginous tissue in meat (7)
- 26 Design in brown patterned cloth (6)
- 27 Scrap given by junk dealers kept in empty flat (8)

### ■ DOWN

- 1 Diamonds in set, cut for Roman statesman (6)
- 2 Unusual boy, very likely to succeed (4-2)
- 3 Check fraud by firm (9)
- 4 How an arthritic patient might climb stairs gradually (3,4,2,1,4)
- 6 Medium brazenly welcomes ghost (5)
- 7 Back hurt during stunt? Get a splint (8)
- 8 Attempt to hide an undergarment in farce (8)
- 9 Artiste devouring awfully big snack is Kishore Kumar, perhaps (8,6)
- 15 Honouring ace coming up to receive new fancy jewellery (9)
- 16 Old criminal nursing desire to be law-abiding (8)
- 17 More tiny bananas seen in row (8)
- 19 Model in launch, on ecstasy and speed (6)
- 20 Taser used to tackle perpetrator finally in capture (6)
- 22 Thread made from fine gold by associate in Nigerian city (5)

### ■ ACROSS

1 Caught with opium and cocaine at party quickly (4,4)

5 Melodious performance by two singers enthrals many at college (6)

10 Beat scoundrel, one leaving nice shattered (7)

11 Orchid petals given by the French boy meeting girl (7)

12 Bird's resting place in base over head of statue (5)

13 Doglike marsupial in chalet, wandering around yard (9)

## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13302

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

# Taliban leader seeks 'political settlement'

Afghanistan will not let anyone pose any threat to any other country using its soil: Akhundzada

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DOHA

The Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada on Sunday said he "strenuously favours" a political settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan, even as the hardline Islamist movement pursues a sweeping offensive across the nation.

The announcement came as representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban insurgents sat down for a new round of talks in Doha over the weekend, stirring hopes that the long-stalled peace talks were being resuscitated.

"In spite of the military gains and advances, the Islamic Emirate strenuously favours a political settlement in the country," Akhundzada said in a message released ahead of next week's Id-ul-Adha holiday.

"Every opportunity for the establishment of an Islamic system, peace and security that presents itself will be made use of by the Islamic Emirate," he added.

"We fully assure neigh-



Eyes on target: Afghan militia keeping a watch at an outpost against Taliban insurgents at Charkint in Balkh Province. ■ AFP

bouring, regional and world countries that Afghanistan will not permit anyone to pose a security threat to any other country using our soil."

## Doha talks

For months, the two sides have been meeting on and off in the Qatari capital, but have achieved little if any notable success, with the discussions appearing to have lost momentum as the militants made enormous gains on the battlefield.

The two sides were due to talk again on Sunday.

The Taliban leader said his group remained committed to forging a solution to end the war, but slammed "the opposition parties" for "wasting time".

"Our message remains that instead of relying on foreigners, let us resolve our issues among ourselves and rescue our homeland from the prevailing crisis," he added.

The insurgents capitalised on the withdrawal of U.S.

# Afghanistan recalls envoy to Pakistan over 'threats'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

Afghanistan on Sunday said it was recalling its Ambassador to Islamabad and all senior diplomats over "security threats" after the top envoy's daughter was briefly kidnapped in the Pakistani capital this week.

and other foreign troops from Afghanistan to launch a series of offensives across the country.

The group is now believed to control roughly half of the nation's 400 districts, several border crossings, and has laid siege to a string of vital provincial capitals.

A spokesman for the Afghan security forces said that pro-government fighters had conducted 244 operations, killing 967 "enemy" fighters – including key commanders.

"Following the abduction of the daughter of Afghan Ambassador in Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan have recalled the Afghan envoy and senior diplomats back to Kabul until all the security threats are removed," the Foreign Ministry said.

"We have recaptured 24 districts so far, our goal is to retake all the territories... We are ready to defend our country," Ajmal Omar Shinwari told reporters.

Questions remain over how firm a hand the Taliban's leaders have with commanders on the ground, and whether they will be able to convince them to abide by a potential agreement if signed. The leader's statement notably made no mention of a formal ceasefire call for the Id holidays.

# Floods hit southern Germany as European toll rises to 184

Rescue workers continue clean-up in Belgium

REUTERS  
BERCHTESGADEN

Flash floods hit southern Germany on Sunday, killing at least one person, turning roads into rivers and adding to the flooding devastation that has claimed the lives of more than 180 people across Europe in recent days.

Some vehicles were swept away and swathes of land were buried under mud as the Berchtesgadener Land district of Bavaria became the latest region to be hit by record rainfall and floods.

Hundreds of rescue workers were searching for survivors in the district, which borders Austria.

"We were not prepared for this," said Berchtesgadener Land district administrator Bernhard Kern, adding that the situation had deteriorated "drastically" late on Saturday, leaving little time to for emergency services to act.

Sunday's death brought Germany's death toll to 157



Debris all around: A man walks past a pile-up of vehicles after flooding in Bad Neuenahr, Germany. ■ GETTY IMAGES

was under way.

Emergency services officials in the Netherlands said the situation had somewhat stabilised in the southern part of Limburg province, where tens of thousands were evacuated in recent days, although the northern part was still on high alert.

Parts of Switzerland remained on flood alert, though the threat posed by some of the most at-risk bodies of water like Lake Lucerne and Bern's Aare river has eased.

in its worst natural disaster in almost six decades, and the European toll to 184.

The European floods, which began on Wednesday, have mainly hit the German states of Rhineland Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia as well as parts of Belgium. Entire communities have been cut off, without power or communications.

In Belgium, which will hold a national day of mourning on Tuesday, water levels were falling on Sunday and the clean-up operation

## ELSEWHERE



### Won't perform till father controls career: Britney

LOS ANGELES

Britney Spears, in a furious Instagram post, said she has "quit" doing live performances and slammed her father's control over her affairs. For weeks the pop superstar has been pleading with a judge in Los Angeles to free her from the years-long conservatorship largely governed by her father, Jamie. "I'm not gonna be performing on any stages anytime soon with my dad handling what I wear, say, do, or think," she wrote. AFP

### Zuma graft trial to resume despite protests

JOHANNESBURG  
A long-running corruption trial of South Africa's jailed ex-president Jacob Zuma will resume on Monday, despite violence that swept the nation after his imprisonment in an unrelated case. Mr. Zuma faces 16 charges of fraud, graft and racketeering related to a 1999 purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military gear from five European arms firms when he was Deputy President. AFP

### Fuel tanker blast kills 13 in Kenya

NAIROBI  
A fuel tanker exploded in Kenya while people were siphoning fuel from it, killing 13 people, police said on Sunday. Residents started siphoning fuel from the tanker after it collided late on Saturday with a trailer in Siaya county, Gem subcounty Police commander Charles Chacha said. In 2009, at least 120 people were killed after a huge crowd descended on an overturned gasoline tanker, which then blew up. AP

# China denies politics behind UNESCO move on Barrier Reef

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

A top Chinese official said on Sunday that political tensions between Beijing and Australia were not behind a UNESCO recommendation to place the Great Barrier Reef on its endangered list.

