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iggest contraction: The -7.3% contraction of GDP in Source: MOSPI

FY21 was the biggest in at least 60 years. The latest 10 year data is based on 2011-12 prices. Data for

ious years are based on 2004-05 prices





14 pages • ₹10.00



Delhi HC dismisses petition against Central Vista work



Twitter has to comply with new Information Technology rules: HC



China allows couples to have three children as birth rate falls

page 13



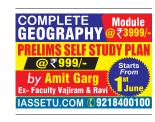
Positivity rate falls below 1% in Delhi

The test positivity rate of COVID-19 cases fell to 0.99% in Delhi, the lowest in more than two months, said a health bulletin released by the government on Monday. The city reported 648 new cases over 24 hours, taking the total to 14,26,240. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 3

Family uses excavator to shift body for burial

A family in Sant Kabir Nagar of eastern U.P. used an earth mover to transport the body of a relative who had died after testing positive for COVID-19 for burial. A video of the incident was widely shared on social media. The victim's son said his father died at home after testing positive at a hospital.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10



GDP shrinks by 7.3%; Q4 uptick moderates 2020-21 carnage

Curbing new pandemic waves, lockdowns, vaccination pace hold key to recovery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by 7.3% in 2020-21, as per provisional National Income estimates released by the National Statistical Office on Monday, marginally better than the 8% contraction in the economy projected earlier. GDP growth in 2019-20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, was 4%.

The Gross Value Added (GVA) in the economy shrank 6.2% in 2020-21, compared to a 4.1% rise in the previous year. Only two sectors bucked the trend of negative GVA growth - agriculture, forestry and fishing, which rose 3.6%, and electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services (up

Though this is the bleakest performance on record for the economy, the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020-21 helped moderate the damage, with a higher-than-expected growth of 1.6% in GDP. This marked the second quarter of positive growth after the country entered a technical recession in

impact The Indian economy shrank by 7.3% in FY21 due to the national and local lockdowns put in place during the first COVID-19

the first half of the year. GDP had contracted 24.4% in April-June 2020, followed by a 7.4% shrinkage

in the second quarter. It had returned to positive territory in the September to December quarter with a marginal 0.5% growth. GVA for trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting-related services saw the sharpest de-

cline of 18.2%, followed by construction (-8.6%), mining and quarrying (-8.5%) and manufacturing (-7.2%). Economists said these

numbers would moderate

growth prospects for 2021-22 through the base effect, even as the scourge of the virus is

hurting activity again.

"With a lower contraction in GDP as well as GVA in 2020-21, the sharp recovery projected for 2021-22 by a number of agencies like the IMF at 12.5% and the RBI at 10.5% may have to be moderated," said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor at EY India. "The combination of the second wave and the revised base effect may imply a lower GDP growth for the Indian economy for 2021-22, may be

in the range of 9-9.5%," Mr.

Srivastava added.

Latest quarter: Just before the

January-March quarter by growing at 1.6% accelerating from the 0.5%

second wave hit, the Indian

in the preceding quarter

GDP growth rate (Y-o-Y in %)

Chief Economic Advisor to the Finance Ministry K.V. Subramanian said he doesn't expect GDP forecasts to be significantly affected.

"Whether growth will be in double digits or single digits, there is uncertainty. Some of the scientists are talking about the possibility of a third wave too. It would be speculative to tell you exact numbers," he said, stressing that vaccination was important for the health of the people and economy.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC bats for 'one price for vaccines across nation'

Court raises doubts on Centre's deadline for total coverage

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

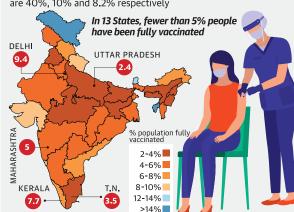
The government on Monday claimed it will inoculate the "entire eligible population" by 2021-end, only to be barraged with questions from the Supreme Court about the efficacy of its policy, which allows the Centre to procure just 50% of the vaccines while leaving the States to buy their own.

The court also challenged the differential vaccine pricing policy, saying "there needs to be one price for vaccines across the nation".

The virtual hearing, however, began on a positive note with Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta assuring that "on vaccination, as per our estimate, from the domestic market and Sputnik V, we expect the entire eligible population to get vaccinated by the end of this year".

Mr. Mehta said the government was in talks with other manufacturers like Pfizer. If the discussions succeed, the government would be able to advance its deadline for completing the immunisation. He added that he would file an affidavit with the latest updates.

Miles to go Only about 3.12% of India's population have received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. In comparison, the share of fully vaccinated people in the U.S., Brazil and Russia are 40%, 10% and 8.2% respectively In 13 States, fewer than 5% people ave been fully vaccinated



But the court highlighted the difference in vaccine prices between the Centre and the States. When the Centre can purchase vaccine in bulk for ₹150 per dose, the States have to pay ₹300 to ₹600. Justice L. Nageswara Rao, on the Bench, asked why even the two vaccines -Covaxin and Covishield were differentially priced.

"What is the rationale for this dual pricing policy? Why is the Centre procuring at a lower price and why has the Centre fixed its vaccine

purchase at 50% and left the States to their own devices?" Justice Bhat asked.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said some States and municipal corporations had gone ahead and floated their own "global tenders" to buy vaccines. "We want to know if the policy of the country is that all States are on their own to supply tenders," he asked the Centre.

COURT FLAGS DIGITAL DIVIDE IN VACCINE ACCESS ▶ PAGE 10 **RELATED REPORTS** ▶ PAGE 10

Baby steps



Bengal Chief Secretary steps down

SHIV SAHAY SINGH VIJAITA SINGH KOLKATA/ DELHI

In a day of dramatic developments, West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay on Monday opted to retire after the State government refused to release him to the Centre despite a letter from the appointments committee of the Cabinet. He was later appointed Chief Adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for three years.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Banerjee wrote a five-page letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to rescind the order asking the Chief Secretary to report to Delhi on Monday.

In the letter, she said the "Government of West Bengal cannot release and is not releasing its Chief Secretary".

CONTINUED ON▶ PAGE 8

'It's time to define limits of sedition'

SC grants relief to two Telugu channels from coercive action drugs and oxygen cylinders.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Monday said "it is time to define the limits of sedition" even as it protected two Telugu channels from any coercive action by the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra Pradesh government for their reportage of the COVID-19 pandemic in the State.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud flagged indiscriminate use of the sedition law against critics, journalists, social media users, activists and citizens for airing grievances about the governments' CO-VID-19 management, or even for seeking help to gain medical access, equipment,

"We are of the view that the ambit and parameters of the provisions of Sections 124A (sedition), 153A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code 1860 would require interpretation, particularly in the context of the right of the electronic and print me-

the court noted in its order.

dia to communicate news, information and the rights, even those that may be critical of the prevailing regime in any part of the nation,"

'Muzzling the media'

"This is muzzling the media," Justice L. Nageswara Rao, another judge on the Bench along with Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, said about the manner in which A.P. had tried to "silence" channels TV5 and ABN.

"It is time to define the limits of sedition," Justice Chandrachud said.

The court issued notice to the A.P. government and directed that "there shall be a stay on the respondents [the State] adopting coercive proceedings against the two TV channels"

Justice Chandrachud pointed out that the court had categorically told the States not to initiate penal action against the critics of COVID-19 management measures in an April 30 or-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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Kerala wants Lakshadweep head recalled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution demanding the recall of Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Khoda Patel and the withdrawal of the controversial orders issued by

The House also expressed solidarity with the people of Lakshadweep who have been protesting against the decisions of Mr. Patel and seeking urgent steps to safeguard their culture and livelihood.

The resolution is the first to be moved in the Assembly after the Left Democratic Front under Chief Minister Pinaravi Viiavan returned to power after the Assembly elections and the first of the 15th Assembly.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 **MP MEETS AMIT SHAH ▶** PAGE 9

When height blocks doctor's IPS dream Ojing Dameng from Arunachal Pradesh was declared unfit as he fell short by 2.5 cm

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has asked the Centre to amend a service condition that requires an eligible candidate to be of a certain height to become an IPS He wrote to Union

Minister for Personnel, Grievances, DoNER and Pensions Jitendra Singh seeking the amendment after the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) dismissed a petition by an Arunachal Pradesh doctor whose hope of becoming an IPS officer fell short by 2.5 cm.

Ojing Dameng, from Milang village in the State's Upper Siang district bordering China, was ranked 644th in the Civil Services Examination of 2017. Selected for the Indian



Ojing Dameng is at present an IRS officer in Kolkata.

Revenue Service (IRS), he is posted in Kolkata. Mr. Dameng was placed

second in the provisional list of IPS officers in the Scheduled Tribes category. But a medical examination conducted by the Central Standing Medical Board (CSMB) found him unfit for

the IPS because he is 162.5 cm tall, which is 2.5 cm less than the required minimum height of 165 cm for male candidates for the IPS. He challenged the CSMB's

decision at the CAT in August 2018. He argued that candidates belonging to the ST category and races such as Gorkha, Assamese, Kumaoni, Naga, Garhwali, etc., are entitled to a relaxation of 15 cm in the minimum height required for the IPS. But the CAT dismissed his

petition on May 27 pointing out that he did not belong to the communities eligible for height relaxation. According to Mr. Khandu,

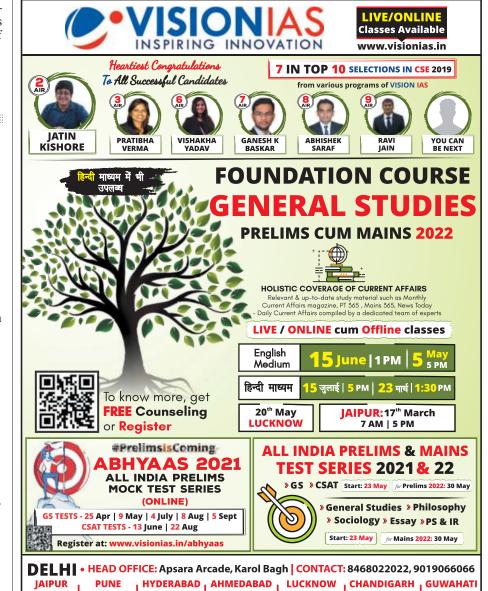
the condition on height would deprive aspirants of Arunachal Pradesh. "This service condition was framed in 1951 and

apparently, not updated.

Arunachal Pradesh came

into existence as a Union Territory in 1972 and attained statehood in 1987. You will appreciate that when the All India Services Act was framed, the present-day Arunachal was under Assam administration and when the benefit was extended to 'Assamese' in the Act, the spirit would have been to include the tribes of Arunachal too," he wrote to Mr. Singh. Mr. Dameng, who plans

to challenge the CAT decision in a High Court, said it would be unfair for a certain category of candidates who clear the exams conducted by the UPSC and medical tests only to be stumped by the height clause. "This needs to be done, at least for the future generations of people in Arunachal Pradesh and others places who are not tall enough," he said.



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Back on track



Work resumes on the fifth Delhi Metro bridge over the Yamuna on Monday after the city government announced easing of some restrictions. The construction is part of the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor. •R.V. MOORTHY

Vaccine production in country not enough: HC

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said COVID-19 vaccine production by two companies in India is not enough and the Centre should expedite the process of clearing samples of Panacea Biotec, which has collaborated with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) for manufacturing Sputnik V vaccine here.

A Bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Najmi Waziri asked the Centre to ensure that in these extraordinary circumstances when vaccines are urgently needed for saving lives, the untapped potential in the country is not taken away by foreigners.

The Bench auestioned the Centre for not processing Panacea's case on priority as it was producing the same product which has been produced by the Russian company initially and asked as to what more was required to

be done in this regard. It termed as "disturbing" the Centre's reply, filed in the case, saying the authorities were virtually saying they are not aware of what the firm has been doing and its relation with Sputnik.

The Bench said the Centre's officers are required to show some sensitivity and urgency in the matter. The High Court will hear the case again on June 2.

Court quashes two Delhi govt. orders on private school fees

'Directions were prejudicial to schools'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI The High Court on Monday quashed two separate orders issued last year by the Delhi government restraining private schools in the city from collection of annual charges and development fees from students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice Jayant Nath said the orders "are prejudicial to the said schools and would cause an unreasonable restriction in their functioning".

The court directed that the amount payable by students would be paid in six monthly instalments from

June 10 onwards. The court's direction came on plea by the Action Committee of Unaided Recognised Private Schools, a registered association with approximately 450 private

unaided schools functioning

in Delhi as its members.

The association had challenged the orders issued by the Department of Education, Delhi government, on April 18, 2020 and August 28, 2020 in so far as it prevented private unaided schools from collecting annual charges and development fees even beyond the lockdown period and deferring it till physical opening

of the schools. They argued that even during the pandemic, the schools were directed and encouraged to take up online teaching and learning so that there was no discontinuity in imparting education to the children.

The annual charges relate to hostel running expenses, administrative and general expenses, rents, communication expenses, printing and stationery, electricity and water charges among

Development fees pertains to expenditure related furniture, benches, chairs, wall panelling, green/black boards, computers, projectors and others

'Rights curtailed'

The association argued that the action of the Delhi government curtailed their

rights to fix their own fees. The Delhi government, on the other hand, argued that the lockdown was still in operation and, therefore, the two orders continued to

be in operation It argued that "on account of acute financial pressure and stress on the general public owing to the pandemic and measures imposed to deal with it having not abated, in such a situation the attempt of the private school to burden the parents by seeking to recover amounts presuming that normal physical functioning has resumed is harsh, unfair and unjust".

HC pulls up drug controller for 'trash' report in Gambhir case

It does not explain how 2,343 strips of medicine were supplied to his foundation: court

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday rejected as 'trash' the status report filed by the drug controller on the issue of BJP MP Gautam Gambhir procuring huge amount of Fabiflu, used for treating CO-VID patients, when they were in short supply in the

"This tendency of people trying to take advantage and then trying to appear as saviour. This has to be denounced," a Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh remarked pointing at the action of the former cricketer.

The High Court said the drug controller has not done any investigation on how "a large consignment" of 2,343 strips of Tab Fabiflu was supplied to the Gautam Gambhir



BJP MP Gautam Gambhir.

Foundation, which is not a medical practitioner.

Questionable stand It termed as 'questionable' the drug controller's stand

that the drug was not in short

"You [drug controller] are wrong to say it was not in short supply. You want us to shut our eyes. You can't take us for a ride. If you think we are so gullible, we are naïve,

we will give you back hard. You better do you job."

While the drug controller argued that the Tab Fabiflu was bought by the Foundation through one Dr. Manish of Garg Hospital, the court asked how Mr. Gambhir was able to purchase it just because Garg Hospital said it.

"Can anybody take a letter from a hospital and say give it [drug] to me... Here is a man who is hoarding thousands of strips of medicines. He is interrupting the flow of medicines," the Bench said.

"You've not even bothered to see if it was legal to supply drugs to the Foundation," it told the drug controller. It directed the drug controller to submit a 'better' status report after taking into account the factual conprovisions.

Form policy to issue black fungus drug'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre and Delhi government to come out with a policy on distribution of Amphotericin-B, used for treating black fungus patients, due to their current scarcity.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh remarked that the "cruel decision" of excluding certain age group or class of people till the drug is in shortage could not be left with the doctors and + has to be taken by the political leadership in consultation with experts.

The court asked if there are two patients, one is 80year-old and other is 35year-old, and there is only one dose of medicine then it should be given to whom.

It also remarked that black fungus was affecting everyone in all age groups.

Couple held with heroin worth ₹60 lakh

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man was along with his wife was arrested from North Delhi for allegedly supplying drugs in the city, the police said on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Raj Kumar and Mariyam (24), both residents of Moti Nagar. On Saturday, the police received information that one Raj Kumar, along with his wife, was supplying heroin from Loni in Ghaziabad to Moti Nagar in a car and would come via Wazirabad Old Yamuna Bridge, a senior officer said.

"Thereafter, the police intercepted a car near Soor ghat, Wazirabad, and apprehended the accused persons. One polybag containing 500 g heroin worth ₹60 lakh in international market was recovered from their possession," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Anto Alphonse said.

Raj Kumar bought the re-

covered heroin from one Israr of Fatehganj, Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and the accused were going to supply the heroin in western Delhi,

the police said. He engaged his wife so that they would not be stopped or apprehended, police said, adding that efforts are on to trace the source of supply and the persons to whom the heroin was to be supplied. Mariyam disclosed that her mother is also a drug peddler.

Allow activity during monsoon: owners

Tribunal dismisses plea to

review ban on brick kilns

STAFF REPORTER

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has dismissed a plea seeking review of an earlier order banning operations of coal-fired brick kilns in the National Capital Region beyond the month of Iune.

The court also said the

former cricketer has to be

'mindful' of the action he has

taken. "Thousands of needy

people who could have got

these medicines were unable

to do so. Two hundred and

eighty five strips were left.

This shows that he procured

more than what was re-

quired," it said. "If it conti-

nues, we know how to deal

The court also noted it was

not satisfied with the status

report into allegations of pro-

curing and hoarding medical

oxygen made against AAP

came while hearing a peti-

tion seeking lodging of an

FIR against politicians who

allegedly were able to pro-

cure COVID-19 drugs in huge

quantity. It will hear the case

The court's direction

MLA Praveen Kumar.

again on Thursday.

with it."

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel observed that a party cannot be permitted to reopen a case under the pretext of a review.

"Even the judgment given subsequent to the decision

in a case can be no ground for entertaining the review. Review lies only when there is error apparent on the face of the record and that fallibility is by the oversight of the court," the Bench observed. It observed, "If a party is aggrieved of a judgment, it must approach the higher court."

The observations came when the tribunal was hearing a plea by brick kiln owners who contended that operations should permitted during the monsoon months.

IIT-D to establish new department of energy

It will focus on research activities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Monday said that it would be establishing a new department named, 'Department of Energy Science and Engineering' to expand the scope and depth of activities being undertaken by the 45-year-old Centre for Energy Studies

The institute said that the new department is expected to provide the much-needed focus and visibility to the teaching and research activities of the institute in the

(CES).

field of energy to meet increasing energy requirements at affordable price in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Besides continuing with three existing MTech programmes, the new department would offer a BTech in **Energy Engineering starting** from academic session 2021-2022 with an intake of 40 students qualifying JEE (Advanced).

K.A. Subramanian, Head, CES, said, "The BTech programme is designed to equip the students with the necessary knowledge and skills."

Man decides to help needy soon after recovering from COVID-19

IT professional turns his car into emergency response vehicle, uses savings he kept for trips that he could not make last year

HEMANI BHANDARI

In the first week of April, 33-year-old Himanshu Nagia contracted COVID-19 with mild symptoms. After recovering in two weeks, he decided to extend support to the needy at a time when the pandemic was raging.

Mr. Nagia, resident of East Delhi's Krishna Nagar working at a Noida-based IT company, has two kids, wife and a 60-year-old mother living with him in their multistorey residence. However, for 20-odd days, the man almost stayed in his car which he had turned into an emergency response vehicle.

One can find water bottle cartons, medicines, two small oxygen cylinders, oxygen cans, thermometer

and oximeters, PPE kits and gloves among other essential items.

"The thought came to me when a neighbour called for help. He needed oxygen cylinder for his sister-in-law and to arrange for the same, we went to Rajouri Garden gurudwara where I realised that there were so many people who were coming in rickshaws and autos. So I thought I can try helping them using my vehicle," he said, adding that he visited a gurudwara in Geeta Colony who was helping people with oxygen at the time and told them he would be willing to help anyone with transportation as not everyone could afford an

ambulance. "I had just recovered from COVID-19 and doctors said



the needy. • HEMANI BHANDAR that I would have enough

antibodies for the next three months so I made use of it". On April 26, Mr. Nagia

received his first call to help transporting a patient from Krishna Nagar to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, He recalled how he wore a PPE kit and created a cabin in his car as a precautionary



measure and helped the person.

In the next few weeks till May 20, he helped 23 people with transportation apart from helping people and also learnt how to use the oxygen flow meter which is used along with the oxygen

Helped 23 people

At work, he said that his

half, he hasn't received any desperate calls except for ration but he continues to visit Seemapuri cremation ground to help with the last rites of unclaimed bodies. So far, while showing some transaction receipts,

cylinder to set the flow.

For the last week and a

he said that he has spent more than ₹2 lakh in the process, but has now started to crowdsfund because he has spent more than what he thought he could. "Last year, we didn't go out anywhere, so I saved and used that money for this work," he

clients are usually from the U.S. and the U.K., therefore, he used to manage at night and sometimes, only rarely during the day. "My office

was an instance when I had to drive a person and I had a client call. I requested them for 10 minutes silence," he said. Talking about keeping his

has been supportive. There

family safe, he said that he didn't come in direct contact with his children or mother because they have never contracted the virus so far. The house if big enough to maintain distance. "For 20 days which were very dangerous, I used the washroom in our parking and now, when I go home, I bathe in sanitiser and wear a double mask even inside the house," he said.

A colleague of Mr. Nagia's said that he helped her at 10 p.m. with oxygen cans when she was in dire need for her brother-in-law.

Timings DELHI

TUESDAY, JUN. 01 RISE 05:24 SET 19:15 ► RISE 00:12 SET 11:12 WEDNESDAY, JUN. 02 RISE 05:24 SET 19:16

RISE 00:49 SET 12:10 THURSDAY, JUN. 03 RISE 05:24 SET 19:16 RISE 01:23 SET 13:07

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 37°C An easy morning and hot day would prevail. Light spells of rain and thunderstorm likely with cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 38°C Marginal drop in day temperature. Hot day likely to prevail with cloudy sky. Rain and thunderstorm at some

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places.

THE HINDU

IN BRIEF

Ramdev row: RDAs to observe black ribbon stir

NEW DELHI Residents Doctors' Associations (RDAs) of city hospitals on Monday said they will observe a "black ribbon protest" on Tuesday against comments made by Baba Ramdev. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association said they were ready to be a party in court cases against Mr. Ramdev.

Mayoral polls slated for June 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The polls to elect Mayors and Deputy Mayors of the three corporations in Delhi are now slated to be held on June 16 subject to the COVID lockdown in the city, officials said on Monday.

The decision has been taken in view of the extension of the lockdown here till June 7, East Delhi Mayor Nirmal lain said. "The last date to file nominations was today [May 31] and the polls were supposed to be held on June 8. Now, the last day to file nominations has been extended till June 8 and the polls will take place on June 16," he said. However, the dates are subject to lockdown situation, Mr. Jain said.

FIR lodged against AAP councillor

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

An FIR was registered against Aam Admi Party councillor Ramesh Matiala based on a complaint by a party worker.

The victim, in a video, said the incident took place on May 28 when Mr. Matiala allegedly asked two women associates to slap the complainant in his presence because he objected to the latter's picture on the banner during RT-PCR testing camp. The complainant said she worked hard to organise the testing camp, which is why she put her photo on the banner. The councillor allegedly got the banner torn and asked two women to slap the complainant.

The victim then gave a written complaint in Bindapur police station following which a case under Sections 323 (causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman), and 506 (threatening) of the IPC was registered and probe is under way.

Few Covaxin slots available, getting a second dose a task

No free vaccines in the city for 18-44 age group for more than a week now

STAFF REPORTER

Several people who are due to get their second Covaxin shots are finding it difficult to book slots due to a limited supply of the vaccine in the national capital.

Efficacy of first dose

Many of them have taken to social media to raise concerns over whether the first dose would be effective if the second dose is not administered within the stipulated period. Sanoop Krishnan (32), a

nursing officer at the LNJP hospital, said the due date for his second dose was on Monday, but he did could not book the slot. "I had taken the vaccine on May 3. Later, I got a message that my due date was May 31. I have been trying to book a slot for the past two days, but nothing is available. The Central government should have purchased the vaccines instead of asking States to buy themselves," the nurse said.

Mr. Krishnan added that as a healthcare worker, he was hopeful of getting the second dose on time. But, he feels, that the general public would face even more



A woman gets vaccinated at a centre in Central Delhi on Monday. ■ v.v. krishnan

difficulties.

South Delhi resident Geetika Sengupta said the 42day period between the two doses was already over and she had still not managed to

"When I asked at the hospital where I took the first shot, they informed me that vaccines were not available. I was told that several others like me are awaiting their second dose. The hospital said there was a possibility of vaccines being available after June 15, but there was no confirmation on the same," said Ms. Sengupta.

A 28-year-old who took the first dose of Covaxin on May 4 said: "I have been try-

ing to book a slot for the past one week but centres are not available. The government should have kept a reserve for people who got the first dose of Covaxin."

