

Puniab CM Amarinder welcomes three AAP leaders to Cong. camp



Can't lower guard in J&K, savs Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane



Sri Lanka braces for

Diokovic eases into third round; injured Barty retires mid-match



page 9



Kerala

Gujarat

Kerala

Chhattisgarh

Himachal

Gujarat

Tripura

Odisha

Odisha

Arunachal

Uttarakhand

Meghalaya

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NEARBY



Oppn. parties may meet soon to evolve strategy

With the friction between some States and the Centre on the rise, the Opposition parties are likely to hold a joint meeting soon to chalk out a strategy. The last such meeting was in May 2020. when 22 parties met virtually, 50 days into the lockdown. **NEWS** ▶ PAGE 9

Delhi High Court issues summons to Ramdev

NEW DELH The Delhi High Court on Thursday issued summons to yoga guru Ramdev on a plea accusing him of making statements against allopathic medicines and claiming that Pataniali's Coronil kit is a "cure" for COVID-19 infection. The yoga exponent has been asked to give his response within three weeks. NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Capital reports 487 COVID cases, 45 deaths

NEW DELHI Delhi reported 487 new COVID-19 cases even as 80,046 tests were conducted over 24 hours, said a health bulletin released by the government on Thursday. The total number of cases now stands at 14,27,926. Also, 45 deaths were reported, pushing the toll to 24,447. **CITY** ▶ PAGE 2

Significant progress in SDGs on clean energy, health: NITI index

Goalposts changed on inequality, with omission of key economic indicators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India saw significant improvement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to clean energy, urban development and health in 2020, according to the NITI Aayog's 2020 SDG Index. However, there has been a major decline in the areas of industry, innovation and infrastructure as well as decent work and economic growth.

Although the index shows improvement on the inequality SDGs, the NITI Aayog has omitted key economic indicators used to measure inequality in income and expenditure last year and given greater weightage to social indicators instead.

Kerala retained its position at the top of the rankings in the third edition of the index, with a score of 75, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, both scoring 72. At the other end of the scale, Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing States. However, all the States showed some improvement from last year's scores, with Mizoram and Haryana seeing the biggest gains.

Developed by a global consultative process on holistic development, the 17 KERALA ON With a composite score of 75, Kerala topped the NITI Aayog's 2020 Index, based on the State's performance across 16 Sustainable **Development Goals** A score of 100 implies that the State/UT has achieved the targets set for 2030. A score of 0 implies that it is at the bottom of the table **2020 INDEX SCORE**

Thrust on social equality the goals through data-driven assessment and to foster a competitive spirit among the States and Union Territories in achieving them. In March, an assessment by the UN of the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs said the region India is part of

due to the pandemic. The NITI Aayog Index shows some improvement in the SDG on inequality, but a look at the indicators used to

may see rising inequality

SDGs have a 2030 deadline.

its index in 2018 to monitor

the country's progress on

The NITI Aayog launched

assess this goal shows that the think tank has changed the goalposts.

In 2019, the indicators for inequality included the growth rates for household expenditure per capita among the bottom 40% of rural and urban populations, as well as the Gini coefficient – a measure of the distribution of income – in rural and urban India. The 2018 indicators included the Palma ratio, another metric for income inequality.

Such economic measures

have been omitted from the indicators used for this SDG in the 2020 edition of the Index. Instead, it gives greater weightage to social equality indicators, such as the percentage of women and Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe representatives in State Legislatures and the panchayati raj institutions and the levels of crime against the SC/ST communities. The only economic indicator this year is the percentage of population in the lowest two wealth quintiles.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Journalists need protection against sedition charges'

SC quashes case against Vinod Dua

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Thursday quashed a sedition case registered against senior journalist and Padma Shri awardee Vinod Dua for his critical remarks against the Prime Minister and the Union government in a You-Tube telecast, underscoring its 59-year-old verdict that "strong words" of disapproval about the ruling regime did not amount to sedition.

A Bench, led by Justice U.U. Lalit, upheld the right of every journalist to criticise, even brutally, the measures of the government with a view to improving or altering them through legal means. The free speech of a journalist should be protected from charges of sedition.

The time is long past when the mere criticism of governments was sufficient to constitute sedition. The right to utter honest and reasonable criticism is a source of strength to a community rather than a weakness, the judgment said.

It upheld the spirit and intent of the 1962 Kedar Nath Singh verdict, which "Commenting in strong terms upon the measures or acts of government, or its agencies, so as to ameThe time is long past when the mere criticism of governments was sufficient to constitute sedition. The right to utter honest and reasonable criticism is a source of strength to a community rather than a weakness SUPREME COURT

liorate the condition of the people or to secure the cancellation or alteration of those acts or measures by lawful means, that is to say, without exciting those feelings of enmity and disloyalty which imply excitement to public disorder or the use of violence is not sedition".

Justice Lalit declared, Every journalist is entitled to protection under the Kedar Nath Singh judgment."

The 1962 judgment said Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (sedition) was intended only to punish subversion of a lawfully established government through violent means.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Will take all steps to bring back Choksi, says MEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India will make "all efforts" to bring back fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi from Dominica, where he is facing a case in a court over alleged illegal entry into the island.

The response of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came shortly before it became known that Mr. Choksi is likely to remain in custody in Dominica for a few weeks more as the next hearing is expected to be around July 1.

"India remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that fugitives are brought back to face justice. Regarding the specific case of Mehul Choksi, we understand that he is in the custody of the authorities and certain legal proceedings are under way. We will continue to make all efforts to ensure he is brought back to India," said MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

Accused of defrauding the Punjab National Bank and the State Bank of India of ₹13,500 crore, Mr. Choksi fled to Antigua and Barbuda in 2018 and took citizenship there.

Meanwhile, Antigua PM Gaston Browne continued to distance his country from the fugitive.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Fresh fillip



WhatsApp obtaining 'trick consent': govt.

STAFF REPORTER

The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp, the instant messaging app, was indulging in "anti-users practices" by obtaining "trick consent" from users for its updated privacy policy.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in an affidavit filed before the court, said that WhatsApp was "bombarding" million of its existing users, who have not accepted the updated 2021 privacy policy, with notifications on a daily basis.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 8

1,044 cases of mucormycosis in city ⁺

COVID test positivity rate is less than 1% fourth day in a row

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said a total of 1,044 cases of mucormycosis (black fungus) have been reported in the city so far.

'Till yesterday (Wednesday), 1,044 black fungus cases were there in Delhi. Out of these, around 92 patients have recovered fully and around 89 people have lost their lives due to black fungus," the Minister said. The others are still under treatment at different healthcare facilities, he said. The test positivity rate of

COVID-19 has remained less than 1% for four consecutive come like this because of the days. This is a "good sign" said Mr. Jain and urged people to follow COVID-appropriate behaviour. "My appeal to every citizen is that please maintain social distancing, wear a mask all the time, and wash your hands from time to time."

Covaxin quandary

Mr. Iain also said that many people who have taken the first dose of Covaxin are not

getting the scheduled second dose in Delhi and added that the situation has be-"mismanagement" Central government.

"They have changed the schedule for vaccination. If the Central government had given us the required number of vaccines, then no problem would have happened. But they are not providing vaccines. We are hopeful that people who are waiting for the Covaxin second dose will get it as early as possi-

Talks on with Pfizer, J&J, Moderna: MEA

Govt. trying to step up supply: Shringla

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

India is in talks to allow major foreign vaccine manufacturers to carry out "local manufacturing", said Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Thursday, as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) asserted it was making "all efforts" to increase vaccine supplies, particularly from the U.S.

Addressing the WHO's South-East Asia Regional Health Partners' Forum, Mr. Shringla said India was fighting an "exceptionally severe second wave" of the pandemic. "We are also part of the discussions with maior vaccine manufacturers like Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna on sourcing and possible local manufacturing of their vaccines in India. We have also helped expedite the introduction of Sputnik V," he said.

In an order on February 5 last, U.S. President Joe Bi-

Centre books 30 crore doses of new vaccine The Union Health Ministry

has finalised arrangements with the Hyderabad-based vaccine firm Biological-E to reserve 30 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses. These would be manufactured by the company from August to December. The vaccine is now undergoing Phase-3 clinical trial. PAGE 10

den invoked the Defence Production Act for vaccine components, putting a squeeze on India's vaccine manufacturing. Mr. Shringla said MEA's representatives had been working to "ease regulatory disruptions to supply chains".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8 **SII SEEKS INDEMNITY** ▶ PAGE 10

HC orders action against Gambhir's foundation for stocking Fabiflu

Doing charity for some other reason is no charity, says court

STAFF REPORTER

The Drugs Control Department of Delhi on Thursday informed the High Court that the Gautam Gambhir Foundation (GGF) had been found "guilty of unauthorisedly stocking, procuring and distributing Fabiflu (medicine) to COVID-19 patients". A Bench of Justice Vipin

Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh told the drug controller to take action in the case. "Firstly, you do charity for charity. Doing charity for some other reason is no charity. We want to curb this practice and for this, we want you [drug controller] to take action," it said.

Noting the manner in which cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir procured huge quantity of the drug when it was in short supply in Delhi, the court said, "This was certainly not the way. In this pandemic it should not be done just be-



cause people have means to do it. It should not be that I will do it for one class or for my constituency people and should not be for popularity." The drug controller sub-

mitted that action would be taken without delay against the foundation and drug dealers too in similar cases that would be brought to its

'AAP MLA also guilty'

It said that AAP MLA Pra-

veen Kumar had also been

found guilty for similar of-

fence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and action would be taken against him.

The drug controller's counsel said that showcause notices have been issued to licensees as well as those who were found to have breached the law and their responses were awaited.

The court asked the drug controller to file status report within six weeks and posted the matter for hearing on July 29. It was hearing a petition seeking the lodging of an FIR on the allegations that politicians were able to procure and distribute COVID-19 medicines in huge quantities even as patients were running from pillar to post to get them.

hearing, Mr. Gambhir quoted Bhagat Singh in a tweet. "I am a man and all that affects mankind concerns me -Sardar Bhagat Singh!" he posted.

Soon after the High Court



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PUNE

'Vaccinate govt. teachers at the earliest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Education has directed that all Delhi government school teachers who have been working as front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic be vaccinated immediately.

DoE director Udit Prakash Rai has asked that vaccination be facilitated for the teachers at the earliest in a letter to district education officers and school principals.

"Government school teachers have been spearheading the COVID-19 response of the city government. They have been deployed on several fronts to contain the virus spread. Teachers have beyond the call of duty in management of containment zones, vaccination drive, ration distribution, oxygen management etc," the letter said. Mr. Rai said that it is imperative that the DoE ensures all government teachers get vaccinated on an immediate basis.

BJP claims scam on Remdesivir distribution

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi BJP on Thursday filed a police complaint alleging a "scam" in stock and distribution of Remdesivir injections in the city and demanded an inquiry.

Delhi BJP spokespersons Harish Khurana alleged that there was discrepancy in the government accounts regarding the number of Remdesivir injections as on May 16. It alleged that over one lakh doses had gone missing.

Delhi govt. preparing for 45K daily cases during third wave

IIT estimates a sharp rise; oxygen plants installation in govt. hospitals delayed

Bracing for the battle

NIKHIL M BABU NEW DELHI

The Delhi government is currently considering four scenarios for a possible third wave of COVID-19 in the city. Alarmingly, in one of the scenarios, the daily new cases could be as high as 45,432, as per an official report seen by The Hindu.

In the first scenario, the daily new cases could be as high as 28,395, which is the same as the second wave. In the second scenario, it could be 36,914, which is 30% more than the second wave. According to the third estimate, the number shoots to 45,432. which is 60% more. The fourth projection offers a bit of respite, with the case count expected to be around

The government is also making plans for oxygen arrangements for each of these scenarios. The scenarios are based on a report submitted to the Delhi government by

Possible third wave scenarios in Delhi 50,000 40,000 30,000 20,000

Scenario 2 (30% more

the IIT-Delhi. "These are preliminary estimates. The Delhi government has asked IIT-Kanpur to form a team, including epidemiologists and other experts, to come up with more accurate predic-

tions of when the third wave

could hit the city and how

high the cases could be. But it

will take more time for them

■ Daily new COVID-19 cases

to submit a report," a Delhi government source said.

The Delhi government will be giving the city's data including, cases and vaccination, to IIT-Kanpur to come up with the prediction, the source said.

Only nine of the 58 Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) oxygen plants have been made operational in Delhi government hospitals so far, as per the report. This shows the government has missed the previous deadline given by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that 44 plants should be operationalised before May

On April 27, he had said that 44 oxygen plants will be installed in a month at hospitals in the city. "After installing these 44 plants in different hospitals, oxygen supply will improve," Mr. Kejriwal had said.

Work in progress

The city had faced a grave oxygen shortage during the second wave, which led to several deaths due to hospitals running out of oxygen.

When contacted, a Delhi government spokesperson said: "So far, 20 plants have already been installed in a mission mode within a month and another 10 will be installed next week"

Capital sees 487 virus infections out of 80,046 tests, 45 deaths

13,94,731 have recovered and there are 8,748 active cases

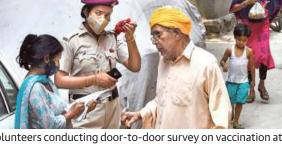
STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Out of the 80,046 tests conducted in the last 24 hours. Delhi reported 487 new CO-VID-19 cases, bringing the count to 14,27,926, according to a health bulletin released by the government on Thursday.

The test positivity rate (TPR) fell to 0.61%, which means that less than one person out of 100 taking CO-VID-19 tests is now positive. The TPR was 0.78% on Wednesday and this is the fourth consecutive day that the figures are below 1%.

At the same time, 45 deaths were reported and the death toll stood at 24,447.0f the total cases, 13,94,731 people have recovered and there are 8,748 active cases.

Vaccines for youngsters Delhi has been facing a shortage of vaccines and free vaccination for the 18-44 age group has not been happen-



Volunteers conducting door-to-door survey on vaccination at a colony in North Delhi on Thursday • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Virus spread Total number of COVID-19 cases Total 14,27,926 24,447 New cases in the New past 24 hours 487 🌞

ing in government schools

for over about 11 days now, as per an official bulletin.

"The Central government has not been sending vaccines for more than 10 days. If youngsters want to get vac-

cinated, they have only one option, which is to go to private hospitals. Those vaccines are administered for ₹800, ₹900, ₹1,000, ₹1,250 and ₹1,400 by private hospitals," AAP leader Atishi said.

She said it is a matter of great concern for Delhi because the last wave had some serious effects on the voungsters. "It is our request to the Central government that instead of sending the vaccines to private hospitals, they make the vaccines available to the Delhi government," she said.

Sisodia slams Centre over vaccine shortage

'Govt. doesn't have the vision or purpose for better COVID-19 management'

STAFF REPORTER

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday hit out at the Central government over the vaccine shortage in the city and alleged that the BJP is giving vaccines to private hospitals ingovernment centres.

"The BJP is responsible for closures of government vaccination centres, while private hospitals continue to receive vaccines, for which citizens have to pay for. The BJP is using the backdoor to provide vaccines to private hospitals, while government centres with free vaccines face scarcity. Not one State right now has free vaccines to inoculate citizens," Mr. Sisodia said.

Answerable to nation The AAP Minister said that

the "nation needs to know" what happened to the ₹36,000 crore earmarked for vaccination. He said that it has been eight months since the vaccine was developed in India and the country is still facing a huge "If BJP spokespersons are

calling for press conferences to sling mud on Mr. Kejriwal, it means that the BJP-led Central government has neither a plan or a mission to fight against COVID-19. They don't have the vision or purpose for better COVID-19 management. The BJP needs to accept that it has grossly mismanaged the vaccine plan in India," he said.

Mr. Sisodia claimed that

the BJP still has no plan and they are playing "petty polit-

"At the press conference conducted by Sambit Patra, I noticed that for a good 15-20 minutes, [Sambit] Patra just indulged in continuous mudslinging and attacking CM Arvind Kejriwal ji. What is even more astonishing is that it seems like Mr. Patra had no interest in speaking about vaccination in the nation or COVID-19 management or even preparing for a third wave," he said.

Campaign against home delivery of liquor begins

'Govt. must home-deliver ration instead'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Delhi Mahila Congress on Thursday launched a campaign against the Delhi government's new policy that allows home delivery of liqu-

Delhi Mahila Congress chief Amrita Dhawan said instead of focusing its time and effort on ensuring home delivery of ration or oxygen, the government was trying to earn money by allowing home delivery of liquor. She added that families in Delhi had just gone through a tough time due to COVID-19 and were asking about ration, vaccines and medicine while the government was concentrating on liquor.

"I believe that alcohol can give a personal pleasure for a minute but it ruins families and has an adverse impact on women and children. The govt. should focus on providing home delivery of life-saving medication and ration instead," Ms. Dhawan said.

Gather info on orphans: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the Delhi government to take steps to gather information on the minors who have been rendered orphans in the CO-VID-19 pandemic and are in a vulnerable situation due to loss of one or both parents.

The court directed various departments of Delhi government to call all RWAs, police stations, schools, anganwadi workers, and hospitals to give information on children whose one or both parents have died.



Delhi Oxygen **Concentrator Bank**

For Discharged Patients

 To get Oxygen Concentrator after getting discharged from a Government or a Private Hospital, a covid patient can call on 1031 helpline after getting the prescription form filled (as given in this link/QR code) by the treating doctor. The Oxygen Concentrator will be delivered at the patient's home/residence.

For Covid Patients at Home

Covid patient's recovering at home can directly call on 1031 helpline after getting the prescription form filled (as given in this link/QR code) by a doctor. The Oxygen Concentrator will be delivered at the patient's home/residence.

Call **<1031** for an oxygen concentrator

(Timings: 8.00AM to 6.00PM)

CM YK

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhl





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PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF THI HIGH COURTOF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION INTERIM APPLICATION National Stock Exchange of India Ltd Having its registered office at Exchange Plaza, C/1, G - Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051

...Applicant/Plaintiff National Stock Exchange of India Ltd

Versus ...Plai

1. Fairwealth Securities Ltd.
651 - 652, Udyog Vihar Phase-V,
Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001

2. Katashraj Securities Pvt. Ltd.
651 - 652, Udyog Vihar Phase-V,
Gurugram, Haryana - 122001

3.Fairwealth Tours & Travels Pvt.
Itd. UG-3. Som Dutt Chamber-II. Ltd., UG-3, Som Dutt Chamber-II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-1100 4. Chahek Housing Pvt. Ltd. B-16-II-9, Som Dutt Chamber Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 5. Reets Plastic Pvt Ltd.

UG-37, Som Dutt Chambers UG-37, Som Dutt Cnambers, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 6. Aagas Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd. UG-3, Som Dut Chambers -II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

HP / 1178/21-22

Whereas the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Applicant/Plaintiff) in order to meet the claims filed against Defendant No. 1 and to seek various reliefs against Defendant Nos. 2 to 6, the Applicant / Plaintiff has preferred the abovementioned Suit on 22nd dayof December 2020.

gay of December 2020.

Whereas the present Notice is addressed by the Applicant / Plaintiff, pursuant to the order dated 8th April 2021 passed by His Lordship the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. P. Colabawalla in the above Interim Application, thereby permitting, to be affixed at the last known address of each of the Defendants.

Whereas the afforcesid

Defendants.

Whereas the aforesaid Interim Application was heard before Horble Mr. Justice B. P. Colabawalla of the Horble Bombay High Court on 17th February 2021 and despite serving the pleadings on each of you, none appeared on behalf of the Defendants.

The Horble Court vide its order dated 17th February 2021 has granted interim reliefs in favour of the Applicant/Plaintiff in terms of paragraph 75 of the aforesaid Interim Application, which are as under:

This Horble Court be pleased to direct the Respondent No. 1 to forthwith disclose on oath by filing an Affidavit (A) all its assets/ properties,

Affidavit (A) all its assets/ properties both movable and immovable including bank account, securitie including bank account, securities, investments, shareholdings in its group companies and all other related entities, all the receivables from its clients'/debtors', together with details of all encumbrances and valuation in respect thereof; (B) all income-tax returns, audited or otherwise, for the period of last three years till date; (C) nature of transactions entered into by the Respondent No.1 (as set out in the order of SEBI dated October 11, 2019) with Katashriai Securities Pvt. order of SEBI dated October 11, 2019) with Katashraj Securities Pvt. Ltd., Fairwealth Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd., Chahek Housing Pvt. Ltd., Reets Plastic Pvt. Ltd. and Aagas Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd., being Respondent Nos. 2 to 6 respectively and the chapter securities and and the shares, securities, and investments and which have been diverted and valuation in favour of the three entities with all supporting information/documents:

information/documents;

This Hon'ble Court be pleased to direct each of the Respondent Nos. 2 to 6 to disclose on oath by filing an Affidavit with supporting documents for the following (A) all its assets/ properties both movable and immovable both movable and immovable, including securities, investments, shareholdings in its group companies and all other related entities, together with details of all encumbrances and valuation in respect thereof; (B) all income-tax returns, audited or otherwise, for the period of last three years till date; (C) nature, mode and manner of transactions entered into by each of the Respondent Nos. 2 to 4 respectively (as set out in the order of SEBI dated 11th October 2019) with Respondent No. 1, and the shares, Respondent No. 1, and the shares securities, and investments which have been diverted and valuation have been diverted and valuation with all supporting information/documents; and (D) details of the used / utilization / application of the amounts diverted / transferred by Respondent Nos.1 to each of Respondent Nos.2 to 6; ii) This Hon'ble Court be pleased to restrain the Respondents, its servants, agents, assigns, directors, officials or any person/s acting or claiming through or under it.

by temporary order and injunction of this Hon'ble Court from in any manner transferring, alienating selling, disposing of and/or dealing with and/or parting with possessi and/or encumbering or creating any third party, right, title and interest in triird party, right, tute and interest in all assets, movable and immovable, tangible and intangible, securities, shares, debentures, investments owned by the Respondents and/or kept or diverted to any other connected entities, including the assets disclosed on oath by the Respondents.

granted a period of four weeks from the date of the order to file an Affidavit in Reply, if any. The said order has till date not been complied with by the

Whereas the aforesaid order also

Therefore each of the Defendants, in Therefore each of the Defendants, in view of the order dated 8th April 2021, is hereby notified that the above Interim Application will now be listed on 15th June 2021 for hearing before His Lordship the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. P. Colabawalla, presiding in Court Room No. 2, Gr. Floor, Bombay High Court, situated, at M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 032, at 11.00 a.m. or any date or time thereafter when each one of you may remain present if you may so desire remain present if you may so des and call upon each of the Defenda to comply with the order dated 17th February 2021 passed by the

You may also contact the undersigned and collect the copy of the papers and pleadings in the aforesaid Interim Application and Plaint along with annexures thereof on any working day prior to the date of hearing i.e., 15th June 2021.