Deputy Education Minister Tian Xuejun is chairing the meeting of the UN cultural agency's heritage committee, which comes amid worsening relations between China and Australia.

The Great Barrier Reef has been put on a list of World Heritage sites that could be put on the in-danger list after losing half of its corals since 1995.

Australia has assailed the move, blaming global warming for the loss, while UNESCO experts argued that pollution run-off has contributed to the loss.

When asked about "Australian government allegations" that Beijing pressed to have the Barrier Reef listed

as endangered, Mr. Tian said the decision was based "on reports and data provided by Australia itself." Australia should fulfil its obligations to protect world heritage sites instead of making baseless accusations against other members" of UNESCO, he added. Both China and Australia are among the 21 nations on heritage committee, which is evaluating nearly 50 sites that could be added to its more than 1,100 World Heritage list.

# Johnson in quarantine ahead of 'freedom day'

U.K. set to ease pandemic curbs today

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Sunday urged the public to remain prudent against COVID-19 on the eve of lifting pandemic curbs in England, as he confirmed he is self-isolating until July 26.

"Please, please, please be cautious, and go forward tomorrow into the next step with all the right prudence and respect for other people, and the risks that the disease continues to present," he said in a video message.

Mr. Johnson and Finance Minister Rishi Sunak were required to isolate after Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for COVID-19.

The development came just as Mr. Johnson's government prepares to ditch most restrictions in England on

Iran insisted on Sunday that a prisoner swap deal has been agreed with the U.S., the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said, a day after Washington denied such an agreement had been reached.

"Outrageous" = the U.S. denying simple fact that there is an agreed deal on the matter of the detainees. Even on how to announce it," Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a tweet. "Humanitarian swap was agreed with U.S. & U.K. in Vienna – separate from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – on release of 10 prisoners on all sides. Iran is ready to proceed TODAY."

The U.S. on Saturday accused Tehran of an "outrageous" bid to deflect blame for impasse in nuclear talks and denied claims of a prisoner swap deal.

# Iran insists on prisoner swap deal with U.S.

REUTERS  
DUBAI

Iran insisted on Sunday that a prisoner swap deal has been agreed with the U.S., the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said, a day after Washington denied such an agreement had been reached.

Monday, which has been dubbed "freedom day" by many U.K. media, despite daily infection rates now topping 50,000 – behind only Indonesia and Brazil.

Keir Starmer, leader of Labour party, said the government was in "chaos" after Health Secretary Sajid Javid said on Saturday he had tested positive for COVID-19.

The government insists that with two-thirds of the adult population now vaccinated, the risk can be managed.

# Nepal's new PM wins confidence vote

Deuba says combatting COVID-19 will be the government's first priority

REUTERS  
KATHMANDU

Nepal's new Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba won a vote of confidence in Parliament on Sunday, days after the Supreme Court reinstated the legislature that was dissolved in May.

The 75-year-old, who has held the office four times before, won 165 votes – exceeding the 136 required – with 83 votes against him, Speaker Agni Sapkota said.

He faces the immediate task of procuring vaccines and controlling the spread of COVID-19, which the government says has infected 6,67,109 people and killed 9,550. Public health experts say an under-reporting of cases in the country means the figures could be higher.

Fewer than 4% of the country's 30 million people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. More than 1.3 million people, who have



Sher Bahadur Deuba

had a first dose of a vaccine, are awaiting a second as the government scrambles to procure shots.

"Combating COVID-19 will be the first priority of the new government," Mr. Deuba



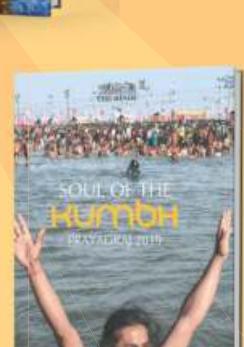
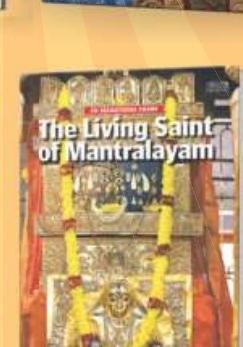
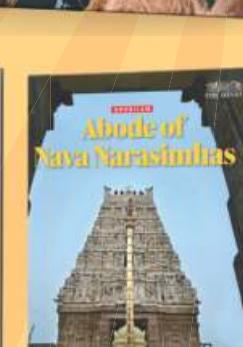
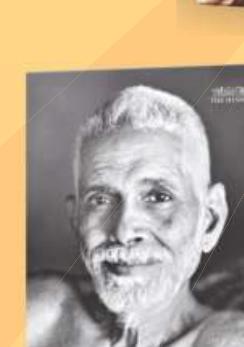
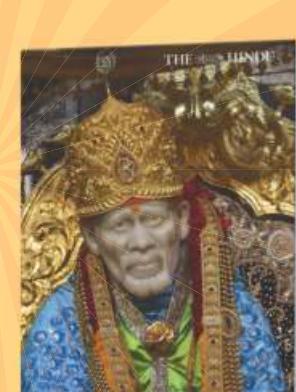
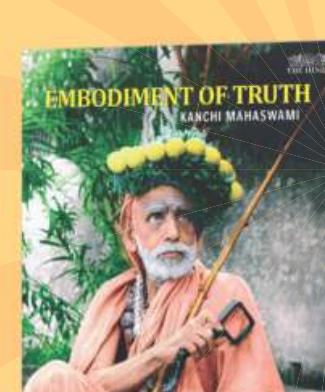
THE HINDU GROUP

# A Journey Towards Harmony

## SPECIAL DISCOUNT

# 25% OFF

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER



\*Offer on Select books | Shipping charges extra | Terms and conditions apply

# Julia Ducournau's *Titane* wins big at Cannes

She becomes the second woman director to receive the Palme d'or



Top prize: Julia Ducournau on stage with her trophy after winning the Palme d'Or for her film *Titane* in Cannes. ■ AFP

The awards of the 74th Cannes Film Festival were decided by a jury chaired by Spike Lee and handed out at the event's closing ceremony in the Grand Theatre Lumière on Saturday.