Delhi has been facing a shortage of vaccines. Free vaccinations drive for the 18-44 age group – both Covaxin and Covishield – are not being conducted at government schools for over a week now, as per an official bulletin.

Taking to Twitter, several people questioned the efficacy of the first dose if the second one was not administered within the specified period.

Tagging Chief Minister Ar-

vind Kejriwal on a tweet, Radhika Tongar, one such Twitter user wrote: "How is one supposed to get (the) second Covaxin dose considering no slots are opening for it. And as far as I know, the window for it hasn't been revised too. What happens when my 42 days get over soon? [sic]"

Vikram Garg, another Twitter user wrote, "...Opening Cowin site five times a day for the last three days, every slot is booked in Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon. No slot available, neither free nor paid. No point in dose 1 if dose 2 is not available. [sic]"

Atishi seeks more jabs

Meanwhile, AAP leader Atishi on Monday said: "Vaccinations are happening for the youth in Delhi only at private facilities at higher rates. There is no commitment from the Central government on vaccines for youth. According to the Centre, the first instalment will come on June 10 and onlv 5.5 lakh vaccine doses for the youth in the next month. We need 50 lakh more doses for them in Delhi. We appeal to the Centre to give more

CM says city may get Sputnik V from June 20; positivity rate dips below 1%

Kejriwal inaugurates free vaccination for scribes, their kin

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The test positivity rate (TPR) of COVID-19 cases fell to 0.99% in the city - the lowest in more than two months - according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said COVID-19 vaccine Sputnik will be given to Delhi probably after June 20.

"Sputnik will probably offer vaccines after June 20. Right now, they are importing the vaccines and they will allot a section of their imported vaccines to the Delhi government. They will start domestic production from August," the Chief Minister said.

On Monday, Mr. Kejriwal inaugurated a free walk-in vaccination facility for journalists and their families at Sarvodava Bal Vidvalava near ITO.

"This facility will vaccinate journalists and their families of both age groups -18-45 years and above those above 45 years - free of cost. Vaccination is the need of the hour to protect vourself from COVID. I appeal to all the journalists to come here and get them-



A man undergoes a COVID-19 test in Azadpur on Monday.

selves vaccinated for free," Mr. Kejriwal said.

A TPR of 0.99% means that less than one person out of 100 people taking COVID tests are positive for the virus.

The last time the positivity was less than this was on March 19, when it was 0.93%. The TPR was as high as 36% on April 22 and has been coming down since

648 fresh cases

The city reported 648 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours. taking the total cases to 14,26,240. Also, 86 deaths

were reported, and the total number of deaths stood at 24,237. A total of 65,240 tests were done in a day, the bulletin said. Of the total cases, 13,90,963 people have recovered and there are 11,040 active cases.

Also, out of the total 24,852 hospital beds for CO-VID-19, 80.7% of beds were vacant. At the peak of the second wave in April, only 5-6% of beds were vacant on many days. The Chief Minister also said the city currently has around 944 cases of black fungus, including 300 at the Central government-run hospitals.

BJP leaders abusing Kejriwal to hide their failures: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday alleged that BJP leaders are "abusing" Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to "hide" their failures.

"First they stopped oxygen for the people of Delhi. Now, Arvind Kejriwalji is saying that we need to vaccinate all Delhiites and they are abusing him," Mr. Sisodia said in a video.

He said the Chief Minister wants to vaccinate as many people as possible before a possible third wave. Delhi

has been facing a shortage of vaccines and free vaccination of the 18-44 age group has not been happening in government schools for over a week now.

'BJP holding elections'

"To hide their own failures in COVID management, BJP leaders keep on making false statements. When the nation was reeling with COVID cases and needed immediate help, the BJP government was more interested in managing their image and conducting elections," Mr. Sisodia said.

He said the Centre denied oxygen supply to Delhi and Mr. Kejriwal had to go to court to "fight" for the same. "Now, when Kejriwalji is

asking for adequate vaccines to inoculate all citizens, BIP leaders are again acting as obstructionists. BJP leaders can continue to say whatever they want until all citizens of Delhi are not vaccinated, Kejriwalji will continue to fight for vaccines for all. It is shameful that BJP is playing such petty politics when its leaders should instead be vaccinating citizens in their own States," he added.

BJP asks why 'healthcare facilities failed despite AAP govt. spending over ₹40 cr.'

Party alleges CM not revealing exact number of deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi BJP on Monday said questions need to be raised why Delhi's healthcare facilities failed during the second COVID wave that led to numerous deaths despite ₹44.262 crore being spent on the health sector.

The party also alleged that the Delhi government was discriminating among COVID warriors in terms of giving compensation on death in the line of duty and was not revealing the exact figures for the number of State BIP president Adesh

Gupta at a press conference said: "When people were dying in second COVID wave in absence of medical facilities, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his team was busy thinking whom to blame for this and how to save the save face rather than controlling the situation, which led to many deaths." Mr. Gupta said according to data from the municipal corporations, in the last week of April, 700 people were cremated or buried in on a day. But the State not more than 450 died. He added that figures reveal that between April 1 to May 17 in all three corporations' crematoriums and cemeteries, there were 16,593 CO-VID victims whereas, during this period, the Kejriwal government released figure of only 11,061 deaths.

government data stated that

LOP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said records show that the number of COVID warriors is above 500 but the Delhi government has so far honoured only about a dozen

AAP demands civic bodies to pay salaries

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday demanded the BJP-governed municipal corporation to pay salaries to all its employees and said the High Court has decided to auction properties of the civic bodies for the same. "The HC has decided to auction the properties of the civic bodies to pay salaries of its employees. The Delhi BJP has looted the civic bodies for 15 years and now it has no money to pay salaries...," AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said.

Factories reopen









1-3 Workers back at their jobs in small factories on the first day of the 'unlock' process at industrial areas across Delhi 4 Daily wage labourers wait to be hired at Bhajanpura Chowk in Delhi on Monday. • PHOTOS BY: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR, R.V. MOORTH

NSUI seeks age relaxation for exams

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

In wake of delays in examination schedules due to the pandemic, the National Students Union of India (NSUI) on Monday wrote to the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions Iitendra Singh asking for age relaxation and attempts for students appearing in competitive exams.

PGDCA (Merit Based)

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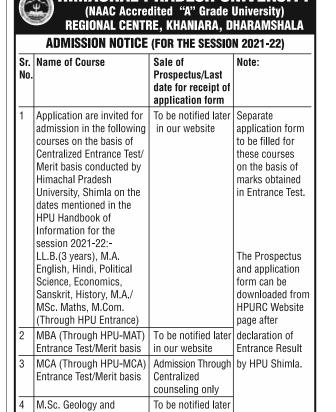
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A ND-NDE

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY

Cong. panel bids to quell Punjab factionalism

Committee formed by Sonia meets MLAs in the wake of CM-Sidhu spat over 2015 sacrilege issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As factionalism in Punjab reached a crisis point, a three-member Congress committee started meeting lawmakers from the State to work out an amicable solution.

With Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and senior party leader Navjot Sidhu on a war path over the 2015 sacrilege issue, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has tasked Opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress general secretary in-charge of Punjab Harish Rawat and senior leader J.P. Agarwal to broker

"The meeting was for manthan [brainstorming]. It's not about any individual but Punjab and the Congress. These meetings will take place over three days and MLAs, MPs and senior leaders will share their views on how to consolidate the position," Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar told reporters after he met the panel.

For the past several weeks, Mr. Sidhu has been attacking the Amarinder Singh government for failing to hold the previous Parkash Singh Badal-led Akali government responsible for the 2015 Kotkap-



CM Amarinder Singh

ura firing incident following the desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib in Punjab's

"Those who have given orders and killed unarmed Sikhs will not be spared," res-

will remain closed. Earlier,

shops were allowed to open

During the lockdown pe-

riod, there has been a sharp

decline in the number of in-

'Recovery rate 96.67%'

"In last 24 hours, 4,130 infect-

ed people had recovered

from the disease in the State.

The recovery rate in Bihar is

from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

with the three-member panel.

Apart from Mr. Sidhu, the Chief Minister also faces chal-Supporters of the Chief Minislenge from former Punab ter argued that Mr. Sidhu's Congress chief Partap Singh open rebellion cannot take Bajwa and Samsher Singh place without the tacit sup-Dullo.

> Among those who met the panel included Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Ministers Tript Bajwa, Brahm Mohindra, O.P. Soni, Rana Sodhi, Sukhjinder Randhawa among others. The outcome of these meetings will be important as the party is seeking to revamp its Punjab unit before Assembly elections.

Pakistani migrants get the jab after HC intervention

Rajasthan seeks time to give details

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ponded Mr. Jakhar without

port from the party high com-

mand since the cricketer-

turned-politician is known to

be close to former party chief

Rahul Gandhi and general se-

Captain Singh's loyalists al-

so objected to Mr. Gandhi re-

portedly speaking to some of

the Punjab MLAs through an

aide ahead of their meeting

Priyanka Gandhi

naming anyone.

'Tacit support'

Vadra.

Amid an uncertainty about their citizenship status, Pakistani Hindu migrants residing in Jodhpur district have started getting CO-VID-19 vaccination following an intervention of the Rajasthan High Court. However, the migrants who do not possess any of the prescribed identity documents were still not getting the

A Division Bench of the High Court ruled that the Centre's standard operating procedure (SOP) on vaccination did not exclude the migrants from Pakistan. The State government, which is yet to take a final decision on the issue, has sought some time from the court for furnishing details about the steps taken to implement the SOP.

The Medical and Health Department organised vaccination camps in Kali Beri,

Alkausar Nagar and Anganwa localities on the outskirts of Jodhpur city over the

Hindu Singh Sodha, president of Seemant Lok Sangathan, told The Hindu on Monday that the distinction made on the basis of identity documents had deprived these migrants of vaccine protection. "The Union government has stated in the court that the vaccines will be provided based on the information from the State about the groups needing inoculation.'

The State government submitted to the court that about 25,000 Pakistani minority migrants were at present residing in various districts, including 7,500 in Jodhpur.

The Bench also directed the State government to ensure that ration material and food packets were made available to the needy Pakistani migrants.

INTERVIEW | SUDHIR BHANDARI

'Aggressive nature of pandemic's second wave handled effectively'

Third, fourth waves predicted between Sept. and Dec.: expert

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The State-Level Core Team on COVID-19 Management and Care in Rajasthan has effectively handled the aggressive nature of second wave of pandemic by managing the younger and paediatric population. But the adolescents, who have not been vaccinated so far, may be affected more in the subsequent waves, says Dr. Sudhir Bhandari, head of the Core Team and Principal of Sawai Man Singh Govern-Medical College, ment Jaipur.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put an unprecedented load on health facilities and stretched the infrastructure in Rajasthan to its limits. How can we ensure optimum utilisation of the available resources, including oxygen, and convince the people to make a judicious use of facilities available?

■ The second wave of pandemic has been very aggressive with more and more younger population and children being affected. Unlike the first wave, 60% to 70% of the moderate to severe patients are oxygen dependent and require critical care. To meet out this situation, we have created CO-VID-19 triage at our dedicated institutions, where we segregated mild or asymptomatic for home quarantine, while the mild to moderate are admitted to provide them medical support.

We have also conducted sensitisation programmes for doctors, paramedics and public at large for early reporting, optimal use of oxygen, proning and physiothe-

As the head of the State-Level

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Leader of the Opposi-

tion in the Harvana Assemb-

ly, Bhupinder Singh Hooda,

said on Monday that cases of

COVID-19 have started to de-

crease but the State govern-

ment should not lower its

OBITUARY &

REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With deep grief, we inform the demise of

Retd. Spl Gr Draughting Officer,

Family & Friends

SAD DEMISE

N.S.P. Sarathi

DOB : 05.12.1933 • DOD : 31.05.202 (Retd.Grindlays Bank, Mount Road)

Deeply mourned by near & dear Phone: 7838936305

Core Team on COVID-19 Management and Care, what was your remit and how have you helped the State government in identifying the key areas where action was needed?

■ Since the beginning of the first wave, we have been working intensely with our core team in various directions, such as building up infrastructure for COVID-19 patients, creating more oxvgenated and ventilated beds and enhancing the capacity for RT-PCR testing. We started with zero test at Sawai Man Singh Hospital and raised to 10,000 tests per day. We are now capable of conducting more than one lakh RT-PCR tests a day in the entire State.

Our team was the first to hydroxychloroquine and antiviral drugs Lopinavir and Ritonavir in the first three Italian COVID-19 patients. The core team headed by me has effectively handled the aggressive nature of the pandemic's second wave by managing the younger and paediatric population.

You were the first person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine dose in Rajasthan. Are there still apprehensions among the people about vaccination and have you succeeded in sending a clear message that our indigenous vaccine is

■ I had the honour of being

Focus on third wave: Hooda to Haryana govt.

thening the healthcare sys-

tem on priority for possible

will have to be done imme-

diately to handle the post-

pandemic conditions as in-

flation, recession, poverty

and unemployment are on

Mr. Hooda said planning

third wave.

the first person in Rajasthan to get vaccinated. Since we were the first in many ways, such as using hydroxychloroquine and implementing the COVID management protocols, I wanted to boost the morale of the whole medical fraternity by taking the vaccine first and increase the acceptability by the public at large with the confidence that the vaccines are safe.

There are reports that people are contracting infection even after getting one or both the doses of vaccine. Does it mean that the vaccine does not provide full protection and the people should adhere to the **COVID** appropriate protocol?

It is true that even after two doses, people are getting infection. The vaccination only protects from critical disease and ventilation and one might still contact asymptomatic or mild infection. Therefore, the compliance with the COVID apbehaviour, especially wearing the face mask and maintaining distance, is a must even after vaccination.

What is the likelihood of a third wave of the pandemic hitting Rajasthan and the country?

■ As per the epidemiological studies, the third and fourth waves of the pandemic are predicted somewhere between September and December this year. They can also merge with the second wave. There is a possibility that the adolescents and children, who have not been vaccinated, may be affected more in the third wave, as the middle age and elderly population has been vaccinated to quite an extent.

Bihar extends lockdown till June 8

to extend the lockdown for a

week till June 8. But some re-

laxation is being given for bu-

siness activities. All should

Shops to remain open from

AMARNATH TEWARY

Monday extended the lockdown for a week, till June 8, in view of COVID-19 infection with some relaxation for business activities.

tion, decision has been taken

across the State but all private 96.67%", tweeted Health Mioffices and other activities nister Mangal Pandey.

U.P. hooch toll rises to 36

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The toll in the Aligarh hooch tragedy climbed to 36 on Monday with 11 more deaths being confirmed by the district authorities.

Viscera samples of 35 other people, who are suspected to have died after consuming spurious liquor, have been sent for examination, Chief Medical Officer Dr. B.P. Kalyani said.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd that Mr. Suresh Kumar Bhatia intends to mortgage the Property No. B-48, area measuring 293,54 sq. mtrs. ii Block B, situated in the T.H.A residential colony known as Surya Nagar, Sector 7 Tehsil Dadri, District Ghaziabad, U.P with our client Axis Bank Ltd against th financial assistance. Mr. Suresh Kumar Bhatia acquired the said property from Mr. Amit Singhal S/o S.B. Singhal as attorney of Mr. Parag Sharma by way of Sale Deed dated 31.10.2011. However, out of the chain link documents some documents were ost/misplaced i.e.: (i) Allotment Letter in favour of Mr. Goureshetty Dhollappa Regd. GPA, Agreement to sell and Regd. Will all dt. 23.08.2011 in favour of Mr. Am Singhal and in this regard FIR No. 315591/2021 dt. 13.04.2021 was already lodged Public is hereby informed not to deal with the above-mentioned documents & the property. If anyone do the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences. I any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client ie. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

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JHIDCO

Corrigendum-1

NIT No.: JUIDCO/RFP/FSMS - 7 ULBs/2021-381 Tender ID: 2021_UDD_49641_1

Project Name: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Mahagama, Barharwa, Hariharganj, Barkishariya, Domchanch, Bachra & Dhanwar in Jharkhand.

As per RFP **01.06.2021** Last Date/Time for submission of online Last Date/Time for submission of Tender fee and EMD (Hard Copy) etc.

Date of Online Bid Opening Clause No. 17:00 Hrs 02.06.2021

PR 247172 (Urban Development) 21-22 (D)

PR 247170 Urban Development (21-22)_D

17:30 Hrs. Sd/-Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd.

Project Director (Technical) JUIDCO Ltd.

17:00 Hrs.

18.06.2021



JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED CIN No. U40108JH2013SGC001702

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3rd Extension Notice

Tender extension notice for NIT No. 303/PR/JBVNL/20-21 the date extension for above NIT is available on the site www.jharkhandtender.gov.in A revised Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bid Opening is as follows

Date & Time Items Supply, Installation, Operations and FMS of AMI System Name of Work for consumers having load above 10 KW in JBVNL Estimated cost Rs. 20Crores(Rs Twenty Crores) Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids 08.06.2021 at 04:00 PM Date and Time for Opening of 08.06.2021 at 05:00 PM Technical Bids General Manager (IT)

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED (Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking) 3RD FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND

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Corrigendum-1

PR.NO.247212 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22):D

PR. No.: 246532 NIT No.: JUIDCO/RFP/FSMS - 8 ULBs/2021- 380 Tender ID: 2021_UDD_49640_1 Project Name: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Hussainabad Bishrampur, Lohardaga, Garhwa, Chattarpur, Khunti, Chatra and Latehar.

 Description
 As per RFP
 As per Corrigendum - 1

 Last Date/Time for submission of online bids
 01.06.2021 17:00 Hrs.
 17.06.2021 17:00 Hrs.
 S. No. Clause No. Clause No. 02.06.2021 17:00 Hrs. Last Date/Time for submission of Tender fee 8 & 9 and EMD (Hard Copy) etc. 02.06.2021 17:30 Hrs. 18.06.2021 17:30 Hrs. Date of Online Bid Opening

Hyderabad passed away on 30-05-2021. Address: Flat No: 317, 3rd floor, Manju Ranga Towers, Anand Bagh, Malkangiri, Hyderabad-500047.Mobile No: 9966442818 **BIRTH CENTENARY** BIRTH CENTENARY T.K. NATARAJAN DOB: 01-06-1921 - DOD: 29-03-200 Son of (Late) T.N. Kalidoss Iyer on-in-law of (Late) R. Ramamurthy lye You Live in Our Hearts Forever

G.SHANMUKHAM (66) Retired Senior Engineer - Printing, The Hindu, Hyderabad passed away on

Son: R. Chandrasekharan (RC) Daughter-in-law: Goma andsons : Dr. Ramprasad & Ka Ct: 98400 39482

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(wife of Late G. Subramaniam Addison Paints & Chemicals Ltd)

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tual press conference. Woman raped after recovery from COVID

"The unemployment rate

in Haryana has reached

35.1% and every third per-

son of the State is unem-

ployed. Therefore, the go-

vernment should help

people whose business has

been ruined during the pan-

demic," he said during a vir-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The police in eastern Assam's Chairaideo district have arrested two men on the charge of raping a woman who was walking home from a hospital after recovering from COVID-19. The alleged incident happened at 7:30 p.m. on May 27.

The Sapekhati Model Hospital, about 25 km from her home in a tea garden, had released the woman and her teenage daughter after both tested negative.

Both wanted to spend the night at the hospital complex but the medical staff allegedly did not entertain their request. They also allegedly did not provide the duo with transport during the night curfew.

Daughter escapes

The two accused pounced upon the duo when they were about 4 km short of their home. The daughter managed to escape and inform the plantation work-

"The victim has identified the two persons we arrested. They are being interrogated and would be produced in the local court on Tuesday," district Superintendent of Police Sudhakar Singh said.

The Congress slammed the hospital authorities for failing to provide an ambulance to ferry the woman and her daughter home.

6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Bihar government on

"In view of corona infec-

wear mask and maintain social distance," tweeted Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. This is the fourth time the Bihar government has extended lockdown since May

5, 2021.

The shops will now be open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT BOARD 'A' WING, URJA BHAWAN, LINK ROAD No.-2 BHOPAL - 462016 TELE: (O) 0755-2768798, FAX: 0755 - 2768805

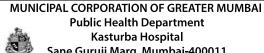
Email: edb-tender@mp.gov.in Website: www.mpecotourism.org **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

MADHYA PRADESH ECOTOURISM

No./MPEDB/F470/2021/02 Date: 01.06.2021 Online Tender in prescribed Tender documents are invited for Operation, Management and Maintenance of Ecotourism Recreational Facilities at various Ecotourism Destinations on Outsourcing basis to Individual/Travel Operators/Limited Company/Firms, RFP(Tender) duly completed as per prescribed format along with tender fee and Bid Security must be submitted online on or before 30.06.2021 up to 17:00 hours

through https://mptenders.gov.in. The detailed RFP with application form & Annexures may be downloaded from website https://mptenders.gov.in. For further details please refer our website www.mpecotourism.org. Amendments to this Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), if any, would be published on website : www.mpecotourism.org and https://

mptenders.gov.in. only, and not in newspapers CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER M.P. Madhyam/100831/2021



Public Health Department Kasturba Hospital Sane Guruii Marg, Mumbai-400011

E-Tender Notice Online tender for the below said work is invited by Medical Superintendent - Kasturba Hospital for and on behalf of

Municipal Commissioner of MCGM. Sr. No. Bid No. Name of the item Quantity Revamping of Power Distribution 7100210974 panel at Corona Building of 01 Job.

Kasturba Hospital. Bid Start: 01.06.2021 at 10:00 hrs. Bid End: 07.06.2021 at 12:00 hrs. Contact Officer: Dr. Chandrakant P. Pawar, Medical Superintendent Kasturba Hospital Tel..No.: 022-23027769 e-mail: ms01kasturba.phd@mcgm.gov.in

E-tender portal http://portal.www.mcgm.gov.in E-tender should be submitted online as per the E-tender documents. sd/-

PRO/416/ADV/2021/22 **Medical Superintendent** Avoid self medication Kasturba Hospital

Complete E-Tender documents are available in the



Most urgent e-Procurement Notice Rate contract for: (1) Hiring services of Mobile COVID RT-PCR Testing Laboratories in Jharkhand and
(2) Hiring services of Mobile COVID RT-PCR Sample

Collection & Testing Laboratories in Jharkhand In-Charge Procurement Cell, on behalf of Mission Director, Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi, invites e-Tender from eligible bidders in order to enter into a rate contract for hiring services of Mobile COVID RT-PCR Testing Laboratories in Jharkhand as per ICMR guidelines.

Blank tender documents with detailed conditions can be

viewed and downloaded by the bidders from the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in . Bid shall be submitted through e-procurement system only. Hard copies of technical bid and financial bid will not be entertained except Tender Fee & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). Finalization of Rate Contract will be based solely on e-bid submitted by the bidder. It will be the sole responsibility of the bidder to scan and upload clear and legible documents for assessment, failing

Sl.No.	the tender will be liable for rej Particulars Tender	ection. Details Rate Contract for hiring services of
Sl.No. 1	Tender	
1		Rate Contract for hiring services of
	No.NHM/Nam/22/2021	Mobile COVID RT-PCR Testing Laboratories in Jharkhand
2	Tender No.NHM/Nam/23/2021	Rate Contract for hiring services of Mobile COVID RT-PCR Sample Collection & Testing Laboratories in Jharkhand.
3	Date of Publication of Tender on website	01/06/2021
4	Last Date / time for receipt of bids on website	Up-to 08/06/2021 by 11.00 AM
5 ,	Date/Time for opening of Technical bid through website	09/06/2021 by 11.30 A.M.
6	Email ID/Contact Person for clarifications	jharkhandcovid@gmail.com 9955837428, 9431353922
7	Tender Document Fee (Non- refundable)	Rs. 5,000/- (Rs. Five thousand only)
8	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rs. Two lakh Fifty Thousand only)

Note: The specified dates and time may change due to abrupt declaration of holidays or any other unforeseen circumstances. The same will be informed through web-portal as and when required. Procurement Cell Incharge,
PR 247227 Jharkhand Rural Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society,
Health Mission Society(21-22)#D Namkum. Ranchi



Congress isolated Satheesan: K.K. Shailaja

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Former Health Minister K. K. Shailaja on Monday said the Congress party had alienated Opposition Leader V. D. Satheesan for openly declaring that he would not bow to pressure from castebased social organisations. Ms. Shailaja was piloting the motion of thanks to the Governor's policy address. By some accounts, she was the first woman legislator to

New medical colleges will save lives, says Jagan

undertake the task.