Dated this 4th day of June 2021

M/s. Manilal Kher Ambalal & Co Advocates for Applicant/Plainti MKA Chambers, British Hotel Lane Off Mumbai Samachar Marg, Fort Email: mka@mkaco.com

mka manilal kher ambalal & co

PUBLIC NOTICE The General Public is hereby inform on behalf of my client SH. RAJAN S/O SH. JAI RAM R/O G-520, SHRI NIWAS PURI, NEW DELHI-110065 that the wife of my client namely SMT. ALKA is residing separately along with her tw daughters CHARVI and MAYRA for th last 3 years from my client SH. RAJAN Because SMT. ALKA is not performing the conjugal rights of my client herefore my client has disowned an lebarred SMT. ALKA from all his entir novable and immovable properties n future my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by the SMT.ALKA Praveen Rastogi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sushma W/o Lt. Sh.Kishan Pal Singh, R/o 254, Sanjay Enclave, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-33,has disowned & debarred her son namelyVivek Pal Singh, alongwith his wifelshitaVaid,from all her moveable and immoveable properties and has severed all her relations in future due to their irresponsible deeds, misconduct & misbehavior towards our client and if any one deals with him. he/she shall be doing at hi wn costs & risks

Deepak Rana (Advocates) DELHI LAW ASSOCIATES

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Executive Engineer HPPWD Kotkhai, Distt Shimla H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered

| | 1 1 VVB Bepartment. | | | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Sr. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost | EMD | Cost of Tender | Time | Eligible class of Contractor |
| 1. | A/R & M/O Treasury Office Building at Kotkhai, Tehsil Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla, H.P. (SH: Painting, Distempering and Tiles in Floor, Brick work etc.) | | Rs. 13,500/- | Rs. 350/- | 2 Month | Class D |

Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the porta

| | yDates: | istered on the website which is free of co. |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of Online Publication | 10-06-2021 11:00 HRS |
| 2. | Document Download Start and End Date | 10-06-2021 1130 HRS upto 28-06-2021 1730 HRS |
| 3. | Bid Submission Start and End Date | 10-06-2021 1130 HRS upto 28-06-2021 1800 HRS |
| 4. | Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document | 29-06-2021 upto 1030 HRS |
| 5. | Date of Technical Bid opening, | 29-06-2021 1100 HRS |
| 6 | Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid. | Date to be announced |
| | | Executive Engine |

HPPWD Kotkha Distt Shimla H.I

Office of The Chief Engineer**cum-Executive Director**

Programme Management Unit Drinking Water & Sanitation Department Doranda Bazar Water Tower Campus, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 Fax/Phone: 0651-2480166 Email: swsm.jharkhand@gmail.com

Schedule for Invitation of RFP

| 1 | Name of the Work | Selection of Agency for setting up and running JJN |
|---|--|--|
| | | Control Room (Rural Water Service Centre) / |
| | | Contact Centre Operations to Support the |
| | | Complaint and Grievance Redressal |
| | | Management System |
| | | Office of the Chief Engineer-cum-Executive Director, |
| | | Programme Management Unit (SWSM), |
| | | Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand |
| 2 | Name of Department & Address | Doranda Bazar (Water Tower Compound 1st Floor) |
| 2 | Name of Department & Address | Doranda, Ranchi834002 Jharkhand. |
| | | Fax/ Phone: 0651-2480166 |
| | | Email: swsm.jharkhand@gmail.com |
| | | Website-dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in |
| 3 | Date of Issue of RFP | 08.06.2021 |
| 4 | Date & Time of Pre - Bid Conference | 15.06.2021 Till 12:30 PM |
| 5 | Publication of Pre - Bid Clarification in | 18.06.2021 |
| J | the Department Website | 18:00:2021 |
| 6 | Last Date of online Submission of RFPs | 29.06.2021 Till 4:00 PM |
| 7 | Last Date and Time of Submission of | 01.07.2021 Till 4:00 PM |
| 1 | Hard Copy of RFPs | 01.07.2021 THI 4:00 PM |
| 8 | Date of Opening of Technical Bid | 05.07.2021 |
| 9 | Tentative Date of opening of Financial Bid | 09.07.2021 |

NB:- For Details
Instructions to Bidder, Eligibility Criteria, Terms and Conditions, Guideline for Submission of Proposal, Bidder's Information, etc. can be downloaded either from the website https://dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in or http://jharkhand tenders.

For any Clarification please visit: Office of the Chief Engineer-cum-Executive Director Programme Management Unit, DWSD, Jharkhand, Doranda, Ranchi

The undersigned reserves the right to reject one or all bids or distribute the same amongst one or more bidders without assigning any reason thereof.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

email: eeguraispwd@gmail.com

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Fresh E-NIT S. No.16/SSDG of 2021-22 Dtd.31-5-2021

(3rd call.)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal http://jktenders.gov.in for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez and as per the details mentioned in this e-lender notification and to whom call the terms and so per the details mentioned in this e-lender notification and to whom

he cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasu Challan/Receipt in favour **Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez.**

Estimated Cost of Cost TD

(in ₹)

1600

1600

1600

(₹ in lacs)

53,29

56,65

61.03

60.10

86,20

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the e-procurement Porta

1.1 The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature

ound, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility atisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work

Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer- in- Charges of Civil

1.2 If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the

epartment shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 and EMD of the lowest bidde including the additional Security Performance shall be forfeited, besides debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

DD

31

02

09

02

Name of Work

FHTCs "Under JJM)

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including

Construction of protection works. Intake Chamber

near head site, 0.04 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber

supporting pillars for RWM at spots.Chain Link

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including

Construction of protection works, Intake Chamber

near head site, 0.25 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Crate

work, Chain Link fencing around structures, Cattle

roughs. PST near head site for Retrofitting of WSS

Gulshanpora for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Unde

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including Construction of protection works/ head works at

head site, Intake Chamber near head site, 0.06 lac

gallon SR. Sluice Chamber, supporting pillars for

RWM at spots, Chain Link fencing aroun

Izmarg for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

structures, cattle trough for Retrofitting of WSS

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including

replacement /improvements of damaged / wornout

pipes and Construction of Intake Chamber near

head site, Sluice Chamber, Cattle Trough Anchor/Saddle block. Chain Link fencing around

structures for Retrofitting of WSS Kanzalwan fo 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM).

Providing/laving and fitting of GI pipes including

Construction of spring protection works/ head work at head site, crate protection work at sports, Intake

Chamber near head site, 0.25 lac gallon SR, Sluice

Chamber, supporting pillars for RWM at spots, Chain Link fencing around structures, cattle trough

for Retrofitting of WSS Refuji 1st for 100% coverag

Providing/laying and fitting of GI pipes including

replacement /improvements of damaged / wornout pipes and Construction of Intake Chamber near

head site, 0.10 lac gallon SR, Sluice Chamber Cattle Trough, Anchor/Saddle block, Chain Link

fencing around structures for Retrofitting of WS

"http://jktenders.gov.in" as per schedule of dates given below

Available;

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Sardaab for 100% coverage of FHTCs "Under JJM)

of FHTCs "Under JJM)

Position of Funds: -

S.No Description

Publishing date of NIT

Bid submission start date

Bid submission end date

lechanical wings In-charge of the Scheme.

Bid opening date (Technical Cover)

Download start date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

DIPK-2388/21

ting of WSS Banjran for 100% coverage o

fencing around structures. Cattle troughs.

cuments/ PWD Form No:-25 double are acco

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06

SE/Hyd/Spr.

39 of

03/2020-21

SE/Hyd/Spr

42 of

03/2020-21

Dated.

SE/Hyd/Spr/ 01 of 02/2020-21 Dated. 13-02-2021

02/2020-21

13-02-2021

SE/Hyd/Spr.

38 of 03/2020-21 Dated. 10-03-2021

SE/Hyd/Spr/ 08 of 02/2020-21 Dated. 13-02-2021

1000 Hrs

1000 Hrs

Special Sub Division Gurez

Sd-/ (Deputy Director-I) Programme Management Unit PR 247453(Drinking Water and Sanitation)21-22*D

REMEMBRANCE



Sad Demise of Dhivya Arun (43) Wife of Arun Ramamoorthy and Faculty Member of Bala Vidya Mandir, Adyar

Ex-Staff ABN AMRO Bank, Chennai) By bereaved Family Members

M.D. MURTHY (85), Retired Foreman (Comp News), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 03-06-2021.Address: No. 3, Ramakrishnaraj Nagar Main Road, Madipakkam, Chennai 600091.Mobile No: 8754539249

For enquiries on

announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following numbe between 10a.m. and 8p.m. New Delhi: 011- 43579797 Rate for New Delhi: (Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines Extra Line - Rs.160/-)

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Online



WG CDR S JAYACHANDRAN

13 Jan 1943 to 26 May 2021

A true gentleman, a noble soul with a pure heart, a dutiful son, a brother who built lives, a loving husband, a caring father, a good Samaritan, an educator, a philanthropist who lived by the values of compassion, duty, honesty and integrity,

who brought a smile on everyone's face He served the IAF for 31 years and lived as a disciplined citizen thereafter - fought many battles and won most

Covid snatched him from us We pray that his soul merges with the Supreme Divine

Please join us virtually for 12th Day Prayer ceremony on Sunday, 6th June - 10 to 11.30am -Rudra Poojai, and 12.30 to 2pm - Subhishrikarnam https://fb.me/e/2oj818Fw0

Wife - Usha Jayachandran, Sons - Maj J Suresh (R) & J Umesh Email: jsuresh75.v2@gmail.com

DU may start registration process for UG admissions on July 15, say officials

'A merit system will be followed'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi University is likely to begin the registration process for undergraduate admissions on July 15, said officials.

They said the timeline for the admission process will be fixed once the Boards announce their decision on holding exams and declaration of results.

Waiting for clarity

Rajeev Gupta of DU's admissions committee, said: "We are proposing to start registrations for the undergraduate admissions from July 15. It all depends on when the different boards take a decision on the board exams and declare the results. We are anticipating that within a week there should be clarity from all the boards, and everyone will announce what their process will be. We have to wait for a decision from all boards as we cannot exclude anyone.'

"While there is no clarity as of now, we are tentatively going to begin registrations from mid-July," said Mr. Gupta.

Apart from CBSE, several State boards have also announced the cancellation of the Class 12 board examina-



The timeline for admission process will be fixed once the Boards announce their

tions this year due to the pandemic.

The officials said as of now, a merit system will be followed based on which admissions will be conducted.

Stating that approval for the common entrance test was pending at the Education Ministry, Mr. Gupta said: "Delhi University will follow whatever directions we get from the Ministry. If conducting an exam is not possible at all under the present circumstances, then we will continue with the old system only."

As a result of the ongoing pandemic, this will be the second year that admissions to DU will be delayed. Last year, the varsity released its first cut-off list in October while classes for the new batch commenced in November.

3 held, 1 apprehended for duping families of COVID-19 patients

STAFF REPORTER

Three men were arrested and a juvenile apprehended for allegedly duping families of COVID patients on the pretext of delivering oxygen cylinders to them, the police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified + as - Balender Chaudhary, Kameshwar Parsad, Gopal and the juvenile. The arrests were made following raids in Nalanda and Sheikhpura Sarai in Bihar, they said.

The case came to the fore when a complainant from GK-1 here said she was duped by a man on the pretext of delivering her oxygen cylinders for her her grandfather, who is suffering from COVID, a senior officer said.

The woman had placed an order for two oxygen cylinders through a number, which she got via social media and made an advance online payment of ₹15,000. After this, she did not the cylinders and the accused stopped receiving her calls. A team was formed and probe was launched, said DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur. The police have recovered 15 mobile phones, SIM cards, fake Aadhaar cards, passbook, fake PAN cards, other IDs and ₹15,675 from the accused.

Timings

DELHI FRIDAY, JUN. 04 RISE 05:24 SET 19:16 RISE 01:53 SET 14:00 SATURDAY, JUN. 05 RISE 05:24 SET 19:17

RISE 02:22 SET 14:53 SUNDAY, JUN. 06 RISE 05:24 SET 19:17 RISE 02:51 SET 15:46

Delhi Weather max min 38 24 Delhi City Safdarjang 38 24 38 Palam

Delhi Palam Todav 38°C A comfortable morning and hot day with light winds. Sky may turns occasional partly cloudy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 39°C A comfortable morning and hot day. Light to moderate warm winds likely during day.

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THEMAHINDU

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Government of Jharkhand **Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society** Department of Health, Medical Education & family welfare <u>Telephone No. 0651-2261000,2261856-2261002</u> <u>Mail ID:-nrhmjharkhand18@gmail.com</u> Letter No. IDSP/Home Isolation Kit/12/2021-Date:-03.06.2021 **CORRIGENDUM** PR 247090 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (21-22) D

e-tender No. NHM/Nam/24/2021 (Supply of Packaging box with printed prescription for Home Isolation Kit (50000) & Supply of Bag with printed prescription for Home Isolation Kit (50000)} hereby this is to inform you that the specification of **Packaging box** only amended as below.

| Sl. No. | Existing Specification | Modify Specification | | | | |
|------------|---|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | 2 Piece Paper Board Box Size 183 x 183 x 53mm | Closed Box Size:- | | | | |
| | Holding Capacity 500 grams | Length-152 mm | | | | |
| | One Separator | Width- 76 mm | | | | |
| 01 | Top: MET/PET Printing with UV Coating | Height- 262 mm | | | | |
| | Bottom: Multicolour Print with Lamination, | Multicolour Printed on 300 GSM FBB | | | | |
| | 4 page Coloured Brochur e of 170 x170 mm on | Board of Grade-A paper mill duly | | | | |
| | 90 GSM Maplitho | Machine Pasted. | | | | |
| D (C | 1 | Oth I 2021) 4 11 00 AM TI 4 1 1 | | | | |

Date of submission bid is here by extended up to 10.06.2021 (10th June, 2021) at 11:00 AM. The technical part of bid will be opened on 11.06.2021 (11th June, 2021) at 11:00 AM

Other terms & Condition will be same. In charge Procurement Cell

Executive Engineer Bharwain Division, HPPWD, Bharwain Tehsil Amb District Una (HP) from the experience contractors/ firms enlisted in appropriate class with Himachal Pradesh PWD for the following works. The tende shall be received in his office on or before **30.06.2021** up to 10.30 A.M and shall be opened on the same day a 11.00 A. M in the presence of contractors / firms or their authorized representatives, who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender applications shall be entertained and tender form shall be sold up to two days before the date of opening of tender i.e 28,06,2021 up to 12.00 Noon. Draft Notice Inviting Tenders, Drawing/ Specifications can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer on any working day between 11.00 A. M to 4.00P. M. Ambiguous / Telegraphic / Conditional tenders or tender by Fax shall not be entertained/ considered in any case. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Account FDR in any of the Post Office in H.P./ Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer must be accompanied with the application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will out rightly be rejected. The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal orders with his application for obtaining the tender documents. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assign ing any reasons. The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period. The contractor will have to submit his registration under the H. P General Sale Tax Act 1968 and also labour license under contract Act 1970 from the competent authority. The contractors/ firms are requested to insert the rate of each item in words as well as figures, failing which XEN reserves the right to accept/ reject any or overall tenders. The tender shall only be issued to those contractors/ firms, who are found eligible/ suitable and competent as per the above conditions. The offer shall remain valid up to 45 days after the opening of tender. If any of the date mentioned above happens to be Local / Gazetted Holidays the same shall be process on next date

| Sr No. | Name of work. | Estimated cost. | Earnest Money | Time Limit | Form No. | Cost of Form. |
|-----------|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | C/O link road Jallow Di Bar to Kunet Rattian via Behmba in GP Bhaderkali km 0/0 to 5/0 (SH: C/O Gabion wall at RD 3/016 to 3/033 & 3/140 to 3/146) under MNP | 468333/- | 9400/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 2 | C/O link road Toriwala Mohalla to Bhanjal Lower Ward No.3 upto Talab km 0/0 to 0/750 (SH:- C/O 3.00 meter span RCC culvert at RD 0/390) under MNP | 490751/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 3 | Restoration of rain damages on link road Mawa Kohlan to Nangal Jarialan km 0/0 to 6/120 (SH:- Repair of existing 3.00mtr slab culvert at RD 4/780,C/O U-shape drain at RD 2/750 to 2/800 & 3/500 to 3/600 and Providing & laying paver block in approaches) | 498238/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 4 | Restoration of rain damages on NMT road km 54/675 to 72/555 (SH:- C/O U-shape drain at RD 68/285 to 68/435 LHS) | 483820/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 5 | Improvement of road safety on NMT road between km 54/375 to 72/555 (SH: Repair of rain shelter at Baiyapur RD 68/183 & Police Chack Post Barrier Marwari at RD 71/230 | 458111/- | 9200/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 6 | C/O link road Madan Lal Ex-Pradhan Roshan Lal Di Hatti to Fish Farm Deoli km 0/0 to 2/050 (SH; C/O cement concrete causeway at RD 0/620 to 0/635) under MNP | 266498/- | 5400/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 7 | A/R & M/O Bhaderkali to Pirthipur km 0/0 to 4/600 & Dangoh Khurd to Dangoh Upperla km 0/0 to 2/150 (SH: Repair of pot holes between km 0/0 to 2/0 & 0/0 to 1/0 & 2/0 to 2/510) | 497380/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 8 | A/R & M/O Marwari to Bakhawa km 0/0 to 2/600 & link road to Harijan Basti Saloh Beri km 3/0 to 3/500(SH: Repair of pot holes between km 0/0 to 2/0 & 3/0 to 3/500) | 498300/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 9 | C/O link road Harijan Basti Amboa km 0/0 to 2/0 (SH:C/O Breast wall at RD 1/108 to 1/141 LHS, 1/135 to 1/148 RHS & Retaining wall at RD 1/299 to 1/320 LHS near pipe culvert) under SCCP | 486114/- | 9700/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 10 | Restoration of rain damage link road Andora Banne Di Hatti to Shivpur km 0/0 to 4/445 (SH: P/L GSB, WMM & Tarring km 2/750 to 2/880 & 3/550 | 394189/- | 8000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 11 | Restoration of rain damages on NMT road km 54/675 to 72/555 (SH: C/O Edge wall at RD 63/750 to 63/776 RHS, 64/060 to 64/120 RHS) | 499247/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |

HPPWD NOTICE INVITING TENDER BHARWAIN DIVISION HPPWD BHARWAIN TEHSIL AMB **DISTRICT UNA (H.P).** Sealed tenders on item rates basis are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the

| Sr No. | Name of work. | Estimated cost. | Earnest Money | Time Limit | Form No. | Cost of Form. |
|-----------|---|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 1 | C/O link road Jallow Di Bar to Kunet Rattian via Behmba in GP Bhaderkali km 0/0 to 5/0 (SH: C/O Gabion wall at RD 3/016 to 3/033 & 3/140 to 3/146) under MNP | 468333/- | 9400/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 2 | C/O link road Toriwala Mohalla to Bhanjal Lower Ward No.3 upto Talab km 0/0 to 0/750 (SH:- C/O 3.00 meter span RCC culvert at RD 0/390) under MNP | 490751/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 3 | Restoration of rain damages on link road Mawa Kohlan to Nangal Jarialan km 0/0 to 6/120 (SH:- Repair of existing 3.00mtr slab culvert at RD 4/780,C/O U-shape drain at RD 2/750 to 2/800 & 3/500 to 3/600 and Providing & laying paver block in approaches) | 498238/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 4 | Restoration of rain damages on NMT road km 54/675 to 72/555 (SH:- C/O U-shape drain at RD 68/285 to 68/435 LHS) | 483820/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 5 | Improvement of road safety on NMT road between km 54/375 to 72/555 (SH: Repair of rain shelter at Baiyapur RD 68/183 & Police Chack Post Barrier Marwari at RD 71/230 | 458111/- | 9200/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 6 | C/O link road Madan Lal Ex-Pradhan Roshan Lal Di Hatti to Fish Farm Deoli km 0/0 to 2/050 (SH; C/O cement concrete causeway at RD 0/620 to 0/635) under MNP | 266498/- | 5400/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 7 | A/R & M/O Bhaderkali to Pirthipur km 0/0 to 4/600 & Dangoh Khurd to Dangoh Upperla km 0/0 to 2/150 (SH: Repair of pot holes between km 0/0 to 2/0 & 0/0 to 1/0 & 2/0 to 2/510) | 497380/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 8 | A/R & M/O Marwari to Bakhawa km 0/0 to 2/600 & link road to Harijan Basti Saloh Beri km 3/0 to 3/500(SH: Repair of pot holes between km 0/0 to 2/0 & 3/0 to 3/500) | 498300/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 9 | C/O link road Harijan Basti Amboa km 0/0 to 2/0 (SH:C/O Breast wall at RD 1/108 to 1/141 LHS, 1/135 to 1/148 RHS & Retaining wall at RD 1/299 to 1/320 LHS near pipe culvert) under SCCP | 486114/- | 9700/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 10 | Restoration of rain damage link road Andora Banne Di Hatti to Shivpur km 0/0 to 4/445 (SH: P/L GSB, WMM & Tarring km 2/750 to 2/880 & 3/550 | 394189/- | 8000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 11 | Restoration of rain damages on NMT road km 54/675 to 72/555 (SH: C/O Edge wall at RD 63/750 to 63/776 RHS, 64/060 to 64/120 RHS) | 499247/- | 10000/- | Three months | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| | -Him Suchna Avam Jan | sampark | | | | |

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Group Editorial Officer: Krishna Prasad. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act) Read. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 11 • No. 132

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IN BRIEF



A.P. govt. launches work on over 15 lakh houses

Construction of 15.6 lakh houses began in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday with Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launching the YSR Jagananna Colonies project from Tadepalli. The houses will be built by June 2022. In two phases, 28.3 lakh houses would be built at ₹50,944 crore, Mr. Reddy said.

Row over Google search result on Kannada

BENGALURU Kannada as answer to a query in Google on ugliest language in India sparked an outrage on Thursday and the Karnataka government said it would issue a legal notice to the tech leader, while that reply appeared to be a gaffe. Google quickly removed Kannada "as the ugliest language in India" and apologised to the people saying the search result did not reflect its opinion. PTI

Hunger strike in Lakshadweep on June 7

Thousands of people living on the islands of Lakshadweep will observe a 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. hunger strike on June 7 in protest against the string of laws being pushed by the Union Territory administration unilaterally. A decision to go on a hunger strike was taken at the maiden meeting of the Save Lakshdweep Forum in Kochi on Wednesday.

Decide on home vaccination for elderly: HC

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday directed the State government to take a decision in 10 days on home vaccination for bedridden patients and senior citizens who cannot move out of their

Kerala beats Karnataka in race for KSRTC

Trademarks Registry has granted use of acronym to the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation

Kerala's race with Karnataka over the name of its State **Road Transport Corporation** has reached a milestone as the Trademarks Registry has ruled in favour of Kerala.

The Trademarks Registry, India, in its recent order has allowed Kerala to exclusively use the acronym 'KSRTC' for its State-run bus service.

Kerala Transport Minister Antony Raju issued a statement on Wednesday stating that the "KSRTC" acronym and the elephant logo were finally declared to belong to

Shivayogi C. Kalasad, Managing Director, Karnataka RTC, said though the were yet to receive a copy of the order, they will explore all legal options.



The name game: Both Kerala and Karnataka Road Transport Corporations were using the acronym KSRTC for their State-run bus services. • FILE РНОТО

"We will make all efforts to retain our right to use the acronym," he said.

Both the Karnataka and Kerala RTCs have been using the acronym 'KSRTC' for many decades now. However, the Karnataka RTC registered the acronym 'KSRTC' and its logo with the Con-

troller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks in 2013. It was spurred by the success of patenting the Airavata Club Class service with the tagline "Sleep like a baby". When some private bus operators started using the brand name to lure passengers, the KSRTC decided to

register its brands such as Airavata Club Class, Rajahamsa and others with the monogram 'KSRTC'.

There were also instances of people misusing the name of KSRTC by creating multiple websites and ticket booking sites. "This led to a lot of confusion among the general public. In 2013, we received the necessary certificates,"

Karnataka RTC issued a notice to Kerala RTC asking them not to use the acronym 'KSRTC' as they had patented it in 2014. The Kerala RTC soon approached the Registry and the judgment in the case, favourable to Kerala, was issued.

Kerala argued that their government has been running their fleet of buses under the acronym since 1965. while Karnataka's bus services were named so only in 1973. The precursor to Karnataka RTC was called the Mysore Government Road Transport Department (MGRTD), formed in 1948 and renamed as Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation in 1973.

Kodakara case: police to question Kerala BJP head

More BJP leaders could be quizzed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THRISSUR

The special team investigating the Kodakara black money robbery case will question Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kerala president K. Surendran next week. It is learned that the probe team is planning to question more BJP leaders in connection with the case.

As the State organisation general secretary and party president are responsible for the money dealings in the party, Mr. Surendran needs to be questioned, according to the police sources. The police may check the call details of Mr. Surendran.

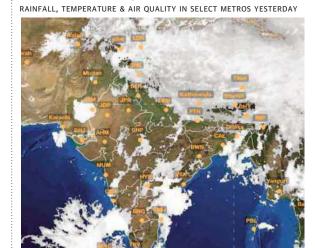
The police said there were contradictions in the statements of BJP leaders

Dharmarajan, who sent the money, and former State treasurer of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha Sunil Naik.

Alappuzha BJP district treasurer K. Gopalakrishna Kartha, during an interrogation, reportedly told the police that if they needed to get more details they should ask the State president of the Mr. Surendran has said

that the party was not involved in the Kodakara black money heist case. He also denied handing over ₹10 lakh to Janathipathya Rashtriya Sabha chief C.K. Janu during the elections.