Women-led jury  
For the first time in history, women outnumbered men five to four in the Cannes Film Festival's main international competition jury.

The women members of the jury were Mati Diop, My-

lene Farmer, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jessica Hausner and Mélanie Laurent. Kleber Mendonça Filho, Tahar Rahim and Song Kang-ho served alongside the quintet.

Ms. Ducournau burst on the scene with *Raw*, which bowed in the International Critics' Week in 2016. She is

only the second woman director to ever win the Cannes top prize.

New Zealand's Jane Campion was the first woman to win the Palme d'Or for *The Piano* in 1993.

The Grand Prix, regarded as the festival's runners-up prize, was shared by two

films – Iranian Asghar Farhadi's *A Hero* and Finnish director Juho Kuosmanen's *Compartment No. 6*.

Leos Carax won the Best Director Award for the pop-opera musical *Annette*, the Marion Cotillard-Adam Driver starrer with which the festival kicked off on July 6.

The Camera d'or for the best first film screened in Cannes this year went to the coming-of-age drama *Murina*.

The jury gave the Best Actor prize to Caleb Landry Jones for his lead performance in *Nitram*, a disturbing peep into the mind of a mass killer.

The Best Actress prize was bagged by Norwegian late-bloomer Renate Reinsve

for her performance in *The Worst Person in the World*.

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 enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

## ASK US



**Q. I am planning to start SIP in the NPS Tier 2 account instead of investing in mutual funds. On redemption, how will the capital gains be taxed?**

KUMARVEL K.S.

**Aarati Krishnan answers:** NPS Tier 2 account offers an opportunity to choose from among equity, corporate bond and government bond options and is a very low-cost vehicle like the Tier 1 account.

The corporate and government bond options have also tended to beat comparable options from mutual funds. The corporate bond option invests mainly in high-quality bonds rated AA and above. However, the equity option has not managed to consistently beat benchmarks like the Nifty50. Do look at index funds as an alternative before opting for equity under the Tier 2 account. The NPA Tier 2 account is not specifically mentioned in the Income Tax Act. But given that the account offers no tax benefits on your contributions, some tax experts believe that your redemption amount will not be subject to any special restrictions. NPS being a market-linked vehicle, its maturity proceeds should be subject to capital gains taxation.

As NPS units are not chargeable to securities transaction tax, long-term capital gains will apply if they are held for 3 years plus and short-term capital gains, if held for a shorter period. The long-term capital gains tax rate would be at 20% with indexation benefits. But this is just an interpretation of the tax rules and could be subject to debate.

**Q. I am 25 and work in a PSU bank. Recently, I received salary arrears payment in one lump sum on which a greater portion was deducted under the head 'Income Tax'. I am of the view that the deducted tax amount will be refunded by ITR filing. I want to know how far it is correct and how and on what basis it will be refunded. Also, in the present monthly-salary sheet, after an increase in salary, a portion of salary credited is also being deducted as income tax. Will this deduction in monthly salary be nullified by any investments in tax-saving schemes? If so, how much do I have to invest in tax-saving schemes? Also, will the deducted tax amount be refunded; and by when?**

RAJESH ANDE

**N. Sree Kanth answers:** Your employer, the PSU bank, is obligated to deduct tax (known as TDS) on its employee's total income if the total income exceeds the taxable limits (above ₹5 lakh where rebate u/s 87A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 cannot be claimed). Depending on your salary structure, your employer will compute your tax obligation based on the slab rates after considering all the components such as deductions, exemptions, other income, rental income, among others, and deduct the same over the year at the time of disbursement of salaries each month.

In case of arrears of more than 12 months' salary, wherein the salaries are assessed at a rate higher than that at which it would otherwise have been assessed in the respective previous years, relief under Section 89 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can be claimed, for which you are to file form 10E.

If the arrears are less than 12 months' salary, the same will be included in your total income and the corresponding additional tax will be deducted from that. Usually, you have to declare your investments/spending that qualify for tax deduction to your employer so that the TDS is deducted accordingly and no excess TDS is deducted. At the end of the year, your employer will provide you with Form 16 which contains the particulars of your salary, corresponding tax liability and the TDS deducted over the year. Post that, as an income tax assessee are required to file your respective ITR by incorporating these details along with any other income which will not be covered in your Form 16 such as capital gains.

In case you have missed out any, you may include the same at the time of filing your ITR and avail of the corresponding refund if it applies. You will be entitled for refund only if your employer has deducted TDS more than your tax liability and not otherwise. This may be on account of non-consideration of your deductions/exemptions. A few examples of deductions that you may avail of are: payment of life insurance premium for self, spouse and children; investing in ELSS, ULIPs, PPP and NSC among others, payment of tuition fee for children etc.

You may refer Chapter VI-A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, to further know the various exemptions and deductions that may be suitable to you and the corresponding conditions.

**Q. My husband is a senior citizen and a regular income tax payer. For the assessment year 2021-2022, he plans to opt for 'yes' with IT Sec 115BAC. In case he opts for 'yes', can he get the benefit of deduction of ₹50,000 u/s 80 TTB, an additional boon for senior citizens?**

LAKSHMI VISHWANATH

**A. Under Section 115BAC of the Income Tax Act, 1961, deductions under Chapter VI-A cannot be claimed except Section 80CCD(2) and 80JJAA. Deduction under Section 80TTB falls under Chapter VI-A, thereby opting to pay tax under the new tax regime will restrict the benefit of deduction in respect of interest on deposits in case of senior citizens.**

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

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

# Beware of new low-risk, HIGH-RETURN PROMISE

Products such as perpetual bonds may carry an aura of safety but in reality there is little to cheer

VIDYA BALA

Sellers of equity products never fail to tell you that their products are subject to market risks. It is a different matter that you understand those risks only with experience. But when it comes to debt, risk is not the key word. After all, your debt investment is supposed to hedge your other risks!

In the past couple of years, sellers of debt products have become better at a narrative of high returns with no or least risk. Yes, we are talking of products such as perpetual bonds, market-linked debentures/covered bonds, home loan-backed bonds and even some of your debt funds.

At a time when your bank FD rates are at a low, a promise of disproportionate returns for low risks can be an easy lure for you. But at such times, it is best to get back to basics of investing: when you have a product that delivers far higher returns than your FDs, where from and how does that return come? Let us take a few examples to highlight the risks in such products and why the doctrine of 'buyer beware' is more important now than ever before if you are a retail investor.