In tune with the National Health Policy, the Andhra Pradesh government had decided to set up 16 new colleges in rural areas, which will provide tertiary medical facilities. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said the colleges will save lives in rural

Priest, 24 others booked for lockdown violations

The Nedumbasserry police booked 25 persons, including a parish vicar, under the Kerala Epidemic Disease Ordinance on the charge of congregating at a church in violation of the lockdown norms on Monday. The congregation was held in connection with the first Communion of a parish member at St. Joseph Church. The priest also held a Mass attended by many people.

'Akhanda parayanam' organised at Tirumala

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Monday organised a 16-hourlong 'Akhanda Sundarakanda Parayanam' at its Dharmagiri Veda Vignana Peetam. Forty scholars divided into four groups performed the unique task by reciting 2,821 slokas.

Push for free jabs, Pinarayi tells 11 CMs

Kerala Chief Minister calls for united effort so that Centre acts immediately

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has attempted to enlist the support of his counterparts in 11 States to jointly persuade the Centre to procure and supply COVID-19 vaccines free of cost.

Mr. Vijayan has tweeted: "Wrote to 11 CMs in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Quite unfortunate the Centre absolves itself of its duty to procure vaccines, ensure free universal vaccination. United effort to jointly pursue our genuine demand is the need of the hour so that the Centre acts immediate-

In his letter dated May 29, Mr. Vijayan said the Union government had taken a

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Division Bench of the Ker-

ala High Court on Monday

declined a plea for a direc-

tive to the Lakshadweep Ad-

ministrator to give a further

30 days for the people of the

islands to submit their objec-

tions, comments, and sug-

gestions on the draft Laksh-

adweep Town and Country

However, the Bench com-

prising Justice A. Mu-

hammed Mustaque and Jus-

tice Kauser Edappagath,

hammed Sadique from Kav-

aratti to forward his sugges-

tions and comments in two

weeks to the administrator

who should forward them to

the Union Home Ministry. It

was for the Union Ministry

to consider whether his sug-

petitioner

Planning Regulation 2021.

stance that States should resort to their own measures to procure the COVID-19 vaccine. It was the duty of the Centre to provide adequate doses to the States. Foreign pharmaceutical companies were unwilling to enter into an agreement with the States for supplying vaccines. They sought to exploit the scarce supply situation for financial

Ramp up production India's public sector pharmaceutical companies should take up vaccine production to address the mismatch between demand and supply. The Central government should ensure that intellectual property rights and patent laws did not im-

HC declines plea for more time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Administrator Praful Khoda

Patel has forwarded the

Home of Affairs to be

he had secured the

contentious draft laws for

approval of the Ministry of

implemented in the Union

Exuding confidence that

gestions and objections

Disposing of the public in-

terest petition, the Bench

observed that nothing

would prevent the Ministry

from entertaining the peti-

tioner's suggestions and ob-

jections. It might not be

should be accepted or not.

Lakshadweep

Draft laws sent to MHA

for Lakshadweep objections

Wrote to 11 CMs in the spirit of cooperative federalism. Quite unfortunate the Centre absolves itself of its duty to procure vaccines, ensure free universal vaccination. United effort to jointly pursue our genuine demand is the need of the hour so that the Centre acts immediately

pede vaccine production, he

Mr. Vijayan said the Central government's bid to place the entire onus of procuring vaccines on States defied the very basis of cooperative federalism. "The need of the hour is a united effort from our side to put forth the genuine demand that the Centre procure vaccine needed by the States and distribute them free of cost. This will be more cost-effec-

mandate from the Centre to

go ahead with development

projects, Mr. Patel said that

President gave his assent to

make regulations of peace,

government of the Union

territory of Lakshadweep

proper for the court to direct

the Central government to

accept them. However, in

any system of governance,

the government would con-

sider such suggestions that

might ultimately enable it to

form their decisions, the

under Article 240 of the

proposals would be

progress and good

Constitution

implemented after the

tive as well.

Universal vaccination was the surefire method to build herd immunity. Mr Vijayan said he had written to the Prime Minister earlier spelling out the merits of the Centre taking the lead in assessing the vaccine requirements of the States. The Centre could then float a global tender for dosages as per the States' need, he said.

(He said he had enclosed a copy of his letter to the Karnataka to get shots from manufacturers

BENGALURU Karnataka government has decided to purchase vaccines directly from manufacturers as submitted bids in response to tenders for supply of vaccines have not submitted the required documents.

Prime Minister in his communication to his equivalents in other States.)

Mr. Vijayan said vaccination should be free to ensure that none shall be denied the protection 'due to lack of financial wherewithal.' The unprecedented 'impact of the second surge' had caused alarm. Experts have warned of a third surge – the country required to prepare for such an eventuality, he

A.P. clears use of herbal mix by COVID patients

It's not Ayurvedic medicine: AYUSH

STAFF REPORTER

The Andhra Pradesh government on Monday permitted the usage of herbal preparation being given to COVID-19 patients by B. Anandaiah, an Ayurvedic practitioner of Krishnapatnam in Nellore district, by taking into account the findings of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, but kept on hold its decision on the eye drops claimed to be life saving for those with dangerously low

While giving the green signal to the herbal preparation, the Andhra Pradesh government warned that COVID-19 patients should not stop taking the drugs prescribed by doctors in the

levels of oxygen.

normal course.

According to an official release, the government was yet to receive a conclusive proof of the efficacy of the eye drops, while it had been established that the concoction of ingredients such as honey, pepper, green camphor, nutmeg, black cumin, cinnamon and medicinal herbs was not harmful, but may not be able to cure the coronavirus infection.

Further, the government said people could use the "Anandaiah medicine" by volition.

Commissioner of AYUSH V. Ramulu told mediapersons that the herbal concoction being distributed by Mr. Anandaiah was not an Ayurvedic medicine.

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Marathwada, north interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

• •	IVAIII	WIAA	101114	CITT	IVA III	WIAA	
jartala		34.0	27.7	Kozhikode		32.5	24.0
ımedabad		37.6	28.0	Kurnool	3	38.1	26.9
zawl		28.1	19.0	Lucknow		38.0	26.5
lahabad		38.4	26.5	Madurai		41.4	26.4
ngaluru		32.3	21.4	Mangaluru		31.2	23.8
nopal		39.7	21.2	Mumbai		32.0	27.2
ubaneswar		37.1	29.0	Mysuru		33.0	21.2
andigarh		38.6	27.4	New Delhi		39.6	25.0
ennai	1	39.2	28.2	Patna		35.0	25.8
imbatore		34.7	23.9	Port Blair	19	32.4	24.8
hradun	0.6	34.6	24.0	Puducherry		38.7	25.7
ngtok	0.3	22.0	17.3	Pune		34.6	24.1
oa		32.6	25.8	Raipur		42.5	29.0
ıwahati	11	26.5	25.7	Ranchi	0.4	33.6	24.9
ıbballi		30.0	22.0	Shillong	16	19.1	17.3
derabad		38.4	27.0	Shimla		29.3	19.6
ıphal		31.3	20.6	Srinagar	1.3	24.2	15.4
ipur		40.2	29.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	32.7	25.2
chi	2	31.4	25.0	Tiruchi		40.3	27.6
hima		24.8	16.4	Vijayawada		38.8	29.6
lkata	36	27.8	24.0	Visakhapatnam	0.4	36.0	29.6
ainfall data i	n mm;	temper	ature in C	elsius)			

Bengaluru 5 .37 73 27 Chennai 78 ... 6 34 2638 ...55 ...47 Visakhapatnam 16 .41 2762 .101

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI) 502: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and prematur

Failure to control crowd on roads will lead to stricter curbs: Uddhav

CM says lockdown restrictions have already slowed down developmental works

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday warned over the increasing crowd on Mumbai roads saying failing to control this would result in stricter restrictions in the city. Speaking at the inaugura-

tion of multiple infrastructure works, Mr. Thackeray said, "I was really concerned when I saw crowd on the streets of Mumbai today. We have not yet lifted lockdown restrictions in Mumbai and Maharashtra as corona scare is not over yet.'

The Chief Minister added that the lockdown restrictions had already slowed down various developmental works in the city and in the State. "If crowding continues, then ongoing works



Better connectivity: The trial run on the Metro Lines 2A and 7, ahead of its inauguration by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray at Kandivali in Mumbai on Monday. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

too will have to be stopped. If crowd continues on roads of Mumbai then we will have to impose stricter restrictions in the city," he said.

Mr. Thackeray was presiding over the programmes including inauguration of the Metro line testing between Dahanukarwadi and Aarey Metro station and stone-laying ceremony of underground and elevated road on the Western Express Highway (T1 and T2) and book launch of 'Multiplicities' and e-inauguration of one-sidearm of Rajnoli flyover towards Thane and Durgadi flyover, organised by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. Meanwhile, the inaugura-

tion of the Metro testing line was mired in controversy after Leader of Opposition in the Council Pravin Darekar claimed that he was condemning the State government for not inviting former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Devendra Fadnavis, for the programme.

In a bid to claim credit, Mr. Fadnavis tweeted, "Very happy about the trial run of Metro line 2A &7. From sanctioning to finance to speedy work during our tenure made this possible. Now, we hope to see the regular metro running soon on these routes. #MumbaiMetroTrials."

Man accused of rape, unlawful conversion gets bail in U.P.

Victim, an adult, had gone to hotel room 'on her own': HC

OMAR RASHID

The Allahabad High Court has granted bail to a man booked under the new unlawful conversion law in Uttar Pradesh noting that the victim, an adult, had gone with him to a hotel room, where he allegedly raped her, "on her own sweet-will".

The court noted that the girl and the accused "were in a relationship since long and she used to spend time with the applicant and used to travel with him and went to a room of a hotel on her own sweet-will".

Last December, Sonu Rajpoot alias Zubair had been booked for rape, cheating and criminal intimidation and also slapped with with Sections 3/5 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful

Religion Conversion Act by the Nauchandi police in Meerut district.

The lawyer of the accused citing the FIR argued that the girl had on her free will travelled with the man as they were in a relationship and the two used to spend time together.

The woman had alleged that the man established physical relationship with her "against her wishes", which amounts to rape. She also alleged that she did not know his religious identity till she saw his real name in the register of the hotel.

The man's lawver argued that there was some dispute between the two relating to their community and as such their relationship could not

The accused side also ar-

gued that while the alleged rape was reported to have happened on November 28. 2020, the woman lodged the FIR on December 29. A medical examination of the wo-

of force, they further argued. The victim is a major and working and as such was very well aware of worldly af-

man done on January 4,

2020, showed no signs of use

fairs, the counsel for the accused argued. While granting bail to the

man, Justice Samit Gopal on May 27 noted, "Looking to the facts and circumstances of this case, the nature of evidence and also the absence of any convincing material to indicate the possibility of tampering with the evidence, this court is of the view that the applicant may be enlarged on bail."

found floating in the Ganga SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

6 more bodies

Six more bodies of suspected COVID-19 victims were found floating in the Ganga in Fatehpur district in Uttar Pradesh, an official said on Monday.

SDM Fatehpur Pramod Jha said he was informed about the bodies floating in the river on Sunday morning, following which a search operation was launched.

The bodies were floating in the river on the banks towards Rae Bareli. "Six bodies were pulled out. They were pretty old," he told reporters.

Since the bodies could not be identified, their final rites were conducted by a team of doctors at Bhitora ghat with full honours as per the Covid guidelines, he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Maharashtra's active cases fall to 2.53 lakh

With 15,077 cases, State records lowest daily surge in 80 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In its lowest single-day spike in nearly 80 days, Maharashtra reported 15,077 new CO-VID-19 cases on Monday as opposed to 33,000 recoveries. The State's active case tally dropped further to

reach 2,53,367 This is the State's lowest single-day surge since March 11, when a little over 14,000 cases had been recorded. However, it must be viewed in the context of far lower samples being tested than usual – lesser than two lakh as compared with the average daily figure of 2.70 lakh.

A total of 500 deaths were added to the State's progressive death toll, of which 184 occurred in the last week. Of

the 184, as many as 133 were recorded in the last 48 hours while 316 had been added in the ongoing 'reconciliation' process, as per the State Health Department. The total death toll has

now climbed to 95,344 with the State's case fatality rate The State's total cases

have touched 57,46,892 while its cumulative recoveries have gone up to 53,95,370 with the recovery rate rising to 93.55%.

"Of a total 3,50,55,054 laboratory samples tested thus far, 57,46,892 (with the average case positivity falling incrementally to 16.39%) have returned positive with over 1.94 lakh samples being tested in the last 24 hours,"

State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said. Pune reported a compara-

tively low spike of 1,083 new cases of which Pune city recorded just 180 new ones. As per the State Health Department figures, nine deaths were reported as the fatality toll rose to 12,507.

Mumbai recorded 666 new cases to take its total case tally to 7,05,288 while the active count has declined further to 24,850. As many as 29 fatalities took the city's toll to 14,826.

In western Maharashtra, Kolhapur topped the case surge in the 'sugar belt' districts, registering more than 1,800 new ones as its total tally reached 1,14,163 of whom 18,557 are active.

Police take Sushil Kumar to Haridwar to recover phones

'He didn't cooperate in recovery of his clothes for DNA sampling'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Monday took Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar and his accomplice Ajay Sehrawat to Haridwar to recover mobile phones and other articles, however, they returned empty-handed, said a senior police officer.

The officer said that after Mr. Kumar got to know that Sagar had succumbed to his injuries, he left the city. He reached a yoga ashram and after spending a day there, he left for Rishikesh. When the Uttarakhand police in-



tensified their search, he escaped to Punjab. While evading arrest, Mr.

Kumar never stayed in hotels. He always spent nights at homes of his known contacts in the sports field, said the officer. "He was taken to locations where he stayed and where his mobile phone was last traced. However, he didn't cooperate in recovery of his mobile phone and clothes he was wearing during the brawl for DNA sampling," said the officer. "We will also charge Sush-

il and other accomplices for destruction of evidences because the DVR of CCTVs of Chhatrasal Stadium and Sushil's house was also found missing," said the

In the police custody, Mr. Kumar is following his wrestler's routine.

Rajasthan eases lockdown to allow commercial works

MOHAMMED IQBAL

The Rajasthan government on Monday modified the CO-VID-19 lockdown to partially allow commercial activities following a decline in the cases. The restrictions will be eased at the places where positivity rate is less than 10% and the use of medical oxygen, ICU and ventilators has been reduced to less than 60%.

The new guidelines, which will be applicable from June 2, have divided all districts and village panchayats in the State into three categories for gradually lifting the restrictions. Principal Home Secretary Abhay Kumar said the activi-

ties would be allowed based on the people's adherence to the COVID appropriate behaviour.

While the earlier restrictions on the opening of shops, parks, malls, educational institutions, religious places and wedding functions will continue, the intradistrict traffic will be allowed on the roads between 5 a.m. and 12 noon. This permission will be extended to the traffic between cities, villages and districts from June

Public transport, including the State roadways and private buses, will be allowed from June 10, for which separate orders will be issued.

DELHI THE HINDU TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

Ending encryption

Enforcing traceability on popular messaging apps will encroach into user privacy

arely a day before the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 came into force, WhatsApp moved the Delhi High Court against the rules - specifically the one that mandates that a "significant social media intermediary providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable the identification of the first originator of the information on its computer resource as may be required by a judicial order". Given the specification that a "significant social media intermediary" is one with more than 50 lakh registered users, WhatsApp's messenger service would clearly be affected. WhatsApp's contention is that for compliance and traceability, it would have to break its end-to-end encryption service that allows messages to be read only by the sender and the receiver. Its argument is that the encryption feature allows for privacy protections and breaking it would mean a violation of privacy. The question to be asked is whether the traceability guidelines (by breaking encryption) are vital to law enforcement in cases of harmful content. A release by the Ministry of Electronics and IT has said that the traceability measure will be used by law enforcement as the "last resort" and will come by only in specific situations, such as "for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to the sovereignty and integrity of India... or child sexual abuse material, punishable with imprisonment....' The assertion suggests that this requirement is in line with the Puttaswamy judgment that clarified that any restriction to the right of privacy must be necessary, proportionate and include safeguards against abuse.

But the Government, as the law stands now, can already seek access to encrypted data under Section 69 (3) of the IT Act, and Rules 17 and 13 of the 2009 Surveillance Rules that require intermediaries to assist with decryption when they have the technical ability to do so and when law enforcement has no other alternative. Besides, it can still seek unencrypted data, metadata and digital trails from intermediaries such as WhatsApp. The trouble with enforcing traceability is that without safeguards such as having any independent or judicial oversight, government agencies could seek any user's identity on vague grounds and this could compromise the anonymity of whistle-blowers and journalistic sources, who can claim to be acting in the public interest. WhatsApp's contention that "requiring messaging apps to 'trace' chats is the equivalent of asking us to keep a fingerprint of every single message sent... and fundamentally undermines right to privacy" is, therefore, not hyperbole. If anything, the Government needs to revisit its position on traceability commitments of intermediaries and instead revise the IT Act, 2000 in line with existing global best practices besides legislating the long-pending Data Protection Bill.

No comments

Some questions at post-match conferences are insensitive, but a player boycott is no solution

t 23, Naomi Osaka has the tennis world at her feet. With four Grand Slam titles and now ranked ****second in the world, Osaka has tremendous brand equity. She also speaks her mind beyond sport, be it on racism or on her mixed lineage of being born to a Haitian father and Japanese mother while growing up in the United States. It looked as though the baton of success had passed from the great Serena Williams to Osaka. Yet, the Japanese star's fresh halo suffered a dent with her media boycott in the current French Open at Paris. Shooting the messenger is a petulant attribute that crops up in politics, sport and the arts. Often these are impulsive reactions to a bad day at work. The odd tennis press conference was skipped in the past with Serena and Novak Djokovic being guilty of such violations. But what makes it worse for Osaka is her premeditated stance revealed through her message before the French Open: 'I am not going to do any press during Roland Garros.' She also juxtaposed her coldshoulder of the media with mental-health issues, hinting that journalists tend to exacerbate the fragile minds of athletes, especially those who lost a match. In one fell swoop, Osaka ignored nuance, dished out a lame excuse and trivialised the serious issue of mental health.

In a universe where athletes prefer social-media posts over media interactions, the official press-conference is the last remaining avenue for probing questions that elicit insightful answers. Player-journalist interactions are the only substitute for source-based inferences that colour the narrative. Closer home, M.S. Dhoni revealed his international retirement through Instagram and lapsed into silence. Sports bodies have sensed this diffidence and in the cricket World Cup or a Grand Slam event, the post-match press-conference is a contractual obligation. In this era of click-bait headlines, it is not that all Fourth Estate members are perceptive. There have been instances of the odd insensitive question but the athlete can always offer a counter or stick to a 'no-comments' response. Osaka deciding to constantly pay a fine for not honouring her media commitments at the French Open has set a terrible precedent and it is fitting that the consortium of Grand Slams have hinted at harsher measures including ejecting her from the tournament. Besides excellence on the turf, commerce off the field equally drives sport. Corporate sponsors, who get some play through advertorial material as background screen in press-conferences, are obviously aggrieved. Legends such as Rafael Nadal have also spoken about how sport evolves through the symbiosis between athletes and the media. It is a pity that Osaka has suddenly turned blind to this reality.

Elected autocrats, their pandemic responses

In the U.S., India and Brazil, messianic populism, polarisation and insularity have made the pandemic that much worse



PATRICK HELLER

year and counting into the greatest health crisis the world has faced in over a century we can identify one overwhelming factor that separates the countries that have done relatively well from those that have been complete disasters: elected autocrats. By any measure the most dismal performers in the democratic world have been the United States, Brazil and India. Despite its vast wealth and resources and its low population density, the U.S. has one of the highest per capita death tolls in the world. Brazil has taken denialism to new levels and the novel coronavirus pandemic has been allowed to range so fiercely that the country has become a petri dish for new mutations. India's first wave numbers were relatively mild (even accounting for underreporting) but the current wave is probably the worst and deadliest the world has seen.

The reactions

In all three cases it did not have to be this bad. Former U.S. President Donald Trump took the pandemic as a personal affront, initially refused to come to terms with the threat and wilfully downplayed the gravity of the pandemic. When Washington finally decided to take action, the response was crippled by policy incoherence, partisan attacks on Democratic Governors and open hostility to the scientific community.

Mr. Trump even provided a definition of his autocratic writ declaring in April 2020 that "when so-

mebody's the President of the United States, the authority is total, and that's the way it has got to

Brazil's right-wing populist President, Jair Bolsonaro, who came to office on a platform of being tough on crime and the politically correct, has been called the tropical Trump. He dismissed the pandemic as a "little cold", boasted that real men had nothing to worry about, attacked public health officials as promoting a hoax and fired health ministers who defied him. Measures to combat the pandemic that have been taken in Brazil have come from governors and mayors and have been met with fierce opposition and public mockery from Mr. Bolsonaro.

Narendra Modi was never an outright COVID denier, and his government did take decisive measures, imposing a nation-wide lockdown in March 2020. But having failed to consult with experts or any of the Chief Ministers that govern India's federal States, the welfare consequences of the lockdown were severe as tens of millions of urban migrants were forced into a mass exodus back to their villages. The pandemic subsided for some time, but even as experts warned of a second wave driven by new variants, the government celebrated its national triumph over the virus, dragged its feet on vaccinations and forged ahead with large-scale election campaign events and religious festivals even as the second wave surged. But of all the policy failures that have led to calls for the government to resign, none is more egregious or more revealing of Mr. Modi's indifference than the Government's decision to stay within its Budget allocations and charge States for vaccines. At the current rate, it will take the world's largest producer of vac-



cines more than a year to vaccinate its population.

As elected autocrats, Mr. Trump, Mr. Bolsonaro and Mr. Modi have three things in common.

First, they came to power as classic right-wing populists who branded themselves as incarnations of the people and peddled their personal virtues of strength and fortitude as substitutes for deliberation and policy making. Rulers powered by messianic faith have little patience for experts and science. All three have surrounded themselves with yes-men and ruled from the gut, peddling triumphalism (all three prematurely declared the pandemic vanquished), quack remedies (injecting disinfectants, the waters of the Ganga) and sheer macho bombast, as when Mr. Trump and Mr. Bolsonaro took a lap for surviving infection even as they received the best care in the world.

The line of nationalism

Second, autocrats feed on polarisation. All three have championed a virtuous nationalism - rooted alternatively in evangelism in Brazil and the U.S., or Hindutva in India animated and weaponised by the demonisation of the other. Ethnicised nationalism works by demoting the "other" – Muslims, Blacks, immigrants, gays, secularists and all those who subscribe to ideals of civic nationalism – to the morally deficient. Membership in the community of the nation is essentialised. Mr. Trump demonised immigrants, channelled white supremacy and stoked fears of Blacks invading suburbs. Mr. Bolsonaro routinely smears his opponents as banditos or communists and has a long track record of making homophobic and misogynistic remarks. Mr. Modi has a long record of debasing India's 200 million Muslims, and when re-elected in 2019, doubled down on his partv's platform of making India a Hindutva project, first by turning Kashmir (India's only Muslim majority State) into a militarised colony of the central government and then pursuing laws that are perceived by Muslims as according them second class citizenship status. In diverse societies, ethno-nationalism can only fuel social polarisation, and a polarised society is a society that cannot mobilise the trust and solidarity that responding to a pandemic calls for.

the status of the undeserving and

The pandemic itself was shamelessly used to inflame identities, with Mr. Trump denouncing the 'Kung Flu'. Mr. Modi's minions raising the spectre of 'corona jihad', and Mr. Bolsonaro hurling homophobic slurs at mask wearers. More than anything else, this explains why the most common sensical public health measures wearing masks, restricting social interaction, testing and getting vaccinated - all became so politicised in the U.S., India and Brazil.

Third, once in power, the autocrats quickly personalised, centralised and insulated their power. All three have attacked the Constitution (literally in Mr. Trump's case), demanded fealty from independent institutions, over-ridden the authority of expert institutions, tampered with data, assaulted the independence of the media, and elevated loyalty to the leader as the highest principle of service. This autocratisation explains the dismal failures of governance. The core tasks of a government in times of a pandemic coordination across levels of government, clear and consistent communication of basic policies and health measures, support for frontline workers and maybe, most importantly, rallying all citizens to stand together - have all been subverted by the autocrats' will to power.