"It is unfortunate that the media are playing up a baseless allegation against a tribal leader," Mr. Surendran



Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gujarat, east Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada, Yanam, Karaikal and Mahe

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Visakhapatnam 16 .45 .16

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 premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Monsoon arrives in Kerala, two days behind normal date

IMD predicts 'normal rainfall' for the country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The southwest monsoon has set in over Kerala, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

"The southwest monsoon

has advanced into some parts of south Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep area, south Kerala, south Tamil Nadu, remaining parts of Comorin-Maldives area and some more parts of southwest Bay of Bengal on Thursday, June 3, 2021," the IMD said, announcing the eagerly awaited arrival of the four-month long rainfall season.

This year, the onset of the system has occurred two



Welcome sight: Dark rain clouds heralding the onset of the monsoon in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. •s. MAHINSHA

days behind the normal date of June 1. The IMD had initially predicted a May 31 onset for the monsoon. It was later modified to June 3 as the season drew near.

According to the weather agency, the June-September monsoon rainfall for the

country as a whole is likely to be 101% of the Long Period Average, denoting 'normal' rainfall. It is likely to be normal over northwest India and the southern peninsula, below normal over northeast India, and above nor-

Porters burdened by the absence of passengers

Many at railway station finding it hard to pay rent, afford food

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

On a hot and sunny afternoon in Delhi, when a handful of passengers made their way into the New Delhi railway station, a group of porters thronged them.

senger with some luggage, were standing several porters in the hope that one of them will get work. "What to do? Nobody

Near an auto with a pas-

comes looking for us anymore. We have to run behind them," said 43-year-old Mahesh Meena, a porter for 36 years now.

Most porters working at the railway station are from Rajasthan and reside in Paharganj – where the rent for accommodation is higher than parts of the city - because it's closer to their workplace.

Most of them have to pay anything between ₹4,000-₹5,000, an expense they are barely able to manage for two months now. Living in single room accomodation, their families back in villages waiting for them to send money every two-four week.

"Earlier, we were able to save ₹500-₹600 but now that amount has come down to ₹100-₹150 because there are hardly any passengers due to the pandemic. Also-,most passengers don't prefer hiring us because of the fear of the virus," Mr. Mahesh said, adding that he has a family of five dependent on him.

Sitting idle for the hour and a half, Virender Singh (30) shared that the amount they charge is ₹100 for 40 kg but these days, they settle



Migrant labourers arrive with their belongings at New Delhi Railway station on Thursday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

for ₹60-₹80 for the same weight. "We ask less as there is no work...we have to accept whatever the passenger wishes to pay because nobody wants to sleep on an empty stomach," he said.

Hari (35), a porter for the last 12 years, said they all arrive at the station at around 3 a.m. and work till 6 p.m. For him, managing the rent has become an issue.

Not just rent, there are water and electricity bills as well that need to be managed. Most importantly, we have to send money back home every few days with someone who is going to the village," he said.

Helping others

The porters claimed that there are times when they help people, who are in need. Hari recalled helping a girl taking "Gareeb Rath" train home.

He said he had packed all her stuff to finally go home as she couldn't afford to stay

in the city anymore. "She had eight pieces of luggage and told us that she had no money. Two of us helped her. We are all in the same boat after all," he added. They said they are all ma-

naging ration on credit from local grocery stores as owners have known them for years. "At least in the last lockdown, food wasn't much of a concern because it was being provided by the government," said Om Prakash Meena, a porter for six

vears. Reminiscing "good old days", Mr. Mahesh said he never looked to do anything else because he was earning a decent amount at the job.

"Accha khana peena tha, koi tension nai thi. Gareeb they lekin itne nahinp [We were eating and drinking good. We were poor but not so much]," he said.

Porters miss Yadav

Criticising the Central government, they said they miss RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav – former Railways Minister - who offered jobs to porters as gangmen. "This government has ruined us all. Laluji should have been here," said Basant Lal (54).

80 nabbed for involvement in virus-related crimes in city

SAURABH TRIVEDI NEW DELHI

During the second wave, the police arrested 80 people for their alleged involvement in COVID-related crimes like black marketing and hoarding, said an officer on Thursday.

The arrested persons were involved in hoarding or black marketing of oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, or medicines for COVID patients.

"During the pandemic, the police not only helped COVID patients but also nabbed those involved in black marketing or hoarding. We also launched a dedicated helpline number for family members of COVID patients who were harassed by black marketers or frauds," said the

Occupation of accused Among the arrested, 32

are unemployed, 15 shopkeepers, eight hospital staff, six ambulance drivers, 12 from well-off sections of the society, and others. "Most of the arrested persons are in the age group of 25-35 years followed by 26 people in the age group of 35-50 years. We have found that 63 of them are city residents and the rest are from other States," said the officer.

In a data prepared by Delhi Police, it was also found that 53 accused were from middle class and 15 were from the weaker section of the society.

No criminal records The police said most of the arrested persons have no previous criminal records.

Oxygen centre vandalised, alleges NGO running it

An oxygen centre run by Hemkunt Foundation, an NGO, in Sector 61 here was allegedly vandalised on Thursday. The organisation claimed that the men of the tent house owner, who had rented them the place, were behind the incident.

SDM (Badshahpur) Satish Yadav said the NGO had entered into a "verbal" agreement with the tent house owner for the place to run the oxygen plant, but the former now demanded that his place be vacated since there were hardly any COVID patients visiting the facility.

"The tent house owner

Plea in HC to stay

Covaxin trial on children

A plea has been moved in the

Delhi High Court seeking stay

trials of Covaxin on the 2-18

application was moved in a

plea filed in May for setting

by the Drugs Controller

General of India to Bharat

of its vaccine on children.

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Biotech for conducting trials

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years age group. The



Hemkunt Foundation's Community Development Director said the accused destroyed the beds at the centre in Sector 61 in Gurugrm on Thursday. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

had on Wednesday asked the NGO to vacate the place. On Thursday, the men of the tent house owner came and took away their generator sets and curtains. The tent house owner alleged that there were no

patients at the facility and the place was being used for storage purposes," said Mr. Yaday, who visited the place with the local SHO. He said the NGO was allowed 48 hours to vacate the place and

into the allegations. Harteerath Singh, Com-

the police were told to look

munity Development Director, said the NGO had a "verbal" agreement with the "Rama Tent House" to use their place for running an oxygen centre for two months and they had paid ₹3.5 lakh for it. "...around two dozen CCTV cameras also went off due to power disconnection. They then vandalised the place. At least one of them was armed," alleged Mr. Singh. He blamed "political hand" behind the incident.

He said a formal complaint would be lodged with the police in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

10 DE KNOWN TO All THAT WE, (1) MR. JASBIN SINGH AND (2) MR. HARJIT SINGH BOT S/C MR. MOHENDER SINGH R/O 177, ANANI VIHAR, PITAM PURA, DELHI-110034, bein

the erstwhile owners of RESIDENTIA PROPERTY BEARING PLOT NO. 15, II BLOCK—A-1, AT PRASHANT VIHAR, NEV

BLOCK—A-1, AT PRASHANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI, ADMEASURING 324 SC. MTRS., and having sold the same to MR. A. K. JAIN S/o MR. C.L. JAIN R/o 181, VAISHALI, PITAM PURA, DELHI-110088, by virtue of valid Agreement to Sell dated 11th January, 2000 and Court Decree dated 3rd February, 2020. That certain original DDA title documents i.e. Allotment-cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Completion Certificater/D' Form, Perpetual Lease Deed in respect of the above mentioned property have been lost/misplaced by us i.e. (1) MR. JASBIR SINGH AND (2) MR. HARJIT SINGH Both SONS OF MR. MOHENDER SINGH and the

SONS OF MR. MOHENDER SINGH and th

In this regard, an FIR has been lodged in Polic Station Crime Branch New Delhi vide LR No 325497/2021, dated 19.04.2021.

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Speed over optics

The Centre must act as procurer and allotter of vaccines, and leave distribution to States

The Centre's 'liberalised' policy of allowing vaccine companies to strike deals with States and private hospitals has borne limited fruit. While the age group of 18-44 years accounts for the bulk of vaccines being administered, attempts by States to negotiate deals with international vaccine companies have come to naught. In spite of 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 has said 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, States and private hospitals. Over 22 crore doses have been administered so far. There is large variability within and among States regarding vaccination. It is in this context that State Chief Ministers, cutting across party divisions, are now demanding that the Centre be the sole buyer of vaccines. The Supreme Court too has expressed its dissatisfaction over the existing system that puts States in competition with each other and the Centre, almost like another competitor, for vaccine supplies. The Centre has tried to project that it was the clamour from States that forced it to abstain from being the sole purchaser of vaccines, but it was the Centre's miscalculation that there would not be frantic public demand this calendar year and that the output from the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech would be sufficient for India.

International arrangements such as COVAX were premised on India being a large supplier to Africa and several countries around the world with no vaccine development facilities. Now that the Government has prevented the Serum Institute of India from honouring its supply commitments, it is unclear if international suppliers would trust India's demand for large supply. The unpredictability in policy also weakens India's ambit of negotiations now that it seems desperate to increase short-term vaccine supply. Moreover, given that vaccines are the most sought-after goods, it is unlikely India would be prioritised so late in the day. There is optimism of increased and significant supply from Bharat Biotech and SII by August. At this stage, it appears that the Centre has few options other than waiting for its domestic suppliers to hike production. Increased supply from abroad is unlikely in the near future, even if resources for procurement are not a constraint. It must however heed the States' core demand that they be given a greater say in deciding how best to distribute the vaccine. The Centre can be a monitor of and an adviser to the process; and if it becomes the sole buyer, it can spell out a transparent distribution policy. But it ought to prioritise speedy administration over optics.

Digital tax tussles

The world cannot afford a tariff war to protect digital sector, which has low-tax operations

he United States announced and then immediate-/ suspended a whopping 25% tariff rate on over ♣ \$2 billion of imports from six countries including India, signalling Washington's intent to act punitively on its long-held grouse with these nations for their digital services taxes primarily impacting Silicon Valley tech giants. The office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai said that the tariff proposed on goods from Austria, India, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the U.K. was approved following a "Section 301" investigation that found these digital taxes to be discriminatory. With the threat of tariffs hanging over these six economies when most of them are limping through a feeble post-COVID-19 recovery, the USTR appeared to project a softening of the blow by adding that the tariffs would be suspended pending ongoing tax negotiations to "provide time for those negotiations to continue to make progress while maintaining the option of imposing tariffs under Section 301 if warranted in the future". The backstory is that the investigation was initiated by the Trump administration in June 2020, and the deadline for approving tariff action based on the investigation would have lapsed this week. The latest policy action comes a few months after the Biden administration similarly approved, then suspended, tariffs on France retaliating for its tax impacting firms such as Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Microsoft.

One thing is clear: if the Biden administration did not subscribe to the notion that taxes on digital services by the titans of Silicon Valley, a significant portion of whose revenues are generated on foreign soil, were discriminatory, it could have distanced itself from the Trump-era investigation into this allegation without any serious political fallout. The fact that Mr. Biden has chosen to use the stick of tariffs to force the pace of negotiations on digital services tax with seven nations suggests that the current White House subscribes strongly to the idea of expanding the global playing field for American tech firms to dominate without fear of being slapped with tax liabilities. In the case of India, that was a mere 2% digital service tax on trade and services by non-resident e-commerce operators with a turnover of over ₹2 crore. Even more, Washington appears to be unafraid to throw serious political heft behind this venture even to the point of risking another tariff war outbreak, compounding the tensions generated by tax skirmishes between the Trump White House and Beijing on this count. The cost for India could be potentially high, as \$118 million worth of its exports will fall under this proposed tariff, and a range of sectors could be impacted. At this point in the fragile, post-COVID-19 recovery, the world can hardly afford another tariff war, and that too one waged to protect a sector that has enjoyed lowtax or tax-free operations across the world for decades.

Rural health care needs fixing, and now

A takeaway from the pandemic is that India needs to revisit and refurbish its health infrastructure in the rural areas



BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA

The two consecutive waves of COVID-19 and Mucormycosis have left us shattered. Multiple bruises have been caused to us. But during the second wave of the pandemic, it is our rural people who are struggling the most. They are struggling to get prompt and quality health care. The key role of health-care facilities in the rural areas is to provide regular and comprehensive health-care needs guided by the World Health Organization (WHO)'s principle of Universal Health Coverage, "ensuring that all people have access to needed health services (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user the financial hardship".

Data show shortfalls

The second wave of the novel coronavirus pandemic has exposed the inadequate and poor health infrastructure in the rural areas. The fact shared by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey on July 23, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha suggest that 29,337 primary health centres (PHCs) are required in the rural areas of the country; India has 25,743, a shortfall of 3,594 units. This means that we have one PHC for 25 villages in India. This needs to be revisited. In the fastchanging health scenario, we should have one expanded PHC for every 10 villages along with the provision of some beds and other

minimum necessary facilities. We have 5,624 community health centres (CHCs) against the requirement of 7,322. Data on CHCs, which act as a referral centre covering a population of 80,000 people to 1.20 lakh people, show that, overall, there is a shortfall of 81.8% specialists at CHCs as compared to the requirement for existing CHCs. As in the Human Development Report 2020, India has eight hospital beds for a population of 10,000 people, while in China, it has 40 beds for the same number of people.

The picture in Haryana

If I may talk about the health infrastructure in Haryana, which remained a backward area of Punjab till 1966, it had only one medical college in the public sector up to 2005 till I became the Chief Minister. During my tenure up to 2014, we laid much emphasis on health services; besides many private sector medical colleges, one State health university, four medical colleges (at Karnal, Faridabad and Nuh in Mewat), and one medical college for women (in the rural area of Sonipat district) were established. Called the Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women, this is the second women's medical college after Lady Hardinge Medical College in Delhi in the northern part of the country. We also established the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-II and a National Cancer Institute at Bhadsa village of Jhajjar district.

Yet, Haryana requires 5,070 sub-health centres (SHCs) as against the existing 2,666; 845 PHCs as against 531 at present, and 253 CHCs as against 118 working at present. As per Census 2011, Haryana has a 2.53 crore population. And, as per the norms required after each block of one lakh population, Haryana requires 253 CHCs

and 845 PHCs for the whole State. When infrastructure in the health services is so poor in a progressive and prosperous State such as Haryana, one can easily estimate the inadequacy of the physical healthcare infrastructure in the rural other in

(http://haryanahealth.nic.in/). It is of utmost importance that governments everywhere engage with all kinds of rural community organisations such as panchayats, gram sabha, notified area committees, municipal bodies and nongovernmental organisations in minimising the adverse impact of the pandemic on rural life. For that purpose, in Haryana, we constituted Swasthya Kalyan Samitis, or SKSs for all CHCs, PHCs which has proved to be an effective management structure enabling people's participation in ensuring better functioning of rural health servic-

According to worldometers.info, out of 139 crore population of India, at least 91 crore people are living in 649,481 villages. There are at least 10% of people in the urban areas who are partly settled in villages as well since they keep moving to their rural habitations quite frequently. Villages need adequate health services. Given the alarming proportion of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in India, we cannot sit idle any longer and need to focus on the existing health infrastructure in the rural areas. This is one of the most important takeaways for us after the

two waves of COVID-19 and the spread of Mucormycosis in the country. For want of well-oiled health machinery, most of our people are unaware of being in the grip of NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases which assume significance in the pandemic.

The health network

As per an estimate of WHO, NCDs including cases of cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory problems and cancer cause nearly 41 million (71%) of all deaths globally and about 5.87 million (60%) of all deaths in India. It will not be humanly possible to treat them all, thereby causing premature deaths on such a large scale. Persons with such morbidities are the most vulnerable in the case of a pandemic.

I agree that the task is easier said than done, but it has to be accomplished. We have no other option but to treat the disease/s at the primary level in its first stage to create a healthy India. It will also help us save a lot of money and the resources being spent at tertiary level health care. If our SHCs work effectively, there will be less pressure on PHCs. If the PHCs function well, then there will be minimal pressure on CHCs and so on. Unfortunately, we have not been able to maintain the vibrancy and vitality of the network of health care. As a result, our vast rural populace remains deprived of critical health interventions

The chain of SHCs, PHCs and CHCs can very well take care of the multiple health needs of our people. They should have the health data of people in their respective areas. It will enable them to identify those likely to slip into the secondary or tertiary care zone. Regular health camps will help us identify those on the verge of developing tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes or any diseases likely to be caused because of their socio and economic conditions. A CHC or referral centre equipped with specialists will do wonders if made to work efficiently. Every CHC is supposed to have 'at least 30 beds for indoor patients, operation theatre, labour room, X-ray machine, pathological laboratory, standby generator' and other wherewithal. Just imagine the kind of relief we would have had today in our fight against COVID-19 if our network of SHCs, PHCs and CHCs was working efficiently.

Collective responsibility

In conclusion, I will only urge all stakeholders to revisit and refurbish our health infrastructure in the rural areas and build them in a better manner. As more than 65% of the population resides in the rural areas, we cannot ignore their health needs. WHO has its norms and yardsticks. We can have our own, perhaps even better than what has been stipulated by WHO. We also know health is a State subject, but all those living in the rural areas are not only the responsibility of the States or the Centre but also a collective responsibility. Just spending money will not take us anywhere. We have to see and ensure that the money being spent improves facilities and contributes to people's ease of life. It is hugely challenging as a task but we have to firm up our strategies, their execution and by rigorous auditing so that we are ever well prepared not only to meet this pandemic effectively but also to make our rural folk healthier. We must remember that no one will survive unless all of us survive. As Bertrand Russell has put it, "It's co-existence or no

Bhupinder Singh Hooda is a former Chief Minister of Haryana and Leader of the Opposition in the Harvana Legislative

Comments to avoid in long-standing ties

Some actions of political figures in India are detrimental to the consolidation of cordial bilateral ties



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

The Chief Minister of Delhi last month warned the Union government about a new strain of the novel coronavirus that has been observed in Singa pore that was said to be extremely perilous for children and could visit India as part of a third wave. This triggered a strong denial from the authorities in Singapore that there was any 'Singapore variant', and they reserved the right to invoke against the Chief Minister a domestic law, the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act, against the online circulation of fake news. During this exover-reaction to a comment by the Chief Minister, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, declared that "irresponsible comments from those who should know better can damage long-standing partnerships" a wise and pertinent observation.

Inappropriate statements

It is improbable, however, that Mr. Jaishankar similarly cautioned his Cabinet colleague, the Home Minister, against the latter's many derogatory statements with refe-

rence to Bangladesh prior to and during the Bharatiya Janata Party's unsuccessful campaign in the election for the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The Home Minister had described illegal Bangladeshi immigrants as vermin that he would push into the Bay of Bengal, and then implied that poor people in Bangladesh were starving, which drew a stinging public rebuke from the Bangladesh Foreign Minister. In this year, the 50th anniversary of Bangladesn's liberation and the birth centenary of the father of the nation Sheikh Mubibur Rahman, irresponsible comments from those who should know better are profoundly inappropriate.

Diplomacy with Bangladesh

India's relations with Bangladesh, one of the most populous Muslim countries in the world, are acutely sensitive. As a neighbour nearly surrounded on all territorial sides by India, there are the inevitable bilateral problems of long duration, including a perennially favourable balance of trade for India, drought and flood in the 54 transboundary rivers flowing from India to Bangladesh, and the smuggling of goods and vulnerable human beings across the approximately 4,100 kilometre land border.

The turbulent history of Partitions; East Bengal that became East Pakistan and then Bangla-



desh, attended by enormous bloodshed and the abuse of human rights, has left emotional wounds that will take many generations to heal. There are those in Bangladesh who believe that separation from Hindu India in 1947 was more significant than the break with Pakistan in 1971, there remain about three lakh 'Biharis' in Bangladesh who have failed thus far to be resettled in Pakistan, and there is the presence of militant Islamist groups such as Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami, that have linkages and support from outside Bangladesh.

In contrast to these circles, who take confrontation with India as part of their basic credo, are those who regard their Bengali roots and traditions as being of equal validity as their religious affiliation, and treasure the linguistic and cultural ties with adjacent India. It will take time for these inherent fractures in Bangladeshi society to be resolved, and it is for India to show

patience and sympathy to this entirely internal process of healing.

As quid pro quo for India's benign attentions and support, New Delhi's expectations are that a neighbour will keep India's concerns in mind when devising and pursuing its policies, and this understanding is implemented with severity or laxity depending on the regime in New Delhi.

Favourable steps

After decades of pro-Pakistani military and civilian governments following 1975, Mujibur Rahman's daughter Sheikh Hasina, elected for a third consecutive term since 2008, has consolidated her position as unquestioned leader in Bangladesh. She has maintained vigilant supervision over Muslim fundamentalist terrorists as well as on Northeast militant movements sheltering in Bangladesh, with the result that the pacification of India's Northeast has been greatly facilitated.

She has permitted a considerable degree of connectivity between India and its Northeast by land, river and the use of Bangladeshi ports, and Indian investments in Bangladesh have been encouraged. There are at least 100,000 Indian nationals now living and working in that country. To complete the ties of economic integration, the day will come when, along with free movement of commerce and capital, the movement of persons on the lines of Nepal and Bhutan will have to be considered.

For India to note

As the leading mid-wife of Bangladesh's liberation struggle and its sole economic supporter in that nation's early years of independence, New Delhi should view with satisfaction Bangladesh's coming graduation in 2026 from 'least developed' to 'developing country' status, and its steady gress as one of South Asia's leading performers in human development indicators. Its eventual membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership cannot be ruled

To a certain degree, both India and Bangladesh depend on each other for security and stability. Responsible individuals on both sides of the border, whether in government or the Opposition, must be actively discouraged from words and actions detrimental to the consolidation of the existing cordiality. This is where Mr. Jaishankar's dictum is applicable to members of his own party as well as the Opposition. What is sauce for the goose is equally sauce for the gander.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Foreign

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No examinations

While the decision not to hold Board examinations for Class 12 can only be welcomed, the respective Boards and Ministries need to answer some related questions. It is obvious that public pressure and strong hints by the Supreme Court had a significant role to play in shaping the final decision. These raise serious questions about the sensitivity and the capacity of the Boards to respond to the situation, particularly in the light of their muchvaunted claims of 'autonomy'. Moreover, it is only fair that the Boards also need to return the amount charged from students in the name of examination fees. Lastly, the issue seems to have been decided upon, on the basis of a health risk,

whereas it needs to be

registered that a majority of students not only faced financial and medical crises that no meaningful place which could have been used to assess students. With grave doubts about the pedagogic meaningfulness of online transactions and the digital divide working against a majority, it would have been far better to have declared a 'zero academic vear'. FIROZ AHMAD,

during this session, but also teaching-learning had taken

The gharial is back I write this as IUCN SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Member, Member, Odisha State Wildlife Advisory Board and formerly of the Wildlife Institute of India. The recent news report of the sighting of a brood of

gharial hatchlings with the mother crocodile, after more than five decades, in the Mahanadi river in the Satkosia tiger reserve, Odisha, highlights their successful breeding in the wild in the Mahanadi, which is the southernmost distribution range of the species.

It was in the 1975, that the central government and Odisha with support from the FAO initiated the **Gharial Conservation** Project at Tikerpada on the Mahanadi in the Satkosia gorge region (by declaring a large stretch of river and the adjoining forest as a sanctuary). In 1975, wildlaid gharial eggs were brought from the Narayani river in Nepal to Tikerpada for simulated and artificial hatching. The hatchlings

were reared and then

released in the Mahanadi

within the protected area. The programme continued with the first reintroduction of captive reared gharials taking place in the Mahanadi in 1977, and the programme continued with eggs or hatchlings from Nepal and the Chambal in Madhya Pradesh. In 1981, the gharial also bred in captivity for the first time at the Nandan Kanan Biological Park, Odisha, which also contributed to the releases at Satkosia. However, the

reintroduction programme in the Mahanadi was not considered a success due to the non-survival of the release stock and no breeding records in the Mahanadi for over five decades.