**Perpetual attraction**  
In 2019 and early 2020, perpetual or Additional Tier I bonds (ATI bonds) issued by banks were sold to retail investors by the banks issuing them. What was the selling proposition? That ATI bonds are high-return substitutes to bank FDs or non-convertible debentures. But this promise was far from the truth. First, these products are allowed to skip interest payouts



And, as you can guess, a lower-rated NBFC's pool of assets is unlikely to be made up of quality borrowers! But how about the property backing? Yes, that can be liquidated if your due is not paid. But wait, don't banks do this for a living and struggle to sell and monetise these assets? Is it not time consuming? Does that really provide you with greater sense of safety? And remember, there is no debenture redemption reserve. There is no ₹5 lakh deposit insurance here as in the case of a bank. Besides, the RBI may come to the rescue of a sinking bank but hasn't done that for a sinking NBFC! In other words, there is much to uncover before you can even look at a covered bond.

Then there are the ultra-rich, fancied market-linked debentures or MLDs (covered bonds which simply means, your returns promised is contingent upon a given benchmark index remaining at a certain level. In other words, you may not even be paid interest if the index goes below a certain level.

Much of what we mentioned about covered bonds applies here too. But the lure is this – MLDs enjoy equity taxation, simply because they are (seemingly) linked to the market!

I could go on adding to this list as these products are now being innovated at fast pace when all other fixed income options return poorly now. In your fear of missing out (FOMO), do not break the cardinal rule: if an investment product comes with the promise of higher returns, it also comes with the baggage of higher risks.

In debt, this risk can not only mean just zero returns but also zero capital!

comes from an NBFC that is not top-notch. Why do they need this money at such a high rate? Likely because they are unable to source funding through the regular channels or they come at a high cost. Why so? Because, these NBFCs do not have a high credit standing – with an A-rating or even BBB rating.

(The writer is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

if their Tier I capital falls below a certain level or they suffer losses or have insufficient reserves. They have no obligation to pay you later nor can they be sued for it. If that isn't a significant variation from your humble FD, here's more.

The final nail is that the RBI can direct a bank to fully write off this bond (remember Yes Bank's perpetual bonds)? liability if it thinks the bank is at a point of non-viability (PONV) or requires capital infusion by another public sector bank to prevent going defunct. Yes, your principal can be written off and you will have no recourse. Now, this is worse than holding equity, where you can at least get a market price for your assets.

**Safety illusion**  
A more recent popular product among retail investors are covered bonds/market-linked debentures/structured products.

These alternative investment products, earlier made available only for risk-taking HNIIs, are now being made available to retail investors, seemingly to provide them with 'access to high returning products.' Let's take the case of the now-popular covered bonds. These bonds, which are nothing but a pool of loans, are sold with the safety of an asset backing, typically property or gold – two assets that immediately provide you with an illusion of safety!

But if these bonds are safe, why are they paying you 10-11% returns as opposed to 6% in banks? So, here's what you will not know unless you dig in. The loan pool that is packaged to give you this bond typically

## THINK INVESTOR: OBJECTIVE-DRIVEN CHOICE

# Active or passive? Why investment grammar is important

Choosing the right fund for investment can be an uphill task as several factors are at play

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

Your decision to choose investment products depends on your investment objectives. Are you, for instance, investing to achieve a life goal or are you investing your surplus cash? This is important because you can give up significant liquidity if you are investing surplus cash. Whereas, you need liquidity if you are saving to achieve a life goal.

This week, we focus on your goal-based investments and delve into a related question: what factors should you consider before investing in active funds for your goal-based portfolios?

**Alpha trade-off**  
All of us like more money than less. So, our default choice ought to be active funds. These are mutual funds that strive to beat the benchmark index. The excess return that these funds provide over their appropriate

benchmark is referred to as the alpha. Positive alpha is good for us; for excess return translates into more cash flows to achieve our goals.

There is another positive aspect to alpha. Suppose, the benchmark index returns minus 10% in a year and your fund generates minus 7.5%. You save 2.5 percentage points of loss on your investment.

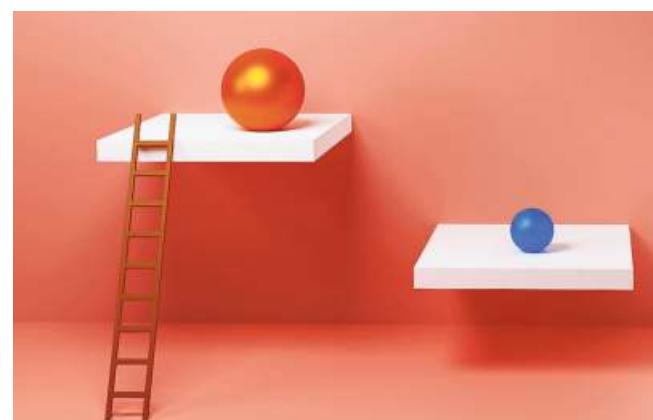
But there is a trade-off. A fund manager has to take active bets to generate alpha. In an attempt to generate positive alpha, the fund could generate negative alpha returns, lower than the benchmark index.

That would lead to lower returns, translating into a shortfall in the amount you want to accumulate to achieve your goal. Can you simply buy a fund that has generated positive alpha, say, the past five years? That would be a meaningful decision only if a fund that generated positive alpha in the last five years is likely to continue

**An active fund**  
exposes you to both active risk and market risk. A passive product such as an exchange-traded fund exposes you to only market risk

generating alpha in the future. The point is that alpha generation is dependent on two factors viz. skill and luck. The problem is that you cannot differentiate luck from skill.

**Choice regret**  
A good portfolio manager can generate negative alpha because of bad luck whereas a not-so-skilful manager can generate positive alpha because of good luck. So, looking at only the alpha returns for the past five or ten years may not suffice. You have to also analyse the fluctuation in the fund's alpha over the years. Typically, greater the fluctuation, lower the confidence that the fund



**Correct bet:** Statistical analysis can only lower your chances of picking a wrong fund, as luck is always a factor. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

will be able to sustain its alpha in the future.

Now, statistical analysis can only reduce the error of picking a wrong fund because luck is a factor in alpha generation. Besides, will you be able to continually engage in rigorous analysis to take decisions?

Also, how many funds will you analyse? For instance,

you shift to underperforms the following year? The more the choices, the more the regret because the ones you do not choose can potentially do better than the ones you did!

Investment decision making can, indeed, be overwhelming. An active fund exposes you to both active risk (negative alpha) and market risk. A passive product such as an exchange-traded fund or an index fund exposes you to only market risk.