A pushback

In the U.S., India and Brazil, this toxic combination of messianic populism, social polarisation, insularity and centralisation has made the pandemic that much worse and poisoned the waters of democracy. But democracies are not just about their leaders. Throughout the crisis, health-care workers and civil society organisations have stepped up where their leaders have failed, and democratic institutions have pushed back. Mr. Trump has been exposed by the media and shown the exit by the voters. The Brazilian Senate has launched a very public investigation into Mr. Bolsonaro's handling of the pandemic and his poll numbers have plummeted. Mr. Modi has just been repudiated in State-level elections and the Indian Supreme Court has called out the incoherence of the government's vaccine policy. But to take comfort in the hope that democracies will demand accountability, we must first remember, as the pandemic continues to ravage India and Brazil, that it is not only the virus, but also the hubris of autocrats, that kills

Patrick Heller is Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Brown

Power play to bring the digital ecosystem to heel

While there are problems in the system, ill-considered regulation such as the new IT Rules is not the way forward



RISHAB BAILEY & VRINDA BHANDARI

ule 4(2) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (https:// bit.ly/3c6uTyK) imposes an ol tion on significant social media intermediaries providing a messaging function, to ensure traceability of the originator of information on their platforms. A failure to implement this obligation can lead to intermediaries being held responsible for illicit content on their platforms. These rules have recently come into effect. Consequently, WhatsApp has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court (https://bit.ly/3fyRPIU) alleging that the mandate for traceability violates the privacy rights of Indian citizens, by rendering WhatsApp unable to provide encrypted

In response, the Government has, through a press release (https://bit.ly/3cop6ov), sought to question the substance and timing of WhatsApp's petition. On scrutiny, however, it appears that the response is misconceived.

The Government primarily relies on the argument that: privacy is not an absolute right, and that the traceability obligation is proportionate, and sufficiently restricted. Notably, the new Rules mandate traceability only in the case of significant social media intermediaries that provide messaging services (i.e. those that meet a user threshold of 50 lakh users, which WhatsApp does), subject to an order being passed by a court or government agency and only in the absence of any alternatives.

While it is indeed true that privacy is not an absolute right, the Supreme Court of India in the two K.S. Puttaswamy decisions (of 2017 and 2018) has clarified that any restriction on this right must be necessary, proportionate and include safeguards against abuse.

On traceability as a feature

However, as we argue in a recent paper (https://bit.ly/3uwtmIJ), a general obligation to enable traceability as a systemic feature across certain types of digital services is neither suitable nor proportionate. Additionally, the Rules lack effective safeguards in that they fail to provide any system of independent oversight over tracing requests made by the executive. This allows government agencies the ability to seek any messaging user's identity, virtually at will. However, anonymity from the government can be important, particularly in contexts of journalistic source protection and for whistle-blowers. Therefore, deciding whether to remove anonymity requires application of an inde-

pendent judicial mind. In applying the Puttaswamy tests to the Rules, one must examine not just whether the weakening of encryption systems will lead to some law enforcement gains, but whether these are worth the costs involved. Thus, one must consider the impacts of such a measure on the general digital ecosystem in terms of the overall cybersecurity and privacy problems such an obligation could create. There is near universal



sence of backdoors or weakening encryption generally - which a traceability mandate would do and security of all individuals at all times, despite no illegal activity on their part, and would create a presumption of criminality.

Other means exist

In any event, the Government already has numerous alternative means of securing relevant information to investigate online offences including by accessing unencrypted data such as metadata, and other digital trails from intermediaries. Therefore, the present Rules attempt to shorten the investigative process, even though, as we argue in our paper, law enforcement is not supposed to be an entirely frictionless process. Frictionless processes lacking sufficient checks will merely incentivise fishing expeditions

government agencies. Further, the surveillance powers of the Government are in any case vast and overreaching, recognised even by the Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee report of 2018 (https://bit.ly/3iiB6M3). Importantly, the Government already has the ability to access encrypted data under the IT Act. Notably, Section 69(3) of the Information Technology Act and Rules 17 and 13 of the Information Technology

needs reorientation rather

than upgradation to bring

capitalism through proxies

relief to the people. It is

governments to rein in

capitalists as political

power is wielded by

futile to expect

(Procedure and Safeguards for Interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009 (https://bit.ly/3c83QTB) require intermediaries to assist with decryption where they have the technical ability to do so, and where law enforcement has no alternatives. The newly notified Rules go well beyond current provisions in the law by seeking to punish relevant intermediaries for failing to adequately weaken encryption systems.

appears to be well aware that this is in effect what would happen if the traceability mandate were to be imposed. However, it notes that it is the responsibility of intermediaries to find an alternative method to protect user privacy, with or without the use of encryption.

Scrutiny is a must

The press release also claims that the new Rules were introduced pursuant to consultation. However, this does not reveal the entire story. The traceability related provision in the draft version of the Rules released in 2018 faced significant opposition from numerous stakeholders, ranging from service providers, academia, and civil society organisations. The new traceability provisions are substantially similar, and carrying out a consultation merely to reject all the views that go against state interests is far from best practice. Ideally, and given the substantive changes made to the 2018 draft (including the addition of several entirely new parts such as those pertaining to regulation of digital news), the new Rules should also have been put through a period of consultation before being notified. . Ideally, the rules should also be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining the rationale for regulation.

Of course, this entire discussion is notwithstanding the fact that the intermediary rules are not the manner or place to go about putting in place new substantive regulation to solve the myriad problems caused by the digital ecosystem. Indeed, the ability of the government to issue progressively more onerous obligations under the guise of "due diligence" the IT Act (which in essence, deals with the issue of take-down of illegal content) must be subject to judicial scrutiny.

Overall, however, it is clear that the move by the Government is part of a broader power play against foreign-based technology companies, and to generally bring the digital ecosystem to heel. While, undoubtedly, there are numerous problems in the digital ecosystem that are often exacerbated or indeed created by the way intermediaries function, illconsidered regulation of the sort represented by the new intermediary rules – which appear to have little basis in evidence or care for consequences -- is not the way forward. Indeed, the only truly democratic and relatively long-term solution would be for legislative change along multiple avenues, including in the form of revising and reforming the now antiquated IT Act, 2000.

Rishab Bailey is a technology policy researcher at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi. Vrinda Bhandari, a lawyer practising in Delhi, was involved in challenging the Intermediary Guideline Rules 2021 before the Kerala High Court

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.

Denting federalism

The Prime Minister's Office recalling the Chief Secretary of West Bengal raises certain basic questions about constitutional governance. Under the federal structure, the Centre should, as far as possible, help in the effective functioning of the various States. Contrarily the Centre's action, making it impossible for the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Chief Secretary (he has since joined the CM's team) to effectively tackle important issues such as COVID-19 and relief measures after cyclone

democracy. The Centre is negating the electoral mandate of the people of West Bengal by creating all sorts of problems for their elected government. This is a disguised form of using Article 356 of the Constitution. This was not the impression that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave when he came to address a memorial lecture before an august gathering – he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat – at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium in October 2013. Mr. Modi made many

Yaas, defies any respect for

promises linked to his being elected to the main seat of power. One such promise that one vividly remembers is that not everything would happen in Delhi. He said that important national and international meetings would be held in other States so that they would equally grow and in turn would contribute to strengthening federalism. Unfortunately, the converse is happening. N.G.R. PRASAD,

Course correction The current form of exploitative capitalism using money power. It is counter movements such as trade unions which were a check during the Industrial Age. Only a well-informed popular movement, conscious of new tools of exploitation such as

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intellectual property rights can bring about course correction in this digital age.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH. Roanoke, Texas, U.S.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: In the story titled "When Nehru wanted globe-trotter diplomats in print" (May 30, 2021), the name of the person appointed to the post of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) for promotion of Hindi in the works of the ministry should have been given as Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and not Haribans Rai

Bachchan, as published. In the last paragraph of the was reference to Bahasa Indonesia. It should be Bahasa Indonesian. A Profiles page article titled "The chief investigator" (May 30, 2021) erroneously called Subodh Kumar Jaiswal as the second officer from the Maharashtra cadre to head the CBI. He is actually the third IPS officer from Maharashtra. John Lobo was the first. Mohan Ganesh Katre was the second.

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THE HINDU DELHI TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021

Recognising caste-based violence against women

By repeatedly setting aside convictions under the PoA Act, courts bolster allegations that the law is misused



The horror of the gang rape of a 19year-old Dalit woman in Hathras in 2020 is still fresh in our minds. Activists, academics and lawyers argued that the sexual violence took place on account of the woman's gender and caste and that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) must be invoked.

On the heels of the Hathras crime came a new judgment of the Supreme Court (Patan Jamal Vali v. State of Andhra Pradesh) addressing the intersectionality of caste, gender and disability. In this case, the victim of sexual assault was a blind 22-yearold Dalit woman. The trial court and the High Court had convicted the accused for rape under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and under Section 3(2)(v) of the PoA Act, and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The Supreme Court, in its iudgment delivered by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice M.R. Shah, confirmed the conviction and the punishment for rape under the IPC but set aside the conviction under the PoA Act. On the one hand, this judgment is a huge step forward as the court used the opportunity to bring recognition to intersectional discrimination faced by women on the grounds of sex, caste and disability. However, by setting aside the conviction under the PoA Act, it is like many other previous judgments of the Supreme Court.

The intersectional approach

Let us focus on the positive aspects first. The Supreme Court, in a first, elaborated on the need for an intersectional approach, to take into account the multiple marginalities that the victim faced. It relied on wellknown intersectional theorists such as Kimberlé Crenshaw who first coined the term 'intersectionality' and on the statement of the Combahee River Collective which addressed the intersectional discrimination faced by black women in the U.S. Using these sources, the court recognised that when the identity of a wo-

man intersects with her caste, class, religion, disability and sexual orientation, she may face violence and discrimination due to two or more grounds. It said we need to understand how multiple sources of oppression operated cumulatively to produce a specific experience of subordination for the blind Dalit woman. Placing special emphasis on making the criminal justice system more responsive to women with disabilities facing sexual assault, the court also laid down directions to train judges, the police and prosecutors to be sensitised in such cases.

But despite using an intersectional lens, the court set aside conviction under the PoA Act. The PoA Act was enacted to address atrocities against persons from SC and ST communities and was amended in 2015 to specifically recognise more atrocities against Dalit and Adivasi women including sexual assault, sexual harassment and Devadasi dedication. Section 3(2)(v) states that if any person not being an SC/ST member commits any offence under the IPC punishable with imprisonment of 10 years or more against a person on the ground that such a person is from an SC/ST community, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for life and with fine. This was amended in 2015, to change the phrase "on the ground that such person is a member of SC/ ST" to "knowing that such person is a member of SC/ST"

In cases of sexual violence against Dalit and Adivasi women, courts have almost consistently set aside convictions under the PoA Act. In 2006 in Ramdas and Others v. State of Maharashtra, where a Dalit minor girl was raped, the Supreme Court set aside the conviction under the PoA Act stating that the mere fact that the victim happened to be a woman who was member of an SC com-

munity would not attract the PoA Act. In Dinesh Alias Buddha v. State of Rajasthan (2006), the Supreme Court held: "It is not case of the prosecution that the rape was committed on the victim since she was a member of Scheduled Caste." In Asharfi v. State of Uttar Pradesh (2017), the court held that the evidence and materials on record did not show that the appellant had committed rape on the ground that the victim was member of an SC community. In 2019, in Khuman Singh v. State of Madhya Pradesh, a case of murder, again the court held that the fact that the deceased was a member of an SC community was not disputed but there was no evidence to show that the offence was committed only on that ground; conviction under the PoA Act was set aside. There are several precedents insisting on an unrealistic burden of proof. This issue

needs to be referred to a larger bench

Burden of proof

to take a different view.

In all these judgments, the court held that there was no evidence to show that the accused committed sexual assault on the ground that the victim was member of an SC/ST community. One is tempted to ask: what kind of evidence would that be? How would the prosecution prove in any given case that the accused had sexually assaulted the victim because she was Dalit/ Adivasi? The only evidence that can be led is that the victim was from an SC/ST community and that the accused was aware of that. When a woman is from a marginalised caste and is disabled, she faces discrimination due to her sex, caste/tribe and disability, all of which render her vulnerable to sexual violence. This is what intersectionality

theory requires us to recognise. In the Patan Jamal Vali case, the court using the intersectional lens recognises that evidence of discrimination or violence on a specific ground may be absent or difficult to prove. It agreed with the finding of the sessions judge that the prosecution's case would not fail merely because the victim's mother did not mention in her statement to the police that the offence was committed against her daughter because she was from an SC community. It also confirmed that it would be reasonable to presume that the accused knew the victim's caste as he was known to the victim's family. Despite such a nuanced understanding, the court held that there was no separate evidence led by the prosecution to show that the accused committed the offence on the basis of the victim's caste. It is unfortunate that intersectionality, which seeks to recognise the multiple grounds of marginalisation faced by women, was used by the court to state that it becomes difficult to establish whether it was caste, gender or disability that led to the commission of the offence.

Why would this matter, one might ask, if the punishment of life imprisonment was upheld? It matters because the repeated setting aside of convictions under the PoA Act bolsters the allegations that the law is misused and amounts to the erasure of caste-based violence faced by women. Further, as stated in the recent Parliamentary Standing Committee Report on Atrocities and Crimes against Women and Children, the "high acquittal rate motivates and boosts the confidence of dominant and powerful communities for continued perpetration". This judgment was a missed opportunity for the court to use intersectionality to uphold the conviction under the PoA Act or refer the matter to a larger bench if needed. We need to stop hiding behind smokescreens of hyper-technicality of evidence and recognise caste-based violence against women when it stares us in the face. Else, our caste discrimination laws will be rendered toothless. If intersectionality theory mattered in this case, it should have influenced an interpretation of the PoA Act that reflects the lived experiences of women facing sexual violence.

Jayna Kothari is co-founder of Centre for Law and Policy Research and Senior Advocate who practices in the Supreme Court of India

The Indian model of coexistence

Israel and Palestine will have to seek a solution through non-violence, and could take a leaf out of India's book



NAJMUL HODA

The cycle of violence between the Israeli forces and the Palestinian public is neither the first nor likely to be the last of its kind. The Palestinians have been losing not only their lives and livelihood but also the very land for which this violence has been raging for over a century now. The territory in question is The Holy Land to the three religions of Abrahamic monotheism, viz., Judaism, Christianity and Islam. One can't be a Jew or a Christian or a Muslim and deny that it is the Promised Land of the Beni Israel branch of the descendants of Abraham. The Al-Aqsa mosque in Quran is Solomon's Temple which was the first Qibla (direction of prayer) of the Muslims. The Islamic claim on Jerusalem comes only through its association with Judaism and Christianity.

A brief history

Britain renounced its Mandate over Palestine in 1948, paving the way for the United Nations to divide Palestine between the Jews and Arabs, giving them about 55% and 45% of the land, respectively. The Jews, meanwhile, had declared the establishment of the state of Israel for which they had been working for long. The Palestinians, who lacked the resources to conceive of a state, failed to form a state of their own in the land allotted to them. Instead, a coalition of Arab countries invaded the nascent state of Israel to nip it in the bud. Israel not only defeated the Arab armies, but also unleashed what the Palestinians call Nakba, an Arabic word which means holocaust. Israel destroyed about 600 Palestinian villages and expelled about 80% of Arabs from its territory.

In 1967, in the Six-Day War, Israel captured not just more Palestinian land but also Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights. During the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Arabs came to realise that Israel is here to stay. But the Arab states, while washing their hands off Palestine, failed to impress the same realisation upon their Palestinian brethren, a sizeable number of whom remain committed to seeking a solution through counter-violence. Non-Arab Muslim countries, while being of no help to the Palestinians have been the greatest cheerleaders of the violent section of the struggle.

This vicious cycle of violence is not going to end unless there is realism on both sides. The Hamas should know that Israel will not give up on holding on to land it has held for years, and Israel should understand that total subjugation, expulsion or even decimation of Palestinians will not make it any safer. Both the sides will have to seek a solution through non-violence. A solution based on the common humanity of all stakeholders, one that is not riven by racial and religious schisms, needs to be explored. Secularisation of the discourse is an inescapable prerequisite for any workable solution. This is especially more applicable for the weaker side.

Accommodation of all

The Indian model of democracy and secularism, which accommodates religious, ethnic, linguistic and other diversities, could be a viable model for the peaceful coexistence of formerly antagonistic groups. The European model of the annihilation of natives in the Americas and Australia, last tried on the Jews in Nazi Germany, is not a solution which we can morally countenance and practically resort to. India, on the other hand, evolved a unique model of accommodating the victors and the vanquished, without ever resorting to the latter's decimation.

A modus vivendi has to evolve on the basis of hard realities, the first of which is that neither the Iews nor the Palestinians are going to vanish into thin air. The Palestinians missed the bus to form a state in 1948, and have missed many since then. Now, they are sparsely spread over the land in scores of non-contiguous pockets, making a cohesive state unviable. The two-state solution can be possible only if Israel frees the occupied territories and removes the Jewish settlements from there, an unlikely scenario in the foreseeable future.

If the two-state solution is nowhere in the offing, a single state after the Indian model, i.e., a secular, democratic and pluralistic state, may be the only feasible option. A nation state only for the Jews would be a relapse into the ghetto mode, with all its concomitant implications.

The Palestinian refugees have a right to return. That the altered demographics would impinge on the religio-racial character of Israel is not an argument which behoves a modern democratic state founded on common humanity with equal rights and opportunities for everyone. It is true that a nation state belongs to the group which constituted itself into a nation. Therefore, the group's ethos would reflect in national life without it rubbing it in. A nation is an imagined community. As imagination expands, the foundations of the nation become deeper. For this, there could be no better model than India. Israel might not offer the right model of conflict resolution for India, but India presents a model of peaceful coexistence for Israel.

Najmul Hoda is an IPS officer. Views are personal

FROM THE ARCHIVES

'Generation gap' in education systems

Asian countries were to-day urged to over-

haul their education systems to avoid the

"dangers of the education gap" between the

young and the grown-up. This was the theme of the keynote address delivered by

Mr. Rene Maheu, Director-General of UNES-

CO, at the opening session of the third re-

gional conference of Ministers of Education

and those responsible for economic plan-

ning in Asia here this morning [Singapore,

May 31]. Pointing out that over 62 per cent of

Asian population was under the age of 25, Mr. Maheu warned: "If your (Asian) coun-

tries wish to avoid the dangers of a genera-

tion gap, they will have to devise new ways

of dealing with the problems that will give

young people both the means of participat-

ing in the reform of an educational system

on which their future depends and the hope

of finding, forthwith, a place in a society

where they can work to achieve their aspira-

tions". The conference in which 18 countries

are participating - 12 of which are represent-

ed by Education Ministers - was opened by

President Benjamin Sheares of Singapore,

who in his opening address, emphasised the

growing link between education and eco-

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1921

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 1, 1971

The Man Prindu.

Co-WIN, casinos and luck

The psychology behind trying our luck at booking a vaccine appointment is the same as in gambling

The experience of booking an appointment to get vaccinated in India has been rewarding for some but frustrating for most. The procedure for a citizen to get vaccinated is to register on the Co-WIN website or Aarogya Setu app and schedule an appointment at a preferred centre. It sounds easy until you try it. Soon you realise that no matter how fast you click the confirm button, it's not easy to get an appointment. That's because vaccines are in short supply. And that is because the Government of India hasn't placed enough orders.

People who have been trying to get an appointment find someone or the other in their social network who got lucky with an appointment. That motivates them to keep trying. The system of getting vaccine appointments has become gamified with vaccination centres releasing alerts of slot openings on social media. These alerts inform people about the openings of vaccination slots at any time of the day or night. They keep people hooked on to the game of 'fastest finger first' to book an appointment.

Vaccination and gambling

The psychology behind why random alerts and repeated log ins into the website to try one's luck at booking an appointment works is the same as why people gamble money in casinos or buy lottery tickets. At a casino, people put money in the slot machine and press the button. People don't know if they'll win. They can't predict it. But they believe that the odds of winning increase the more they play. So, they keep gambling. Of course, most people lose more than they win because the odds are always in favour of the casino, which makes most of the money. In the case of trying their luck at getting a vaccination appointment, people eagerly wait for alerts of slot openings, log in and press the confirm button. People don't know if they'll 'win' an appointment. They can't predict it. But people believe that the odds of 'winning' an appointment increase the more they log in. So, people keep trying. Of course, most people don't 'win' appointments because the odds are not in their favour. The only difference

between gambling at casinos and booking vaccination appointments is that in gambling, the casino wins most of the time. But regarding vaccination, both the government and the

Active conditioning

In Ivan Pavlov's experiment of classical conditioning, the dogs in the experiment would start drooling when they heard the sounds associated with food preparation. They would drool when the bell rang even though no food was present. After a while, the dogs would stop responding if no food appeared after the bell was rung. But psychologist B. F. Skinner found that rats and pigeons would continue doing the task much longer if they were rewarded occasionally rather than every time. Both are types of conditioning, but Skinner's conditioning was active, whereas Pavlov's was passive. The dog didn't have to do anything conscious to get the reward, whereas the rat and pigeon had to undertake a task. Making the animal take an explicit action produced a stronger, longer lasting effect on behaviour.

Humans respond in similar ways as rats and pigeons when given an occasional reward for repetitive behaviour. Casinos give players the illusion of control by letting players place chips and play their cards. Giving them choices and making people take action makes them feel like they have some control, as opposed to giving purely luck-based unpredictable rewards. In case of vaccinations, the government is giving people the illusion of control by encouraging people to log in and try their luck at booking an appointment. Giving people the choice to take action towards booking an appointment makes people feel like they have some control, even though the odds are highly stacked against 'winning' an appointment. There is an element of surprise or uncertainty, so people are never sure when the appointment will come through. This is keeping people engaged. The question is, should the government be operating vaccinations like a casino?

Anand Damani is behavioural scientist and partner at Briefcase



DATA POINT

Pace picks up marginally | The daily COVID-19 vaccination rate in May, after India opened up vaccination for all adults, was sluggish and similar to the pace observed in March, when only senior citizens were allowed to get vaccinated. However, in the last 10 days of May, 2.13 million doses were administered per day on average, marginally higher than the 1.57 million doses in the previous 10-day period. If India is aiming to complete vaccinating all adults by the end of 2021, the average daily dose has to increase to 7.75 million. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Sumant Sen

■ **DEGREE OF RISE** From May 21 to 30, 2.13 million doses were administered daily on average. At the current rate, by July 31, only 345 million doses can be administered

APRIL 11

Target achieved a decrease is shown as by July 31 (mn) MAHARASHTRA 0.33 Phase 1 pace (Jan 16 - Feb 27) 65.52 U.P. 188.47 Phase 2 pace (Mar 1 - Mar 10) 1.14 Phase 2 pace (Mar 11 - Mar 20) 1.89 296.22 Phase 2 pace (Mar 21 - Mar 30) 1.85 290.00 KARNATAKA Phase 3 pace (Apr 1 - Apr 10) 3.65 510.14 WEST BENGAL Phase 3 pace (Apr 11 - Apr 20) 2.85 421.07 GUJARAT Phase 3 pace (Apr 21- Apr 30) 2.49 383.80 M.P. 1.77 Phase 4 pace (May 1- May 10) 316.25 **HARYANA** Phase 4 pace (May 11- May 20) 1.57 302.12 ODISHA Phase 4 pace (May 21- May 30) 2.13 345 KERALA Target pace (May 31 - July 31) 4.62 500 TAMIL NADL Target pace (May 31 - Dec 31) 7.75 1880 (Dec. 31) ASSAM ■ MARGINAL RISE **DELHI** The average daily A.P. vaccination rate in India increased in JHARKHAND the last 10 days of DOSES 2.5 May. However, it

*The State data are between May 11-19 as May 20 dáta for **PUNJAB** the States have some TELANGANA ---discrepancies. Hence, CHHATTISGARH 💓 the comparison for the latest period is done UTTARAKHAND 🛶 using the data from

■ **STATE OF PLAY** | The chart shows average daily

(P2 ●)* in major States. An increase in the average

doses administered in May 11-19 (P1) and May 21-29

daily dose in P2 compared to P1 is indicated by → and

*HIMACHAL PRADESH

Indian paper industry (From an Editorial)

nomic planning.