In 2017, the reintroduction programme was reinitiated and Satkosia upgraded to a tiger reserve, with a

research team monitoring the restocked and resident gharial population. It remains to be seen now how the new brood will tide over the natural monsoon flood in the river as well as the artificial rise of water from the Hirakud dam located upstream. B.C. CHOUDHURY, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Doctors under siege The two reports, "24 held

for assaulting doctor in Assam" and "Delhi lost 107 doctors, Bihar 96: IMA"

(Inside pages, June 3), highlight the plight of doctors who are waging a relentless battle against COVID-19. The mindless attack on the doctor in Assam is condemnable and exemplary punishment must be given to the accused. The Government must ensure adequate protection to doctors who are already struggling under increasing pressure. P.K. VARADARAJAN,

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: In a front-page story headlined "Tarun Tejpal verdict a manual for rape victims" (June 3, 2021, some editions), a quote saying "It is a kind of manual for rape victims, ... for considering leave for appeal" was erroneously attributed to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. Actually, it was a

remark by the Single Judge Bench of Justice S.C. Gupte. In a 'Sports' page story, "Conway makes dream debut with century at Lord's" (June 3, 2021), the bowling figures 20-5-55-1 were carried without the bowler's name. They were Anderson's

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300









THE HINDU DELHI FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021

Information Technology Rules: a case of overreach?

PARLEY

Rishab Bailey

Policy researcher

Institute of Public

Finance and Policy

Parminder Jeet

Scan the QR code to

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interview online

Singh

Change

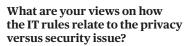
is Executive

at the National

is Technology

Only the judiciary, and not the executive, should give an order on traceability

Last week, WhatsApp decided to legally challenge one of India's new Information Technology rules which requires messaging platforms to help investigative agencies in identifying the originator of problematic messages. WhatsApp reckons this would break end-to-end encryption and undermine people's right to privacy. The government responded saying it is committed to ensuring the right of privacy for all its citizens, and that it also has to ensure national security. Have these new rules been framed to adequately address the privacy versus security balance, especially in the context of social media intermediaries such as WhatsApp? Rishab Bailey and Parminder Jeet Singh discuss this question in a conversation moderated by Sriram Srinivasan. Edited excerpts:



Rishab Bailey: The short answer is that every provision of the new IT rules is ultra vires the Constitution and the parent IT Act of 2000. The rules only make superficial attempts at balancing privacy and security interests. But it's very clear that security interests are being given primacy over both civil liberty interests as well as economic interests.

Keep in mind that the government already has huge powers of surveillance. This was recognised even in the Justice Srikrishna Committee report that accompanied the draft data protection law in 2018. So, rather than seeking to revise these powers, the government is giving itself greater ability to snoop on and interfere with the private lives of citizens. In particular, the traceability obligation in the new rules is problematic because the technical literature on this is nearly universal, in agreeing that this would mean breaking the use of end-to-end encryption for all users on platforms such as WhatsApp.

Also, end-to-end encryption is really needed in the digital economy because data theft and hacking are only increasing in India. There's also an issue of platforms themselves misusing user data. So, ideally, we should be looking to encourage more user-controlled encryption and not limiting this possibility.

Parminder Jeet Singh: I'll start with the points of agreement with Rishab, and that is the context of the way the state has been using its powers in a manner which is becoming very dangerous.

Having said that, we also need to see things in the sense of the fact that our societies are changing from pre-digital to digital societies, and fundamental structural changes have to take place. Among those are also the levers of law enforcement, required in the new context. Second, as Justice Srikrishna said, a new law should be brought out, which discusses the rationale, gives good institutional checks and balances, and then places this significant and new legal possibility for the law enforcement in that context. Third, the biggest problem with WhatsApp is that it is a private communication channel, and after certain virality, becomes public. So, what happens is that with the originator or traceability mandate, anybody who's writing a personal message to his or her friend is afraid that though they are giving an analysis which, in a private sense, is not criminal, but it could be criminal in a public sense. So, how do you balance the private and the public part of it is a concern.

Rishab, do you think that the use of metadata is itself enough to deal with this issue?

RB: It's unclear why you need to have a specific mandate for traceability. Yes, metadata as well as other forms of unencrypted data can be accessed by law enforcement. Keep in mind also that the current law in India also allows the government to request decryption of data where it's held by an intermediary or where the intermediary holds the private encryption key.

Would the decryption rules be relevant in a context where there are no keys for



decryption except at the ends of a communication?

RB: That is actually the fundamental issue here, which is that the government wants you to move away from encryption controlled by the users to encryption done by the intermediary itself. If the intermediary is controlling the encryption keys, the government can just go to them and ask for this information.

PJS: I don't believe traceability of encrypted messages requires breaking encryption. The metadata, which carries many layers of information already, including a counter that tells you that the message has crossed a certain limit of virality, can be a good enough place to lock the originator of every message when it is created. Now, you can always say it doesn't go with my method of encryption. But the law does not follow private models of business; private models of business follow the law.

I have been a law enforcement officer, and I can see many situations where there is really almost no other way - I mean you can spend decades of investigation and always find the originator. So, there are examples like somebody sending out a message which is derogatory to, say, Dalits and this goes viral. This is illegal under Indian law. So, what should the law do? A second example relates to systematic election-related manipulation, which has happened in the West on Twitter; in India it happens on WhatsApp. Foreign countries can do it, Indian political cells can be doing in a manner which is illegal. And all these can really be traced when you are Ideally, we should be looking to encourage more user-controlled encryption and not limiting this possibility.

RISHAB BAILEY

able to find an originator. Another example is of obscene pictures, non consensual, intimate pictures (that are shared). And finally, a lot of the wrong kind of content is today leaked on WhatsApp by the police itself, who get access to a lot of digital media when they do investigation. All these require the originator to be found out and these cases are going to keep on multiplying. And just to say I think it could be found out otherwise is not sufficient.

The government's response to WhatsApp mentioned the safeguards that come with the rules. Any thoughts on that?

RB: The rule as it's currently drafted is vague, disproportionate, and probably unnecessary. The reasons for which this traceability power can be used are quite broad and therefore capable of misuse. The provision uses the phrase 'security of the state', which unfortunately has virtually come to mean criticising the government in any way. Similarly, to say that this power can be used to detect or prevent an offence basically gives executive authorities free rein to identify people even before an offence has been committed.

PJS: This should have been a new law with systemic explanation of intent, purpose, and institutional safeguards. Like now, the court has

said that sedition has to be redefined. There are two problematic terms here: 'security of the state' and 'public order'. People are shouting in my street; is it a public order issue? And we need our Supreme Court to define these terms and lay out the law on that.

I am also strongly of the belief that for these kind of cases, executive authority should not be able to give an order. Only a judicial order, which should insist on the purpose, how you are going to do it, whether the intermediary has been given an opportunity of being able to do it through less intrusive means, which are all the part of the new rules, should allow access to the originator of a message. So, these institutional systems should be in a new law, and the Supreme Court should clarify terms like 'public order' and 'security of the state'.

It will always be an ongoing battle. The powers that a police constable was given during the colonial regime... it is the same power the Indian policeman has in New Delhi and the Toronto policemen have: of arresting people, going into people's houses. It is the institutional safeguard around those which keep their power in check. The same would apply in the digital arena.

What do you have to say about the fact that these didn't come as new laws?

PJS: Probably much of it is not of the delegated rule-making level. These kinds of things should go to Parliament and a full-fledged law should be written.

RB: What has progressively happened over the last few years is that the Section 79 of the IT Act route, and the fact that you can make rules under this, is being used to introduce progressively more onerous obligations, including on many issues where you might actually need regulation. The argument is that all the rules under Section 79 can do is give effect to the main provision. They can't introduce new offences, they can't go beyond what the original provision or, in fact, the parent Act itself contemplates.

Coming back to the issue of encryption, the government's release in response to

WhatsApp's charges made a point about a 2019 communique issued by five countries (the U.K., the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Canada) in which they talk about the problems with encryption. What do you think is going to happen going forward?

RB: Actually, every jurisdiction is

struggling with the issue of how to deal with the fact that sometimes messages may not be accessible, or data may not be accessible to law enforcement agency. But I don't think there is a single liberal democracy that actually implements laws mandating traceability in the same way that the new IT rules actually do. This issue of access to encrypted data has come up over the last 25 years in many different countries. Even in the U.S., for instance, it's been discussed since the mid-1990s. It particularly comes up every five or six years when there's a terrorist attack or something like that and technology companies say we can't provide you this data because it's encrypted. But there have been no laws actually implemented that specifically deal with this issue, largely due to opposition from the technical community as well as civil society and academia.

In Australia, fairly wide-ranging powers have been given to the government under a law known as the Telecommunications and Other Legislation Amendment Act. This allows law enforcement to request information and assistance from intermediaries. But even here, they can't mandate the creation of systemic weaknesses or vulnerabilities.

It's also important to keep in mind that often, platforms don't always want to get on the bad side of governments. This might not necessarily apply in the Indian context, because clearly there's an adversarial position that's been adopted here. But platforms can also be armtwisted into building in what's called weakness by design into their product. For instance, Apple is said to have dropped plans to encrypt its iCloud data because the FBI pressured it. These are bigger questions that need to be discussed, but I don't think that you will actually find too many countries which have similar provisions in the law.



A planned decision to move the National Museum could serve the institution's interests well

<u>VINO</u>D DANIEL

The National Museum in Delhi is a repository of India's rich history and proud heritage. Over the past few months, many critical pieces have been written about the government's decision to move the museum to the North and South Blocks. However, examples from other countries show that a planned move can serve the collection, comfort, and audience experience needs of the National Museum better. In addition to Egypt, where the impressive Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza will replace the crowded Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square in Cairo, many national museums have moved to new premises.

Limitations

The current building, though impressive, has limitations in being a national institution. The new location will provide a space that is over four and half times bigger than the current space. The museum has over 2,00,000 cultural collections and less than 6% of them are in display. The move can provide an opportunity to bring more collections from storage to be displayed through the creation of several more galleries. Additionally, it will also provide much more space for storage, especially with more collections being constantly added from excavations, donations and repatriations.

From the time an exhibition of Indian art was organised at the Royal Academy in London, and later in Rashtrapati Bhavan, which led to the creation of the National Museum, the collection numbers have been increasing manifold. They will only increase further in the next few decades.

The North and South block build-

ings are a prominent part of Delhi's landscape. Once they are retrofitted to provide a fitting external façade (without compromising on heritage), international standard exhibition and collection storage areas, and spaces for education and visitor services, they can become a landmark location. The increase in space would allow for more gallery spaces to include both ancient and contemporary Indian art and culture. The current museum also struggles in terms of finding a space with adequate envi-

ronmental controls for travelling exhibitions. There will be an opportunity in the new location, with the increased space available, for accommodating both international and national travelling exhibitions. The National Museum as the nodal agency for all outgoing and incoming cultural collections, including repatriated collections, will be able to serve these collection needs better.

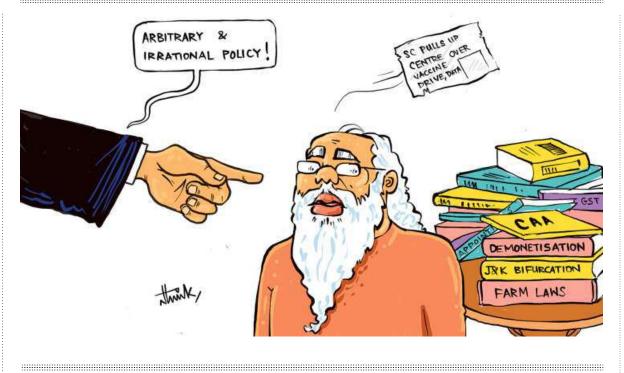
Key skills for students

The National Museum Institute (NMI), whose highly skilled graduates not only serve the needs of the museum but also the broader needs of India's cultural sector, will benefit much from the move. The students could gain a lot from the collections, their storage, conservation and interpretation. They can greatly benefit with a large increase in laboratory, gallery and teaching facilities. There is also an interest to expand NMI and incorporate its programmes in Museology, Art History and Conservation along with other programmes in Archaeology, Archival Studies and so on, under a new institute. The benefits would only be greater from an expanded operation.

The exhibition areas in the current building are still operational. A new Buddhist gallery is being opened at the adjoining Archaeological Survey of India building. In this context, keeping the collections safe in the current building and getting the new location ready before carefully moving the collections with safe packing and transport is important. The risks of damage to collections during transit can be greatly minimised. A better designed and new collection storage area in the new location will minimise risks from the environment, disasters and pests.

A revamped National Museum that looks at both people and collection comfort; has galleries that provide excellent audience experience; good education spaces; and uses technology creatively for interpretation, outreach and education could become a 'must visit' for every visitor. In fact, it could become the anchor for a vibrant museum movement in India.

Vinod Daniel is Board Member, International Council of Museums and Chairman, AusHeritage



NOTEBOOK

Behind headlines and numbers, stories of invisible lives

The lives of many in China have been turned upside down by the one-child policy

ANANTH KRISHNAN

When China announced on May 31 that it would for the first time allow couples to have a third child, I thought of Yang Zhizhu.

Exactly 10 years ago, I had met Yang in Beijing while researching a story on China's one-child policy. Back then, most Chinese couples were allowed to have only one child under the family planning policy that came into existence in 1979. The only exceptions were if you were a family living in rural China whose first child was a daughter, or if both parents were only children. The Yangs fit neither description. They lived in Beijing, where Zhizhu was a professor of constitutional law at the China Youth University for Political Sciences.

Their lives, like the lives of so many others in China, had been turned upside down when his wife became pregnant for the second time. What should have been a moment of joy became one of a complicated mix of emotions. Having the child, under the policy, would have meant paying extraordinary fines that the family couldn't afford.

"God gave us the child," was how the Yangs explained their decision to me. Their second daughter was born on December 21, 2009. Zhizhu had to pay a fine of 2,40,000 Yuan (then around \$37,000). Without doing so, he would not be able to get his daughter's household registration certificate, which is needed for everything in China, starting with getting into school. The fee was 10 times the average disposable income in Beijing. He decided not to pay it. That cost him his job. He made a second deci-

sion: to take the case to court. In doing so, he triggered a broader debate in China and garnered so much public sympathy that the university reinstated his job subsequently, even

if he was not allowed to resume teaching. He ultimately lost the case after a twoyear battle and had his bank accounts frozen until he paid the amount.

Another conversation came to mind this week, of hearing a friend tell me about her "many brothers and sisters". Noticing how surprised I was, she explained, "That's how those of us born in the 1980s refer to our cousins." It was that rare for many in that generation to have their own sibling. In her case, two years after she was born, her mother was forced to have an abortion to keep her job in the government-run factory where she was working. This was early 1980s China, where you couldn't simply walk away from your stategiven job and your work unit that had such a hold over every aspect of your

life. Her father worked in

the same factory too, and

the only kindergarten she

had access to was the one

linked to the same work unit. Fighting the policy was not an option.

In 2015, China announced a two-child policy. After that failed to boost birth rates, the three-child policy was introduced on May 31. The latest change was explained in news reports with a flood of numbers. Twelve million – the number of babies born last vear, according to the May 11 Census, the lowest since 1961 (some experts believe the latest Census prompted the change). Or 264 million - the 60 and above population in China, up 5.44% in the last year. Or 300 million – the number of births, according to the Chinese government which still strongly defends the one-child policy, that fami-

ly planning had prevented.
Statistics are what demographers and governments go by. But we forget that behind each of these numbers lie stories of invisible lives impacted in unimaginable ways.

The MAR Thindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1971

Communists over doldrums

New Delhi, June 3: Once again, the Indian Communists are in the doldrums - blowing hot and cold - and unable to react rationally and carry conviction with their hair-splitting arguments and contradictory postures over the Bangla Desh situation. In the initial stages of the struggle, they tried to ride the massive wave of popular support in India and establish some degree of rapport with the activist groups in the Bangla Desh freedom struggle. Both the right and left communists had hoped to dig in their toes firmly in the two Bengals and become the torch-bearers of this new upsurge of Bengali nationalism rising above the rut of Ind-Pak. tensions. But when they failed to make such headway in this ambitious bid to radicalise the Bangla Desh freedom movement, the Indian communists started reassessing their positions to make sure that they did not get too closely identified with the petit bourgeoisie leadership of the Awami League and be engulfed by the nationalist upsurge in the two Bengals which had come closer in the wake of the brutal Pakistani military action. They are now trying to cover up this incapacity to forsee the course of events correctly with a lot of ideological nonsense which is only exposing them to further ridicule.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1921

Postmasters-General

Simla, June 3: Revised rates of pay of the Postmasters-General have been published in the "Gazette of India." It is further notified that the Postmasters-General who are recruited from the ranks of the Indian Civil Service will draw Rs. 250 a month over and above the time-scale pay and the overseas pay which would be admissible to them if they were employed in the regular line and held appointments classed as superior. While under training an officer of the Indian Civil Service will draw his time-scale pay in the ordinary line plus overseas pay and he will not come on the scale set forth above until he is placed in independent charge of a circle. Should an officer be placed in an independent charge of a circle before his 10th year of service his pay will be that which he would draw on the superior Indian Civil Service scale plus Rs. 250 per month. The scale of pay for a non-Civilian Postmaster-General will be ₹1750-100-2250, with one selection post on Rs. 1500 a month, subject to the condition that no officer should hold this special appointment unless he has completed three years' permanent service as Postmaster-General.

FROM PAGE ONE

Progress in SDGs on clean energy, health'

The SDGs that do deal directly with wages and industrial growth better reflect the fact that India's economy has taken a beating over the last year.

The country's score on the SDG related to industry and infrastructure dropped 10 points to 55, while the scores on decent work

dropped three points to 61. The Clean Water and Sanitation SDG also saw a fivepoint drop, despite flagship government schemes in this

In a more welcome development, the SDGs on eradication of poverty and hunger both saw significant improvement.

Journalists need cover against sedition charges'

The court acknowledged the submission made by Mr. Dua, who is currently recovering from COVID-19, that "there is a recent trend against the media where State governments who do not find a particular telecast to be in sync with their political ideologies register FIRs against persons of the media primarily to harass them and to intimidate them so that they succumb to the line of the State or else face the music at the hands of the police".

However, the court rejected Mr. Dua's plea that FIRs should not be registered against journalists of 10 years' experience unless cleared by a committee constituted by the State government concerned. Mr. Dua had said the committee should comprise the Chief Justice of the High Court or a judge designated by him, the Leader of the Opposition and the Home Minister of the State.

The court said such a committee was outside the present statutory framework. By granting the prayer, it would be encroaching into the legislature's domain.

The complaint against Mr. Dua was filed by a BJP leader. The senior journalist was accused of spreading fake news. Besides sedition, the other charges include causing public nuisance, printing of defamatory matter and making statements

Will take all steps to bring back Choksi: MEA

The Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister said Mr. Choksi had become "Dominica's problem" and would remain in Dominica's custody as he was facing the case of entering the country illegally.

"The preference of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda is for Mr. Choksi to be repatriated to India from Dominica," said Mr. Browne in a statement even as the court hearing continued at Dominica where the diamond trader argued that he was abducted from Antigua and should be returned there. Mr. Browne had argued that the return of Mr. Choksi would draw Antigua into the problem again.

"If he finds himself in Antigua, the problem reverts to Antigua and Barbuda," he said, seeking repatriation of

Talks on with Pfizer. J&J, Moderna: MEA

MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, replying to questions on the outcome of Mr. Jaishankar's week-long U.S. visit, said, "We are also engaged with the U.S. administration to ensure that necessary components and raw materials for vaccine production in India are readily available. This issue was taken up most recently during External Affairs Minister [Jaishankar]'s visit to the

India was also awaiting

the U.S. allocations from its surplus stockpile of 80 million Astra Zeneca vaccines, he added.

In his address to the WHO, Mr. Shringla said India would create "global scale capacities" necessary to fight the pandemic. "A number of serious global conversations are under way on this in platforms such as the G7, G20, QUAD, BRICS, the United Nations and the WTO itself," he

30% PMGKAY recipients yet to get grains for May

Centre urges States to issue more ration cards to vulnerable

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Almost a third of all ration card holders are yet to get their free foodgrains allocation for May under the Centre's COVID-19 relief scheme, according to the Food Ministry. At a press conference on Thursday, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey also said it was up to the States to take further action on providing rations to migrants and others without ration cards in compliance with a Supreme Court order, indicating that the Centre does not intend to revive last year's scheme meant for vulnerable

populations. Out of the 79.25 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). only 55 crore have so far received their 5 kg per person quota of free wheat or rice under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), which was announced to mitigate the economic distress caused by the pandemic. Thus, more than 30% have still not got their benefit. However, almost 90% of beneficiaries have received their regular subsidised grain for the month, raising questions over why

the free grain has reached



Not enough: Only 55 crore have received their 5 kg per person quota of free wheat or rice under PMGKAY . • K.V.S. GIRI

fewer beneficiaries. Food Ministry data showed that Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Odisha and Rajasthan did not even begin distribution of the May quota under PMGKAY until June 1.

Wednesday, On Centre issued an advisory to all States asking them to launch a special drive to issue ration cards to the most vulnerable sections of society, including migrant workers and street dwellers, noting that "some of the poor and needy people who do not have address proof may be finding it difficult to obtain a ration card".

However, this must be done within the existing coverage allowed for each State under the NFSA. Mr. Pandey told presspersons that there was a nationwide coverage

gap of 1.97 crore beneficiaries. However, he admitted that 14 States had already reached their quota limits and would not be able to enrol any new beneficiaries.

An analysis of NFSA data

shows that the only major States which have significant coverage gaps are Himachal Pradesh (23%), Madhya Pradesh (14%) and Gujarat (9%). Most other large States have less than a 5% gap, which can be used to issue new ration cards. In a May 24 order, the Supreme Court had directed that migrant workers and poor people without ration cards should be provided with dry ration under the Atma Nirbhar scheme which was implemented last year – or any other scheme found suitable by the States

Stand at HRC on Palestine not new: India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's latest abstention on a Palestine-related resolution at the Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations is not a "new" stand, said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

The official response came days after Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki wrote a strong letter to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, observing that India's action "stifled" human rights of "all people". "Palestine has written si-

milar letters to all the countries that abstained during the UN Human Rights Council vote. The position that we took is not a new position," said Mr. Bagchi, substantiating the Indian decision to abstain during the resolution, aimed at enforcing international humanitarian law in the Palestinian territories and in Israel.

The resolution was supported by 24 members of the HRC. Nine members voted against it and 14, including India, abstained. Passing of the resolution led to the establishment of the International Commission of Inquiry to Investigate Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel.

Govt. advised the split in MGNREGA wage benefit

'It is to assess Budget benefits for SC/STs'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ NEW DELHI

The decision to split the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) wage payments by caste categories was done on the advice of the Union Finance Ministry in order to assess and highlight the benefits flowing from budgetary outlay towards Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Rural Development Secretary N.N. Sinha told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

He said this should not cause any delay in wage payments or any changes for beneficiaries if processes were put in place correctly, and added that there was no plan to focus MGNREGA only on districts with high SC and ST populations.

Separate categories

On Wednesday, The Hindu had reported on a March 2 advisory of the Rural Development Ministry, which directed States to divide wage payments into separate categories for SCs, STs and others from this financial year. Workers' advocates feared this move would cause unnecessary delays and complications in the payment system, and worried that it could lead to a reduction in scheme funding. "The rationale was very

The move should not cause any delay in wage payments, an official said. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

simple. It is not as if the payments made to SC and ST are not reported on the NREGA website, but overall, in terms of the budgetary outlay, people don't have that intricate information about how much benefit is flowing from the Budget to the SC and ST [communities]," said Mr. Sinha.

"When people take an assessment merely on the Budget head under which the programme is budgeted, then they miss out this intricate nuance. So, the Finance Ministry advised that we should make Budget provisions under SC and ST components as well," he said, adding that the measure was to a large extent aimed at highlighting what the Centre was doing for the SC and ST communities.

The Secretary said there was no need to worry about the changes.

ED arrests RJD MP in fertilizer import scam

Case involves IFFCO MD and others

DEVESH K. PANDEY NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Amarendra Dhari Singh in connection with the money laundering investigation in the fertilizer import scam involving the managing director of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) and others, a senior agency official said on Thursday.

"Mr. Singh is a Rajya Sabha MP from the RID. He has been arrested in the fertilizer scam case," said the official. The ED is conducting the probe on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against IFFCO managing director U.S. Awasthi, Pravinder Singh Gahlaut, then managing director of Indian Potash Ltd. (IPL) and others, including Mr. Singh as the senior vice-president of Jyoti Trading Corporation (Dubai).