So, you have to clearly define your objectives. Which is more important: generating alpha or achieving a life goal? Remember, there are active funds that will generate positive alpha. Do you have the confidence of picking such a fund, and managing your choice regret? If yes, you should invest in active funds. If not, you should settle for a passive product.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

## Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure	Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
<b>SMALL FINANCE BANKS</b>									
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.00	6.00	Bandhan Bank	5.50	5.50	5.25	5.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.25	6.25	HDIFC Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.30
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.50	6.75	6.75	ICICI Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.35
Jana Small Finance Bank	6.75	6.25	6.50	6.50	DBS Bank	5.50	4.25	5.50	5.50
Equitas Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.35	6.35	6.25	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.30	5.10	5.30	5.30
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.00	6.25	6.00	Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.30	4.50	5.10	5.30
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.50	5.75	5.25					
AU Small Finance Bank	6.25	5.00	6.25	6.00	<b>PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>				
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.25	6.00	6.00	6.00	Union Bank of India	5.60	5.00	5.40	5.50
DCB Bank	6.50	5.80	6.50	6.50	Canara Bank	5.50	5.20	5.50	5.50
RBL Bank	6.50	6.10	6.30	6.50	State Bank of India	5.40	5.00	5.30	5.40
State Bank of Mauritius	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.00	Bank of Baroda	5.25	5.00	5.25	5.25
IndusInd Bank	6.50	6.00	6.50	6.00	IDBI Bank	5.25	4.90	5.25	5.25
Nainital Bank	6.35	5.25	5.35	5.35	Punjab National Bank	5.25	5.10	5.25	5.25
IDFC First Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	6.00	Indian Overseas Bank	5.20	5.15	5.15	5.15
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.25	5.50	5.75	Bank of Maharashtra	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90
CSB Bank	5.75	5.00	5.25	5.25	Kotak Mahindra Bank ^	6.65-7.30	6.65-7.30	6.65-7.30	6.65-7.30
Axis Bank	5.75	5.10	5.40	5.75	ICICI Bank ^	6.75-7.30	6.75-7.45	7.10-7.45	7.10-7.45
South Indian Bank	5.65	5.40	5.50	5.65	Axis Bank	6.90-11.50	6.90-11.50	6.90-8.55	6.90-8.55
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.60	5.50							

# Neeraj spearheads India's challenge

It promises to be a memorable outing considering the good form some athletes are in

## TOKYO OLYMPICS

STAN RAYAN

Two years ago, Kamalpreet Kaur was in the 60m range but this season the discus thrower has hit a heady high. The 25-year-old, who could manage just 55.59m at the 2019 Doha Asians, broke the National record and bettered her personal best by more than five metres! That 66.59m throw has placed her sixth in this year's world list.

Every time the Olympics come around, many Indian athletes raise their performance magically and become world class. This time too, despite COVID-19 messing up their foreign trips and much of training, the athletes have pleasantly surprised everybody by making the cut for Tokyo in a number of events.

### Record-breaking deeds

When the entry standards for Tokyo were announced, many felt that very few would qualify as athletes needed to break National records in almost all events. Surprisingly, they did just that.

Nine of the 16 qualifiers in individual events have broken National records this year and while 12 achieved



**Well-equipped:** Neeraj Chopra has the talent and temperament to unleash a throw worthy of a medal. ■ FILE PHOTO

the qualification standards, four – 400m hurdler M.P. Jabin, 50km walker Gurpreet Singh, sprinter Dutee Chand and discus thrower Annu Rani – made it through the World rankings route.

That has raised expectations sky high in a country that is yet to win its first Olympic medal in athletics. Sticking one's head out and predicting medals or finalists is risky business, es-

## ATHLETICS

specially during this pandemic period when out-of-competition dope-testing has been weak, but considering the awesome form the athletes are in, promises to be a very memorable Olympics for the country.

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra could end indepen-

dent India's long wait and could even return with a silver if he is at his best. A shoulder sprain spoiled his hopes of making it to the last Olympics but a few days after the entry doors closed, Neeraj won the under-20 Worlds gold with a junior world record throw that would have fetched him a bronze in Rio.

He missed the 2019 Doha Worlds after an elbow surgery but early this year, Neeraj raised his National record to 88.07m which placed him fourth in the world list.

German Johannes Vetter,

who produced a series of 90-plus throws (season best 96.29m) but whose two recent meets ended monthly (85.25m and 86.48m), is the favourite for the gold while Marcin Kruckowski (89.55m), 2012 Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott (89.55m) and Gatis Cakss (89.12) will give the Indian a fight.

### Other contenders

Long jumper M. Sreeshan-kar, shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, steeplechaser Avinash Sable among men and javelin thrower Annu Rani and Kamalpreet should also make the final if they repeat their season's best.

Of the two 4x400m relays, the men have a better chance of entering the final than the mixed.

But then, though quarter-miler Amoj Jacob improved stunningly with every meet, national record holder Muhammed Anas has run the individual 400m in just one meet while another star Noah Nirmal Tom has not run any. That makes predictions difficult. And the mixed team is without any of the leading girls.

# A story of near misses!

Milkha and Usha have come the closest to getting a medal

## REWIND

STAN RAYAN

There's a nice little asterisk every time Norman Pritchard's name is mentioned in Olympic record books that should make every Indian miss a heartbeat.

It's more than 120 years since Pritchard won two silver medals, in 200m and 200m hurdles, at the second Olympics in Paris in 1900 but nobody is sure whether the Calcutta-born Pritchard represented India or Great Britain.

Well, the scene appears very gloomy when one removes the Pritchard angle.

### Only 10, so far

Just 10 Indians – five from track and five in field events – have qualified for the finals (not counting straight finals) at the Olympics since independence.

They are Milkha Singh (1960, 400m, 4th), G.S. Randhawa (1964, 110m hurdles, 5th), Sriram Singh (1976, 800m, 7th), P.T. Usha (1984, 400m hurdles, 4th), Lalita Babar (2016, 3000 steeplechase, 10th) on track and Henry Rebello (1948, triple jump, 5th in qual., NM), Baldev Singh (1948, long



**Icons:** P.T. Usha and Milkha Singh have attained legendary status thanks to their creditable efforts at the Olympics. ■ FILE PHOTO

jump, 11th in qual., DNS), Anju Bobby George (2004, long jump, 5th), Krishna Poonia (2012, discus throw, 6th) and Vikas Gowda (2012, discus throw, 8th).

### Injury woes

While the near-miss stories of Milkha and Usha are well known, Rebello pulled a muscle after he was forced to wait nearly 30 minutes for his first triple jump because of victory ceremonies in 1948 where long jumper Bal-

dev also missed the final with an injury.