If India is not still to continue as a land of lost opportunities she may well command the world's paper-supply in future. For, it would appear, according to expert opinion, that the failure of wood to supply the requirements of the paper industry has placed India and Burma in a unique position of advantage as the sole suppliers of the proper substitutes in the raw materials required. The paper-industry by its very nature as "a picker-up of unconsidered trifles" is, as its history shows, subjected to periodically recurring conditions of acuteness. During the past 100 years, rag, textile wastes, straw and esparto have, each in its turn, failed to meet the everincreasing demands of the industry and the present crisis, we learn is among other causes, of economic and industrial dislocation resulting from the war, mainly due to the dearth of wood for providing pulp. A paper was recently read in London before the Indian section of the Royal Society of Arts by Mr. Willian Riatt, F.C.S., the Celluloid Expert to the Government of India, attached to the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

Source: COVID19INDIA

was significantly

levels recorded in

the first half of April

Avg. doses (L=lakh) ightarrowJ&K ● ▶

FROM PAGE ONE

India's GDP shrinks by 7.3% in 2020-2021

While restrictions across States have had an impact on activity, the CEA said the second wave seems to have peaked on May 8 and is on the decline, so it is anticipated that lockdown-like curbs will reduce and eventually be removed, which will help the return of economic ac-

"The extent of recovery in the performance of the informal sectors in Q4 FY2021 remains uncertain, and we continue to caution that trends in the same may not get fully reflected in the GDP data, given the lack of adequate proxies to evaluate the less formal sectors," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Localised lockdowns

Recovery hopes will hinge on the duration for which localised restrictions will persist in coming months and whether an accelerated pace of vaccine rollout can prevent a third Covid surge, she said.

"The economic outlook remains highly uncertain, and periodic material revisions to our growth forecasts may persist in FY2022, like last year. At present, we expect real GDP to expand in the range of 8%-9.5%,"

More revisions possible The National Statistical Office attributed the improvement over its earlier growth estimates, to the improved performance of indicators, used in compilation of GVA, in the fourth quarter of 2020-21, owing to the calibrated and steady opening of the economy.

The NSO also warned that data collection had been impacted as much as any other activity by the pandemic, so its estimates could undergo sharp revisions.

It's time to define limits of sedition: Supreme Court

Justice Chandrachud referred to how, in an earlier suo motu hearing, he had wondered whether sedition charges would be launched against a news channel that had published a photograph of two persons throwing the body of a CO-VID-19 patient into a river from a bridge in Uttar Pradesh. "I had this case [Andhra] in mind when I said that," he said.

The court acknowledged the argument that the media was well within its rights to air critical programmes about a prevailing regime without attracting sedition.

TV5, represented by senior advocate Shyam Divan and advocates Vipin Nair and P.B. Suresh, and ABN Andhrajyothi argued that the sedition FIR against them was an "unfortunate assault". The State had accused them of sedition for reporting news about the pandemic in an "unbiased manner".

an unbiased manner is critical of a government or not to its liking, it cannot be said that the news outlet has committed an act of sedition or inciting hatred. To do so would be directly contrary to the freedom of Press," ABN, represented by Guntur Pramod Kumar, said in the petition. TV5 said the "vague" FIR

"Merely because the con-

tent of the news reported in

had a chilling effect on free speech in the media. Both channels urged the

Supreme Court to initiate against the senior officials of the State government for violating the April 30 order of the Supreme Court to "immediately cease any direct and indirect threats of prosecution and arrest to citizens, who air their grievances".

Here the Andhra government had "gone one step ahead" to penalise the media, the channels said.

West Bengal Chief Secretary steps down

However, later in the day, the, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) shot off a letter asking Mr. Bandyopadhyay to comply with the May 28 order and report at its North Block office at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. This prompted Mr. Bandyopadhyay, who had been given a three-month extension from May 31, his original date of retirement, to opt for superannuation.

Since Mr. Bandyopadhyay chose to retire on Monday and not avail the threemonth extension given to him at the request of the State, it was not immediately clear what action the Centre would initiate.

A senior official said on condition of anonymity, "The Centre or the DoPT is not the disciplinary authority for an officer posted in the State. They cannot initiate disciplinary proceedings against him."

H. K. Dwivedi, who was Additional Chief Secretary (Home) will be the new Chief Secretary and B.P. Gopalika the Additional Chief Secretary (Home).

The developments concerning Mr. Bandyopadhyay, whom the Centre had asked to report to Delhi on May 31, had brought the Centre-State ties to a new low. According to reports, the Centre had taken exception to him not being present at the review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Kaliakunda air base on cyclone 'Yaas' on

The CM and Mr. Bandyopadhyay had met the Prime Minister at the same venue

Recall Lakshadweep head: Kerala Assembly

The Chief Minister, who moved the resolution under Rule 118 in the House, said the Administrator is taking many measures to alienate the peace-loving people of the island. "In the name of development, even their livelihood is threatened. Even coconut trees are painted with saffron colour in the name of beautification. This can't be allowed at any cost," he said.

The attempt is to impose and implement the saffron agenda and corporate interests in Lakshadweep. The Sangh Parivar is making the island another laboratory and people of the country will not allow that to happen," the CM said.

Stating that steps are being taken to abolish all existing democratic institutions and impose bureaucratic domination, Mr. Vijayan said the powers of the District Panchayat and the Village Island Panchayat have been transferred to the Administrator. The departments of Fisheries, Health, Education, Animal Husbandry and Agriculture are being removed from the purview of the Panchayat.

Central Vista project essential, of public importance: Delhi HC

Court dismisses PIL plea against work, says COVID-19 protocols are adhered to

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking to halt the construction activities at the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project in view of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in the country.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh remarked that there was no reason for the court to suspend the construction activities as the workers were staying at the project site, and "COVID-19 protocols are adhered to and CO-VID-19 appropriate behaviour is being followed".

"We are of the view that this is a motivated petition preferred by the petitioners and not a genuine public interest litigation [petition]," the court said while imposing a cost of ₹1 lakh on petitioners Anya Malhotra, who works as a translator; and Sohail Hashmi, a historian documentary

'Not an essential activity' The petitioners had argued that the project was not an essential activity and hence,



Clearance given: Work in progress at the site of the Central Vista project in New Delhi on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

it could be put on hold for now during the pandemic.

The court noted that the work at the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment was part of the Central Vista Project and of vital public importance and the legality of the project had been upheld by Supreme Court.

"By no stretch of imagination, it can be said that Central Vista Project or Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project is not an essential project," the court said, adding, "If this type of project is stopped by the court, the main project cannot be completed within the stipulated time." It noted that the work at the Central Vista Avenue Redevelopment Project had to be completed by November 2021.

While the petitioners argued that the time limit be extended, the court said, "Such kind of arguments cannot be accepted by this court, keeping in view that the construction activity of this essential project or of a project of national importance cannot be stopped especially when the conditions imposed by the order of the DDMA dated 19th April, 2021...are not flouted or violated."

The HC remarked that several other agencies were undertaking construction projects in Delhi. "It is obvious that petitioners have selectively chosen only one project which is of national importance, at a vital place where Republic Day celebrations are held in Delhi and is a part and parcel of the larger project, namely, Central Vista Project," it stated.

'Very selective'

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta had argued that the PIL raised in the case was "very selective".

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, for the petitioners, stated that his clients were only delivering a message of health and safety for the people of Delhi and if the government could not see it, then it was a "sorry reflection" of its concern for the lives of the citizens.

Mr. Luthra had referred to the ongoing project work as not Central Vista, rather "central fortress of death", comparing it to "Auschwitz".

Mr. Mehta had expressed displeasure with the comparison, saying one could criticise and be venomous about it, but such terms should not be used in court.

Housing Minister trashes ex-civil servants' letter

There is an element of mischief, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said the 60 retired civil servants who recently endorsed an open letter expressing concern over the Central Vista project were a disgrace to the country. The letter was not based on facts and some of them needed to have their head examined before signing it, he stated at a press conference.

The letter, addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Urban Development Minister, said: "This project began, if reports are to be believed, because of a superstitious belief that the present Parliament building is 'unlucky', as well as with the thought of leaving a particular government and its leader's impression on the architecture of Delhi...'

Mr. Puri said any civil servant with about 40 years of experience would not rely on reports that needed to be "believed". Without naming one signatory, he said a retired official was the Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India when the plan to have a new Parliament building started taking



shape in 2012.

The new building was being constructed as the present one was cramped. As the freeze on parliamentary seats and seat allocations to States would be lifted in 2026, the number of members in both the Houses would increase, he noted.

There was an element of mischief and wishful thinking (of those opposing the project).

When they saw that the Supreme Court cleared it, they went to the Delhi High Court where also the government had now got the clearance and a cost of ₹1 lakh was imposed on the petitioner, he said.

On Monday, the Delhi High Court ruled that the petition was motivated, and said the national project was vital and essential.

EPFO allows withdrawal of 2nd COVID advance

Those who availed first also eligible

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Around six crore subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EP-FO) can now withdraw a second non-refundable CO-VID-19 advance, the Labour Ministry announced on Monday. The initial provision for special withdrawal to meet financial needs during the pandemic was introduced in March 2020.

The advance will allow subscribers to withdraw money equivalent to three months basic wages plus dearness allowance, or up to 75% of the amount standing to their credit in their Provident Fund account, whichever is less. Members can apply for less amounts as well. Those who have already availed the first CO-VID-19 advance are also free to opt for a second advance. The provision and process for withdrawal is the same

for both advances. "The COVID-19 advance has been a great help to the EPF members during the pandemic, especially for those having monthly wages of less than ₹15,000," said the Ministry statement. "As on date, EPFO has settled



more than 76.31 lakh CO-VID-19 advance claims thereby disbursing a total of ₹18,698.15 crore."

Given the urgent need of members for financial support, especially with a mucormycosis epidemic during the second wave of the pandemic, EPFO said it would accord top priority to CO-VID-19 claims. "EPFO is committed to

settling these claims within three days of their receipt. For this, EPFO has deployed a system driven auto-claim settlement process in respect of all such members whose KYC requirement is complete in all respects," said the statement. "Automode of settlement enables EPFO to reduce the claim settlement cycle to just 3 days as against the statutory requirement to settle the claims within 20 days."

Decision soon on oxygen use for industrial purposes

On April 22, govt. banned liquid oxygen supply to industry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The government would take a decision to lift restrictions on use of liquid oxygen for industrial purposes "as soon as possible", an official said. "We are talking to State

governments to find out what their needs for medical oxygen are. After confirmation from them as well as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, whatever needs to be done to revive the continuous process industries we will do as soon as possible," said Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, who is the convener of the Empowered Group 4 that oversees the country's demand for medical oxygen

and its logistics. The current demand for medical oxygen was down to 5,200 metric tonnes (MT) a day from a peak of 8,900 MT last month. This was expected to drop further to 3,000

MT in the next one week. On April 22, the government issued an order banning the supply of liquid oxygen to industry in view of



Demand falls: The current demand for medical oxygen was down to 5,200 metric tonnes a day. ■ FILE PHOTO

increased demand for mediclear that we can't really focal oxygen.

The Empowered Group was consulting medical professionals to assess the demand for medical oxygen for

'Foreseeing scenarios'

"We are trying to foresee certain scenarios in consultation with experts to determine how the oxygen situation can be improved in case of any future flare-up? We are consulting medical professionals. In two weeks, we plan to do basic future planning. But we want to make it

resee or predict what is go ing to happen," Mr. Aramane

"Those who are blaming the government in hindsight on O2 and other issues did not warn us to be prepared for four lakh cases. The worst of projections were also not for more than a lakh of cases a day. All these people criticising the government should understand that such fierce form of second wave couldn't have been dealt with by any government like we did in such a short time," he added.

Juhi Chawla moves HC on 5G technology

STAFF REPORTER

Bollywood actor Juhi Chawla has moved the Delhi High Court seeking a scientific study on any adverse effects of radio-frequency radiation emitted by cellular telecommunications using 5G technology on 'health, life, organ or limb of adult or child, or to flora and fauna' before its official rollout in the country.

The petition, which will be taken up on June 2, has sought a direction to the government and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) in particular to certify that deployment of 5G technol ogy for cellular communications posed no reasonable risk or hazard to the health of citizens.

Ms. Chawla, in her petition along with Veeresh Malik and Teena Vachani, has also urged the authorities to rope in the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to conduct their respective study on this

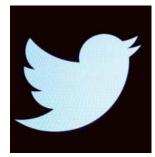
Twitter has to comply with IT Rules: HC

The court issues notices to Union govt. and the microblogging site

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said Twitter has to comply with the new Information Technology Rules for digital media if they have not been stayed by the court.

Justice Rekha Palli also issued notice to the Centre and Twitter on a plea by advocate Amit Acharya, seek-



Twitter claims it complied with the rules and appointed a resident grievance officer.

ing to appoint Resident Grievance Officer under Rule 4 of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) "They have to follow it

[Rules], if it has not been stayed," the court said during the hearing. The Central government

standing counsel said Twitter has not complied with the Rules, but the social media platform claimed that it has complied with them and appointed a resident grievance officer.

Mr. Acharya, in his plea filed through advocates Akash Vajpai and Manish Kumar, claimed that he wanted to raise grievance against

three-month extension in

February, effective from

two alleged "offensive and objectionable tweet" with the resident grievance

'Details not available'

"However the Petitioner was unable to find the contact details of the resident grievance officer on the website of Twitter," he said.

The petition said the Information Technology Rules 2021 have come into effect from February 25, 2021 and the Centre had given three months' time to every significant social media intermedi-

Mohapatra to be interim chief of CBDT

Only last week he was made member of the apex policymaking body of I-T

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government on Monday appointed J.B. Mohapatra as the interim chief of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for three months.

CBDT chairman P.C. Mody's extended tenure ended

made a member of the apex policy-making body of income tax only last week, has been asked to officiate as the chairman for three months or till the appointment of the regular chairman.

on May 31 and in his place

Mr. Mohapatra, who was

Mohapatra and Anuja Sarangi as members of the body. Mr. Mody was given a All three are income tax

March to May 31.

CBDT members The government recently appointed Anu J. Singh, Mr.

On Monday, the Depart-

ment of Revenue issued the order directing Mr. Mohapatra to officiate as the chairman of the board besides carrying out his regular duties as a member.

cadre officials of the 1985

batch of Indian Revenue Ser-

Defence Ministry notifies 108 negative imports

Items on 'positive indigenisation list'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Defence Ministry on Monday notified the second negative import list - now renamed as the 'positive indigenisation list' - of 108 items that can now be only purchased from indigenous sources. The new list takes the total number on the list to 209. It is planned to be implemented progressively with effect from December 2021 to December 2025, the

Defence Ministry said. "The second list lays special focus on weapons and systems which are currently under development/trials and are likely to translate into firm orders in the future. Like the first list, import substitution of ammunition which is a recurring requirement has been given special focus," a statement said.

The 'second positive indigenisation list' comprises complex systems, sensors, simulator, weapons and ammunitions like helicopters, next generation corvettes, Air Borne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) systems, tank engines, medium power radar for mountains, Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) weapon systems and many more such items, it stated. The second list has been

prepared after several rounds of consultations with government and private manufacturing industry confederations to assess future capabilities of Indian Industry which will be able to meet requirements of the armed forces, the statement said. "Not only does the list recognise the potential of local defence industry, it will also invigorate impetus to domestic Research and Development by attracting fresh investment into technology and manufacturing capabilities," it said.

The list also provides an excellent opportunity for 'start-ups' as also Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), the statement said.

Lakshadweep MP meets **Amit Shah**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has given an assurance that the new draft laws for Lakshadweep that are being opposed by the islanders will not be finalised without consulting local representatives, its MP Mohammed Faizal said on Monday.

Talking to presspersons after meeting Mr. Shah here, Mr. Faizal said he apprised the Home Minister of the strong opposition to the draft laws proposed by the new administrator, Praful Patel. He said he also told Mr. Shah about the widespread protests on the islands.

"He has assured us that whatever laws that are under the consideration, they will be sent to Lakshadweep where local representatives in the district panchayat will be consulted," Mr. Faizal said.

Mr. Faizal said Mr. Patel had been pushing for the laws - from a ban on cow slaughter to a two-child norm for those wanting to contest the gram panchayat elections, and allowing liquor to be served at resorts on inhabited islands – that have upset the islanders. The majority of the residents in the islands were Muslims.

Besides, people have apprehensions about the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation (LDAR) and the draft Lakshadweep Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation, Mr. Faizal said.

STAFF REPORTER

In a bid to extend relief to

the Maratha community in

the State, the tripartite Maha

Vikas Aghadi (MVA) govern-

ment in Maharashtra on

Monday extended the bene-

fits of reservation for the

Economically Weaker Sec-

tion (EWS) to the Socially

and Economically Backward

Class 12 exam: govt. says decision by Thursday

SC seeks 'good reasons' in case of departure from 2020 stand

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Union government on Monday sought time till Thursday from the Supreme Court to take a "final decision" on whether the Class 12 Board examinations should be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The government will take a final decision within the next few days... Give us time till Thursday," Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal submitted.

A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari agreed, but stated that the government had to give "good reasons" in case it decided to depart from its policy in 2020 to cancel the conduct of the examinations because of the pandemic and assess students on the basis of their earlier marks.

"You take a decision... But in case you depart from your policy last year, you must give us a good reason why you are departing [from it]," Justice Khanwilkar said.

Mr. Venugopal tried to indicate that the pandemic had struck when the Board examinations were on last year. "Some students had one paper left, some had four papers to do," he submitted.

Justice Khanwilkar said, "There is a sanguine hope expressed by the petitioners here that the policy adopted last year – to cancel the examinations in the face of the pandemic - would be adopt-

Previously, the govern-

ment had decided that the

Maratha community could

not take advantage of the

10% EWS category as Ma-

ratha reservation was in

force in the State. The Su-

preme Court, however,

scrapped the SEBC reserva-

tion in jobs and education,

making it possible for the



authorities to forgo the examinations. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Offline exams may trigger a third wave: Priyanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday cautioned the Centre against conducting the Board examinations offline for Class 12 students.

Ramesh Pokhrival Nishank.

Writing to Union Minister

Ms. Vadra said many had argued that this may trigger a third wave and there would be an emotional and psychological cost. "It will be a great injustice if they [students] are pushed into circumstances that endanger their lives," she

ed this year, too. So, if you are departing from your notification last year, you should give us good

Last year, the Supreme Court accepted a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) scheme to assess the marks of the cancelled papers of Class 10 and 12 by taking an average of best performances in the papers already taken.

The court, on Monday,

State government to extend

the benefit of the EWS quota

solution, a person fulfilling

the criterion for EWS would

be eligible for 10% reserva-

tion in educational insti-

tutes, barring minority insti-

This would also be ap-

plied for State government

As per the government re-

to the Marathas.

by advocate Mamta Sharma to direct the authorities to forgo the examinations and conceive an objective methodology to declare the Class 12 results within a specific time frame. "Issue a writ of mandamus directing the respondents to cancel the examinations of Class 12 and devise an objective methodology to declare the result within a specific time frame," Ms. Sharma urged.

recruitment. The resolution

said the reservation would

be above the existing reser-

It also stated that the be-

nefit would be available from

September 9, 2020, when

the apex court brought an in-

terim stay on the reserva-

tion, to May 5, 2021, when

the final verdict was an-

vation.

nounced.

was hearing a petition filed

Justice Mishra likely to head NHRC

Plea to include member from marginalised groups rejected by selection panel

SANDEEP PHUKAN

Former Supreme Court Justice Arun Kumar Mishra is likely to be the new Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after a high-powered recommendation committee proposed his name on Monday, a source informed The Hindu.

Former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Mahesh Mittal Kumar, and former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Rajiv Jain, had also been recommended by the high-powered panel as members of the NHRC, but the official notification is yet to be out until the filing of this report.

The selection panel consisted of Prime Minister Na-



The NHRC has been without a full-time head for over five months now. • VIA TWITTER

rendra Modi; Home Minister Amit Shah; Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh; Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge.

Mr. Kharge is learnt to have registered his dissent after the committee didn't accept his suggestion to appoint a member from either the Dalit, Adivasi or minority communities. The Congress leader is learnt to have argued that since most complaints at the NHRC pertained to these socially disadvantaged groups, there should be at least one representative from these communities in the Commission.

When other members pointed out that the concerned Act on the NHRC did not make any specific provisions about any group except a woman member, Mr. Kharge is learnt to have pointed out that there was no specific bar in appointments. He then suggested that the panel meet again in a week's time with more names from these communities. He recorded his dissent when the committee decided to go ahead with the shortlisted names instead of looking for fresh names.

For over five months now, the NHRC has been without a full-time head after Justice H.L. Dattu retired last December. A highly-placed source said while 12 names were shortlisted for the two vacancies, the shortlisted candidates for the position of Chairperson included three former Chief Justices of India (CJIs).

As a sitting judge of the top court, Justice Mishra, while addressing an international conference, had described Mr. Modi as an "internationally acclaimed visionary who could think globally and act locally".

BJP gets into battle mode for 2022 polls

Organisational meets held in U.P., Uttarakhand; party gauges people's perception

NISTULA HEBBAR

The BJP has kick-started preparations for the election cycle in 2022, with the party's general secretary (organisation), B.L. Santosh, travelling to Uttarakhand last weekend and to Uttar Pradesh on Monday to hold organisational meetings.

Elections to several Assemblies, including of Punjab and later in the year, Gujarat, will take place next year.

The experience of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the perception of the BJP and governments led by it during that period weighed heavily on the meetings.

Sources confirmed to The Hindu that while in Lucknow, Mr. Santosh held meetings with State unit officebearers. State Health Minister Jay Pratap Singh and Health Education Minister Suresh Khanna were pre-

"The main focus of these meetings is, of course, to look at ways by which the 'seva hi sanghathan' pro-



Focus groups: The experience of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic weighed heavily on the meetings. • PTI

gramme of rural outreach during COVID-19 pandemic announced by party president J.P. Nadda are carried out. But yes, organisational restructuring may also be discussed," said a source who did not confirm whether this could mean the replacement of the party's State president, Swatantra Dev Singh.

'Unrest within party' "There is much unrest with-

in the party, with several MLAs having publicly written to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the many ways in which the administration had failed to respond to the pandemic and also the anger among the people with the ruling party. Stock-taking is, therefore, important," the source said.

"After the panchayat polls, many zilla parishads are yet to elect the heads of these district-level bodies and, therefore, the party also needs to discuss how best to get their candidates elected to that post in most districts, get in touch with independents, etc.," an Uttar

Supply, Transportation

oading, Unloading of

5000 MT of Bentonite

Pradesh BJP office-bearer said. The State government headed by Mr. Adityanath will be launching an intensive vaccination programme from June 1, and BJP workers have been asked to make sure that they are visible on the ground to ensure its suc-

In Uttarakhand, Mr. Santosh addressed the State's core committee, the first time after Tirath Singh Rawat replaced Trivendra Singh Rawat as Chief Minis-Here too, the emphasis

was on reaching out to rural areas by party workers in order to help deal with the pandemic in its second wave. The emphasis, say sources, was to bridge the perception divide that the BJP organisation was absent from the ground at a critical time.

Earlier in the week, RSS second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabele visited U.P., sources said, as part of a previously finalised tour programme, but he held meetings at the organisational level as well.

5 trapped in Meghalaya coal mine after dynamite blast

Class (SEBC).

Blast led to the flooding of a coal mine at East Jaintia Hills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A dynamite blast led to the flooding of a coal mine in East Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya, trapping five labourers, officials said on Monday. district police The

launched a search operation after receiving information from the police at Cachar district in southern Assam about the possible death of five to seven labourers in a mine accident on May 30. One Karimul Bari, from Cachar, told the local police that his neighbour was among the trapped.

East Jaintia Hills Superintendent of Police Jagpal Singh Dhanoa said they identified the probable site

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Almost a month after the re-

sults of the West Bengal As-

sembly election, the State

committee of the CPI(M) has

come out with an assess-

ment on its humiliating de-

number of factors, the prim-

ary one being the steep po-

They pointed out that a



Maratha community brought under EWS quota

Dangerous work: Labourers loading coal taken out from a mine in East Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

'Political, organisational reasons for defeat'

CPI(M) says major reason was polarisation between Trinamool Congress and BJP

of the incident in the Sutnga area on Monday morning. "According to eyewitnesses, five persons were trapped when water rushed into the mine after a sudden explo-

sion of dynamite," he said. Mr. Dhanoa said the operation was being led by the

State Disaster Response Force. Preliminary investigations revealed that the mine's sordar (manager), Nizam Ali, did not take any initiative to rescue the labourers. "Based on the account of the survivors, an FIR has been registered," he said.

HC: affair not a reason to deny child's custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that an extramarital relationship of a mother by itself is no ground to deny her the custody of her child in case of marital dispute.

The petitioner-mother had filed a habeas corpus writ in the court for the release of her four-year-old daughter who was alleged to be in the custody of the father (estranged husband of the petitioner). On May Justice Anupinder Singh Grewal, while allowing the custody to the petitioner-mother, said, "Even assuming a woman is or has been in an extramarital relationship, the same by itself cannot lead to the conclusion that she would not be a good mother."