Mr. Awasthi's sons Amol and Anupam; Mr. Gahlaut's son Vivek; Pankaj Jain of Dubai-based Jyoti Group of

Companies and Rare Earth Group; and his brother Sanjay Jain, president of Jyoti Trading Corporation, have also been named, along with Rajiv Saxena, who is also under investigation in the AgustaWestland case.

Highly inflated rates

The scam involves the import of fertilizers and raw materials running into thousands of tonnes by IFFCO and IPL from various foreign suppliers at highly inflated rates.

The Central government gives subsidy on tertilizers for supply to farmers at reasonable rates. It is alleged that the quoted rates included the commissions to be paid to Mr. Awasthi and Mr. Gahlaut.

The CBI, in its case, alleged that about ₹685 crore of illegal commissions were received through the bank accounts of firms belonging to Mr. Saxena and some others. While ₹481 crore of the total amount was routed via Dubai-based Rare Earth Group, the remaining went to the Awasthi brothers and Mr. Vivek.

WhatsApp is indulging in anti-user practices: govt.

'Obtaining trick consent from users for updated privacy norm'

STAFF REPORTER

The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that WhatsApp, the instant messaging app, was indulging in "antiusers practices" by obtaining "trick consent" from the users for its updated privacy policy. The Ministry of Electron-

ics and Information Technology, in an affidavit filed before the court, stated that WhatsApp was "bombarding" million of its existing us ers who have not accepted the updated 2021 privacy policy, with notifications on a daily basis.

'Give a direction'

The Ministry has urged the court to give a direction to WhatsApp to "desist from any action of 'pushing notifications' to existing users related to updated 2021 privacy policy".

"The current notifications as being pushed by the Respondent No. 2 [WhatsApp] on its users whether existing or new is against the very



WhatsApp had earlier said its new privacy policy came into effect from May 15.

grain of prima facie opinion of the Competition Commission of India's [CCI] order of March 24, 2021," the Ministry said.

The CCI had called for an investigation into WhatsApp's new privacy policy.

"Having considered the overarching terms and conditions of the new policy, the Commission is of prima facie opinion that the 'take-itor leave-it' nature of privacy policy and terms of service of WhatsApp and the information sharing stipulations mentioned therein, merit a detailed investigation in

view of the market position and market power enjoyed by WhatsApp," the competition watchdog had said. The Ministry's affidavit

was in response to a petition filed by Seema Singh challenging WhatsApp's new privacy policy, which provided for sharing information with third party service providers and other Facebook companies.

Similar petitions

The Facebook-owned entity was also facing similar petitions in different courts across India against its new privacy policy.

WhatsApp had earlier said its new privacy policy came into effect from May 15, but also clarified that it would not start deleting accounts of those users who had not accepted it and would try to encourage them to get on board.

Earlier, the Ministry had also stated that that new privacy policy was not in tune with the IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules, 2011.



NEW DELHI

The lawvers of AgustaWestland case accused, Christian Michel, have urged the U.K. government to take up the issue of his release from judicial custody with the Indian government. He is currently lodged in Tihar Jail. They will petition the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which had in February ruled that Mr. Michel's detention since 2018

'Lightning killed 18 elephants in Assam'

A strong negative lightning flash with a peak current of 39,000 amperes at 9.28 p.m. killed the 18 elephants at the Kandali Proposed Reserve

Forest in Nagaon district, central Assam, on May 13, an autopsy report has concluded. Making the report public on Thursday, Assam **Environment and Forest** Minister Parimal Suklabaidya ruled out any foul play such as a conscious attempt of electrocution.

'CBSE cannot deny students name change on certificates'

Right to change names is part of freedom of speech: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Thursday found a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) rule that prohibited students from changing or correcting their names on Board certificates, based on a presumption that it would affect "administrative efficiency", far-removed from social realities and even "absurd".

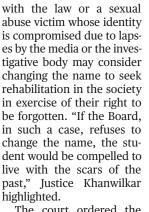
The court said the CBSE's examination bylaws of 2007 made it look as if the Board was more concerned about administrative paperwork than the future prospects of its students, who use their certificates as a public document to go for higher studies and gain employment.

"Students stand to lose more due to inaccuracies in their certificates than the Board, whose sole worry is increasing administrative burden... Administrative ef-



concern of CBSE. Every institution desires efficiency in their functioning. But it does not mean that efficiency is achieved by curbing their basic functions... One of the primary functions of CBSE is to grant certificates to its students," a three-judge Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar observed in a 132-page judgment.

Right to be forgotten On the other hand, the court illustrated how a juvenile accused of being in conflict



The court ordered the CBSE to take "immediate steps" to amend the by-laws and incorporate a mechanism outlined in the judgment "for recording correction or change, as the case may be, in the certificates already issued or to be issued by it". The court said one's name is an intrinsic element of identity. The right to change our name is part of the right to freedom of

speech and expression.

'SC reiterated our stand on vaccine scarcity, price'

Govt. ignored our suggestions: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's observation that the Narendra Modi government's vaccination policy was "arbitrary and irrational" and claimed that the top court's order reiterated its position on vaccine shortage, price neutrality and uniformity of distribution. Addressing a virtual press conference, party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi,

pointed out that several leaders, including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and party chief Sonia Gandhi, gave valuable suggestions, but the government always responded with "taunts and scorn".

187 eminent personalities write letter panning govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a scathing criticism of the Narendra Modi government's handling of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic, 187 emipersonalities, including academics, activists, authors, film-makers and professionals, accused the government of reneging on its moral and constitutional responsibilities in an open letter. The signatories include

Aruna Roy, Kaushik Basu, Romila Thapar, Harsh Mander, Rajmohan Gandhi, Wilson Bezwada and Prabhat Patnaik. The signatories demanded that the government support the civil society, which had stepped up during the pandemic.

Webinar to be held for students

Topic will be the role of technology in agriculture courses

STAFF REPORTER

A webinar on 'Role of Technology in Agriculture Courses' will be held on June 6 at 11 a.m. as part of the SRM Virtual Conclave for Career Guidance 2021 series.

The webinar series, organised by the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) in association with The Hindu Group, spotlights science, engineering, technology, law, humanities, medical health sciences and agriculture courses and

Teachers

NEW DELHI

Eligibility Test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Teachers Eligibility

Test certification will be va-

lid for a lifetime, for all

those who have achieved

the qualification, the Centre said on Thursday.

valid for life'



their relevance to the 2020s

workplace. Dr. Subrat Panda, Chief Technology Officer, AgNext Technologies; Dr. M. Chinnadurai, Dean, SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, SRMIST; and Dr. M. Sanjeevagandhi, Assistant Professor (Environmental Sciences), SRM College of



SRMIST, will speak as a part of the webinar. The discussion will be moderated by Deepa H. Ramakrishnan, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu. To register for the free webinar, visit http: //bit.ly/

SRM THE scan the following QR Code.

Agricultural



APPEAL

APPEAL

2 years old Vairava needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. He suffers from Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis and requires Rs. 3,00,000/- towards Chemotherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai, Donations send by Ch/D.D. favouring Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/DD.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE No: obligations in FSC No: CINEBUTIO favouring WOMEN'S WELFA SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT. Please give us your e-mail ID

All Correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006, Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/7388978027. Email ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com. Website: www. womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com. womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Amarinder adds three AAP leaders to his camp

Move comes amid growing infighting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In a sign of factionalism within the Punjab Congress intensifying, Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, before leaving for Delhi on Thursday, made two rebel Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs, along with the former Leader of the Opposition Sukhpal Khaira, join the Congress.

The move – right in the middle of an exercise to quell dissidence in Punjab and ahead of the Chief Minister's meeting with a three-member panel of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) – is being seen as assertion of authority by Captain Singh. His detractors have been pressing for a leadership change ahead of next year's Assembly election. While former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu had met the AICC panel on Tuesday, former heads of Punjab Congress, Partap Singh Baj-

wa and Shamsher Singh Dullo, are among those seeking a leadership change.

Amid the power tussle, Captain Singh roped in AAP rebel MLAs Jagdev Singh Kamalu and Pirmal Singh Dhaula to his camp.

"By inducting Mr. Khaira without waiting for the AICC nod, Captain Singh has signalled the high command. If they are thinking of a change of guard, they will also have to weigh in the possibility of a split," said a loyalist of the Chief Minister.

But the party played down the reports of factionalism. "The ongoing Punjab discussion is not a crisis management exercise but an election preparation exercise where suggestions are being taken to ensure the Congress' victory in 2022 and youth workers should get maximum opportunity," said AICC spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill after the panel meet.

Submit assessment criteria: SC

Court tells Boards to spell out evaluation plan for Class XII students in two weeks

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it was happy that the government chose to cancel the Class XII Board exams and gave the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) two weeks to place on record the objective criteria by which they intend to assess the performance of the students.

"We are happy you have decided in principle to cancel the exam... but what are the objective standards [for assessment]... That is not spelt out here in this letter," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, the lead judge on the Bench, asked Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, who was appearing for the Centre.

Mr. Venugopal said the process for fixing the criteria may take a "little time" and asked the court to dispose of the petition filed by an advo-



Big relief: Both CBSE and CISCE cancelled the Class XII Board exams in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. • FILE РНОТО

cate, Mamta Sharma. The prayer made in the petition had been fulfilled with the cancellation of the exams.

Justice Khanwilkar, however, said the petitioners would want to address the court once the government placed on record the assessment standards. "Both sides may have issues concerning the objective criteria..."

"Any issue, let them file an application," Mr. Venugopal replied. Justice Khanwilkar said the court would prefer to keep the petition pending till the objective criteria were also scrutinised. Initially, the government suggested filing the standards in four weeks, but the court insisted on two weeks.

"The students have apprehensions ... Many students want to go outside for further education. This requires an urgent decision. Let the persons concerned interact on a day-to-day basis," said Justice Khanwilkar said.

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, the other judge on the Bench, also asked why the government needed even two weeks, as objective criteria for assessment had been notified last year too when the Board exams were similarly cancelled due to the pandemic.

The CISCE, represented by advocate J.K. Das, urged the court to give more time, at least three weeks, to prepare the criteria for assessment. "If you want to do it [finalise the objective criteria], you can do it overnight ... Everything can now be

done on video conferencing ... Don't bargain for time like this ... Do not force us to pass directions. Do it on your own," Justice Khanwilkar told Mr. Das.

Ms. Sharma also raised the case of exams of Class XII students under the State Boards. She said the decision on the exams should be "uniform" across all Boards. "Let the CBSE/ICSE problem get over ... You had only asked for CBSE/ICSE Class XII exams ... Now do not ask for the heavens," said Justice Khanwilkar. The court adjourned the case by two

PM Modi interacts with Class XII students

Use time productively, he tells them

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In a surprise interaction with Class XII students and their parents on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the children to utilise their time in a productive and creative manner following the cancellation of their exams, and said they should never feel stressed about examination.

Joining the online interaction organised by the Education Ministry, Mr. Modi asked them how they felt following the cancellation of the Board exams in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and what they were planning to do now.

The Prime Minister asked the students whether they would watch IPL, Champion's League, or wait for the Olympics. He said they should always remember "health is mantra



wealth" and asked them what they did to remain physically fit.

Several students told Mr. Modi that the announcement about the cancellation brought them relief and ended a long spell of uncertainty. Mr. Modi told them that the decision to cancel exams was taken in their interest. Some parents said students could now focus on their college admissions.

The government decided on Tuesday to cancel the CBSE Class 12 Board exams amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Mr.

Opposition parties likely to meet soon to evolve strategy

The last meeting was in May 2020, when 22 parties met

SOBHANA K. NAIR

With the friction between some States and the Centre on the rise, the Opposition parties are likely to hold a joint meeting soon to chalk out a strategy. The last such meeting was in May 2020, when 22 parties met virtually, 50 days into the lock-

Talks are on but so far no date has been picked. In the last few days, four Chief Ministers - Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Jharkhand's Hemant Soren, Odisha's Naveen Patnaik and Andhra Pradesh's Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy - have demanded rationalisation of the vaccine policy, calling for centralisation of the procurement and universally free vaccines.

Mr. Reddy on Thursday wrote to all his counterparts saying the situation has transformed into "Centre vs

State "It is my request that as Chief Ministers, we speak in a single voice and urge the government of India to take charge and responsibility of the vaccination drive, the way it was happening in the early part of the year," he wrote.

The Supreme Court's observations on Wednesday,



Mamata Banerjee is locked in a tussle with the Centre over Alapan Bandyopadhyay.

calling the Centre's paid CO-VID-19 vaccination policy for the 18-44 age group "arbitrary" and "irrational", has added ammunition to the Opposition efforts to corner the Union government.

On a separate front, West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is engaged in a head-on confrontation with the Centre over its decision to attach former State Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay. In a four-page letter to the Prime Minister, she wrote: "I sincerely hope that you do not want to damage the federal amity." Her office made it a point to send a copy of the letter to all the Opposition leaders.

Congress Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel respectively, are protesting against the non-inclusion of the Congress-ruled States in the eight-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to discuss the GST waiver on materials to

fight the pandemic.

A senior Opposition leader said, "There are enough issues that need a joint deliberation and action. Senior leaders from all sides are in constant touch. For now, we are waiting for the report of the GoM on GST. We will take a call on when to meet once the report is submit-

ted." Though both Mr. Patnaik and Mr. Reddy have questioned the Centre's vaccination policy, it remains to be seen if they will join hands with the rest of the Opposition. Both of them have maintained distance from the Opposition and have often found themselves on the same side as the ruling BJP.

It's also a moot question whether Telangana and Delhi Chief Minister, K. Chandrashekar Rao and Arvind Keiriwal, will join such an effort. Sources said some efforts have been made to reach out to them, but so far, there has been no clear response from them.

BJP treads with caution in U.P.

Ahead of the election next year, B.L. Santhosh does a stocktaking exercise

NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

BIP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh's visit to Lucknow over the last couple of days was a stocktaking exercise by the party in the State where the Assembly election will be held next year. While his meetings with party leaders and Ministers in the Yogi Aditya nath government set off speculation about largescale changes, the word from the central leadership is that for now, it will be more or less status quo.

The government has been buffeted by allegations of mishandling of the second wave of COVID-19. Four BJP MLAs and at least one Union Minister (Santosh Gangwar) have written to the Chief Minister on the "unsatisfactory" handling of the second wave. On Wednesday, however, as he wound up his meetings, Mr. Santhosh expressed satisfaction over the government's work. "In five weeks, @myogiadityanath's Uttar Pradesh reduced the new daily case count by 93%. Remember it's a state with 20+ crore population. When municipality CMs (chief ministers) could not manage a city of 1.5 crore population, Yogiji managed quite effectively," he said on Twitter. He also lauded the government's decision to prioritise



On the ground: Yogi Adityanath inspecting a temporary COVID-19 hospital in Varanasi on May 9. •PTI

vaccination for those with children below the age of 12.

No large-scale rejig

Central leaders also confirmed to The Hindu that no large-scale rejig is to be expected at this point, with elections just a few months away. "As far as Cabinet expansion goes, that will be as per the wishes of the Chief Minister with some inputs by us," said a source.

NEWS ANALYSIS

This show of confidence, however, say party leaders, should not be mistaken for complacency with regard to the devastation caused by COVID-19, as also the erosion of political support on the ground. A top leader said the party's on-ground absence in the midst of the second wave had cost it dearly and the only way out to recoup any of that was to work harder on visibility on the "The second wave came

as a tidal wave, and governments, along with people, were scrambling to deal with it. Currently, emotions are high. Iss vatavaran main samvaad nahin ho sakta, log chidchida jayenge [we cannot open a dialogue with people in this environment, people will only get more upset with us]. Instead of explaining what happened, we must do our utmost to provide support," said the leader as the BJP announced its "Seva hi Sangathan" programme.

The party has been asked to assist the government's efforts to maximise vaccination, especially in rural areas, where both vaccine hesitancy and resources are major problems.

However, how all this will square up with already triumphal announcements that the second wave has more or less abated in the State is yet to be seen. Mr. Santhosh, along with

the national 'prabhari' for U.P., Radha Mohan Singh, asked the State unit to "stay united". Several Ministers, who also met the two men from Delhi, said the government relied more on bureaucrats than political and Cabinet colleagues, leading to over-centralisation of CO-VID-19 management and a tone-deafness in the administration's response. Mr. Santhosh raised this issue with Mr. Adityanath when the two met. There have been assurances of accommodation on both sides.

While the resentment among the people over the handling of COVID-19 is a new issue, the cleavages in the State unit in terms of factionalism are old. That, and a vocal section of Brahmin leadership speaking up against what is perceived as a "Thakur"-oriented bias by Mr. Adityanath, are questions that haven't been addressed by this visit. The State election is being seen by many as a semi-final to the 2024 general election and Mr. Santhosh's visit and his utterances lauding the government show that the strategy remains to make haste, but slowly.

PM Modi reaches out to Mukul Roy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called BJP vice-president Mukul Roy and enquired about the health of his wife, Krishna Roy, who is undergoing treatment for CO-VID-19 at a hospital here.

The call from the Prime Minister to Mr. Roy, who is also the BJP MLA from Krishnanagar Uttar, comes a day after Trinamool Congress leader and MP Abhishek Banerjee visited the hospital. It triggered political speculation that Mr. Roy, a former Railway Minister, is tilting towards the Trinamool. Neither Mr. Roy nor Mr. Banerjee has said anything about the

Soon after the visit, the BJP leadership, including State president Dilip Ghosh, reached out to Mr.

Recently, Mr. Roy's son and former MLA Subhrangshu Roy said that instead of criticising a government elected by people, the BJP should reflect on introspection. The Trinamool's softening of stand towards Mr. Roy became clear when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said at a public meeting that "Mukul [Roy] is not as bad as Suvendu [Adhikari]".

Alapan Bandyopadhyay responds to notice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay on Thursday responded to the show cause notice issued by the Centre to him. Mr. Bandyopadhyay, who is working as the Chief Adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, was served a notice by the Centre under the Disaster Management Act on May 31.

Sources said Mr. Bandyopadhyay stated in his reply that he did not violate any provisions of the Act and acted as per the instructions of Ms. Banerjee.

He said he had taken leave of the Prime Minister before proceeding with Ms. Baneriee to visit cyclone-affected areas on May 28. A row had erupted over their absence from a review meeting on Cyclone Yaas.

Disengagement at LAC unfinished, says MEA

No clarity on date of next round of talks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the process of disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remained unfinished and an early completion of disengagement in the remaining areas could lead to de-escalation of forces in Eastern Ladakh, which would "hopefully" lead to full restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

"The two sides have agreed that in the interim they would maintain stability on the ground and avoid any new incidents," said the Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. "It is our expectation, therefore, that neither side should do anything that is not in keeping with these understandings," he added. A defence official said there was no clarity yet on when the next round of talks would be held.

Can't lower guard in J&K, says Naravane

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT SRINAGAR

Chief of the Army Staff General M.M. Naravane on Thursday said there was no room to lower guard given the mistrust with Pakistan, and any troop reduction in Jammu & Kashmir was subject to improvement in the ground situation. "There can be no room

to drop guard as far as security is concerned. There have been decades of mistrust with Pakistan. If ceasefire violations continue, we are alert. We cannot in any way reduce alert and preparedness [in J&K]," Gen. Naravane said during an interaction with selected TV channels in Srinagar. The Army Chief, who met top Army brass here to review the security, said any troop reduction in J&K "would depend on the ground situation and threat perception".

The situation had shown improvement in Kashmir, he said, adding that the onus was also on Pakistan to reduce their activities. "For peace in the Valley, the onus lies on the militant groups and sympathisers. We are doing all possible things for peace."

Norms for employing retired officials defined

Fresh rules require vigilance clearance

DEVESH K. PANDEY

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has laid down a defined procedure to be followed by government organisations for getting vigilance clearance before employing a retired official on a contractual or consultancy basis.

In a letter to the Secretaries of all the Union Ministries and departments, chief executives and chief vigilance officers of public sector undertakings, the CVC said the absence of a uniform procedure sometimes led to a situation where officials with tainted past or cases pending against them were engaged. According to the proce-

dure, before offering employment to retired All India Services and Group A officers of the Central government or their equivalent in other organisations owned or controlled by the Centre, vigilance clearance from the emplover organisation. from which the officer has retired, should be obtained.

In case a retired officer

served in more than one or-

ganisation, clearance has to

be obtained from all of them

ed in the 10 years prior to retirement. Simultaneously, a communication seeking clea-

where the person was post-

rance should also be sent to the CVC. If no reply is received from the erstwhile em-

ployer (s) within 15 days of sending the communication by speed post, a reminder can be sent. If there is no response within 21 days, vigilance should clearance

deemed to have been given. Later, if the employee is found involved in any vigilance-related matter or not cleared from the vigilance point of view, the erstwhile employer organisation would be responsible for all consequential actions.

Cooling-off period In the case of retired offi-

cials taking up full-time or contractual assignments in the private sector, the Commission said often, the "cooling off" period was not observed and the act constituted serious misconduct. It directed all government organisations to formulate rules to ensure the coolingoff period was observed.



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA अंतरिक्ष विमाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022 (फोन नं. / Ph. No: 0471- 2564568 / 2564537)

निविदा की अवधि बढ़ाना / EXTENSION OF TENDER कार्य का शीर्षक/Title of work:

70 एकड़, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में सीएएसजी का सामग्री मंडारण सुविधा के लिए भवन (पीईबी) का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Building (PEB) for Material Storage Facility of CASG at 70 Acre VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं./E-Tender Notice No.

निविदाएं प्राप्त करने हेतु नियत तिथि

UNB No-PHE2122WL0B02877

Last date for downloading the tender document

NIT No. VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/02/2021-22 Dt. 23.04.2021 निविदा दस्तावेज डाउनलोड करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि दिनाक 21.06.2021 तक बढाया गया /

Due date for receipt of tenders Extended upto 24.06.2021 योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिस www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO से डाउनलो किया जा सकता है। / Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be down loaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

ग्रुप निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / Group Director, CMG, VSSC

Extended upto 21.06.2021

दिनाक 24.06.2021 तक बढाया गया /

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED, PROJECT CIRCLE, JAIPUR, SECTOR 26, NEAR AYUSH BHAWAN, PRATAP NAGAR, JAIPUR Email: sedtuprojectjaipur@yahoo.in Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2021-22

Online bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from eligible enlisted "AA"Class Contractors of PHED, Rajasthan and meeting eligibility criteria. Contractors enlisted with other departments of Government of Rajasthan or enlisted with CPWD / Posta Telecom / Railways / MES / other State Government / Central Government undertakings / organization in class equivalent to "AA class of Rajasthan and meeting prescribed eligibility criteria may also apply after depositing prescribed Bid security. Details of this Bir notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan. pov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted online electronic format on web site http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.ir

Particulars of work

Bid for the Retrofitting Works including Construction of Local sources for Conjunctive use, new OHSRs, connecting these
OHSRs with existing Rising Mains, Pipeline from OHSRs to VTCs, Pipeline network inside the village, Providing Functional
Household Tap Connections (FHTC) including Geo tagging and O & M work (upto VTC), to be carried out under Jal Jeevan Nission (JJM) for Bisalpur-Chaksu Water Supply Project (Package-I)

| J.NO. Events | | b. Events Date & Time | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | Date & time for downloading of bid document. | http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in | | | | | | |
| 2 | Date & time for online submission of bid document From 17.06,2021, 10.00 AM to 30.06,2021 up to 6.00 PM | | http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in | | | | | |
| 3 | Date & Time for opening of Technical bid | 01.07.2021 at 03.00 PM | In the office of Superintending Engineer, PHED, Project Circle, Jaipur | | | | | |
| 4 | Opening of Price bid | Will be intimated after decision of Technical Bid | In the office of Superintending Engineer, PHED, Project Circle. Jaipur | | | | | |

Superintending Enginee PHED, Project Circle, Jaipu

Strong policies on black carbon can sharply cut glacier melt: World Bank study

Regional collaboration is one way to address the question, suggests report

G. ANANTHAKRISHNAN

Black carbon (BC) deposits produced by human activity which accelerate the pace of glacier and snow melt in the Himalayan region can be sharply reduced through new, currently feasible policies by an additional 50% from current levels, a study by World Bank (WB) specialists has said.