And there was Lavy Pinto who entered the semifinals in both the 100 and 200m at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and would have been in the final in the shorter sprint had he been running in 1964 Games or after.

Unlike today's eight lanes, the 100m was run in six lanes in 1952 and Pinto was fourth in one of the two semifinals in a hand-timed 10.7s.

# A tough prospect for Shushila

## JUDO

ASHWIN ACHAL

Shushila Likmabam, who made the cut via the Additional places (Asia) continental quota in the women's extra-lightweight (48 kg) category, is India's lone judoka entry for the Tokyo Olympics.

This will be Shushila's first

Olympic appearance.

Shushila, silver medallist at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, took up the sport under the guidance of her uncle and judoka Dinit Likmabam.

The Manipuri athlete's bid to qualify for the Olympics was put in jeopardy when the Indian contingent was forced to withdraw from the Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifi-

cations in Kyrgyzstan after two judokas tested positive for COVID-19.

Shushila's return to competition was unimpressive, as she lost in the first round of the World Championship to reigning Pan American champion Mary Dee Vargas.

With an Olympic ranking of 46, Shushila stands little chance of winning a medal at Tokyo.

## Not much to show

### REWIND

ASHWIN ACHAL

Shushila Likmabam will be the 13th judoka from India to feature in the Olympics and in seven Olympic Games appearances (1992-2016), Indian judokas have managed to win only four bouts.

In 2004, Akram Shah defeated USA's Williams Murray in the men's 60 kg Repechage 1 round. Since then, – Tombi Devi, Divya Tewari in 2008, Garima Chaudhary in 2012, and Avtar Singh in 2016 – failed to record a win.

## Hearty welcome



**Touchdown:** The Indian archery team is greeted by enthusiastic volunteers on arrival on Sunday. ■ TWITTER/SAIMEDIA

## Pedal power



Tadej Pogacar claimed a second straight Tour de France title on Sunday. ■ REUTERS

## England draws level

REUTERS  
LEEDS

England beat Pakistan by 45 runs in the second T20 international at Headingley on Sunday as the hosts levelled a three-match series at 1-1. Stand-in captain Jos Buttler top-scored with 59 in England's 200.

**The scores:** England 200 in 19.5 overs (Buttler 59, Moeen 36, Livingstone 38, Hasnain 3/51) bt Pakistan 155/9 in 20 overs (Rizwan 37, Shadab 36 n.o., Saqib 3/37).

# Shaw, Dhawan and Kishan star for India

The visitors begin the ODI series with a comprehensive victory over Sri Lanka

## INDIA IN LANKA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO

Ishan Kishan celebrated his 23rd birthday with a dazzling half-century (59) on debut while Shikhar Dhawan (86 not out), in his first match as captain, anchored India to a walk-in-the-park seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the opening ODI here on Sunday.

The inexperienced Sri Lankan batters managed to get 262 for nine. But India achieved the target in just 36.4 overs.

Prithvi Shaw, with his new found swagger in 50-over

cricket, butchered the Lankan pacers during his brief stay by hammering nine boundaries in a 24-ball 43.

That set the pace for Kishan to come in and hit a six off the very first delivery he faced. He then decided to use his bat like a sledgehammer, scoring the second fastest ODI fifty on debut – off 33 balls – to kill the contest inside the first 20 overs.

Dhawan then took over to finish off the match with an unbeaten 86 off 95 balls.

Earlier, Indian bowlers combined to restrict Sri Lanka to 262/9 in 50 overs despite a late cameo of 43 by Chamika Karunaratne.

Chahar b Hardik 8 (9b), Dushmantha Chameera run out 13 (7b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-2, w-12, nb-1); Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 262.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-49 (Avishka, 9.1 overs), 2-85 (Rajapaksa, 16.1), 3-89 (Minod, 16.4), 4-117 (de Silva, 24.4), 5-166 (Asalanka, 37.2), 6-186 (Hasanraja, 39.3), 7-205 (Shanaka, 43.5), 8-222 (Udana, 46.5), 9-262 (Chameera, 49.6).

**INDIA BOWLING** Bhuvneshwar 9-0-63-0, Deepak Chahar 7-1-37-2, Hardik

5-0-33-1, Chahal 10-0-52-2, Kuldeep 9-1-48-2, Krunal 10-1-26-1.

### INDIA

Prithvi Shaw c Avishka b de Silva 43 (24b, 9x4), Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 86 (95b, 6x4, 1x6), Ishan Kishan c Minod b Sandakan 59 (42b, 8x4, 2x6), Manish Pandey c Shanaka b de Silva 26 (40b, 1x4, 7x6), Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 31 (20b, 5x4); Extras (lb-5, w-12, nb-1): 18; Total (for three wkts. in 36.4 overs): 263.

**FALL OF WICKETS**

1-58 (Shaw, 5.3), 2-143 (Ishan, 17.5), 3-215 (Pandey, 30.4).

**SRI LANKA BOWLING** Chameera 7-0-42-0, Udana 2-0-27-0, de Silva 5-0-49-2, Sandakan 8-4-0-53-1, Asalanka 3-0-26-0, Hasaranga 9-1-45-0, Karunaratne 2-0-16-0.

**Toss:** Sri Lanka. **MoM:** Shaw.

**India won by seven wickets with 13.2 overs to spare and took a 1-0 lead in three-match series.**

**Second ODI:** July 20, R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, 3 p.m. IST.



**Captain's knock:** After a quiet start, Shikhar Dhawan found his range of shots to guide India home with much to spare. ■ AFP

# Hamilton racks up 99th career win

Verstappen crashes out after a first lap collision

## BRITISH GP

REUTERS  
SILVERSTONE

Lewis Hamilton won his home British Grand Prix for a record-extending eighth time on Sunday despite a 10-second penalty for a first lap collision that sent Red Bull rival Max Verstappen crashing out of the race. The Dutchman was taken to hospital for precautionary tests.

The win was the 99th of seven-time World champion Hamilton's career.

The Mercedes driver, now only eight points behind Verstappen after 10 races, passed Ferrari's Charles Leclerc for the lead with two laps to go.

**The results:** 1. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes); 2. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) +3.871; 3. Valterri Bottas (Mercedes) 11.125; 4. Lando Norris (McLaren) 28.573; 5. Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren) 42.624; 6. Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) 43.454; 7. Fernando Alonso (Alpine) 72.093; 8. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin) 74.289; 9. Esteban Ocon (Alpine) 76.162; 10. Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) 99.049.