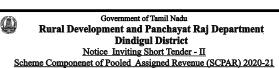
TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI

e-tenders are invited for **Supply of Paper Materiels** different categories for 2021-22. For Tender Notice & Details please log on the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.

For further details contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292. Roc, No. PR4/13930/Adv. No. 31/PR0/2021/Dated: 31-05-2021 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Re-e-tender is invited for Outsourcing of Printing and supply of "SRI BAMMERA POTHANAMATYA SRI MAHABHAGAVATHAM" (8 Volumes). For Tender Notice & details - e-tenders: log on the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact: 0877-2264292.



Construction of Panchayat Union office building works For details, visit <u>www.tntenders.gov.in</u>

e-Bids invited by the Project Director, DRDA, Dindigul for the Construction Panchayat Union Office building works package wise, under two cover system. 3. The package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost fro www.tntenders.gov.in from 01.06.2021 to 09.06.2021

. Common Date and time for downloading and of Bid document, submission

(i) Last Date and Time for downloading and: 09.06.2021, Upto 3.00 P.M. Online Submission Of Bid Documents

(ii) Date and Time of online opening :09.06.2021, 04.00 P.M. onwards

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka) Major Sandeep Unnikrishna Road, Near Yelahanka Attur Layout, Bengaluru - 560 064. Phone : 080 - 6735 5000.

No.: KSNDMC/ACT/13/2020

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

This office invites tenders for the following:

1) Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Seismid

Equipment in Karnataka - KSNDMC/TECH/01/2021/CALL-2. 2) Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Water Level Sensors in BBMP Area, Karnataka - KSNDMC/Tech/03/2021/CALL-2. 3) Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Telemetric Rain

Gauge, Telemetric Weather Stations and Telemetric Water Level Sensors in Three Smart Cities, Karnataka - KSNDMC/Tech/04/2021/ CALL-2. 4) Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of RADAR Stream Gauges and Reservoir Level Sensors in the Krishna Basin, Karnataka

KSNDMC/Tech/06/2021/CALL-2. Last Date for Submission: 29-06-2021, Further the tender document and details on pre bid meeting can be obtained on e-procurement portal of Gok at https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE

Chief General Manager (Materials) **GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY BUILDINGS AND ROADS DIVISION** P.W.D., KARAIKAL

Ref. No: RGUKT/E-Proc/Student Amenities/RT01-RT02/2021, Dt.31.05.2021
Ref. No: RGUKT/E-Proc/Services/ET01-ET02/2020-21, Dt.31.05.2021
E-PROCUREMENT - TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are hereby invited from original manufacturers (OEM)/ authorized

nline tenders are hereby invited from original manufacturers (OEM)/ authorized presentatives of a OEM/whole sale dealers for supply of the following items to the

students of RGUK1 and e-tenders are hereby invited from reputed registered agencies/ contractors for providing the following services at the RGUK1 four campuses Tender-1 (Shoe and Socks), Tender-2 (Bed sheet with Pillow cover and Blanket), Tender-3 Security Services, Tender-4 Housekeeping Services Interested bidders can download and submit bids online from 31.05.2021, 11:00 AM through https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in (AP Portal). For further details please visit the university website: www.rgukt.in

Tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India for supply of 5000 MT of Bentonite to NMDC Limited, Pellet Plant, Ranjitpura Donimalai, Bellary District, Karnataka as per the details furnished in the tender document.

Tender Documents

01.06.2021

29.06.2021

e-procurement section www.nmdc.co.in; www.eprocure.gov.in and www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc of MSTC Ltd. Any Corrigendum to the above Tender Notice will be uploaded only on our website www.nmdc.co.in.

www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc and will not be published. Prospective

bidders should visit the above NMDC website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any

NMDC Limited

Display & Sale of Last date & Time for

29.06.2021

By 02.30 PM

e-TENDER NOTICE No.03/PW/B&R/KKL/2021-22, dt. 31-05-2021

On behalf of President of India, e-tenders are invited fron he eligible contractors / firms by the Executive Engineer Buildings and Roads Division, P.W.D., Karaikal for the following

Name Work-03-01: Improvements to Neravy I road & II road. Vizhidiyur road and Thittacherry road from NH45A including Ayiram Kaliyamman Arch road upto State Border at Neravy & T.R.Pattinam Commune in Karaikal. Approximate Estimated Cost: ₹7,63,89,652/-

EMD: ₹15,27,793/- & Time of completion: 6 Months. Name Work-03-02: Improvements to Sorakudy road from Thirunallar to Nallathur village in State border in Thirunallar and Nedungadu Commune, Karaikal.

Approximate Estimated Cost: ₹6,08,73,095/-EMD: ₹12,17,462/- & Time of completion: 11 Months.

Name Work-03-03: Improvements to Thirunallar road from Karaikal to Thirunallar including reconstruction of Noolar river road culvert in Thirunallar, Karaikal. Approximate Estimated Cost: ₹4,52,87,784/-EMD: ₹9,05,756/- & Time of completion: 6 Months.

ast time and date for download / sale / submission online of tender documents: up to 3.30 P.M. on 15-06-2021 Other details / information can be seen in the website https://pudutenders.gov.in

> **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-B&R** P.W.D., KARAIKAL

larisation between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP, led to its defeat. The West Bengal State

Committee of the CPI(M) met on May 29.

A total of 46 members of the committee participated in the assessment, which de-



A CPI(M) worker painting a wall in Kolkata in March during campaigning. • AP

scribed the reasons for the party's poor performance as "political organisational".

"There has been sharp polarisation between the

BJP. This is probably the main reason for such results. Idealism, democracy and issues of lives and livelihood of the people have taken a back seat. It will be wrong to attribute the results of the Assembly polls to communal polarisation," an official statement issued by the committee said.

Trinamool Congress and the

'Alternative government' "Our call for an alternative government was rejected. We could not reach out to the people with our views... People of the State did not have confidence in our front and policies," the committee

gress and the BJP resorted to "identity politics", which could not be countered, itadded. The BJP's aggressive campaign also brought up the issue of Bengali liberty and freedom to the fore. "There was an anti-esta-

Both the Trinamool Con-

said on May 30.

blishment feeling at the time the results were declared, but the aggressive campaign resulted in anti-BJP feelings. In such circumstances, people overlooked the issues of corruption and lawlessness and chose the Trinamool Congress as the main anti-BJP force in the State," the statement said.

Follow Physical Distancing

IN BRIEF



'Govt. mismanagement has made people poorer

NEW DELHI Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, flagging a report that lockdowns during the second wave of COVID-19 had made 97% of Indians poorer, "One man and his arrogance + One virus and its mutants," he posted on Twitter.

25 cr. doses per month to be available from August

NEW DELHI With the ramping up of production, nearly 25 crore 'Made in India' vaccines for COVID-19 are expected to be available every month by August. This would go a long way in meeting the target of vaccinating one crore people daily, said N. K. Arora, Chairman of the COVID-19 working group under the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation

Vaccine fiasco leaves students fuming

Hundreds of students, who thronged the HBT Medical College and Dr. RN Cooper Municipal General Hospital in Mumbai on Monday after Cabinet Minister Aaditya Thackeray tweeted that free walk-in vaccinations would be available for students going abroad, returned disappointed as only 50 vials were available. Dean of Cooper Hospital, Dr. Pinakin Gujjur, said chaos reigned because of no registration.

Year-end deadline for full vaccination tight

Govt. target of covering 94 crore adults hit by shortage

JACOB KOSHY NEW DELHI

At the current pace of vaccination, it could be eight months before every adult Indian gets at least one shot of vaccine, back-of-the-envelope calculations from the government's portal CoWin suggest. About 16.7 crore first doses have been administered till Monday.

The Centre expects to inoculate 94.4 crore adults, according to a note last week by R.S. Sharma, Chairman of the technical committee that oversees the portal. Several Cabinet Ministers and policy advisers, spearheading India's COVID vaccination campaign, have claimed that India will inoculate "all eligible" by December. These statements do not specify if that refers to just all adults, or the number of doses administered.

Last week, India administered 30 lakh doses a day on consecutive days - after over 45 days when fewer than 20 lakh doses were given every day. Assuming that pace were to continue, it would take 256 days, or over eight months, to complete the targeted number of adults.

The recommended vaccination protocol is to administer two doses at least four to 16 weeks apart depending on the vaccine administered. Given that only 4.4 crore second doses have been administered and the



Monthly update: Around 6 crore doses were administered in May compared to 7.7 crore in April. • A.M. FARUQUI

daily pace of second doses – for most of last month – has been about 10% of that of the first dose (on May 29, 27 lakh first doses were administered to 3 lakh second doses), it could theoretically be years before all those over 18 get their second doses.

Despite opening vaccination

for all adults, there were fewer doses administered in May – around six crore – as opposed to 7.7 crore doses administered in April. The Health Ministry said

on Sunday that close to 8 crore doses were available in May (counting wastage and stocks with States) and that 12 crore will be available in June for the Centre, the States and private hospitals. India hit a highpoint of

a day on April 5 after which the pace has declined. Experts say that India has

administering 45 lakh doses

the capacity to administer 100 lakh shots a day. That works out to about 25-30 crore vaccines being supplied a month.

"Drawing on our capacity of at least a 1,50,000 support staff (auxiliary nursing midwife), we have been able to administer polio drops to at least 30 million children within days," said Sujatha Rao, former Health Secretary. "However the problem we face [with COVID vaccines] is that there isn't certainty on the supply.'

Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist and former consultant to the World Health Organisation, said that until at least October there would be supply constraints. "It would be quite likely that India would move to a single shot vaccine administration policy. 100 lakh a day is doable, but we also have to account for people's receptiveness in the future."

Policy should be clear, flexible: SC

Bench tells govt. that the pandemic cannot be fought in an ad hoc manner

We are not going to run

or make policy for you. This is

a platform for dialogue across

the spectrum... The idea is not

to criticise but to strengthen the

the Central government

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Acknowledging one's error is not a sign of weakness but that of strength, Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud told the Union government on Monday.

"The ability to recognise that I am wrong is not a sign weakness, but of strength," Justice Chandrachud orally addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehtaduring a virtual hearing. Justice Chandrachud was

heading a three-judge Special Bench hearing a suo motu case covering the various fronts of the government's COVID-19 management. The Bench questioned the government's dual vaccine pricing policy between the Centre and the States, the vaccination coverage in rural India, how it was almost impossible to get vaccination slots on CoWin, the "digital divide" in the registration process for vaccination in "Digital India" and how the dead are "thrown" into rivers or buried in shallow graves.

arms of the government

JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD

The court referred to a recent video footage and pictures of two men throwing the body of a COVID-19 patient from a bridge into a river in Uttar Pradesh. "I don't know whether a

complaint has been filed against the news channel for sedition for publishing the photograph..." Justice Chandrachud said.

This comment comes amid some States allegedly registering FIRs booking social media users and the electronic media on sedition

The top court banned States from taking penal action in such cases in

an order on April 30.

Justice Chandrachud said the government could not fight the pandemic on a dayto-day basis in an ad hoc manner. "You need your policy to anticipate changes. Your policy should also be enforceable on the ground. Your policy needs to be clear-cut. If new issues come up, your policy has to be amended... But first, there should be a degree of flexibility in you... It can't be that you have made a policy and vou cannot change that," Justice Chandrachud said. Mr. Mehta agreed that no

policy was cast in stone. "If matters change, the government will have to change,"

Justice Chandrachud referred to how the External Affairs Minister had gone abroad for a dialogue on vaccines. "It shows the seriousness of the situation," Justice Chandrachud said.

At one point, Mr. Mehta expressed his concern about having to trouble Justice Chandrachud, who has just recovered from COVID-19.

"The interest of the nation comes first, my health comes later," Justice Chandrachud replied.

Justice Chandrachud, to set the record straight with the Centre, said "We are not going to run the Central government or make policy for you. This is a platform for dialogue across the spectrum... The idea is not to criticise but to strengthen the arms of the government".

SC flags digital divide in vaccine access

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the government to "please wake up and smell the coffee" about the digital divide hampering vaccine access in the country.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud highlighted the farfetchedness of an illiterate villager

from rural India crossing the "digital divide" to register for COVID-19 vaccination on the CoWin portal where slots disappear in the blink of an eye. **Justice Chandrachud said the** government should be aware of the ground realities in 'Digital India'. Vaccination policy today is entirely exclusionary of the rural areas, the

One of the judges on the Bench, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat said he had received distress calls from across the country from people unable to register on CoWin. The court asked why the marginalised section should not be treated on par with people having co-morbities for early vaccination.

On the difference in prices

for procurement between the Centre and States, Justice Chandrachud said, "Article 1 of the Constitution says Bharat is a Union of States. When the Constitution says that. we will follow the federal rule. Then the Government of India has to wholly procure the vaccines and distribute them. Here, individual States are left in a lurch...'

1.75 crore vaccine doses are available with States: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

More than 1.75 crore COVID vaccine doses are still available with the States and Union Territories, the Health Ministry claimed in a release on Monday, adding that more than 2.73 lakh (2,73,970) vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the States and Union Territories within the next three days.

The Central government has so far provided, both through the free of cost category and through direct State procurement category, more than 23 crore vaccine doses (23.11.68.480) to States and Union Territories. Of this, the total consumption, including wastages is 21,22,38,652 doses (as per data available at 8 a.m. today)," it said.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan also chaired a review meeting through video conferencing with administrators from States and Union Territories on the progress of vaccination, on

'India can look at plan for vaccine interchangeability'

 ${\color{red} {\rm BIND}}{\rm U}$ SHAJAN PERAPPADAN India can be looking at initiating trials for interchangeability of different COVID-19 vaccines for use to enhance the efficiency of vaccines and offer longer protection, said a senior health official on

Speaking about the possibility of a mixed dose regime trial, NITI Aayog member (Health) V.K. Paul said: "There is growing scientific interest in the matter world-wide and India too should look into it. This is a biological plausibility and if proven effective it could go a long

erate the pace of vaccination

way in enhancing faster coverage and acting as a be offered for use."

N.K. Arora, chairperson of the Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, said vaccines were never

administered as separate doses to complete the schedule. Purpose is improved immune effectiveness, safety and This is also called no talk of single dose for any vaccine," he said.

Monday. At the meeting Mr. Bhushan noted that there is a substantial scope to accelbetter booster dose that can

mixed. "Doses of different vaccine brands are

programmatic convenience. interchangeability. There is

further amid reports from several States of vaccine shortage. He said production was being scaled up.



body of the COVID-19 victim in Sant Kabir Nagar, U.P.

Family uses excavator to shift body for burial

COVID victim was from a village in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A family in Sant Kabir Nagar of eastern Uttar Pradesh used an earthmover to transport the body of a relative who had died after testing positive for COVID-19 for burial. A video of the incident was widely shared on social

media. The COVID-19 victim's son said that his father died at home in their village after testing positive in a hospital

in Gorakhpur.

"We thought this how it is being done everywhere. We did not have any information," he told journalists when asked why they used an earthmover to carry the body and dump it in a pit.

Village pradhan Triyoganand Gautam said he had offered to take the body for cremation. "But when his own children did not touch [the body], we withdrew,"

Daily test positivity rate dips to 9% from 12.7% a week ago

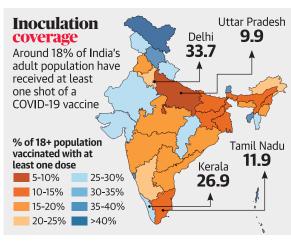
16.83 lakh samples were analysed in the country on Sunday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India recorded 1,22,964 new COVID-19 cases and 2,743 new deaths till 9.35 p.m. on Monday. The country has so far reported a total of 2,81,69,970 cases and 3,31,871 deaths.

Tamil Nadu reported 27,936 new infections, followed by Karnataka (16,604) and Maharashtra (15,077). Maharashtra recorded 500 new casualties on the day, followed by Tamil Nadu (478) and Karnataka (411). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous reports. The figures do not include cases and deaths from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Ladakh. The data are sourced from the respective States' health bulletins.

Only 16.83 lakh samples were tested in the country



on Sunday (the results for which were made available on Monday), which is nearly 3.81 lakh fewer tests than those conducted on Saturday. It is also 2.45 lakh less tests than those conducted on the previous Sunday (May 23). India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 9% on May 30

compared to 12.7% recorded a week before.

About 10.18 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Monday, which is 20.18 lakh doses fewer than that of the previous 24 hours. However, it is around 75,000 more doses than what was recorded during the same period a

TH CROSSWORD+ 13262 Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online!

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Solution to puzzle 13261



ACROSS

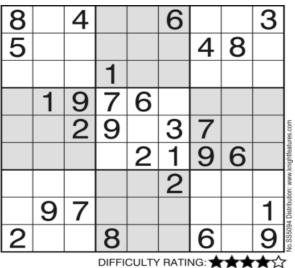
- 13 Nod off ignoring naughty innuendo in boredom (5)
- 11 Friend hugs hot sweetheart in movie show (7) 12 Half of standard French milk that's recalled (7)
- 1 One who doesn't believe cashiers at bank robbery (5) 4 Bored from touring Basel (5)
- **14** Alienated participants in protest rang editor (9) 15 Spooner's question on offspring – something dirty (10)

- 17 Joint auditor's born in France (4) 19 A wide track is crooked (4) 21 What do screenwriters do - Fuss around? (4,1,5)
- 25 Pilot's rifle? (4-5) 27 Criticise cook (5)
- 28 Greed A weakness that engulfed a king (7) 29 Pick up huge contract (7)
- 30 Drive cattle (5) **31** Nibble starter of naan put in fire (5)

DOWN

- 2 Dated old flame before time in court (7)
- 3 Minor, around one might wake you up (8) 5 Rope holds up dog biting artist (6)
- 6 A small amount, say 1,000 signed off (7) 7 Approach Independent parliamentarian at border (6)
- 8 Made rare synthetic sugar (8) 9 Fight and knock son over (4)
- 10 Insult taking President for second oath (6) 16 Damn old box carrying drug (8)
- 18 Sort gene to produce hormone (8)
- 19 Like hot butter in retreat? (6) 20 Expecting to relinquish power for ruling (7)
- 22 The Spanish wine is cold and pliant (7)
- 23 Having treat in Gujarati's house (6) 24 Support function (6)
- 26 Assistant cycling in thought (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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FAITH

A drama before wedding

When Kamsa was driving Devaki and Vasudeva to their palace, a voice was heard saying that Devaki's eighth child would slay Kamsa. At once Kamsa wanted to kill Devaki, but Vasudeva stopped him and reasoned with him, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Vasudeva argued that it was not Devaki herself who was going to kill Kamsa. It was only her son. Vasudeva promised to give all his children to Kamsa. What could have been going on in Vasudeva's mind when he made such a promise? There was always the possibility that Kamsa might die before the eighth child was born. It was also possible that Devaki might not have eight children. Moreover, why should the voice of an unseen person be

Kamsa agreed, and the chariot began to move again. How was Vasudeva able to hold the attention of a man angry enough to kill? This was a Krishna leela too. We should respect our elders, and attribute our special talents, or good attributes to them. It is to emphasise this that this whole scene took place. Later, Krishna was going to give a lecture to Arjuna on the battlefield. Arjuna was a confused, unhappy man. And yet the Lord was able to get his attention.

People would have said Krishna could achieve this because He was son of Vasudeva, the man whose words could ward off Kamsa's death threat. The last verse of the Bhagavad Gita says wherever Krishna and Arjuna are to be found, there will be prosperity and victory. But Ramanujacharya in his commentary does not use the name Krishna, but says Vasudeva's son. This was to stress the importance we have to give to our forebears. Krishna arranged for the little drama after Devaki's wedding to show world that people must recognise that their good qualities come from their elders.

As births decline, China to allow couples to have third child

Decision comes after the 'two-child policy' largely failed to boost birth rates

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China will for the first time allow couples to have a third child, the country's government said on Monday, in a further relaxation of family planning rules five years after a "two-child policy" largely failed to boost birth rates. The announcement followed a meeting of the 25member Politburo, chaired by China's President and Communist Party of China General Secretary Xi Jinping, "to hear reports on major policy measures to actively address the ageing of population during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025)", State media said.

The change comes less than three weeks after the release of China's once-in-adecade population census that painted an alarming picture of declining births. The National Bureau of Statistics said on May 11 that 12 million babies were born last year, the lowest number since 1961, a time when Mao's China was in the midst of a fouryear famine, and down from 17.86 million in 2016.

The census said China's population was 1.41 billion in 2020, an increase of 72 mil-



Fun time: A woman playing with her child at Wukesong shopping district in Beijing. • AFP

lion since the last census in 2010, reflecting a 5.38% growth in this period and a 0.53% annual growth. Forecasts say the population could peak in the next couple of years and most likely by 2025, when India will become the world's most popu-

Dire situation

lous country.

Some Chinese demographers said the announcement on Monday, coming so soon after the census, suggested the situation could be more dire than the official numbers indicated. "Maybe it's because the real population data is too scary," Yi Fuxian, a demographer, told

700 million by 2050. Huang Wenzheng, a fel-

low at the Center for China and Globalisation, in Beijing, told official broadcaster China Global Television Network (CGTN) following the release of the census that the ageing crisis "might be the biggest challenge the Chinese nation faces in the next century." It is, however, unclear if the new announcement may address the problem, at least if the past five years are any indication. China introduced a "two child policy" in 2016, but the wide consensus is that it failed to have the desired impact. Surveys carried out by Chinese media attributed financial pressures as one main reason. A 2015 survey by the government said 70% of respondents attributed financial reasons for choosing to not have many children.

An online poll on Monday of 31,000 respondents conducted by the official Xinhua news agency found 28,000 "would not consider at all" having three children, while 1,600 said they would, the SCMP reported. The poll was subsequently removed, the newspaper said.

U.S. spied on Merkel, European allies with Danish help: media

NSA eavesdropped on Internet cables from 2012 to 2014

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COPENHAGEN

The U.S. spied on top politicians in Europe, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, from 2012 to 2014 with the help of Danish intelligence, Danish and European media reported on Sunday.

Danish public broadcaster Danmarks Radio (DR) said the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) had eavesdropped on Danish Internet cables to spy on top politicians and high-ranking officials in Germany, Sweden, Norway and France.

The NSA had taken advantage of a surveillance collaboration with Denmark's military intelligence unit FE to do so, it said.

Denmark's Defence Ministry has not responded to AFP's requests for a

Defence Minister Trine Bramsen, who took over the defence portfolio in June 2019, was informed of the spying in August 2020, according to DR. She told the broadcaster that "systematic eavesdropping of close allies is unacceptable".

It was not clear whether Denmark authorised the U.S. to use its surveillance

Angela Merkel

system to spy on its neighbours. DR revealed the information following an investigation it led together with Swedish broadcaster SVT, Norway's NRK, Germany's NDR, WDR and Suddeutsche Zeitung, and France's Le Monde.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, then-Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and then-Opposition leader Peer Steinbruck were among those the NSA had spied on, DR said.

The NSA was able to access SMS text messages, telephone calls, and Internet traffic, including searches, chats and messaging services, DR said. The spying was detailed in a secret, internal FE working group report codenamed "Operation Dunhammer" and presented to FE top management in May 2015, DR said.

DR said its information came from nine different sources who had access to classified FE information, and said their revelations were independently confirmed by several sources.

Neither the FE nor its director at the time, Lars Findsen, commented immediately on the revelations.

Snowden affair

The U.S. spying, if confirmed, was going on during and after the 2013 Snowden affair, which erupted when former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed thousands of classified documents exposing the vast U.S. surveillance put in place after the September 11, 2001

Among other things, that documents showed the U.S. government was spying on its own citizens and carrying out widespread tapping worldwide, including of Chancellor Angela Merkel's mobile phone.

In November 2020, DR reported that the U.S. had used the Danish cables to spy on Danish and European defence industries from



Pak. talk show host slams Army, ousted

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani television station on Monday removed a prominent journalist as host of a popular talk show after he criticised the country's powerful military.

The development comes just days after the journalist, Hamid Mir, made a fiery speech at a rally in support of a fellow reporter, Asad Ali Toor, who was beaten up by three unidentified men in his apartment in Islamabad. Mr. Toor later told the police his attackers claimed that they were from the ISI.

Geo News TV did not comment on the changes regarding its "Capital Talk" programme, in which Mr. Mir would debate current events in the country. Mr. Mir tweeted it was nothing new. "I was banned twice in the past," said Mr. Mir, who had in the past been fired by Geo News.

Saudi talks under way in 'good atmosphere': Iran

'Aim to reach common understanding'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TEHRAN

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the Islamic republic is continuing talks with regional rival Saudi Arabia in a "good atmosphere," in the hope of reaching

understanding". Media reports last month revealed that Iranian and Saudi officials met in Baghdad in April, their first highlevel meeting since Riyadh cut diplomatic ties with Teh-

ran in 2016.