The research covers the Himalaya, Karakoram and

Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges, where, the report says, glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass. The rate of retreat of HKHK glaciers is estimated to be 0.3 metres per year in the west to 1.0 metre per year in the east. BC adds to the impact of climate change.

Full implementation of current policies to mitigate BC can achieve a 23% reduction but enacting new poli-



Glacial melt can lead to flash floods and soil erosion.

cies and incorporating them through regional cooperation among countries can achieve enhanced benefits, the WB said in the report titled "Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience" released on Thurs-

"BC is a short-lived pollutant that is the second-largest contributor to warming the planet behind carbon dioxide (CO2). Unlike other greenhouse gas emissions, BC is quickly washed out and can be eliminated from the atmosphere if emissions stop," the publication says. Unlike historical carbon emissions, it is also a localised source with greater local impact.

Some of the ongoing policy measures to cut BC emissions are enhancing fuel effistandards

vehicles, phasing out diesel vehicles and promoting electric vehicles, accelerating the use of liquefied petroleum gas for cooking and through clean cookstove programmes, as well as upgrading brick kiln technologies, says the publication, edited by Muthukumara Mani, lead economist, South Asia Region, World Bank. However, with all existing measures, water from glacier melt is still projected to increase in absolute volume

downstream activities and At a virtual panel discus-

by 2040, with impacts on

sion on the release of the report, Hartwig Schafer, vicepresident, South Asia Region, World Bank Group, said regional integration and collaboration was one way to address the question of melting glaciers. Glacier melt produces flash floods, landslips, soil erosion, and glacial lake outburst floods.

Air temperature Deposits of BC act in two ways hastening the pace of glacier melt: by decreasing surface reflectance of sunlight and by raising air temperature, the researchers

point out.

"Specifically, in the Himalayas, reducing black carbon emissions from cookstoves, diesel engines, and open burning would have the greatest impact and could significantly reduce radiative forcing and help to maintain a greater portion of Himalayan glacier systems. More detailed modelling at a higher spatial resolution is needed to expand on the work already completed," says the study, calling upon regional governments to review policies on water management, with an emphasis on basin-based regulation and use of price signals for efficiency, careful planning and use of hydropower to reflect changes in water flows and availability, and increasing the efficiency of brick kilns through proven technologies. There must also be greater knowledge sharing in the region.

The WB publication says "Industry [primarily brick kilnsl and residential burning of solid fuel together account for 45-66% of regional anthropogenic [man-made] BC deposition, followed by on-road diesel fuels (7-18%) and open burning (less than 3% in all seasons)" in the region.

IN BRIEF



3 Bhima Koregaon case accused test positive

Mahesh Raut, Sagar Gorkhe and Ramesh Gaichor, accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, have tested positive for COVID-19 after an RT-PCR drive was conducted at Taloja Central Jail. Co-accused Vernon Gonsalves, Sudhir Dhawale, Surendra Gadling, Arun Ferreira, Anand Teltumbde. Rona Wilson and Gautam Navlakha have also tested negative.

Mylab rolls out 10 lakh self-test kits for COVID

Mylab Discovery Solutions on Thursday said that it is rolling out 10 lakh self-test kits for COVID-19 and based on consumer demand, it will make 70 lakh units available per week. The indigenous test kit will be available over-the-counter at pharmacies and online through Flipkart. It costs ₹250 per kit. PTI

Centre orders 30 crore doses from Biological E

Advance of ₹1,500 crore given for made-in-India vaccine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union Health Ministry has finalised arrangements with Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Biological E to reserve 30 crore CO-VID-19 vaccine doses.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Ministry said these doses would be manufactured and stockpiled by the company from August to December. For this purpose, it would make an advance payment of ₹1,500 crore.

The RBD protein sub-unit vaccine, now undergoing Phase-3 clinical trial, is likely to be available in a few months.

"The proposal of M/s Biological E was examined and recommended for approval after due diligence by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC)," the Ministry said.



Indigenous jab: Biological E has received support for research from the Centre. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The arrangement with the company was a part of the wider endeavour of the government to encourage indigenous vaccine makers by providing them support in research and development and financial aid.

The vaccine candidate has been supported by the government from the preclinical stage to the Phase-3 studies. The Department of Biotechnology has provided grant-in-aid of over ₹100 crore and partnered with the firm to conduct all animal and assay studies through the research institute, Translational Health Science Technology Institute in Faridabad.

Maharashtra to lift curbs cautiously

Districts will be divided into five levels based on positivity rate, bed occupancy

STAFF REPORTER

The Maharashtra government on Thursday said that it has finalised a plan to unlock the State by dividing its districts into five levels based on the coronavirus test positivity rate (TPR) and occupancy of oxygen beds. The local administration will be submitting reports based on this to the State headquarters, following which directions on lifting restrictions and unlocking will be announced.

The announcement comes amid confusion after the State's Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Vadettiwar held a press conference declaring 18 districts with a test positivity rate of less than 5% and oxygen bed occupancy of less than 25% to undergo a complete un-

The Chief Minister's Office, however, intervened and issued a clarification saying no restrictions had been lifted. "The proposal for the



Safety protocol: Maharashtra will continue sample testing widely. • EMMANUAL YOGINI

same is being considered. We will be taking complete information from the district headquarters and local administrations. Only based on that final decision will be taken," said the clarification.

Mr. Vadettiwar, who had left Mumbai for Nagpur after his press conference, said after reaching his destination that he had forgotten to

mention there had been an "in principle approval" to the proposal and the Chief Minister would take the final

As per the proposal, Level 5 regions were in the red zone. Level 1 includes areas with less than 5% positivity rate and less than 25% oxygen bed occupancy and Level 2 can have TPR below 5%

and oxygen bed occupancy from 25-40%.

For Level 3, the TPR could be from 5-10% and oxygen bed occupancy 40-60%.

The TPR could be between 10-20% for Level 4 with, oxygen bed occupancy at 60-75%. Level 5 will be the areas that have TPR over 20% and oxygen bed occupancy over 75%.

Restaurants to open for 3 hrs in West Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

West Bengal Chief Minister Baneriee on Thursday allowed restaurants in the State to operate with limited capacity from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. after fully vaccinating its staffers and maintaining COVID-19 protocol.

Ms. Banerjee held a meeting of different chambers of commerce who sought her permission to open restaurants.

The Chief Minister, however, refused permission to allow malls and shopping complexes in the city to open and said a decision on the request would be taken after June 16.

Serum Institute too seeks indemnity from liability

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With the Central government favourably considering the grant of indemnity against legal proceedings to foreign vaccine-makers Pfizer and Moderna prior to their rollout in India, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) had also sought indemnity from liability, expressing the hope that rules would be the same for everyone, said sources on Thursday.

The Adar Poonawalla-led SII, which manufactures Covishield (Indian name for AstraZeneca-Oxford jab), had conveyed to the Centre that all vaccine makers, whether Indian or foreign, ought to be granted

the same protection (against the cost of compensation in the event of severe side-effects), the company sources said. Besides Covishield and Novovax's Covovax, the SII has also applied to the Drug Controller General of India to manufacture Sputnik V.

Sputnik V is currently being manufactured by Dr Reddy's Laboratories.

According to reports, the Centre is considering granting indemnity to vaccine manufacturing companies if they applied for the Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA). Till date, no Indian vaccine company has ever paid indemnity and neither has the Union government, the biggest vaccine user,

2,599 deaths registered SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India recorded 1,26,528 new COVID-19 cases and 2,599 new deaths till 9.30 p.m. on Thursday. The country has so far reported a total of 2,85,67,607 cases 3,40,613 deaths.

Tamil Nadu reported 24,405 new infections, followed by Kerala (18,853) and Karnataka (18,324). Maharashtra recorded 643 new casualties on the day, followed by Karnataka (514) and Tamil Nadu (460). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous

The figures do not include

hand, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. The data are sourced from the respective States' health

1.26 lakh fresh cases and

21.59 lakh tests

bulletins.

Around 21.59 lakh samples were tested in the country on Wednesday (the results for which were made available on Thursday). India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 6.4% on June 2 compared to 10.9% recorded a week before.

About 24.97 lakh vaccine doses were administered in

cases and deaths from Pun- the country in the 24 hours which is 3,000 doses fewer than what was recorded in the previous 24 hours. Also, it is 5 lakh lesser doses than what was recorded during the same period a week ago. The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country stood at 26.21 lakh on June 2, which is more than the 21.83 lakh recorded on May 2.

> While the seven-day rolling average of daily recorded COVID-19 cases in India continues to decrease, it is still registering the highest number of new cases in the world. Brazil (63,626) and Argentina (32,860) follow.

Delhi High Court issues summons to Ramdev

STAFF REPORTER

to yoga guru Kamdey on a plea accusing him of making statements against allopathic medicines and claiming Patanjali's Coronil kit is a cure for COVID-19. The yoga exponent has been asked to give his response within

three weeks. Justice C. Hari Shankar was of the view that the statements made by Mr. Ramdev was his "opinion", which falls under the right to freedom of expression under the Constitution. "I don't think your allopathic profession is so fragile... I think it comes within Article 19(1)(a)," he said.

The court's remarks came while hearing a suit The Delhi High Court on filed by the Delhi Medical Thursday issued summons Association (DMA) against Mr. Ramdev's statement.

> It said, "There are institutions in place to check the false medical claims or magical remedies. There is a protocol in place. So you cannot say here is matter for the court to interfere. First of all I, or this court, is no one to say whether Coronil is a good or bad medicine. Whether allopathic treatment or ayurvedic treatment is better, I don't know. These are matters which needs experts".

> Senior advocate Rajiv Nayar, for Mr. Ramdev, has raised objection on the maintainability of the plea.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13265

17 Exclusion of some tribes – basically, bigotry! (9)





24 Sharpens edge of bolt that's blunt (6) 25 Water infused with two vitamins taken everyday at the start is sufficient (8)

28 Animals, over a long period of time, becoming winged creatures (7) **29** Now and then, clues by Spinner certainly provided entertainment! (7) 30 Elevation, with second in line moving to the top, gives breathing space (8)

31 Swear at trial (6)

2 Flowers planted in upturned vases organically (5)

3 Clear soup with chunk of enriched grains (6)

6 Declare a new lockdown at the end to recover, after starting late (8) 7 Boxers first on table among dogs with a wrinkled face (9)

9 Basically, coronavirus curve runs its course in leader's absence, resulting in dead bodies! (9)

16 Instant deliveries before late hours (9)

18 Plant manufactured soft coat (8)

22 Place perhaps in which church ultimately sits? (6)

@ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

Locked up at home, feeling down?

Lock your answers down pat online!

decay (9) 21 30% of land on earth is towards the west, within America's borders

DOWN

1 DNA strand altered, erasing a bit of narcissistic quality (8)

5 Cat's drums (4)

8 Scandal envelops Election Commission's order (6)

14 Ice-cold or otherwise, one's emotion is considered insincere (9)

19 Beats men regularly in cellar (8)

23 Impudent person finally faces whip (6) **26** "Please apply after a minute!" (5)

27 Cashed in on currency consuming energy (4)



Solution to puzzle 13264 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

| Ρ | Α | S | S | Ε | \subset | L | | F | 0 | R | s | Α | K | Ε | Q | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
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| | | | | Α | | ı | | - | | ш | | | | | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
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| Е | | ı | | U | | | | O | | | | R | | L | 5 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | Ø | 4 |
| Ν | Α | Ζ | 1 | R | | Ρ | R | 0 | Ø | ш | O | U | Т | Ε | 2 | 1 | 7 | Q | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | a |
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FAITH

Unchanging One

Kooratazhvan, in his Varadaraja Stavam, extols Lord Varadaraja's qualities using words that remind us of Upanishadic descriptions. This is to show that Varadaraja is the Supreme One, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse. One of the words he uses is niraabaadham. This means He is changeless. Non-sentient (acetana) things change by appearance and by character. When milk changes to curd, the taste and thickness change.

What about cetana (sentient beings)? The atma may take different births. But it does not change in size. It may be born as a human being in one janma and as an elephant in another. It does not increase in size to match the size of the elephant. If born as a human being, the atma has dharmabhutajnana (attributive consciousness), and is able to talk, to sing, to write etc. If it is born as an animal, it cannot do these things. So, while its appearance or size does not change, there is a change in the degree of jnana it has. But the appearance or qualities of the Supreme One never change.

For every action, three karanas are needed – upadana, sahakari and nimitta. The mud used to make a pot is upadana karana. The potter's wheel etc become the sahakari karana. The potter is the nimitta karana. To get a pot you need all three. As for the Universe, the Lord is the upadana karana (the One from whom it came) and the nimitta karana (the One who made it). But in the case of the mud pot, the upadana karana, namely the mud, changes form to become a pot. How then can we say the Lord is upadana karana, and also claim He is changeless? One may wear a blue shirt in the morning and a different shirt in the evening. Does this mean the person changes? He remains the same. Likewise, Paramatma's svarupa never changes.

ACROSS

- 1 Stayed with drummer's last beat (6) 4 Runs away to the west, with money secured (8)
- 10 Country locked between plateaus triangularly (7)
- **11** Stable feeder system recruits a supervisor (7) 12 Skip while maintaining standard time interval (8) 13 Overt rookie's trespassing of covert area (6)
- 15 Decay around centre of tooth's base (4)



Israel coalition reaches deal to form govt.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid says his group has enough numbers, seeks quick vote in Knesset

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opponents pushed on Thursday for a quick Parliament vote to formally end his lengthy rule, hoping to head off any last-minute attempts to derail their newly announced coalition government.

The latest political manoeuvring began just hours after opposition leader Yair Lapid and his main coalition partner, Naftali Bennett, declared they had reached a deal to form a new government and muster a majority in the 120-member Knesset, or Parliament.

The coalition consists of eight parties from across the political spectrum with little common except the



Numbers game: (Left to right) Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennett and Mansour Abbas in Ramat Gan on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

shared goal of toppling Mr. Netanyahu after a record-setting 12 years in power.

The alliance includes hardliners previously allied with Mr. Netanyahu, as well as centre-left parties and even an Arab faction – a first in Is-

raeli politics. Mr. Netanyahu lashed out at his foes on Thursday, signalling that he will continue to exert pressure on former allies who joined the coalition. "All members of Knesright-wing votes need to oppose this dangerous leftist government," he wrote on

The drama riveted Israelis at a time when tumult has not been in short supply: four inconclusive elections in two years followed by an 11-day war in the Gaza Strip last month that was accompanied by mob violence between Jews and Arabs in cities across the country. The country also is emerging from the coronavirus crisis that caused deep economic damage and exposed tensions between the secular majority and the ultra-Orthodox minority.

Yet the political debate has focused squarely on Mr. Netanyahu, who is facing corruption charges - and

whether he should stay or go. The anti-Netanyahu bloc announced the coalition deal just before a deadline at midnight Wednesday. The agreement triggered a complex process that is likely to stretch over the next week.

The coalition has a razorthin majority of 61 votes in Parliament. Now the question is whether the group's votes will hold together in order to name a new Parliament Speaker, who would then preside over a vote required to confirm the new government.

If the group can't manage that, the current Speaker, who is a Netanyahu ally, could use his position to delay the vote and give Mr. Netanyahu more time to sabot-

Modi, Harris discuss nitty-gritty of U.S. offer on vaccine doses

PM invites her to India after 'normalisation' of situation

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke on the phone with U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris on Wednesday to discuss the U.S. announcement of how it would share the first tranche of 25 million vaccine doses out of the 80 million doses it has committed to sharing by the end of June. It is not yet clear what the specific allocation for India will be.

"Spoke to @VP Kamala Harris a short while ago. I deeply appreciate the assurance of vaccine supplies to India as part of the US Strategy for Global Vaccine Sharing. I also thanked her for the all the support and solidarity from the U.S. government, businesses and Indian diaspora [sic]," Mr. Modi tweeted.

"We also discussed ongoing efforts to further strengthen India-U.S. vaccine cooperation, and the potential of our partnership to contribute to post-COVID global health and economic recovery," the Prime Minister said.

A government readout of the call said Mr. Modi had discussed strengthening the health supply chain, including in vaccine manufacturing. They also discussed the Quad vaccine partnership,

which aims to manufacture, in India, at least 1 billion vaccine doses (mostly Johnson and Johnson) by the end of 2022, for supply across Asia.

Significantly, Mr. Modi invited Ms. Harris to India, after "the normalisation of the global health situation". Ms. Harris's mother's family is from Tamil Nadu and Ms. Harris has made multiple visits to Chennai in her earlier years.

"Vice-President Kamala D. Harris spoke this morning to President Andres Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, President Alejandro Giammattei of Guatemala, PM Narendra Modi of India, and PM Keith Rowley, Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)," a White House readout of her calls said, adding that there were individual calls to each of the leaders, in which Ms. Harris notified them of the decision to share 25 million

vaccine doses.

'The Vice-President reiterated that the Administration's efforts are focused on achieving broad global coverage, responding to surges and other urgent situations and public health needs, and helping as many countries as possible who requested vaccines."

The U.S. has committed to donate 13% of its vaccine supply or 80 million doses by the end of June to other countries.

"At least 75% of these dos-

es – nearly 19 million – will be shared through COVAX, including approximately 6 million doses for Latin America and the Caribbean, approximately 7 million for South and Southeast Asia, and approximately 5 million for Africa. The remaining doses, just over 6 million, will be shared directly with countries experiencing surges, those in crisis, and other partners and neighbours, including Canada, Mexico, India and the Republic of Ko-

rea," Mr. Biden said. Based on this, it is not clear how many doses India will receive, and if it will receive a second tranche via the COVAX (an international effort to equitably distribute vaccines) allotment.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar in New Delhi)

What's next for Benjamin Netanyahu?

Eight parties have come together to form a coalition that could oust Israel's longest serving PM

STANLY JOHNY

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest serving Prime Minister, may finally be on his way-out. Eight political parties, from the rightwing Yamina to the Arab-majority Ra'am (United Arab List), have come together to form a new coalition, which, if proves majority in the Knesset, could oust Mr. Netanyahu, who has been in power since 2009.

Why a new coalition?

Israel saw four national elections in the past two years. In all these elections, no party won a majority on its own. After the March 2020 polls, Mr. Netanyahu's rightwing Likud party joined hands with Benny Gantz's centrist Blue and White to form a unity government. But the coalition did not last long.

In December, the government collapsed after the Knesset failed to pass the annual budget. In the March 2021 election, the voters gave another split verdict. Likud emerged as the biggest party with 30 seats out of the 120member Knesset, but failed to form a coalition with the

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lankan authorities on

Thursday said they were

bracing for a possible oil

spill, as a fire-damaged cargo

vessel was sinking off the is-

land's main port in capital

Singapore-registered MV

X-Press Pearl, carrying

chemicals and plastic, has

been in news since a fire in-

cident on May 20 and subsequent explosion aboard, fol-

lowing which tonnes of

plastic pellet deposits were

found deposited along the

vironment Protection Auth-

ority (MEPA), which termed

The country's Marine En-

country's beaches.

support of 61 lawmakers the majority-mark. After Mr. Netanyahu's failure to form the government, President Reuven Rivlin invited Yair Lapid, leader of Yesh Atid, which is the second largest party in the current Knesset with 17 members, to form the government. It's Mr. Lapid who put together the 'change' coalition.

Who are its members?

In 2020, Mr. Lapid's Yesh Atid fought the elections as part of the Blue and White coalition. But when Blue and White leader Mr. Gantz decided to join Mr. Netanyahu's unity government, Mr. Lapid parted ways. He was the Opposition leader in the previous Knesset

Now, Mr. Lapid and Mr. Gantz have come together again. Their parties together have 25 MKs (Members of Knesset). Six other parties have also joined them – the rightwing Yamina (7 MKs), centre-right New Hope (6 MKs); centre-left Meretz (6MKs) and Labour (7 MKs); secular right Yisrael Beiteinu (7 MKs); and Arab Ra'am (4 MKs). The eight-party coalition has 62 MKs among

Sri Lanka braces for oil spill

It has readied containment booms to tackle a possible leak

Plastic pellets washed

Pearl. ■ REUTERS

its fuel tanks.

ashore from MV X-Press

the incident one of Sri Lan-

ka's worst ecological disas-

ters in history, has readied

oil spill containment booms,

to tackle a possible leak from

the vessel that officials said

carried 350 tonnes of oil in

the ship yet, but arrange-

"There is no oil leak from

from sinking cargo vessel



Benjamin Netanyahu

themselves. But one of Yamina MKs, Amichai Chikli, has already said he would not support the coalition. That has left the coalition with a razor-thin majority of one

What happens next?

According to the coalition agreement, Yamina leader Naftali Bennet, who was earlier with the far-right-religious Jewish Home party, could be the next Prime Minister. Mr. Bennet, a kippawearing politician who is opposed to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, could be the first leader forming a government with support from an Arab party in Israel's history.

Mr. Bennet, according to the coalition pact, could remain the Prime Minister for

ments are in place to deal

with a possible spill. That is

the worst-case scenario," Na-

vy spokesperson Indika de

Meanwhile, several coas-

tal villages reported dead

fish and other marine organ-

isms by the shore, images of

which went viral on social

uated last week, while the

fire was fully extinguished

on Tuesday, by the Sri Lan-

kan Navy, along with experts

from a Dutch salvage compa-

ny and the Indian Coast

Guard, after a 13-day battle

Sri Lanka police are inves-

with the raging flames.

tigating the incident.

The ship's crew was evac-

Silva said.

media.

two years and then Mr. Lapid will get the top job. But the coalition has hardly anything in common but their goal to see Mr. Netanyahu go. So it has to be seen how long the coalition will last.

By signing the unity agreements, Mr. Lapid, the architect of the coalition, has passed the first test. But the next is the most important

EXPLAINER

one - to win the confidence of the Knesset. The current Knesset Speaker is Likud's Yariv Levin. Mr. Lapid has accused him of delaying the vote so that Mr. Netanyahu will have more time to try to persuade rightwing MKs (of Yamina and New Hope) to vote against the Bennet-Lapid government.

One Yamina MK has alreadv revolted against Mr. Bennet's decision. Another one, Nir Orbach, has expressed his doubts about the coalition. If he switches sides, the coalition won't have a major-

But two members of the Joint List (another Arab platform that has 6 MKs) are un-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three Uighurs who fled

from China to Turkey have

described forced abortions

and torture by Chinese

authorities in the far west-

ern Xinjiang region, ahead

of giving testimony to a peo-

ple's tribunal in London

that is investigating if Beij-

ing's actions against the eth-

nic Uighurs amount to geno-

The three witnesses in-

clude a woman who said she

was forced into an abortion

at six and a half months

pregnant, a former doctor

who spoke of draconian

birth control policies, and a

former detainee who al-

leged he was "tortured day

and night" by Chinese sol-

Uighur exiles describe

They will testify before U.K. tribunal

'torture' in Xinjiang

decided how to vote. If they vote for the 'change' government, it could sail through despite the rebellion within Yamina.

Uncertainty ahead For Mr. Netanyahu, the best

outcome would Mr. Bennet failing to prove majority in the Knesset. The country would then move into another round of elections, and he could stay in power until the next government is formed which could be months away. Being in power would also offer some immunity to Mr. Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption.

If ousted, he could remain the Opposition leader. But Mr. Netanyahu's repeated failures to form a stable government have shaken his hold over Likud.

Out of power, he could face leadership challenges within the party. In 2019, Gideon Saar had unsuccessfully challenged him for Likud's leadership. It may be too early to write Mr. Netanyahu off. But if the 'change' coalition forms a government, Mr. Netanyahu's political future would be thrown into uncer-

diers while he was impri-

soned in the remote border

ciated Press of their expe-

riences before testifying by

video link to the indepen-

not have U.K. government

backing, will be chaired by

prominent human rights la-

wyer Geoffrey Nice, who led

the prosecution of ex-Ser-

bian President Slobodan Mi-

losevic and worked with the

Court. The tribunal's judg-

ment is not binding on any

A third exile, Mahmut Te-

vekkul, said he was impri-

soned and tortured in 2010

by Chinese authorities

The tribunal, which does

dent U.K. tribunal.

International

government.