**Standings: Drivers:** 1. Verstappen 185; 2. Hamilton 177; 3. Norris 113; 4. Bottas 108; 5. Perez 104. **Constructors:** 1. Red Bull 289; 2. Mercedes 285; 3. McLaren 163; 4. Ferrari 148; 5. AlphaTauri 49.

# Morikawa triumphs

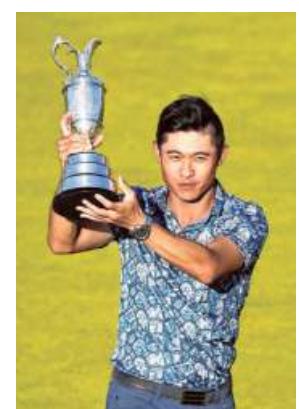
## BRITISH OPEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SANDWICH

American debutant Collin Morikawa produced an ice-cool final round to win the British Open by two strokes on a blazing hot afternoon at Royal St George's on Sunday.

The 24-year-old began the day a stroke behind Louis Oosthuizen but played faultless golf in a four-under round of 66 to overhaul the South African and resist resurgent fellow American Jon Rahm, four shots back.

Morikawa, who only turned pro in 2019, has now won two of his first eight Majors having also won on his PGA Championship debut last year.



Collin Morikawa with the Claret Jug. ■ GETTY IMAGES

A ND-NDE

## TV PICKS

TNPL 2021: Star Sports 2 (SD &amp; HD), 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Berrettini out of Olympics with injury

Matteo Berrettini, who lost the Wimbledon final to Novak Djokovic, has been forced to pull out of the Olympics with a muscle strain, the Italian Olympic Committee announced on Sunday. AFP



**Aditi-Pajaree pair finishes third**  
MIDLAND (USA)  
Aditi Ashok and Thailand's Pajaree Anannarukarn finished tied third at the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational here. The 19-under total fetched them a career-best third place finish. Thai sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn (24-under) took the title. PTI

**ICC fines Ireland's Little, reprimands Adair, Tector**  
DUBAI  
Ireland pacer Josh Little was on Sunday fined 15 per cent of his match fee while teammates Mark Adair and Harry Tector were reprimanded for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during Friday's third ODI against South Africa. PTI

**Mongolia, Tajikistan, Switzerland join ICC**  
DUBAI  
The International Cricket Council inducted Mongolia, Tajikistan and Switzerland as its new members at the 78th Annual General Meeting on Sunday. The ICC now has 106 members, including 94 associates. ANI

## Bucks on brink of ending drought

Holiday-Antetokounmpo combine steals Suns' move

## NBA FINALS

PHOENIX

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 32 points, including a clinching slam dunk in the final seconds, and Milwaukee Bucks beat Phoenix Suns 123-119 on Saturday to move within one win of a first NBA title since 1971.

## Middleton shines

Khris Middleton added 29 points and Jrue Holiday contributed 27 points and 13 assists for the visiting Bucks, who seized a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven NBA Finals.

With the Suns seeking a go-ahead basket in the dying seconds, Holiday stole the ball from Devin Booker and made an alley-oop pass to Antetokounmpo for a slam



**Bated-breath moment:** The Phoenix Suns defence anxiously follows the path of the ball as Giannis Antetokounmpo shoots. • AFP

dunk and Middleton added a final free throw to seal the Suns' fate.

The Bucks could become only the fifth team in NBA Finals history to win the title 72% of the time, 21 of 29 in all.

Paul had 21 points and 11 assists for Phoenix while Ba-

hamas big man Deandre Ayton had 20 points and 10 rebounds.

## The result:

Milwaukee Bucks 123 bt Phoenix Suns 119 (Bucks lead series 3-2).

## Anand triumphs

## CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

KOZHIKODE

In a fascinating battle between two former World champions fought over four games in a brand new format of chess, Viswanathan Anand defeated Vladimir Kramnik to win the Sparkassen Trophy at Dortmund on Sunday.



Viswanathan Anand.  
• FILE PHOTO

## Just draw needed

Anand needed only a draw in the final game of the No-Castling Chess event, and he got it in 40 moves.

It was once again an English Opening – all the three previous games had also been forced by giving perpetual checks.

The Russian, who started the day 1-2 down, had to win the game if he wanted to stop his old rival from claiming the trophy.

Kramnik, who conceived this variant of chess with the intention of making the game less predictable and more dynamic, however, was forced to draw the game by giving perpetual checks.

Anand was just one move away from putting a second queen on the board.

The Chennai maestro won the match 2.5-1.5.

## Bangladesh beats Zimbabwe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
HARARE

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan hit an unbeaten 96 as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by three wickets on Sunday after a thrilling run chase to take a winning 2-0 lead in a three One-Day Internationals series here.

Zimbabwe made 240/9 off 50 overs and Bangladesh reached 242/7 through a four from Shakib off the first ball of the final over.

**The scores:** Zimbabwe 240/9 in 50 overs (Wesley Madhevere 56, Brendan Taylor 46, Shoriful Islam 4/46) lost to Bangladesh 242/7 in 49.1 overs (Shakib Al Hasan 96 n.o.).

**Toss:** Zimbabwe.

**MoM:** Shakib Al Hasan.

**Bangladesh won by three wickets and leads series 2-0.**

Vidit, Hari, Pragg take lead

## CHESS WC

RAKESH RAO

NEW DELHI

Vidit Gujrathi outplayed B. Adhiban before P. Harikrishna and R. Praggnanandhaa took the lead in the third round of chess World Cup in Sochi, Russia, on Sunday.

## Sarin, Harika lose

Nihal Sarin lost to Dmitry Andreikin and so did D. Harika after facing Russia's Valentina Gunina.

## The results (involving Indians):

**Round 3, Game 1: Men:** Vidit Gujrathi bt B. Adhiban; Nihal Sarin lost to Dmitry Andreikin (Rus); P. Harikrishna bt Constantin Lupulescu (Rom); R. Praggnanandhaa bt Michal Krasenkov (Pol).

**Women:** Valentina Gunina (Rus) bt D. Harika.

## Coimbatore has amazing talents, says Rohan Bopanna

## TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



offers an integrated routine at various levels – from beginners to intermediate.

Bopanna will also be actively involved. "The entire programme will be monitored by me and our most experienced coach (M. Balachandran), who has a coaching experience of 30 years," he said.

"Coimbatore has always had some amazing talents but now I feel it just an added structure in place to help these young children turn into champions," he added.

Rak's had earlier tied-up with Pullela Gopi Chand's Academy and Raman Vijayan Sports School. It is the first of its kind facility that provides sports training along with school education as well as on-site residential facilities.