"Talks are still continuing in a good atmosphere," Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a press conference. "We hope these talks can achieve a common understanding between Iran and Saudi Arabia," he

Ties between the two countries were cut in 2016 after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions following the kingdom's execution of a revered Shia cleric.

The talks in Baghdad, facilitated by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, remained secret until the Financial Times reported that a first meeting was held on April 9.

Mr. Khatibzadeh confirmed the talks on May 10, saying their purpose was "both bilateral and regional", but stressed it was "too soon" to disclose any details. "De-escalation and (es tablishing) ties between two great Islamic countries in the Persian Gulf region is to the benefit of both nations," he said at the time.

'Many obstacles' remain in bid to oust Netanyahu, says Lapid

He, however, hopes to achieve 'greater goal'

the South China Morning

Post (SCMP). "Even if they

have not published it, it

probably frightened the de-

The census recorded 264

million in the age group of

60 and over, up 5.44% since

2010 and accounting for

18.70% of the population.

Those in the 15-59 age group

were 894 million persons,

down by 6.79% since 2010

and accounting for 63.35% of

the population. China's

workforce in the 15-59 age

bracket peaked at 925 mil-

lion in 2011, according to the

Ministry of Human Resourc-

es and Social Security said

previously. That number was

down to 894 million in this

cision makers."

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IERUSALEM

Israeli Opposition leader Yair Lapid on Monday said many obstacles remain before a diverse coalition can be built to oust veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but voiced hope it will achieve the "greater

Mr. Lapid, a secular centrist, has been locked in talks with the right-wing nationalist Naftali Bennett on the terms of a "change alliance" that also hinges on an array of other parties ahead of a Wednesday midnight deadline.

Former TV anchor Mr. Lapid's chances of success rose



Yair Lapid

when tech millionaire Mr. Bennett, despite their ideological differences, said on Sunday he would join a "national unity government" in which the two men would take turns to serve as

Israel's latest political turmoil comes more than two months after Israel's fourth inconclusive election in less than two years and could topple the right-wing leader known as Bibi who has ruled for a total of 15 years. It also

follows Israel's bloody 11-day conflict with Islamist group Hamas in the Palestinian enclave of Gaza that ended with a May 21 ceasefire.

A viable anti-Netanyahu coalition would still need the support of other parties and lawmakers to gain a majority of 61 seats in the 120-member Knesset, Israel's legislature. But while Mr. Lapid warned of remaining hurdles, he also sought to strike a cautiously upbeat note.

"We'll have to overcome them together," he told members of his Yesh Atid (There is a Future) party. "That's our first test - to see if we can find smart compromises in the coming days to achieve the greater goal." Mr. Netanyahu warned on

Sunday that a left-wing government would be "dangerous to the state of Israel".

Singapore to vaccinate schoolchildren soon

Pfizer vaccine to be administered

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Singapore will start vaccinating schoolchildren the coronavirus against soon, the Prime Minister said on Monday, after officials warned that new strains were youngsters more.

The city-state, with a population of 5.7 million, recently tightened curbs following a slight uptick in cases, after months of reporting barely any local cases. This included closing schools amid signs that new variants, such as the one first detected in India, were affecting children in greater numbers

In a televised speech, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced that school students aged 12 and

to be inoculated. Health regulators approved the Pfizer/ BioNTech vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds this month. It was previously only allowed for those aged 16 and above. "In this latest outbreak,

over will be the next group

we have seen more cases of children getting infected, in schools and tuition centres," Mr. Lee said. "The children were not seriously ill, but parents are naturally worried. Therefore, we will take advantage of the June holidays vaccinate students. The city's more than

4,00,000 students can start booking vaccinations from Tuesday, with the first slots available on Thursday, officials said. After schoolchildren, officials will inoculate adults 39 years and younger.

wanted for 20 years arrested

Tiger poacher

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Bangladesh police have arrested a notorious poacher wanted for 20 years and believed to have killed around 70 endangered Bengal tigers.

Local police chief Saidur Rahman said Habib Talukder – nicknamed "Tiger Habib" – lived next to the forest and would flee whenever officers raided the area. "Acting on a tip-off, we finally succeeded and sent him to jail," he said.

Talukder's hunting ground was the vast Sunderbans mangrove forest region straddling India and Bangladesh.

"He's a dangerous man who could fight alone with Mama (tiger) inside the forest," said local honey hunter Abdus Salam.

ELSEWHERE



Sri Lanka questions crew of burning ship

Sri Lankan investigators began questioning the crew of a burning cargo ship on Monday, as the Singaporeregistered MV X-Press Pearl smouldered for a 12th straight day in one of the island's worst-ever marine ecological disasters. Detectives interviewed the vessel's skipper and chief engineer - both Russians and its chief officer, an Indian, the police said. AFP

Thousands of Rohingya protest at Bhashan Char

They complain about living conditions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Several thousand Rohingya staged "unruly" protests on Monday against living conditions on a cyclone-prone island off Bangladesh where they were moved from vast camps on the mainland, the police said.

Since December, Bangladesh has shifted 18,000 out of a planned 1,00,000 refugees to the low-lying silt island of Bhashan Char from the Cox's Bazar region, where around 8,50,000 people live in squalid and

Democrat walk-out scuppers

Bill for Texas vote overhaul

Biden had decried it as an attempt at voter suppression

cramped conditions.

Monday's protest involved up to 4,000 people, the police said, and coincided with an inspection visit by officials from the United Nations refugee agency. An international rights activist said several protesters were injured in police action.

A UNHCR spokesperson said the delegation was able to meet with a large group of refugees and to listen to the various issues that they raised, which the delegation will further discuss with the Bangladesh authorities.

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India) Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682036, Kerala

CORRIGENDUM ON EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Farm enrollment programme and Pre Harvest Test programme and integration of both programmes vide advertisement dated 15-05-2021. In this regard, it is hereby informed that the time line for the submission of EOI has been extended upto 17.00 hrs on 07-06-2021 and the Date for presentation will be on 15-06-2021 at 15.00hrs.

Secretary, MPEDA



Chief General Manager

(P&C), IDCO, IDCO

Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005 Phone: 0141-2740170(o) e-mail:ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in No.: F. /ACE/PHED/Ar. NKT/NIT-36/2021-22/2405-24 (e-NIT NO. 36/2021-22)

invited from eligible bidders for "RWSS of block Ajeetgarh & Shrimadhopur under JJM Sub Div. Ajeetgarh District Sikar Division Neemkathana costing Rs. 2402.86 Lacs" as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022 Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-882/04/2020 / 8890

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT : Providing facade & other related finishing works of Tower-B at Incubation Tower, in Info-city, SEZ, Bhubaneswar.

: Rs.1912.38 lakh (Approx.) Procurement Officer | Bid ID/Tender reference No. | Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in. sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-14003/11/0027/2122

29.06.2021

up to 17.00 Hrs.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: RWSS DIVISION: BERHAMPUR Near Jarada Bunglow, Pin - 760004, Ph. 0680-2296344

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice MPETITIVE BIDDING - Bid Identification No. EERWSSBAM - 05/2021-22 The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites oids in Single Cover & Double cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different

P۱	VS Schemes and electrification works in G	àı	njam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.
1.	Name of the Work	:	Execution of different works of different P.W.S. Scheme in Ganjam District.
2.	No of Work (Tender)	ŀ	03 Nos.
3.	Estimated Cost (Approximate)	:	From Rs 224 13 Lakhs to Rs 404 87 Lakhs
4.	Period of Completion	ŀ	365 days
5.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	:	From 03-06-2021 at 11.00 hrs to 23-06-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
6.	Last date & time for seeking clarification	ŀ	18.06.2021 up to 17.00 hrs.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	$ \cdot $	24.06.2021 at 11.00 hrs.
8.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	:	23.06.2021 up to 17.00 hrs.
9.	Name & address of the Officer inviting tender	:	Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Near Jarada Bunglow, Berhampur-760004, Dist.:Ganjam, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersorissa.gov.in Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Berhampur





NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Government of India, has applied for a loan from Asian Development Bank for financing the Uttarakhand Integrated Urban Development Project (UIUDP), in the State of Uttarakhand. The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like 24X7 Water Supply, Wastewater Management, Urban Drainage and Urban Roads, in the proposed Project and intends to apply part

of Uttarakhand* (the Employer) invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement ortal https://uktenders.gov.in, from eligible Bidders for the design, execution, comm

e-procurement Notice for Package No- WS&S-DDN-02 through e-tender system Invitation for Bid No: UIUDP/OCB - N/ WS&S-DDN-02/2020-21

31st May 2021 at 05:00 PM 7th July 2021 till 02:30 PM Last Date/Time for downloading the Tend Last date for uploading of Bid document online Date for opening of Technical Bid on

bid in the website, https://uktenders.gov.in. Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to rejects any or al of the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the vebsite https://uktenders.gov.in

UUSDA

for a restrictive voting Bill that President Joe Biden had decried as voter suppression and an "assault on

democracy".

The law would – among other changes - make mailin voting more difficult by requiring voters to give extra

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Democrats in the Texas le-

gislature used a dramatic

walk-out late on Sunday to

torpedo Republican plans

cials from sending absentee ballot applications to anyone who did not request one, and end after-hours and drive-through voting. Supporters say Senate Bill

information, bar local offi-

7 is designed to make voting more secure, but critics say it aims to make it more cumbersome for ethnic-minority voters, who tend to vote Democrat. "Republicans came into the legislative session hell-bent on passing legislation that would rig our democracy for their team," Democrat state representative Jessica Gonzalez tweeted after the walk-out. "Tonight, Texas Dems drew a line in the sand and made it clear that we will fight day and night, every tactic available to us, for your right to vote."

The Bill could yet make it into law. Texas Governor Greg Abbott said he would call a special session to get it through the legislature.



The Marine Products Export Development Authority

MPEDA has invited EOI from reputed solution providers for Automation of



OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR

On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 36/2021-22 online tender is hereby

n as per prescribed schedule NIB No. | PHE2122A1121 | UBN No. | PHE2122WLOB02674 SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

(Arun Srivastava) PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur



NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDE

3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months . Other details

Bid/Tender Reference No PC/EST/E-12/2021-22

08.06.2021

17.00 Hrs

		31 03 2021	,,
Sensex		51937	1.0
US Doll	lar	72.62	-0.2
Gold		48608	1.4
Brent o	il	69.54	-0.2
NIFTY	/ E0		
MIFI	7 30		
			E CHANG
Adani P	orts	PRIC 769.5	
Asian Pa	ints	769.5	56.0 036.8
Asian Pa	ints	769.5	56.0 036.8
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Asian Pa Axis Bar Bajaj Au	aints nk nto	769.5 2977.5 750.7	56.0 036.0 010.0 06.
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NIFTY 50		
Adani Ports		CHANGE
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
AXIS Balik	4102.00	10.83
Bajaj Auto	4192.80	-6./0
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel BPCL		
Britannia Ind	4/2.00.	0.50
Cipla		
Coal India Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab Eicher Motors	5309.15.	114.60
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco	394.25.	6.50
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank		
L&T		
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd		
NTPC		
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life		
State Bank		
Shree Cement		
Sun Pharma		-1.45
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd		
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
UltraTech Cement		
UPL		
Wipro	539.05	0.35

Indicative direct rate except yen at 4 p.m.		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.41	72.73
Euro	88.25	88.66
British Pound	102.62	103.11
Japanese Yen (100)	66.00.	66.32
Chinese Yuan	11.36.	11.41
Swiss Franc	80.37	80.74
Singapore Dollar	54.73	54.99
Canadian Dollar	59.97	60.26
Malaysian Ringitt	17.55.	17.64



TVS Motor opens '3S' showroom in Baghdad

TVS Motor Company announced the opening of a 3S (sales, service and spares support) showroom in Baghdad with its distribution partner Ritaj International showroom will host a wide range of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, spare parts and a service facility, it said.

Ex-Myntra CEO's Mensa Brands raises \$50 mn

BENGALURU Mensa Brands, established by former Myntra CEO Ananth Narayanan, has raised \$50 million in a combination of debt and equity. The Series A round was led by Accel Partners and Norwest Venture Partners. Angel investors including Mukesh Bansal, Kunal Shah and Rahul Mehta were also part of it. Mensa, which aims to create a technology-led 'House of Brands' for e-commerce, has the mandate to acquire over 50 brands across categories, including home and apparel,

'Non-food bank credit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

month, RBI data showed.

The growth in advances to agriculture and allied activities accelerated to 11.3% in April as compared with a 4.7% growth in April 2020, the data on Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit -April 2021, released by the

Credit growth to industry decelerated to 0.4% in April from 1.7%. However, credit to medium industries registered a robust growth of 43.8% in April as compared to a contraction of 6.4% a year ago. Personal loans registered an accelerated growth of 12.6% in April compared to 12.3%.

'Vaccination key to health of economy'

Economic impact due to spate of lockdowns across States not likely to be as bad as last year, says CEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The economic impact of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may not be very large at this point but curbing the pandemic through swift vaccination and strict COVID-19 protocols is imperative to revive economic activity, Chief Economic Adviser K.V. Subramanian said on Monday.

"Vaccination is important for the health of the people as well as the health of the economy... The economic impact is inextricably linked to the overall pandemic itself. The economy had recovered very well by March but then the second wave has moderated the momentum," he said during a briefing on the state of the economy.

While the spate of lockdowns across States is begin-



Vial of hope: The CEA says he expects the manufacturing sector to do well this year. • MURALI KUMAR K

ning to hurt the economy, the second wave of the CO-VID-19 pandemic has peaked in early May and the restrictions imposed so far have been 'asynchronous and he-

terogenous' and hence the decline is not likely to be as bad as last year, the CEA

"There has been an internal assessment on the costs of the restrictions... Whether or not it (growth) will be in double digits or single digits, there is uncertainty. Some of the scientists are talking about the possibility of a third wave - we don't know when it will be and what will be the impact. It would be speculative to tell you exact numbers," Mr. Subramanian said, terming the Economic Survey and Budget's GDP growth estimates for 2021-22 (11% and about 10.5%, respectively) as 'conservative'.

'Immense uncertainty' "The caveat with everything related to the pandemic, is that estimates are subject to immense uncertainty given that the trajectory of the pandemic has been hard to

predict even for epidemiologists," Mr. Subramanian pointed out.

He said he expected manufacturing to do well this year, and non-contact-intensive services will also see an enhanced demand due to the feedback effects from manufacturing.

"For contact-sensitive services sectors to come back..., will depend on the path of the vaccination itself," he

'Impact of restrictions'

Referring to the moderation in several indicators over the past month, the Chief Economic Adviser said: "Clearly, the restrictions imposed by the States have had some impact, but as the wave seems to be on the decline, we do anticipate that these restrictions will progressively reduce and later be removed, which may help in bringing back economic activity."

April core sector output jumps 56.1%, base buoys

Cement, steel hint at lockdown impact

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The output of eight core sectors jumped by 56.1% in April mainly due to a low base effect and uptick in production of natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity, official data showed on Monday.

The eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had contracted by 37.9% in April 2020 due to the national CO-VID-19 lockdown.

Production of natural gas, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity jumped by 25%, 30.9%, 400%, 548.8% and 38.7% in April, as against (-) 19.9%, (-)



and (-) 22.9% in April 2020.

"The improvement was fairly broad-based, with an expected spike in the growth of cement and steel production, although both lagged our projections suggesting some impact of the regional lockdowns on activity," said ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar.

GIFT YOUR LITTLE CHAMP

TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

Fiscal deficit narrower than forecast at 9.2%

Customs, excise receipts lift revenue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India recorded a fiscal deficit of 9.2% of GDP in 2020-21, narrower than the revised estimate of 9.5%, as per data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and official GDP figures released on Monday.

Total revenue receipts were about ₹88,000 crore higher than estimated, driven largely by higher excise and customs collections, while total expenditure was ₹61,000 crore more than the revised estimate, according to CARE Ratings chief economist Madan Sabnavis. The CGA projected the revenue deficit at 7.42% of GDP, which had been assumed at ₹194.82 lakh crore in the Union Budget.

Budget 2020-21, presented before the COVID-19 lockdowns, had set a fiscal deficit target of 3.5% of GDP.

The slightly better-thanexpected fiscal performance doesn't necessarily bode well for this year's fiscal pressures, the Reserve Bank of India's significantly higher-than-anticipated dividend of ₹99,000-odd notwithstanding, opine economists. The government has set a target to reduce the fiscal deficit this year to 6.8%

Mr. Sabnavis pointed out that the higher-than-estimated expenditure in 2020-21 was actually driven by higher revenue expenditure of ₹75,000 crore.

"Interestingly, capex was cut by ₹14,000 crore. Expenditure control will be important for FY22, as pressures will be there on tax revenue due to lockdowns, while non-tax receipts will be higher due to RBI transfer of ₹99,000 crore this year," he said.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar attributed the spurt



in revenue spending to the release of food subsidies, but higher-than-anticipated tax revenues helped curtail the deficit to ₹18.2 lakh crore from the estimated ₹18.5 lakh crore.

'Relief for bond market' "This will come as a relief to

the bond market... At this stage, there is a modest risk that the GoI's fiscal deficit in FY22 will be higher than budgeted (₹15.1 lakh crore). especially on account of shortfalls in disinvestment receipts, and higher-than budgeted expenditure. Accordingly, the space for a fiscal stimulus appears to be limited and would need to be carefully targeted," she said.

The second wave of CO-VID-19, Ms. Nayar said, could delay some marquee disinvestment plans, posing the biggest risk to budgeted receipts this year.

While tax receipts would be affected due to the anticipation of a prolonged second wave impact on sentiment, the Centre may have to keep spending to prop up demand via a combination of free foodgrains, cash transfers and MGNREGA outlays, she said.

"An eventual cut in cesses on fuels, which would dampen excise collections, can't be ruled out, given record-high retail fuel prices," she said, adding that the Centre would also need to hasten vaccine availability.

Sharp deterioration in overall business confidence: FICCI

Survey respondents seek fiscal package to spur demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The worsening conditions and muted near-term expectations due to the second wave of COVID-19 have led to a "sharp deterioration" in overall business confidence among companies, a survey by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) shows.

Participating firms in the 'Business Confidence Survey' "unanimously felt that the government must, first and foremost, focus on controlling COVID cases" and that only a massive vaccination drive could decouple India's economy from another pandemic-induced shock.

Demand conditions are expected to remain weak for longer this time

Also, they stressed on the need for another fiscal package, focussed on addressing the demand side, along with employment-based incentives to avert any job losses.

The 'Overall Business Confidence Index' nosedived to 51.5 after reporting a decadal high value of 74.2 in the previous round of the survey released in March 2021, the industry body said.

About 70% participants reported weak demand con-

ditions as a bothering factor

in the current survey compared with 56% in the previous round. The corresponding number last year

"With household income being severely impacted and past savings already drawn down during the first wave of infections, demand conditions are expected to remain weak for longer this time around."

It added that since a much larger proportion of the population has been impacted in the current wave, there had been permanent impairment to income for many households which had faced job losses or had lost bread winners to COVID-19

Board agrees to Paytm's \$3-bn IPO plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The board of One97 Communications, the parent firm of Paytm, has given inprinciple approval for the \$3-billion (almost ₹22,000 crore) initial public offer (IPO), sources said.

"The board has given inprinciple approval for the IPO," a source said.

"The company expects to raise about ₹21,000-₹22,000 crore," the source said, adding it was eyeing October-December quarter for the IPO.

As per a note by investment research firm Bernstein, Paytm was on track to break even in 12-18 months and the revenue base may double by FY23 to \$1 billion.

It's biggest shareholders include Alibaba's Ant Group (29.7%) and Softbank Vision Fund (19.6%).

Carlyle to invest ₹3,185 cr. in PNB Housing Finance

Deal to trigger open offer for 26% stake

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Pluto Investments S.a.r.l.. an affiliated entity of Carlyle Asia Partners IV, LP and Carlvle Asia Partners V. LP will invest up to ₹3,185 crore in PNB Housing Finance Ltd.

The firm would make a preferential allotment of equity shares and warrants at ₹390 per share.

This follows an approval by PNB Housing Finance's board to raise of up to ₹4,000 crore from investors led by a group of entities affiliated with The Carlyle Group Inc.

shareholders Existing PNB Housing Finance, funds managed by Ares SSG and General Atlantic are also participating. PNB will continue to be the promoter and a key stakeholder in PNB Housing Finance.

The proposed transac-



tion will trigger an open offer by Pluto Investments S.a.r.l. for the purchase of up to 26% stake in PNB Housing Finance from public shareholders.

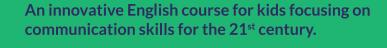
Salisbury Investments, the family investment vehicle of ex-HDFC Bank CEO and MD Aditya Puri, would also invest. "The key objective of raising capital is to augment capital adequacy, reduce gearing and accelerate growth," PNB Housing Finance said in a filing.

Aurobindo Q4

erations dipped 2.5% to ₹6,001.5 crore. For FY21, net profit surged to ₹5,333.8 crore. Excluding exceptional items (net of tax), the net profit rose 10.5%. Since the Natrol unit was divested in FY21, the profit was not comparable.

Total revenue from operations in FY21 rose 7.3% to ₹24,774.6 crore.

The company ended the fiscal with a steady growth in a dynamic environment affected by the pandemic, said N. Govindarajan, MD.



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in the next three years. growth slows'

Non-food bank credit grew at 5.7% in April as against 6.7% in the year-ago

RBI on Monday, showed.

'Chip supply shortages could last several years'

WFH triggered explosive growth: Intel

REUTERS

Intel Corp's CEO said on Monday it could take several years for a global shortage of semiconductors to be resolved, a problem that has shuttered some auto production lines and is also being felt in other areas, including consumer electronics.

Pat Gelsinger told a virtual session of the Computex tradeshow in Taipei that the work-and-study-fromhome trend during the CO-VID-19 pandemic had led to a "cycle of explosive growth in semiconductors" that has placed huge strain on global supply chains.

"But while the industry has taken steps to address near-term constraints it



years for the ecosystem to address shortages of foundry capacity, substrates and Intel announced a \$20-

billion plan in March to expand its advanced chip manufacturing capacity, building two factories in Arizona and opening its plants to outside customers.

net slips 7% on lower revenue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Aurobindo Pharma has posted a 7% drop in consolidated net profit to ₹801.2 crore for the quarter ended March on the back of lower revenue from operations. Total revenue from op-

Federer eases into round two, Swiatek has a happy birthday

The Swiss great makes a winning return to Grand Slam tennis after 16 months away; Medvedev finally wins a match at Roland Garros on his fifth attempt

ROLAND-GARROS

Roger Federer marked his

return to the French Open

with a straight sets victory

over Uzbekistan qualifier De-

champion in Paris in 2009

but playing the event for on-

ly the second time since

2020 tournament, was play-

ing just his fourth match of

the year and first at a Slam

since losing to Novak Djokov-

ic in the Australian Open

Swiatek picked up on Mon-

day right where she left off

last year in winning the title:

running yet another oppo-

nent this way and that on the

red clay in a take-no-prison-

Her best friend on the ten-

nis circuit, Kaja Juvan, was

the victim on Court Philippe

Chatrier this time as Swiatek

emphatically kicked off her

campaign to become the

ers straight-sets victory.

Defending champion Iga

semifinals last year.

Federer, who skipped the

The 39-year-old Federer,

nis Istomin on Monday.

2015, won 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



this year and I

am here now.

Really happy

to be back

FEDERER after his victory over Istomin

Federer has won 71

singles matches at

Roland Garros, the

third-best among men,

behind Nadal (100) and

Djokovic (74)

TUESDAY'S PICKS

3-Nadal vs Popyrin

7-Rublev vs Struff

5-Svitolina vs Babel 9-Pliskova vs Vekic

WOMEN

first woman since Justine Henin in 2007 to defend the French Open title.

Playing on her 20th birthday, Swiatek treated herself to a 6-0, 7-5 victory - her eighth straight-sets win in a row at Roland Garros, having also not dropped a set in winning the trophy last year as an unseeded 19-year-old.

'She didn't give me any birthday gifts," Swiatek said of the partner with whom she won a gold medal in doubles at the Youth Olympics in

But Swiatek wasn't in the gift-giving mood, either. She secured the win with a snapped cross-court backhand at the net, on her

I feel two ways. My wish and hope and dream is that I can play it. But it needs to make sense for me, my team, my family, my country. I'm still waiting to see how things are going to develop in the next couple of weeks and month ROGER FEDERER

on his Tokyo 2020 Olympics participation

van hit wide.

fourth match point, that Ju-

They hugged each other warmly at the net, best buddies once again.