They spoke to The Asso-

No salary for unvaccinated: Sindh govt.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KARACHI

The head of a Pakistani ordered on province Thursday that government employees who refuse to get vaccinated against CO-VID-19 would not be paid salary from next month.

"Any government emplovee who is not vaccinated should have their salary stopped from July," Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said in a tweet, adding that orders had been given to the Finance Ministry.

Earlier, he met health of ficials to discuss the first cases of the delta variant detected in the province.

A third wave of infections has begun to stabilise in the country after weeks of restrictions on public gatherings, but Sindh province has reported the highest number of cases since the pandemic began.

Pakistan has ramped up vaccination in recent weeks with more than 2,00,000 doses administered almost daily.

But the country has fully vaccinated only 2.2 million people – a fraction of its 220 million population.

Biden intends to overhaul Trump's China blacklist

U.S. is likely to add new firms to the list

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

U.S. President Joe Biden intends to this week overhaul a list of Chinese firms that U.S. investors are allowed to own shares in, as the President re-evaluates the world powers' post-Trump relationship while maintaining pressure on Beijing.

Donald Trump prohibited Americans from buying stakes in 31 Chinese companies that were deemed to be supplying or supporting China's military and security apparatus.

The list included major telecoms, construction and technology firms such as China Mobile, China Telecom, video surveillance firm Hikvision, and China Railway Construction Corp.

The measures by the White House aimed at quelling the Asian giant's rise and which has left ties between the two severely strained.

Beijing repeated its outrage at the Trump-era blacklist on Thursday and vowed to protect Chinese companies' rights, claiming the blacklist was "politicallymotivated" and "ignores the facts and actual situation" of the firms involved.

The ban "severely undermines normal market rules and order" and "damages... the interests of global investors including US investors," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

Mr. Biden's new order will see the Treasury De partment create a list of firms that would be hit with financial penalties for their links with China's defence and surveillance technology sectors, Bloomberg News reported.

He is expected to keep the list largely intact, while the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control will add new firms to the list.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Department of Agriculture

"The Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh in application from all the manufacturers of farm machinery for empanelmen in DBT portal for 2021-22 towards supply of farm machinery to the farmer groups/PACS/FPOs for setting up of Custom Hiring Centres and Hitecl High value FM Hubs throughout the State. More details on the notification are provided in website www.apagrisnet.gov.in." Sd/- Commissioner of Agriculture



DIPR/DDU/R.O:471/2021-22

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan,

Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-02/2093/2021-22

Date:02.06.2021

ELSEWHERE

NASA announces two new missions to Venus

NASA announced two new missions to Venus on Wednesday that will launch at the end of the decade and are aimed at learning how Earth's nearest planetary neighbour became a hellscape while our own thrived. "These two missions both aim to understand how Venus became an inferno-like world, capable of melting lead at the surface," said Bill Nelson, the agency's newlyconfirmed administrator. AFP

Trump's Justice Department seized reporters' phone records

Attempt to identify sources for national security stories: NYT

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

The Trump Justice Department secretly obtained the phone records of four New York Times reporters as part of a leak investigation, the newspaper reported on Wednesday.

It is the third instance over the last month in which a news media organisation has disclosed that federal authorities seized the records of its journalists in an effort to identify sources for national security stories pu-

blished during President Do-Trump's administration.

President Joe Biden has said he would not allow the Justice Department to continue the practice of obtaining reporters' records, calling it 'simply, simply wrong."

Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said the department notified the four reporters on Wednesday that it had obtained their phone records last year and that it had sought to obtain non-content email records as part of "a criminal investigation into the unauthorised disclosure of classified information."

The newspaper said the records that were seized covered a nearly four-month period in 2017 and belonged to reporters Matt Apuzzo, Adam Goldman, Eric Lichtblau and Michael S. Schmidt. Mr. Lichtblau has since left

the newspaper. The journalists are neither the subjects nor the targets of the investigation, Mr. Coley said.

reward to find **AQIM** leader

The U.S. State Department posted a \$7 million reward on Wednesday for information leading to the location or identification of Abu Ubaydah Yusuf al-Anabi, the leader of Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

Anabi was declared the Emir of the northern Africa region branch of Al-Qaeda in November 2020 and his predecessor, Abdelmalek Droukdel, was killed five months earlier.

U.S. offers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The department said



KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for the mentioned works: (1) Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) Including Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan, Design, Preparation of Estimates, Cost Structure etc., For formation of the proposed Madhugiri Industrial Area, Tumakuru District. (Extent 336A 11G). (2) Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the supply of 2MLD Tertiary treated Water from Tertiary Treatment Plant located at Vasanthanarsapura Industrial Area to Sira Industrial Area, Tumakuru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 28.06.2021 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Sd/-

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE. Follow Physical Distancing



Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru



MARKET WATCH

| | 03-06-2021 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex | 52,232 | 0.74 |
| US Dollar | 72.91 | 0.25 |
| Gold | 48,530 | -0.50 |
| Brent oil | 71.54 | 0.79 |

| NIFTY 50 | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------|
| | PRICE | CHANGE |
| Adani Ports | | |
| Asian Paints | | |
| Axis Bank | | |
| Bajaj Auto | 4273.35 | 21.70 |
| Bajaj Finserv | | |
| Bajaj Finance | | |
| Bharti Airtel | | |
| BPCL | 473.90. | 0.75 |
| Britannia Ind | | |
| Cipla | 948.25 | -6.45 |
| Coal India | 149.05. | 0.05 |
| Divis Lab | 4232.20 | 17.9 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 5282.55 | 29.80 |
| Eicher Motors | 2767.75. | 90.00 |
| Grasim Ind | | |
| HCL Tech | | |
| HDFC | | |
| HDFC Bank | | |
| HDFC Life | | |
| Hero MotoCorp | | |
| Hindalco | | |
| Hind Unilever | | |
| ICICI Bank | | |
| IndusInd Bank | | |
| Infosys | | |
| Indian OilCorp | | |
| ITC | | |
| JSW Steel | | |
| Kotak Bank | | |
| L&T | | |
| M&M | | |
| Maruti Suzuki | | |
| Nestle India Ltd. | 17799 40 | 145 9 |
| NTPC | | |
| ONGC | | |
| PowerGrid Corp | | |
| Reliance Ind | | |
| SBI Life | | |
| State Bank | | |
| Shree Cement | | |
| Sun Pharma | | |
| Tata Consumer | 0/3.30. | -1.9 |
| Products Ltd. | C00 00 | C 41 |
| | | |
| Tata Motors | | |
| Tata SteelTCS | | |
| | | |
| Tech Mahindra | | |
| Titan UltraTech Cement | 1691.20. | 105.50 |
| | | |
| UPL | 840.25 | 2.6 |

| EXCHANGE RA | TES | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 03 | | | | | | | | |
| CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL | | | | | | | | |
| US Dollar | 72.71 | 73.03 | | | | | | |
| Euro | 88.74 | 89.13 | | | | | | |
| British Pound | .103.23 | 103.69 | | | | | | |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 66.30 | 66.60 | | | | | | |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.38 | 11.43 | | | | | | |
| Swiss Franc | 80.90 | 81.26 | | | | | | |
| Singapore Dollar | 54.94 | 55.19 | | | | | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.31 | 60.58 | | | | | | |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 17.63 | 17.72 | | | | | | |
| Carrier Indian Bank | | | | | | | | |

. 539.05.....-3.95



Vistara gets nod to operate flights to U.S.

Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines joint venture Vistara has secured the U.S. government's licence to operate international flights, the airline confirmed on Thursday, "While we have received the temporary Foreign Air Carrier permit from the Department of Transportation, USA, the process is still ongoing," an airline spokesperson said.

Steel gets costlier by up to ₹4,900 a tonne

Leading domestic steel makers have increased the prices of Hot Rolled Coil (HRC) and Cold Rolled Coil (CRC) by up to ₹4.000 and ₹4,900 per tonne, respectively, industry sources said on Thursday. A tonne of HRC will now cost ₹70,000-71.000 while the buvers will get CRC at ₹83,000-84,000 per tonne. The price revision was made in the last two

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Thursday enhanced the overseas investment limit for a mutual fund (MF) house to \$1 billion from the existing \$600 million. The overall MF industry limit is capped at \$7 limit would allow mutual funds to allocate a higher

BENGALURU SAP's new vision is to help build the world's largest business community, enabling customers to easily connect with companies across supply chains to create networked economies around industries, said global CEO Christian Klein. "During this unprecedented year, the importance of the communities we are part of has never been clearer," he

Services exports rose by 6.4% in May

Wadhawan says exports recovery 'comprehensive'; asserts volumes rather than prices driving growth

India's services exports grew by 6.44% in May to \$17.85 billion, while services imports grew just 0.3% to \$10 billion, as per initial estimates, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said on Thursday.

"There is a comprehensive recovery in India's exports with May's numbers building on the performance in April," Mr. Wadhawan said, citing the 67% rise in merchandise exports in May, which was also 8% higher than the pre-pandemic month of May 2019.

Services trade recorded a 15.4% higher surplus yearon-year last month, so the trade surplus from the sector had gone up, the Commerce Secretary said. Preliminary estimates for May's merchandise trade were released on Wednesday, while

LALATENDU MISHRA

In a move that casts doubt

on the future of Jet Airways,

the Ministry of Civil Aviation

has told the Mumbai bench

of the NCLT that the airline's

winning bidder does not

have a claim over the airport

slots distributed among va-

rious airlines when Jet

the revival plan for the air-

line submitted by the win-

ning bidder – Murari Lal Ja-

lan and Kalrock Capital

Consortium. "The occasion

for approval of slots and oth-

er bilateral rights will arise

after approval of the resolu-

The NCLT is examining

ceased operations in 2019.

JAGRITI CHANDRA



Perception issue: Bilateral trade with China is 'more balanced today,' asserts Wadhawan. • PTI

the data for services trade is an estimation, which may undergo revision with subsequent data releases from the Reserve Bank of India.

While petroleum and gems and jewellery exports had been doing badly earlier, Mr. Wadhawan said that they

Jet's winning bidder cannot

claim airline's original slots'

Distributed slots can't be forfeited now, Ministry tells NCLT

tion plan," the Ministry said

in an affidavit submitted to

the NCLT. "The RA [resolu-

tion applicant] can't claim

these slots as matter of right

under the present insolven-

A slot is a permission gi-

In March 2019, as Jet

wound up operations, the

ven to an airline to land at or

cy proceedings," it added.

depart from an airport.

had contributed significantly to May's numbers, suggest-

ing that 'this is a turning

point' for the two.

Dismissing suggestions that imports from China were consistently rising despite India's AtmaNirbhar Bharat programme,

Ministry of Civil Aviation de-

vised a standard operating

procedure to redistribute

the slots held by it at various

airports among different air-

lines to ensure passengers

said that during this process,

the airlines had made invest-

ments in acquiring addition-

al planes to deploy capacity

for those slots. Hence, these

could not be forfeited and

returned to Jet's new owner,

as and when Jet applied

afresh for slots, allocations

would be made among the

various airlines without any

The Ministry added that

the Ministry said.

claim of historicity.

On Thursday, the Ministry

were not inconvenienced.

Wadhawan asserted that the view was not an accurate conclusion and that the country's trade with China was 'more balanced today'.

'Wait for PLI's effects'

"Many of the measures taken are medium term so their effects will start showing. The production-linked schemes are materialising into investments on the ground in a very expedited framework, and the outcomes will be visible in the medium term to long term, more in the early medium term. In sectors like electronics and mobile phones, this will be visible by next year itself," the Commerce Secretary added.

Mr. Wadhawan asserted that rising commodity prices had not influenced the higher export figures.

"We will give you that analysis, but the fact that the

world is facing a recession, I don't think the price aspect would be very dominant. The dominant effect would be from volume growth. The predominant impact is from volume growth, not price growth in today's recessionary times... in some areas at the margins, the price would have helped," he contended.

The long-awaited notification of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme would be done 'very early', Mr. Wadhawan reiterated again. "There is no doubt on the fact that the RoDTEP will be introduced from January 1 this year and it's part of the government's policy. It's a new scheme... needless to say, it has some implementation issues. We have been addressing them and very soon, we will be able to (implement it)," he said.

Airlines in India may post \$4.1 bn loss in FY22: CAPA

'AI's debt to hit \$20 bn, deter bidders'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Airlines in India are likely to post a consolidated loss of \$4.1 billion in financial year (FY) 2022, aviation consultancy CAPA said in a forecast.

This sum is similar to the losses for FY21, taking the total losses for the two years since the pandemic began, to \$8 billion.

Airlines may need almost \$5 billion in recapitalisation funds n FY22, of which \$1.1 billion is in the pipeline in the form of IPOs and other instruments, said CAPA.

After a steep dive in passenger traffic in April and May following a surge in CO-VID-19 cases, June is likely to



see a moderate recovery, followed by acceleration in traffic in the second quarter.

Airlines are likely to record domestic traffic of 80-95 million passengers in FY22, lower than the almost 140 million in FY20. CAPA also estimated a rise in liabilities of Air India to \$20 billion by 2025, making it unattractive to bidders.



increase in input costs due to weakening demand. • AFP

Services PMI shrinks, job cuts accelerate

May reading slumps to a 9-month low

REUTERS

Activity in the dominant services industry contracted in May for the first time in eight months as lockdowns to curb the second wave of COVID-19 dampened demand, prompting firms to cut jobs at the fastest pace since October, a private sur-

Despite a recent slowdown in reported infections, India is still recording well over 1,00,000 cases and more than 3,000 deaths a day, forcing most States to keep tight restrictions on business activity in place.

The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index fell to a ninemonth low of 46.4 in May, from 54.0 in April, sliding below the 50-level that separates growth from contraction for the first time in eight months.

Foreign demand shrinks Overall demand contracted at the sharpest rate since August, with foreign de-

mand shrinking at the fastest pace since November. "While PMI data released at the start of the month showed that the manufacturing industry managed to

keep its head above water in

May, the service sector

struggled as the pandemic escalated," noted Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit.

"The intensification of the COVID-19 crisis and associated restrictions suppressed domestic and international demand."

Although Asia's third-largest economy grew at an annual pace of 1.6% in the first three months of 2021, just before the devastating second wave hit, economists are pessimistic about this quarter's growth prospects.

Services firms intensified their job cutting spree last month, laying off workers at the fastest pace since October, bad news for a labour market that has already seen millions thrown out of work in the past year.

A decline in business expectations to its lowest in nine months may lead firms to reduce payrolls further in the coming months. Input costs continued to surge, but firms were only able to pass on some of the increase due to weakening demand. Despite an expansion in

manufacturing, albeit at the slowest pace in 10 months, the contraction in services activity led an overall composite index to decline to a nine-month low of 48.1 in May, from 55.4 in April.

DoT issues operational guidelines for PLI scheme

'MSMEs need to invest at least ₹10 cr.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Telecom on Thursday issued operational guidelines for the ₹12,195 crore performance-(PLI) linked incentive scheme for the sector. DoT said in a release that

the scheme would take effect from April 1, 2021. Interested, eligible applicants register for the could scheme from June 4. The application window will be open for 30 days till July 3.

Applicants would have to meet the minimum revenue criteria. The company may decide to invest either in single or multiple eligible products. "The scheme stipulates a minimum investment threshold of ₹10 crore for MSMEs and ₹100 crore for non-MSME applicants,"

Cholamandalam Investment

and Finance Co. Ltd., (Cho-

la) the financial services arm

of Murugappa Group, will fo-

cus on three broad areas to

improve as an organisation.

according to Vellayan Sub-

biah, chairman and non-ex-

Chola would hence first

focus on frontline productiv-

ity viz. sales and collection

teams, followed by talent

management and 'lean' im-

plementation, he said in a

the 'lean' process, tradition-

ally done in a manufacturing

environment - meant to add

more customer value with

fewer resources – has much

applicability for Chola. But,

it had been unfortunately

delayed following COVID-19,

The implementation of

ecutive director.

call with analysts.

said Mr. Subbiah.

N. ANAND



the DoT said. "Land and building costs will not be counted as investment. Eligibility shall be further subject to incremental sales of manufactured goods," it added. DoT would grant approvals to 10 eligible applications each in the MSME and non-MSME categories. Out of the 10 applications in the non-MSME category, at least three would be eligible domestic companies.

Muthoot Finance Q4 net rises 22%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gold loan finance company Muthoot Finance Ltd. reported a 22% jump in standalone profit after tax to ₹996 crore for the three months to March.

For the full year, the standalone net profit rose by 23% to ₹3,722 crore.

"We have seen good business growth during the last year, especially in the second and the third quarters," said managing direc-George Alexander Muthoot.

"After the pandemic, there was a lot of demand for gold loans.

"Everybody wanted to restart their business and wanted quick funding, which is why the demand for gold loans grew," Mr. Muthoot said.

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|---|---|-----------------------|--|
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KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala **RE-TENDER NOTICE** KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KINFRA), invites online bids for the work of 45 MLD Water Supply Project of KINFRA in packages as below at KINFRA Export Promotion Industrial Parks Ltd, Kakkanad, Ernakulam with E-tender ref no: KINFRA/KEPIP/05,06,07/2021-22

Construction of Intake Well and Allied Electrical & 7.19 Mechanical works - Package-1 S & L of DI pumping main from Intake well at Thottumugham Thorappu junction - Package-II S & L of DI pumping main from Thorappu junction to KEPIP 21.73 For details visit www.kinfra.org Sd/-Managing Director, KINFRA



arliamentary Constituency of the State, Andhra Pradesh Fo (APFPS), GoAP, is inviting Expression of interest (EOI) for the Short listing of Reputer Companies for Operation & Maintenance of Secondary Food Processing Units in Andhra Pradesh on Lease, Operate, Transfer Model for a Block Period of 10 Years as per the terms and conditions laid down in the EOI. Interested companies are requested to access the Eol document at the below mentioned link and send the applications or before the due date as mentioned in the document. The EoI document along with the Project information can be accessed from https://lapfps.com/ For queries, please write to: fps-ap@nic.in. Contact: Mr. Bharat Thota, Ph: 6309501007; Mr. NLB Pantulu, Ph: 9703851169; Mr. Rahul Reddy, Ph: 9634506369; Mr. G. Ajay Kumar, Ph: 9100039591.

Call timings - 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (IST) Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, APFPS



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Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

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VMC invites Quotation rates for the Project "Procurement of Ai Quality Monitoring system (IMB) with Sensors (15 Nos.) with 1 year Operation and Maintenance with the parameters of NO2, SO2, O3 CO, PM 10, PM 2.50, Temperature, Humidity and pressure, mounted on Compact pole with Solar panel including detailed description

Interested Manufactures / Distributers are requested to submit the quotations to Vijayawada Municipal Corporation office on or before 14-06-2021 by 4:00 PM through post / in person.

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Phone: 2208 2777 / 2900

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Date: 03.06.2021

Postgraduate Diploma in Materials Science.

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Sd/-**Administrative Officer**

days, the sources said. PTI MF houses can invest \$1 billion overseas: SEBI billion, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said. The rise in the share of their corpus for foreign securities. PTI

SAP aims to build largest business network

said on Thursday.

"So, those are the three



Chola eyes 3-pronged strategy

'Focus is on frontline productivity, talent, 'lean' process'

Vellayan Subbiah

broad areas we are looking at in terms of improvement across the system," he said. In terms of broader strate-

gy, he hinted Chola was looking at more successful models such as HDFC and Bajaj Finserv. "It requires further broadening of the portfolio in terms of what we offer, and which is what all of the successful guys have done."

On Chola's participation in Vishwakarma Payments Pvt. Ltd. that has applied for

licence for retail payments with the RBI, he said, "If you look at financial services firms, four of the 10 largest such firms in the world are basically involved in payments in some form or shape. "So we see that as a very

a new umbrella entity (NUE)

core fundamental platform on the top of which other things are built. And therefore, we see it's important that we at least have the opportunity to participate in that platform." He added that it was difficult to predict the business trend and prospects for the full year given the uncertainties. "Our thinking is April and

May will be bad and then, hopefully, things will turn around in June. And that's predominantly driven by the lockdowns, affecting both earnings potential and also our collections capability."

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research invites applications for one-year programme of

(An Autonomous Institute under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India

Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research

Details of the programme, eligibility and application form are available online: Last date for receipt of completed application form through email: 05.07.2021

Injured Barty limps out of Paris, Djokovic cruises past Cuevas

Federer outclasses Cilic, but becomes entangled in a rare dispute with a chair umpire; Bopanna and Skugor make the doubles third round

ROLAND GARROS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

World No. 1 and former champion Ashleigh Barty limped out of Roland Garros on Thursday, throwing the battle for the women's title wide open as Novak Diokovic eased into the third round for the 16th straight year.

Top seed Barty, already suffering from a left hip injury, retired injured midway through the second set of her second-round match against Poland's 45th-ranked Magda Linette.

The Australian, who won the title on her last visit to Roland Garros in 2019, left the court for medical treatment after losing the first set

She then called it quits at 2-2 in the second set on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Djokovic continued his bid for a 19th Grand Slam title

with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas.

Roger Federer became entangled in a rare running dispute with a chair umpire before safely securing his place in the last 32.

Federer saw off Marin Cilic for the 10th time in 11 meetings, winning 6-2, 2-6, 7-6(4), 6-2 but only after a second set bust-up with umpire Emmanuel Joseph.

The 20-time Grand Sam title winner was handed a time violation at 1-3 down in the for taking too long between points.

"I don't even dare to go my towel anymore," he said to Joseph.

Federer, the oldest man in the draw at 39, lost his cool and the set before recovering to defeat former world number three Cilic.

Former US Open winner Cilic was also handed a time warning late in the third set. Rohan Bopanna and CroaFrances Tiafoe and Nicholas Monroe. Earlier on Wednesday, Serena Williams survived a scare to extend her latest bid for an elusive 24th Grand

tian Franko Skugor advanced

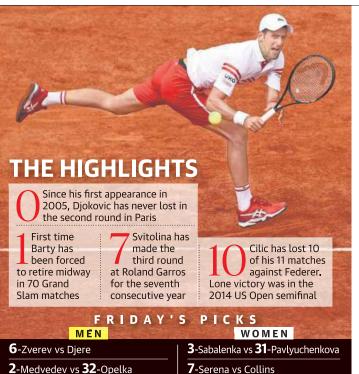
to the third round with a 6-4

7-5 win over Americans

Slam singles title with a three-set victory over Mihaela Buzarnescu, while men's fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas and world number two Daniil Medvedev also reached the third round.

Medvedev bounced back from losing the first set to American Tommy Paul in style by romping to a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 victory.

Naomi said she didn't feel comfortable not to do something for her own personal health. And the backlash is ridiculous



7-Serena vs Collins

15-Azarenka vs 23-Keys

focused. I thought the third set was very difficult for me because he lifted the level of his game DJOKOVIC after his

[Fremained]

It's disappointing to end like this. I've had my fair share of tears this week. It's all good, everything happens for a reason. There will be a silver lining in this eventually BARTY after her withdrawal in the

second round

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Second round: Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Pablo Cuevas (Uru) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; 8-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Marin Cilic (Cro) 6-2, 2-6, 7-6(4), 6-2; 9-Matteo Berrettini (Ita) bt Federico Coria (Arg) 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; Dominik Koepfer (Ger) bt 30-Taylor Fritz (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4; 18-Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt Gianluca Mager (Ita) 6-1, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Mikael Ymer (Swe) bt 14-Gael Monfils (Fra) 6-0, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; 10-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Aljaz Bedene (Slo) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) bt 24-Aslan Karatsev (Rus) 6-3, 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-1; Marco Cecchinato (Ita) bt 21-Alex De Minaur

(Aus) 6-4, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1. Women: Magda Linette (Pol) bt 1-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) 6-1, 2-2, retd.; 25-Ons Jabeur (Tun) bt Astra Sharma (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; 24-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Wang Qiang (Chn) 6-3, 7-6(1); Sloane Stephens (USA) bt 9-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) 7-5, 6-1; 18-Karolina Muchova (Cze) bt Varvara Lepchenko (USA) 6-3, 6-4; Bar-

bora Krejcikova (Cze) bt 32-Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) 6-2, 6-3; 5-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Ann Li (USA) 6-0, 6-4; 4-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Hailey Baptiste (USA) 7-5, 6-3; 17-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt Jasmine Paolini (ITA)

Wednesday's results. Men: 22-Christian Garín (Chi) bt Mackenzie McDonald (USA) 4-6, 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-3, 8-6; 2-

6-4, 6-3 7-Serena Williams (USA) bt Mihaela Buzarnescu (Rou) 6-3, 5-7, 6-1; 3-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Aliaksandra Sasnovich (Blr) 7-5, 6-3.

Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt

Tommy Paul (USA) 3-6, 6-1,

Fallen seeds

- *Men:* 14-Monfils, 21-De Minaur, 24-Karatsev, 30-
- Women: 1-Barty, 9-Pliskova, 32-Alexandrova

The Indians have landed



'Hello Southampton!' The Indian teams, which arrived in England, will undergo mandatory quarantine. ■ JASPRIT BUMRAH/TWITTER

INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LONDON

The Indian men's cricket team arrived here on Thursday for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand and the subsequent Test series against England.

The men's team was accompanied by the women's side which is touring England for three One-Day Internationals and as many T20s besides the one-off Test, starting in Bristol on

"Touchdown," top-order batsman K.L. Rahul tweeted with a picture of the chartered flight in the background, confirming their safe arrival.

Both teams reached Southampton, where they will complete their mandatory quarantine.

Upon completion of the quarantine period and subsequent COVID-19 tests, the Virat Kohli-led men's team will take on New Zealand in the maiden WTC final starting here on June 18.

Following the WT0 the men's team will face England in a five-match Test series starting on August 4 in Nottingham.

India is travelling with an extended 20-member squad keeping the COVID-19 pandemic in mind. The women's team's tour ends on July 15.

CoI complaint against Rupa upheld

5-Tsitsipas vs **31**-Isner (night session)

The ethics officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has upheld a conflict of interest complaint against Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) president Rupa Gurunath.

Rupa, daughter of former BCCI chief N. Srinivasan, became the first woman to a State association when she took over as the TNCA chief in September 2019. Her position was challenged by Sanjeev Gupta, a former life member of the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association. Justice (retd.) D.K. Jain, in

his verdict issued on Thursday, has stated that Rupa "has at least indirect (if not direct) interest in CSKCL, which has entered into an agreement/contract with the BCCI, thus, attracting one of the forms of conflict of interest".

Rupa is a whole-time director of India Cements Ltd. (ICL), while Chennai Super Kings Cricket Limited (CSKCL) owns the IPL franchise. As per the verdict, Rupa "... in her capacity as the whole time director and promoter of ICL, has close association with the Trustees of IC Shareholders Trust and the Directors of CSKCL."

The ethics officer has directed the BCCI to follow its rulebook. If it is adhered to, the TNCA president will have to step down from her

Conway joins Test debut 200-club

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New Zealand opener Devon Conway made exactly 200 on Test debut before he was the last man out in a first innings total of 378 on the second day of the series opener against England at Lord's on Thursday. England was 111 for two in reply at close.

The South Africa-born left-hander was in sight of

becoming the very first batsman in the 144-year history of Test cricket to carry the bat in the first knock when he was run out, ending a stay of more than nine-anda-half hours.

Conway was only the seventh batsman to make a double hundred on Test Debutant paceman Ollie

Robinson took four wickets.



SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: Tom Latham b Robinson 23, Devon Conway run out 200, Kane Williamson b Anderson 13, Ross Taylor lbw b Robinson 14, Henry Nicholls c Robinson b Wood 61, B-J. Watling c Sibley b Wood 1, Colin de Grandhomme lbw b Robinson O, Mitchell Santner c Anderson b Wood O, Kyle Jamieson c Crawley b Robinson 9, Tim Southee c Bracey b An-

derson 8, Neil Wagner (not out) 25; Extras (b-7, lb-15, nb-2): 24; Total (in 122.4 overs): 378.

114, 4-288, 5-292, 6-293, 7-294, 8-317, 9-338. England bowling: Anderson 28-7-83-2, Broad 27-5-79-0, Robin-

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-86, 3-

81-3, Root 12.4-1-38-0.

son 28-6-75-4, Wood 27-8-

England - 1st innings: Rory

Burns (batting) 59. Dom Siblev lbw b Jamieson O. Zak Crawley c Watling b Southee 2, Joe Root (batting) 42; Extras (b-2, lb-1, nb-5): 8; Total (for two wkts. in 43 overs): 111.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-18. New Zealand bowling: Southee 11-4-17-1, Jamieson 10-4-29-1, de Grandhomme 9-3-12-0, Wagner 10-1-36-0, Santner 3-1-

Dinesh Karthik to get behind the mike at WTC final

Says he can bring to the table things like technique, strategy

S. DINAKAR

The man with different strokes can play different roles - in front of the mike or behind it.

Dinesh Karthik will be seen in the role of a television commentator in the World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand.

Karthik told The Hindu on Thursday, "I was a bit fortunate the way it came to me. I think I can bring to the table things like technique and

Knowing the players

And, he can provide insight into players' minds. "I have played with the cricketers in both teams, know the way they think and will try to get into their heads.'

New Zealand was a very good side but India had the firepower, Karthik said. "We have a potent pace attack. And if we can build partnerships, I see no reason why we cannot win.

Karthik may be in the commentary box for the big game, but he hasn't given up on his India dreams.

The thought of playing for India again fires him up. "The passion is still there. The prospect of playing for

growth of women's cricket

Dinesh Karthik. ■ FILE РНОТО

the country again in whiteball cricket is what keeps me

Karthik revealed he had made peace with the fact that he might not play Test cricket again. "But I am gung-ho about my chances of figuring in the World Twenty20 championship. If I have a good IPL in September-October, I could get picked."

The street-smart Karthik averages 33.25 for India in Twenty20 Internationals at a worthy strike rate of 143.52. These are very good numbers.

And he has conjured up nuggets such as his stunning eight-ball unbeaten 29 in the Nidahas tri-series final in Co-

Vijeylaxmi, Harini chosen for ICC programme

His innings included a sensational last ball six - a whip-drive over extra cover off Bangladesh seamer Soumya Sarkar – when India needed five.

"That was a life-changing innings," Karthik remembered with a smile. He had donned the role of a finisher to perfection.

Karthik is suited for that role with his composure under pressure and rapier-like blows that can scuttle bowling plans and scatter field

Fitting the bill

He is 36, but talk about age and he shows his displeasure. "We live in an era where fitness parameters are set for a cricketer. You have to clear those fitness tests to be picked in the Indian team. So, if you are fit, where is the question of

Whether leading Tamil Nadu to title triumph in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Twenty20 championship or knocking up quick runs for Kolkata Knight Riders, or plucking a gravity-defying catch with the big gloves, Karthik is a man of action.

And he still has gas left in

after coaching Tamil Nadu's

Under-19 girls' team for a

vear, will be mentored by

Australian umpire Claire Po-

losak. "I am looking forward

HOPING FOR A MIRACLE

A look at the teams that can cause a flutter but will find it tough to go the distance at Euro 2020



GOALKEEPERS: Yuri Dyupin, Matvei Safonov,

DEFENDERS: Georgi Dzhikiya, Igor Diveev, Yuri Zhirkov, Vyacheslav Karavaev, Fedor Kudryashov, Andrei Semenov, Mario Fernandes

MIDFIELDERS: Dmitri Barinov, Rifat Zhemaletdinov, Maksim Mukhin, Aleksandr Golovin, Daniil Fomin, Roman Zobnin, Alexei Ionov, Daler Kuzyayev, Andrei Mostovoy, Magomed Ozdoev, Denis Makarov, Aleksei Miranchuk, Denis Cheryshev

FORWARDS: Artem Dzyuba, Anton Zabolotny, Aleksandr Sobolev

SLOVAKIA

GOALKEEPERS:

DEFENDERS: Peter

Pekarik, Lubomir Satka, Denis Vavro,

Milan Skriniar, Tomas Hubocan, David

Hancko, Martin Koscelník, Martin Valjent

MIDFIELDERS: Marek Hamsik, Stanislav

Ondrej Duda, Robert Mak, Vladimír Weiss,

Lobotka, Patrik Hrosovsky, Juraj Kucka,

Laszlo Benes, Lukas Haraslin, Jakub

Hromada, Tomas Suslov, Jan Gregus

FORWARDS: Michal Duris, Robert

FORM GUIDE: L | D | D | W | D

FIRST MATCH: June 14 vs Poland,

Winner 1976 (as Czechoslovakia)

Bozeník, Ivan Schranz

COACH: Stefan Tarkovic

St. Petersburg, 9.30 p.m.

EURO APPEARANCES: 4

BEST PERFORMANCE:

DID YOU KNOW?

Martin Dubravka.

Marek Rodak, Dusan



FIRST MATCH: June 13 vs Belgium, St. Petersburg,

EURO APPEARANCES: 11

KNOW? Russia has no won in five Euro finals games, its las victory a 4-1 demolition of Czech Repub

management professional Harini Rana - have been selected as India's representatives for the ICC 100% Crick-Future Programme. The programme, accord-

and women in cricket". While Vijeylaxmi will be a Two Indians - match referee part of the 20 women who Vijeylaxmi Narasimhan and will be mentored in the first media person-turned-sportsbatch starting September, Harini will be the lone Indian in the second batch from November. Vijeylaxmi, a former Tamil Nadu player, has been a Leaders

> referee for the past three years after she cleared the exams in 2018. She has officiated in an international women's quadrangular T20 series in Patna featuring India A, B, Bangladesh and



Vijeylaxmi. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thailand national teams, apart from two TNPL matches in 2019. Vijeylaxmi, who became a certified BCCI match referee since 2018-19

to learning about the skills, professional ethics and domain knowledge," Vijeylaxmi told The Hindu. "It gives me a platform to develop myself and make an impactful contribution to women in sports, something that I am passionate about," Harini said. Veteran journalist Sharda Ugra has also been

'Olympics certain to go ahead'

Only a major outbreak will shut the door on fans: Games chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The Tokyo Olympics are "100%" certain to go ahead, the chief organiser said on Thursday, but warned that a major coronavirus outbreak mid-Games could slam the door shut on fans.

Tokyo 2020 president Seiko Hashimoto made the comments exactly 50 days before the pandemic-postponed Olympics, which remain plagued by public opposition.

"I believe that the possibility of these Games going on is 100% that we will do this," Hashimoto told BBC



Sport, adding that fans could be locked out during the

"The biggest challenge for

us will be how we can control and manage the flow of people who flock to the venues," said Hashimoto.

Milkha admitted to hospital again

roped in as a mentor for Ro-

berta Morretti Avery (Brazil).

CHANDIGARH

Track legend Milkha Singh, who had tested positive for COVID-19 two weeks ago. was on Thursday admitted to the ICU in COVID hospital of Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. "He was admitted to the

ICU due to dipping levels of oxygen. "He has been kept under

observation and is stable now," said Prof. Ashok Kumar, Spokesperson, PGIM-ER, Chandigarh.

A ND-NDE

that won the 1976 edition were Euro 2016 and Nations League

June 11 - July 11

FORM GUIDE: L | L | W | W | L

BEST PERFORMANCE: Winner 1960 (as USSR)

DEFENDERS: Manuel Akanii, Loris Benito, Erav Coemert, Nico Elvedi, Jordan Lotomba, Kevin Mbabu, Becir Omeragic, Ricardo

SWITZERLAND

GOALKEEPERS: Yvon

Mvogo, Jonas Omlin,

Rodriguez, Fabian Schaer, Silvan Widmer MIDFIELDERS: Christian Fassnacht, Edimilson Fernandes, Remo Freuler, Mario Gavranovic, Admir Mehmedi Granit Xhaka, Denis Zakaria, Djibril Sow,

Ruben Vargas FORWARDS: Breel Embolo, Xherdan Shaqiri, Haris Seferovic, Steven Zuber

COACH: Vladimir Petkovic

FORM GUIDE: D | W | W | W | W **FIRST MATCH:** June 12 vs Wales, Baku, 6.30 p.m.

EURO APPEARANCES: 4 BEST PERFORMANCE: Pre-quarterfinals 2016

DID YOU KNOW? Switzerland has successfully negotiated every group stage match at the 2014 and 2018 World Cups,



lic in its Euro 2012 opener **HUNGARY**

GOALKEEPERS:

Peter Gulacsi,

Adam Boqdan

Denes Dibusz. **DEFENDERS:** Gergo Lovrencsics, Adam Lang, Attila Fiola, Willi Orban, Attila Szalai, Endre

MIDFIELDERS/FORWARDS: Adam Holender, David Siger, Loic Nego, Daniel Gazdag, Andras Schafer, Tamas Cseri, Adam Szalai, Nemanja Nikolic, Roland Sallai, Roland Varga, Kevin

Varga, Janos Hahn, Szabolcs Schon

Botka, Akos Kecskes, Bendeguz Bolla

COACH: Marco Rossi FORM GUIDE:

D | W | D | W | W FIRST MATCH: June 15 vs Portugal, Budapest, 9.30 p.m.

EURO APPEARANCES: 3

BEST PERFORMANCE:

Third place 1964

DID YOU KNOW? Hungary got to two of the first four als, in 1964 and 1972, but didn't qualify again until 2016

COMPILED BY S.V. SRIRAM | SOURCE: UEFA/AGENCIES

AMOL KARHADKAR S. DIPAK RAGAV

ing to a statement by the In-

ternational Cricket Council,

is the world cricket govern-

ing body's "long-term com-

mitment to accelerate the

TV PICKS

Roland-Garros: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.. **England vs New Zealand:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m

IN BRIEF



take over as Inter coach

Inter Milan appointed Simone Inzaghi as coach on Thursday, signing him to a two-year contract. Inzaghi replaces Antonio Conte, who left Inter last month after leading the club to its first Serie A title in more than a decade. AF



Benteke extends Crystal Palace deal

Belgium striker Christian Benteke said he is "happy and proud" to have committed his future to Premier League side Crystal Palace after signing a two-year extension on Thursday. AFP

Lukaku rules out Inter Milan exit

Romelu Lukaku confirmed on Wednesday he intended to stay with Serie A champion Inter Milan next season. Lukaku's future was in doubt after coach Antonio Conte's departure, but the Belgian striker said he did not envisage any problems with new coach Simone Inzaghi.

Ramkumar loses to Berretini

Ramkumar Ramanathan lost 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 to qualifier Jacopo Berretini of Italy in the pre-quarterfinals of the €44,820 Challenger tennis tournament in Biella, Italy, on Thursday. Ramkumar collected seven ATP points and €730.



76ers, Hawks and Jazz advance

LOS ANGELES

Philadelphia 76ers, Atlanta Hawks and Utah Jazz powered into the conference semifinals of the NBA playoffs on Wednesday while an electrifying display by Luka Doncic took Dallas Mavericks to the brink of a series victory. The results: EC: Washington

Wizards 112 lost to Philadelphia 76ers 129 (Sixers win series 4-1): Atlanta Hawks 103 bt New York Knicks 89 (Hawks win 4-1).

WC: Memphis Grizzlies 110 lost to Utah Jazz 126 (Jazz wins 4-1); Dallas Mavericks 105 bt Los Angeles Clippers 100 (Mavericks lead 3-2).

Sindhu backs training at the Gachibowli Stadium



Rapt attention: P.V. Sindhu listens intently to what Korean coach Park Tae Sang has to offer at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. • FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

When you have facilities why not use them, asks champion shuttler

BADMINTON

RAKESH RAO NEW DELHI

World Champion P.V. Sindhu looks to continue training outside the Gopi Chand Academy even after the Tokyo Olympics.

In mid-February this year, Sindhu shifted her training base to the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad to train under Korean coach Park Tae

"When we have facilities of international standard, why not use that? If you want to compete against the topclass players, you have to make sure everything is perfect. Gachibowli is a bigger, international-level stadium. Wherever we go, we will al-

ways be playing in a bigger stadium, then why not get used to it?" said Sindhu during a virtual press conference on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy along with their Danish coach Mathias Boe also moved to Gachibowli Stadium. B. Sai Praneeth, under Indonesian coach Agus Dwi Santoso, continues to train at the Academy.

Talking about her training, Sindhu elaborated, "I do on-court sessions at Gachibowli. My gym and off-court sessions take place at Suchitra Academy, where my trainer gives me training. He is really helping me out. If I need sparring partners, I get them from Suchitra Academy."

Underlining the factors that led to training in the stadium, Sindhu said, "When you play in a big stadium, you make sure you control the shuttle, which is very, very important. Sometimes, when you play abroad, there is drift, there is AC or the shuttle might be just fast. Also, I am learning new skills and techniques."

Praise for Park About training with Park Tae Sang, Sindhu said, "When I started training under Park (one and half years ago), it was not easy to grasp what he was teaching. We practised each day and the communication got better. He is always supporting and motivating me. He is doing a great job.'

Looking at the likely field in the absence of defending champion Carolina Marin in Tokyo, Sindhu said, "You can't take it easy. There are a lot of good players like Tai Tzu-Ying, Ratchanok, Okuhara, Yamaguchi and others. Those ranked from 1 and 10, have the same standard. I have to be prepared.

"When I started off this vear, it wasn't too great for me because of the big gap due to lockdown. But I came back and rectified my mistakes. I played the All-England and improved on my game. Attack is my strong point but I'm also focusing a

Humpy qualifies for Candidates

Books berth with runner-up finish at Grand Prix

CHESS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

In her long career Koneru Humpy has notched up several remarkable achievements. But, what she did on Wednesday night merits special attention. Or, rather, what she achieved without doing anything, to be precise.

She qualified for the Candidates tournament - the winner of which will earn the right to challenge the World chess champion – after she finished second in the FIDE Women's Grand Prix overall standings.

Special

What makes the feat special is that she did it without playing one of the three legs she had chosen from the series of four. Humpy chose to skip the Gibraltar leg, which concluded on Wednesday, because of travel concerns in the time of the COVID-19

When she played in the



Koneru Humpy. ■K.V.S. GIRI

first two legs – at Skolkovo (Russia) and Monaco - the coronavirus hadn't yet raised its ugly head. She won the first leg and was runnerup in the second.

She had 293 points from those two legs. A top-three finish in the third could have fetched her the Grand Prix title, but she had, of course, chosen not to play.

She, however, finished runner-up in the GP series to Russia's Alexandra Goryachkina (398 points); she had chosen Lausanne as the

third leg, which was played in March last year, shortly before the world went into lockdown.

Humpy has no regrets at having missed Gibraltar. She is, actually, relieved that she has qualified for next year's Candidates.

"I was closely following the Gibraltar tournament and am relieved and happy that the results went my way," the World No. 3 told The Hindu over phone. "It feels great that I have qualified for the Candidates on my Grand Prix performance alone."

Calculated risk

Even if she hadn't, there would have been chances at the World Cup or Grand Swiss or by virtue of her Elo rating. "But I could not have taken anything for granted and I could have missed out, too," she said. "Yes, I was taking a risk by not going to Gibraltar, But I had to take that decision. Life is not just about playing chess, you

Indian official kits for Tokyo Games unveiled

Contingent expected to return with at least 10 medals

OLYMPICS

UTHRA GANESAN NEW DELHI

Indian officials expect at least 25 more athletes to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics by the end of June and the contingent to return with at least 10 medals from the Games.

So far 100 athletes have qualified, including the two hockey teams.

"We are estimating to touch 125 to 135 by the time the qualification process is over. This means the Indian contingent, including officials and support staff, is likely to be around 190," IOA president Narinder Batra said during a virtual unveiling of the Indian sports and ceremonial uniforms for the

It also marked the 50-day countdown to the Games, scheduled to open on July



New look: Indian sports and ceremonial uniforms for Tokyo which were unveiled on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

23. Only a handful of qualified athletes were present physically on the occasion – including Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya, Sumit Malik and Seema Bis-

The sports kits are sponsored by Li Ning while the ceremonial kits are by

Raymonds.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju assured of full support from the ministry and SAI in accelerating the vaccination programme for the qualified/ probable athletes in time for their departure to

"The IOC will issue an up-

dated Playbook later (but) we have to follow all the health and safety protocols in view of the pandemic," Rijiju said.

PM reviews preparations Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting to review India's Olympics preparations and was apprised with various steps taken for athletes' training.

While most of the athletes and officials have managed one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, the Prime Minister has directed complete vaccination for all athletes, staff and officials travelling to To-

He would also be connecting with the Olympic contingent through video-conference in July. Regular video interactions with their families are planned for all athletes during the Olympics.

Harikrishna and Vidit confirmed

Duo gained spot owing to withdrawal of seeded players

RAKESH RAO

Grandmasters P. Harikrish-

Harikrishna and Vidit, the seeded players.

The confirmation from FIDE also helped All India Chess Federation nominate B. Adhiban – the highest

ranked Indian after Viswanathan Anand, Harikrishna and Vidit – for the World

countries to nominate a player each apart from those already qualified.

Anand, a two-time champion who enjoyed a direct seeding, will not partici-

rishna, Vidit, Adhiban, Ara-

vindh Chithambaram and P. Iniyan. An additional 'wild card' entry cannot be ruled out. In the 103-player women's section, as reported earlier, it will be K. Humpy, D. Harika, Padmini Rout, Bhakti Kulkarni and P. Vaishali.

The squad will be accompanied by two trainers, GMs Abhijit Kunte and N. Sri-

Players like Harikrishna, Vidit, Humpy and Harika are likely to get a first-round bye. The on-board action commences on July 12.

for World Cup

na and Vidit Gujrathi have received confirmation from the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to be part of the World Cup beginning in Sochi from July 10.

ranked 20 and 22, gained the berths that fell vacant owing to the withdrawal of

In all, FIDE allows 91

Anand gives it a miss

As a result, in the 206player men's field, India will be represented by P. Harik-

Turf clubs liable to pay GST only on commission received for service of totalisator: HC

Court strikes down GST rules levying tax on entire 100% face value

RACING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU In a judgement that gives a major tax relief to turf clubs, the High Court of Karnataka has declared that the clubs are liable for payment of GST only on the commission that they receive for the service that they render

through the totalisator. The court said that the clubs are not liable to pay GST on the entire 100% of the face value of the bet or amount paid into the totalisator while striking down the Rule 31A(3) of the Central GST Rules, 2017 and the corresponding Rule 31A of the Karnataka GST Rules,

Justice M. Nagaprasanna delivered the verdict on June 2 while allowing the petitions filed in 2018 by the Bangalore Turf Club Ltd and



the Mysore Race Club Ltd questioning the legality of these rules, which came into effect from January 23, 2018.

The court said the rules are contrary to the provisions of the GST Act as "the totalisator is brought under a taxable event without it being so defined under the act nor power being conferred in terms of the charging section, which renders the rule being made beyond the provisions of the act." The court also said that the two petitioner clubs are entitled for all consequential benefits that flow from this verdict.

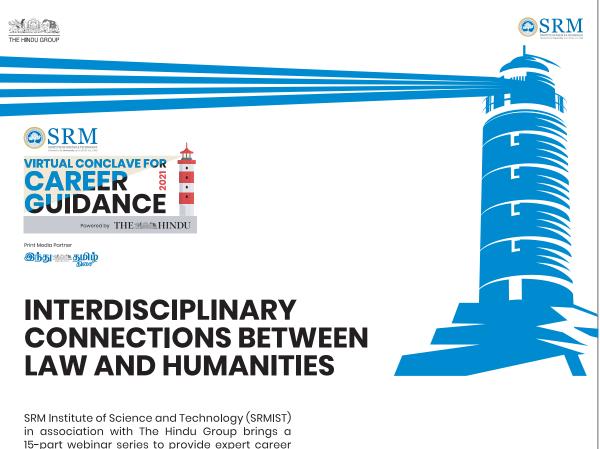
The act, the court said, which deals with supply of goods, consideration, business "would not apply to the function of the totalisator."

"Making the entire bet amount that is received by the totalisator liable for payment of GST would take

away the principle that a tax can be only on the basis of consideration even under the CGST," the court said.

"The consideration that the petitioners (turf clubs) receive is by way of commission for planting a totalisator. This can be nothing different from that of a stock broker or a travel agent both of whom are liable to pay GST only on the income - commission that they earn and not on all the monies that pass through them," said the court.

Stating that betting is neither in the course of business nor in furtherance of business of a race club for the purposes of the GST Act, the court said that clubs hold the amount received in the totalisator for a brief period in its fiduciary capacity, for which the consideration the clubs receive is the commission.



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