## Their dream is to just take part

There is no realistic talk of medals for the four Iraqi athletes

## OLYMPICS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BAGHDAD



**Gearing up:** Mohammed Ryadh, who will take part in the men's single sculls, practises on the Tigris river. • AFP

Right up to November of last year, when a new national Olympic chief was elected Iraq's very participation in the Games was in doubt.

Despite the loss of state financial support and the difficulties of travelling to qualifying events during the coronavirus pandemic, two Iraqi hopefuls managed to qualify for Tokyo.

Rower Mohammed Ryadh, 27, will take part in the men's single sculls for the second Games in a row.

But he has no illusions about his medal chances after his French coach of the past nine years, Vincent Tassey, was prevented by restrictions linked to the pandemic from travelling to Baghdad.

To date, Iraq has won just a single Olympic medal – a silver for weightlifting in Rome in 1960.

Sprinter Dana Hussein, 35, left it to mid-June to claim

her women's 200 metres berth with a qualifying time of 22.51 seconds with a gold in the pan-Arab athletics championship in Tunis.

Two other Iraqis were handed wildcard slots after coming close to their qualifying scores – 400 metre specialist Taha Hussein and shooter Fatima Abbas. The four make up Iraq's smallest squad of Olympians since London in 1948.

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

## NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO BUY.

Avail exciting offers on Baleno and Ignis.



Scan the QR code for more details about the New Ignis.



Scan the QR code to discover the bold side of Baleno.



Advanced Automatic Transmission (CVT)  
(\*Available in Baleno from Delta variant onwards)



1.2L VVT Petrol Engine



New 17.78 cm Smartplay Studio  
(\*Available in Baleno and Ignis from Zeta variant onwards)



NEXA  
Safety Shield

- DUAL FRONT AIRBAGS
- ABS WITH EBD
- PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION COMPLIANCE
- FULL FRONTAL IMPACT COMPLIANCE, FRONTAL OFFSET IMPACT COMPLIANCE, SIDE IMPACT COMPLIANCE

\*T&C apply. Feature and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to lighting effect. Images used for illustration purposes only. Offers may vary across variants. Maruti Suzuki reserves the right to withdraw offers at any point in time.

VISIT YOUR NEAREST NEXA DEALERSHIP TO GET EXCITING OFFERS UP TO ₹ 40,000

**NORTH DELHI:** NEXA WAZIRPUR (COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 9582668646), NEXA ROHINI SEC 10 (JAGMOHAN AUTOMOTIVES PVT. LTD. PH: 7290054930), NEXA NARELA (DD MOTORS (A DIV. OF DD INDUSTRIES LTD. PH: 9081900800), NEXA PITAMPURA (KRISH AUTOMOTORS PH: 7838555047), NEXA GT KARNAL ROAD (RANA MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 728999111), **WEST DELHI:** NEXA DWARKA SECCTOR 9 (MAGIC AUTO PH: 7290075604), NEXA RAJOURI GARDEN (TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 9999525750), NEXA MOTI NAGAR (AAA VEHICLEADES PVT. LTD. PH: 8448993400), **EAST DELHI:** NEXA PREET VIHAR (TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 7290091122), **SOUTH DELHI:** NEXA OKHLA PHASE 1 (PREM MOTORS PH: 9866001600), NEXA PUNJABI BAGH (DD MOTORS (A DIV. OF DD INDUSTRIES LTD) PH: 9081900800), NEXA MAYAPURI (KRISH AUTOMOBILES PH: 9838555076), **NEHAZADAH:** NEXA EAST OF KAILASH (RANA MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9050704531), **NOIDA:** NEXA SECTOR 1 (ROHAN MOTORS PH: 011-24900000), **DEHRADUN:** NEXA SECTOR 9 (VIMAL MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 9999499797), **MANESAR:** NEXA IMT MANESAR (PLATINUM MOTOCORP PH: 9953345301), **GHAZIABAD:** NEXA SAHIBabad (MOTORCRAFT SALES PVT. LTD. PH: B130582222), **NEHAZADAH:** NEXA MEERUT ROAD (ROHAN MOTORS LTD. PH: 9599040601), **NEHAZADAH:** NEXA SOHNI (BVA AUTO PVT. LTD. PH: 1294121212), **PALWAL:** NEXA PALWAL CENTRAL (AUTONATION (A UNIT OF TAYAL INDIA MOTORS) PVT. LTD. PH: 9311864040), **GURUGRAM:** NEXA MG ROAD (PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9712900001), **NEHAZADAH:** NEXA RAJGURU (RANA MOTORS PVT. LTD. PH: 8585991111), **NEHAZADAH:** NEXA NIT (BVA AUTO PVT. LTD. PH: 012-24440000, 7065074501), **SOHNA:** NEXA SOHNA (PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9899961000), **REWARI:** NEXA DELHI ROAD (DINCO 4 WHEELS LLP PH: 7082100301).

**SMART FINANCE**  
AN ONLINE END-TO-END CAR FINANCE SOLUTION

- Pre-approved loans
- Custom generated loans
- Multiple financiers
- Loan status tracking

# Vikas Divyakriti Sir Hindi literature Full Course

Year - 2020-21

Total - 157 Video lectures + 20 Booklet Pdf

👉(Real Price - 40000/-)  
👉We Provide only ₹1499 ✓



Contact on Telegram ➤ @prakashstudy24

The image displays three screenshots of a Telegram channel interface. The channel is titled "Live Class - UPSC" and has 1585 subscribers. The screenshots show:

- Left Screenshot:** A list of study materials (PDFs) for "Hindi Sahitya Notes - Drishti".
  - Vol = 01: हिंदी\_भाषा\_और\_नागरी\_लिपि\_का\_इतिहास.pdf (86.6 MB PDF)
  - Vol = 02: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_1.pdf (42.0 MB PDF)
  - Vol = 03: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_2.pdf (29.7 MB PDF)
  - Vol = 04: हिंदी\_साहित्य\_का\_इतिहास\_3.pdf (50.0 MB PDF)
  - पद्य\_साहित्य\_मध्यकालीन\_कविता.pdf (61.5 MB PDF)
- Middle Screenshot:** A grid of thumbnail images for "Class video" (157 media). Each thumbnail shows a person standing in front of a whiteboard with handwritten notes.
- Right Screenshot:** Two video player frames showing lectures.
  - Lecture = 01: A man in a blue shirt is speaking. The video duration is 2:13:48 and size is 451.1 MB.
  - Lecture = 02: A man in a dark blue shirt is speaking. The video duration is 2:23:46 and size is 501.3 MB.