Playing ball

Swiatek then gamely played ball, waving her hands like an orchestra conductor, as on-court interviewer Marion Bartoli led the crowd, thinned by coronavirus restrictions, in a somewhat squawky rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Rising Italian star Jannik Sinner saved match point in a 6-1, 4-6, 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4 win over Frenchman Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

Perseverance pays

And Daniil Medvedev proved that perseverance pays, finally winning a French Open match on his fifth attempt. The second-seeded Russian beat Alexander Bublik 6-3. 6-3, 7-5, after four previous first-round losses on the Parisian clay.

Sinner was on the verge of a shock exit against Herbert. But the Frenchman could

not seize his chance, shanking a shot wide at 4-5, 30-40 in the fourth set.

That proved to be a turning point as Sinner finally held, broke, and sealed the set. Herbert's missed backhand volley then gave Sinner

an early break in the decider

and the Italian prevailed with his

It was just the second meeting between the pair. Sinner had dropped only four games the last time they met, in a best-of-three-set

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 8-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Denis Istomin (Uzb) 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; 31-John Isner (USA) bt Sam Querrey (USA) 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4; 18-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (Fra) 6-1, 4-6, 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4; 2-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Alexander Bublik (Kaz) 6-3, 6-3, 7-5; 15-Casper Ruud (Nor) bt Benoit Paire (Fra) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (4); 32-Reilly Opelka (USA) bt Andrej Martin (Svk) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; Lloyd Harris (RSA) bt 26-Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) 7-5, 6-4,

Women: 4-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; Tamara Zidansek (Slo) bt 6-Bianca Andreescu (Can) 6-7(1), 7-6(2), 9-7; 8-Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt Kaja Juvan (Slo) 6-0, 7-5: 14-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Storm Sanders (Aus) 6-4, 6-1: Polona Hercog (Slo) bt 16-Kiki

Bertens (Ned) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; 20-Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) bt Kaia Kanepi (Est) 4-6, 6-3, 6-0; Sorana Cirstea (Rou) bt 19-Johanna Konta (GBr) 7-6(5), 6-2; 10-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt Nadia Podoroska (Arg) 6-0, 6-3.

Sunday's results: Men: 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Oscar Otte (Ger) 3-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-0; Botic van de Zandschulp (Ned) bt 19-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 6-7(5), 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-2, 6-4: 5-Stefanos Tsitsinas (Gre) bt Jeremy Chardy (Fra) 7-6(6), 6-3, 6-1.

Fallen seeds

- *Men:* 19-Hurkacz, 26-Sonego.
- Women: 6-Andreescu, 16-Bertens, 19-Konta

Osaka withdraws from French Open



Stepping away: Osaka said she was pulling out so that the other players could concentrate on tennis. • GETTY IMAGES

SPORTS BUREAU

7 orld No. 2 Naomi Osaka announced her withdrawal from the French Open late on Monday.

The decision comes in the wake of the Grand Slam Board threatening to default her if she continued to dodge her media responsibilities.

"The best thing for the tournament, the other players and my well-being is that I withdraw," Osaka said in a statement. "I never wanted to be a distraction and I accept my timing was not ideal and my message could have been clearer.

"I have suffered long bouts of depression since the US Open in 2018. Though the tennis press has always been kind, I am not a natural public speaker.

"In Paris I was already feeling vulnerable. So I thought it was better to skip press conferences. I do feel the rules are quite outdated in parts. [But] I am going to take some time away and when the time is right, I want to discuss ways we can

Swiatek starstruck before meeting Nadal



Unusual prep: Swiatek said she had to 'write some small topics' of conversation down before practising with Nadal. • REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

She may be the reigning French Open champion, but Iga Swiatek said she had to "write some small topics" of conversation down before practising with Rafael Nadal ahead of her title defence this week.

The Pole, who celebrated her 20th birthday with a 6-0, 7-5 win over good friend Kaja Juvan in the first round on Monday, practised with 13time Roland Garros winner Nadal for the first time.

surprise because I had to prepare," said Swiatek.

"Write some small topics, not to have awkward silence. But Rafa is really, really great. He's a really nice guy. Even though I am pretty introverted, it was really fun

"Obviously I got to feel his forehand, which was great, and his top-spin.

"That was a whole new experience for me. It gave me a lot of positive energy. It was really a huge inspiration for



'No NOC for Shakib, Mustafizur to play in IPL'

Bangladesh players Shakib Al Hasan, in pic, and Mustafizur Rahman will not be given the No Objection Certificate (NOC) to play in the remaining games of IPL, BCB president Nazmul Hassan said on Monday. PTI

Shahidi replaces Afghan as Afghanistan captain

The Afghanistan Cricket Board has stripped Asghar Afghan of the national team captaincy, blaming him for losing the Test against Zimbabwe in March at Abu Dhabi. Left-handed batsman Hashmatullah Shahidi was appointed new Test and ODI captain while Rahmat Shah will be Shahidi's deputy in both formats. Leg-spinner Rashid Khan was named vice-captain for T20Is. AP

Aussie IPL players reunite with families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hugs, tears of joy and relief marked the occasion as Australia's IPL contingent comprising players, support staff and commentators on Monday reunited with their family members after serving a 14-day hotel quarantine here.

ed in the country two weeks ago after a stopover in Maldives due to travel ban from India. The highlight of the day

The 38 Australians land-

was fast bowler Pat Cummins reuniting with his pregnant partner Becky Boston, a video of which was uploaded on Twitter.

Besides Cummins, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell and David Warner were among those who finally embraced their loved ones after nearly eight weeks away from home.

Crucial ICC Board meet to be held today

T20 World Cup venue and dates may be finalised

AMOL KARHADKAR

The International Cricket Council Board is set to discuss on Tuesday the venue and finalise the dates for the T20 World Cup, scheduled be played October-November.

UAE on stand-by

Although the tournament was allotted to India, the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in India has meant the ICC will push the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to move the tournament to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the designated alternative venue for the tournament.

The BCCI at a special general meeting on Saturday decided to seek a month-long extension from ICC to finalise the venue. Interestingly, the meeting resolved to res-



BCCI secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Dhumal are in Dubai for the ICC Board meeting. ■ FILE PHOTOS

chedule the remaining Indian Premier League in the UAE just before the T20 World Cup.

While the BCCI will try and justify the deadline extension with the COVID-19 cases on a decline and the tax exemption issue still pending with the government, it will be interesting to see whether the ICC agrees to wait till its annual conference in July before making the call.

A BCCI contingent, led by secretary Jay Shah, has reached Dubai to discuss with the ICC and UAE officials the issues regarding the T20 World Cup and the IPL.

Interestingly, the ICC Board is also likely to discuss the possibility of postponing

the second cycle of the World Test Championship by two years. India is set to face New Zealand in the inaugural WTC final in Southampton from June 18.

Break for WTC?

However, with the international calendar having become way too tight due to the pandemic and the majority of members preferring to prioritise T20 leagues, the WTC may be forced to take a two-year break, until the ODI World Cup in 2023, before initiating the second

WTC cycle. Since the ODI Super League is in limbo due to CO-VID-19 and three limited-overs world events to be held in the next two years, the ICC Board is likely to adhere to the members' demands to push the next WTC cycle back by two years.

Superb Sanjeet wins 91kg gold _

Amit Panghal dethroned; Shiva Thapa also gets silver

shots.

ASIAN BOXING

SPORTS BUREAU

Sanjeet shocked Rio Olvmpics silver medallist Vassiliy Levit to win the 91kg title in the Asian boxing championships here on Monday.

Sanieet upset the Kazakh legend, a five-time Asian medallist, 4-1 to bag India's lone gold medal in the men's sec-

Worlds silver medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) and former Worlds bronze medallist Shiva Thapa (64kg) picked up silver medals after suffering narrow losses.

FIRST MATCH

June 16

vs France, Munich,

Sanjeet made good use of his left jabs and mixed the body blows well to score against the experienced Kazakh who peppered the Indian with well-directed head

In a battle of the southpaws, defending champion Panghal was unlucky to lose to World and Olympic champion Zoirov Shakhobidin of Uzbekistan. Panghal lost 3-2 despite dominating in the last two rounds.

Protest not accepted

Zoirov attacked and took the first round. Panghal executed some fine left shots in the

second and made light of a bleeding right eyebrow to land fine combinations in the final round only to meet with disappointment.

India contested the deci-

sion of the second round of the 52kg bout, but the jury did not accept the protest. In an evenly-contested fight, Thapa fell to Asian

Games silver medallist Baatarsukh Chinzorig of Mongo-

The results (finals): 52kg: Amit Panghal lost to Zoirov Shakhobidin (Uzb) 3-2; 64kg: Shiva Thapa lost to Baatarsukh Chinzorig (Mgl) 3-2; 91kg: Sanjeet bt Vassiliy Levit (Kaz) 4-1.

Form guide: W L W W

COACH: Joachim Low

One of the few veterans of

Kroos is an exceptional

of Germany's transitions

leadership, they can

KEY PLAYER

Toni Kroos

In terms of

Jemimah pens a heartfelt note to women cricketers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In the form of a heartfelt note, India's star batter Jemimah Rodrigues has thanked the previous generation of women cricketers who laid the foundation for the team that it has become today.

Jemimah wrote the note

after the unveiling of the

team's white jersey for India's upcoming tour of England. The jerseys were handed out to the team in Mumbai, where the players are cur-

rently in quarantine.

The 20-year-old said during the event head coach Ramesh Powar showed the squad the legacy of the Indian women's cricket team.

"So today (coach) Ramesh (Powar) sir called us for a team meeting and showed us the history we have of women's cricket in India – from where it first started to where it has reached today... The one's who were before us



generation of women cricketers who laid the foundation for the team that it has become today. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that made it possible for us to be a part of what we are today," Jemimah said in an In-

"The one's who did it without the recognition they deserved, the one's who brought women's cricket in India.'

Jemimah also said veteran cricketers Jhulan Goswami

and Mithali Raj shared their experiences of being part of the squad for a long time. "Then the two legends of

Indian women's cricket Mithu di and Jhulu di came up and shared with the entire team what cricket has meant to them and what it's like being a part of this Lega-

Quarantine well utilised, says Desai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The unexpected threeweek gap gave India's top cricketers much-needed rest and the hotel quarantine period has been well utilised to address the fitness areas which otherwise go untouched during a season, team's strength and conditioning (S&C) coach Sohum Desai said on Monday.

Desai, along with New Zealand's Nick Webb, are the two S&C coaches of the men's team and are in charge of getting the side into peak fitness before the World Test Championship final in Southampton from June 18. "Nick and I feel that we have benefited by the gap we got for the boys to take rest. They have had a long year," said Desai.

The Indian team will depart for the UK on Tuesday night.



ONE TO WATCH Kai Havertz | Blessed with superb vision

and calm under pressure, Havertz's tendency to float between lines makes him a perfect

also give the team a lot. We lacked stability and experience in some games. Muller and Hummels have played very well this season, they can lead **Low** after recalling Muller and Hummels

COMPILED BY S.V. SRIRAM | SOURCE: UEFA/AGENCIES

fit for Low's side

TV PICKS

Roland-Garros: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.; SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Hockley confirmed CEO of Cricket Australia

Cricket Australia on Monday confirmed Nick Hockley as chief executive officer almost a year on an interim basis. During this time he oversaw the high-profile tour by India amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also in charge of successfully conducting domestic competitions in the complex situation which badly affected CA's original cricket calendar, PTI



Shubhankar Sharma has reason to celebrate

FORSO (DENMARK) Shubhankar Sharma registered his first top-10 finish on the European Tour in 18 months with a tied eighth at the Made in HimmerLand event here. Shubhankar had an aggregate of four-under 68. His last top-10 on the European Tour was in November 2019, when he was T-7 at the Turkish Airlines Open. Austria's Bernd Wiesberger defended the title he won in 2019. PTI



Kokrak holds off Spieth, captures Schwab crown

Spieth down the final holes to win the USPGA Tour Charles Schwab Challenge by two strokes. The American fired a level par 70 in Sunday's final round to finish on 14-under 266. England's Ian Poulter shared third on 270 with Colombian Sebastian Munoz and Americans Charley Hoffman and Patton Kizzire.



Ally Ewing wins LPGA Match-Play title

LOS ANGELES American Ally Ewing earned her second Tour win at the LPGA Match-Play championship on Sunday, outlasting former Major winner Sophia Popov to take the final 2&1 in Las Vegas. Ewing earlier beat Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn 3&2 in the semifinals. AFP

'Oz tour was defining moment of my career' Jug jug piyo!

Having Virat *bhai* as India captain is a huge plus for me, says India fast bowler Siraj

CRICKET

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

"Old Siraj is a story of the past, you will see a new Siraj for sure," said the confident India pacer, all set to embark on his maiden England tour with the Indian seniors team next month.

"Yes, I am more confident and mature now. Worked a lot on my line and length besides trying to improve my all-round skills as a bowler," Siraj said in a chat with The Hindu.

"It is a great feeling to be part of this Indian team which can beat the best on their home soil. Personally, I am enjoying the kind of competition I face for a slot in such a formidable outfit," he said.

Invaluable tips

"The best part is that all the seniors are so good and open to giving invaluable tips. This is helping me learn a lot about the art of pace



Stepping up: Mohammed Siraj spearheaded the inexperienced Indian pace attack with confidence on the last Aussie tour. • FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

bowling," the 27-year-old said.

"It is definitely a huge challenge to come out of a bio-bubble during a long quarantine and play the big games straight away. But again, we have to be ready for these kinds of things,"

said Siraj, who has picked 16 wickets in five Tests so far.

"Obviously the last Australian tour (where he spearheaded the inexperienced pace attack with aplomb to play a key role in India's series win) was the defining moment of my career which

resulted in a complete change in my attitude towards bowling," he recalled proudly.

"Honestly, I don't know whether I will be there in the eleven or not for the WTC fibowl as well as possible in

nal, but I am determined to

the run-up to that big game,"

"Of course, if I get a chance to play, that will be the ultimate experience for me and a dream come true," the vastly improved pacer

Focusing on batting

"Definitely, there is a conscious effort to improve my batting too as sometimes a crucial 20-30 runs from the tail-enders can be decisive," he said.

"Yes, having Virat *bhai* as India captain is a huge plus for me. Playing under him for four IPL seasons for RCB, he trusts me, understands my bowling and knows how to get the best out of me," Si-

Asked what his big goal was, "To be a permanent member of the Indian team for a long, long time.

"I know what kind of struggle I had gone through after a bad 2019 IPL season to push myself back into contention," Siraj said.

Celebrates World Milk Day Suns claw their way back to level series

NBA PLAYOFFS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LOS ANGELES

Chris Paul overcame an injured shoulder and Jae Crowder busted out of a playoff slump as Phoenix Suns took a 100-92 victory over Los Angeles Lakers, who lost Anthony Davis to another injury.

Paul had 18 points and nine assists, while Crowder delivered 17 points as half a dozen players finished in double figures for the Suns. who clawed their way level at 2-2 in the Western Conference playoff series against the reigning NBA champion.

Paul had to plead with the coaching staff to get into the game, but the move paid off as he had his best game of the first-round series after injuring his shoulder in game one.

Crowder also had his best game so far, his 17 points the same number he scored in games two and three combined.

LeBron James scored a team-high 25 points and had 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who had to play half the game without eight-time NBA All-Star Davis.

Hawks rip Knicks

Trae Young scored 27 points to lead Atlanta Hawks to a 113-96 victory over visiting New York on Sunday, pushing the Knicks to the brink of elimination in the Eastern

John Collins added 22 points, while Italy's Danilo Gallinari scored 21 off the bench and Clint Capela added 10 points and 15 rebounds for the Hawks. Also, Kevin Durant and

Kyrie Irving combined for 81 points as Brooklyn Nets routed host Boston Celtics Durant had 42 and Irving

scored 39 as the Nets seized control in the second quarter to lead the series 3-1. The results:

EC: Hawks 113 bt Knicks 96.

Hawks lead 3-1; Nets 141 bt Celtics 126. Nets lead 3-1. WC: Suns 100 bt Lakers 92. Se-

ries level 2-2; Clippers 106 bt Mavericks 81. Series level 2-2.



Brazil set to host Copa America

Argentina ruled out after a rise in COVID-19 cases

REUTERS SAO PAULO

The South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) said on Monday it would move next month's Copa America to Brazil, after original host nation Argentina pulled out at the last minute due to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

The decision means the oldest international tournament in the world will kick off as planned on June 13, with the final on

"The 2021 Copa America will be played in Brazil!" CONMEBOL said in a statement. "The start and finish dates are confirmed. The host cities and the matches will be revealed by CONMEBOL in the coming hours.

The announcement

comes less than 24 hours after Argentina said its COVID-19 outbreak meant it could not longer host and despite the fact that Brazil is still fighting its own battle with the coronavirus.

More than 450,000 people have died from COVID-19 in Brazil. Brazil has routinely reported the continent's highest case numbers and deaths, and ranks second highest in the world for both daily reported cases and deaths at present.

Joint-host plan gone

This year's Copa America was to be the first featuring ioint hosts, but Colombia was removed as co-host on May 20 after a wave of protests demanding social and economic change spread across the country.

CONMEBOL hoped Argentina could then host with South American neighbours.

all 28 games or share them

Barcelona signs Aguero until 2023



Sergio Aguero. ■ REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE BARCELONA

Barcelona has signed Sergio Aguero on a deal until 2023, the Catalan giant announced on Monday. In a statement, Barcelo-

na said Aguero, who arrives after a decade at Manchester City, has a buy-out clause "set at €100 million".

The 32-year-old leaves City as its all-time record scorer with 260 goals, and with the most goals scored for a single club in Premier League history – 184 in 275 appearances.

His departure for Barcelona had been long in the

Asian WC qualifiers to move to Dubai

FOOTBALL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's COVID-19 travel restrictions mean World Cup qualifying matches scheduled for the eastern city of Suzhou this week will likely be relocated to the United Arab Emirates. The Chinese Football As-

sociation issued a statement on Monday saying the outbreak of infections in the Maldives and Syria meant both national teams would have to undergo strict quarantine after arriving in China, and couldn't play as scheduled.

The Asian Football Confederation later issued a statement confirming a move from China, without saying where the next matches would be held.

"The Asian Football Confederation decided to move the remaining centralized Group A matches from China to a neutral venue, which will be decided and anchallenges faced by several participating teams in travelling to China The AFC is now working in close partnership with

days." The decision was

made due to the mounting

the Chinese Football Association and potential neutral venues, as well as the participating teams to arrange for the safe passage and well-being of all stakeholders while reiterating its commitment towards ensuring the successful completion of the Asian qualifiers.

Maldives and Syria were scheduled to play Group-A games in Suzhou in the second round of Asian qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

"Under the suggestion of the Asian Football Confederation, the CFA agreed to move the remaining Group A matches of the FIFA 2022 World Cup Asian qualifiers to Dubai," the CFA statement said.

The AFC has not announced a new schedule of

(ISL) champion Mumbai City

FC. Amrinder has signed a

five year contract with the

Kolkata club, it was an-

The footballer from Ma-

hilpur, Punjab, played for

ATK in 2015 on loan from the

erstwhile I-League club

Pune FC. He returns to the

city for his second stint un-

der Spanish head coach An-

Amrinder is the first

choice goalkeeper in the Na-

tional team and is currently

tonio Lopez Habas.

nounced on Monday.

Fighter: Despite a shoulder injury, Chris Paul came up with a fine performance that lifted Suns over Lakers. •AP Amrinder signs deal with ATKMB

'Career spans of chess players getting shorter'

Anand attributes it to high level of hard work arising out of intense competition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Five-time World chess champion Viswanathan Anand on Monday said that the career span of chess players has become shorter than earlier times because of the high level of hard work arising out of intense competition.

"The physicality of your life is coming into the sport. The level of physical tension and physical level is much higher now.

'So nowadays, it is fitness, fitness and fitness," Anand said on 'DRS With Ash', a show by India cricketer R. Ashwin on Youtube. "This hard work is very

energy intense and there-

fore, career spans are shor-

tening. This is unquestionable," he added. playing Asked about against younger players, Anand said he would try to bring unfamiliar situations

to them by using his vast





Animated discussion: Viswanathan Anand spoke candidly on R. Ashwin's Youtube show. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

experience.

"Younger players, you could drop them in any situation and they would just calculate better. And how these two strategies clashed? Computers changed that, because it has shortened the time, you need to have experience," he said.

Fischer's influence

Anand said the legendary Bobby Fischer was one of the reasons many began to look chess as a career.

"In the 1970s and 80s, probably like many sports, chess was just starting to become like a career. The biggest reason was Bobby Fischer.

"It was already a career for people in Soviet Union or the East Block, but that concept didn't exist anywhere

"But after Fischer, those doors started to open for everybody," said Anand.

Anand recalled that in India of the 1970s and 80s, chess was not a career option.

Asked if chess players are super intelligent, Anand said, "Chess players are fairly intelligent. You can see these players, even if they quit chess and go and do something else also, they do it quite well."

He also said playing chess helps a person in other ways, like improving memory and concentration.

Renowned for his fast style of play, Anand said he was the world's best rapid player till he was about 40 before the new generation took over.

"The generation after that is quite hard to compete with. I've had one or two glorious moments like the World Rapid Championship in 2017 which I won. When I won that nobody could expect it and least of all, I didn't expect it!"

ATK Mohun Bagan has roped in the services of goalkeeper Amrinder Singh after he sought his release from the Indian Super League

Amrinder Sinah. ■ FILE PHOTO in Doha preparing for India's upcoming World Cup/ Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Amrinder, who won the golden gloves in 2016 while helping Bengaluru FC become the I-League champion, said he was looking to

repeat his previous success

"Even though I played in Kolkata before, it was for a very short time. This is going to be a new chapter in my

in his new assignment.

football career. Winning all the trophies for Mumbai last year was a memorable event in my life. "I want the same success in the green and maroon jer-

sey next season," Amrinder

said in a statement issued by "There are three reasons behind coming to Kolkata. They are a huge number of ATKMB supporters, the football philosophy of coach Habas and the principal owner of the team Sanjiv Goenka

and the glorious history of

football of this City."

Current team better prepared for Olympics, says Raghunath

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Veteran India drag-flicker V.R. Raghunath thinks that the current team is better prepared for the Olympics than the side which finished eighth in the previous edition in Rio de Janerio.

India had lost to Belgium in the quarterfinals in the 2016 Summer Games. Raghunath is not in the list of Olympic probables this time.

which we drew cost us in 2016. That result put us in a different qualification



batch of players can handle

players have been around for seven-eight years now, they are in touch with European players. They can perform much better than Rio," said Raghunath in a Hockey

about winning those close games, said Raghunath, who is currently the vice-president of Karnataka Hockey Association.

"It comes down to one or two matches and how you get your rhythm right in the arena. I have seen teams keeping it simple and playing with a free mind. I'd tell the players not to think much about the occasion.

At the Olympics, it is all

The former Asian Games champion was full of praise for current vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh, who took over drag-flick duties from Raghunath.

Diya-Swastika pair finishes runner-up The results (involving Indians):

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rising Indian talents Diya Chitale and Swastika Ghosh finished runner-up to Russians Natalia Malinina and Elizabet Abraamian in the WTT Youth Star Contender in Tunis (Tunisia) on Sunday.

The girls exceeded expectations in under-19 singles, too. They reached the semifinals and lost in five sets.



Swastika bt Natalia Malinina 12-10, 11-5, 6-11. 11-8 Doubles: Final: Natalia Malinina & Elizabet Abraamian (Rus) bt Diva Chitale & Swastika Ghosh 11-3, 11-7, 11-6, Semifinals: Diva & Swatika bt Lina Zaderova (Cze) & Hana Arapovic

(Cro) 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 6-11, 11-9.



impressive run. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

each other's scores

Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat and Manu Bhaker shot identical scores of 291 out of 300 in the precision stage of 25m sports pistol in the MOS section of the European shooting championship in Osijek, Croatia, on Monday.

Rahi had a series of 99, 97 and 95, while Manu had 97, 99 and 95. Former World and Olym-

pic champion Olena Kostevych of Ukraine shot 296 along with two others, Vitalina Batsarashkina of Russia and Zorana Arunovic of Serbia, to lead in the main The rapid fire section will

Rahi and Manu match

"The Canada match

be conducted on Tuesday.



group. But I feel the current

the Olympics a lot better. "The same batch of