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**NEARBY**



**Active COVID cases fall below 5,000 in Delhi**

NEW DELHI  
 The downward trend in COVID-19 cases continued in Delhi with active cases falling below 5,000 on Tuesday, said a health bulletin released by the government. The city reported 316 new cases over 24 hours, taking the total to 14,29,791.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

**Involve RWAs in vaccine drive, HC tells Centre**

NEW DELHI  
 The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to "seriously consider" involving Residents' Welfare Associations in organising vaccination drives within their respective colonies. "The Centre should seriously consider this proposal at the earliest," the court said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

**Ladakh reserves all jobs for local residents**

SRINAGAR  
 All jobs in the Union Territory of Ladakh have been reserved for local residents, stated an order issued on Tuesday. "No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the UT of Ladakh," read the order issued by L-G R.K. Mathur.

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## Centre places fresh orders for 44 cr. COVID-19 vaccine doses

Govt. also books 30 crore doses of vaccine under trial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The Centre has placed fresh orders for 44 crore vaccine doses of Covishield and Covaxin, which will be available from August-December. It has also placed an order for 30 crore doses from Hyderabad-based Biological E for its in-development protein subunit vaccine.

"All together 74 crore doses have been secured for use from August onwards," Dr. V.K. Paul, Chairman, National Empowered Group on Vaccination, said in a press statement on Tuesday. Until July, 53 crore vaccine doses – including 23.5 crore

**Plan of Action**

- In addition to 25 crore doses of Covishield and 19 crore doses of Covaxin, the Health Ministry has also placed an order for 30 crore doses of Corbevax, produced by Hyderabad-based Biological E
- It has released 30% as advance to these manufacturers and 74 crore doses are expected to be rolled out between August and December
- Corbevax is a protein subunit vaccine developed by the U.S.-based Baylor College of Medicine and Dynavax, a biopharmaceutical company. Biological E will be testing the vaccine in phase-3 clinical trials
- India has a target adult population of 94 crore that is eligible for vaccination, and 28.5 crore doses have already been administered

already administered – were expected from Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech.

If all the estimates were to come to fruition, it would mean 127 crore doses could be available, enough to en-

sure India's estimated population of about 94 crore gets one dose of vaccine.

However, a lot depends on the speed at which vaccines are disbursed.

After a lacklustre May that saw vaccine stocks and im-

## Price cap on jobs at private hospitals

The maximum price chargeable for Covishield is ₹780, for Covaxin ₹1,410 and for Sputnik V ₹1,145, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday. The Centre said it would continue to give the "highest priority" to healthcare workers for vaccination. ▶ PAGE 10

munisation plummet, the number of daily doses have started to rise after May 29, touching over 30 lakh on several days.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
 MORE REPORTS PAGES ▶ 5, 9 & 10

## 'Ensure no break in studies of children hit by pandemic'

Supreme Court accepts amicus curiae's suggestion

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the States and the Union Territories to ensure there is no break in the education of children orphaned due to COVID-19.

"The State governments/ Union Territories are directed to make provisions for continuance of education of the children both in government as well as in private schools," a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Anirudha Bose ordered.

The order, published on Tuesday, came after amicus curiae, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, voiced concerns that these children may have to discontinue their education because of lack of funds, and familial care.



Mr. Agrawal had recommended the court to intervene and direct the States to make sure that the children impacted by the pandemic continue in the same school. He said the States should be asked to pass directions that even children studying in private schools should continue in the same institutions for at least the next six months until some further

arrangements could be worked out.

"We accept the suggestion made by the amicus curiae. The State government/ Union Territory administrations should ensure that there is no break in the education of children who have become orphans or lost either parent during the pandemic," the Supreme Court ordered.

The Bench said it would examine other issues related to COVID-19 impacted children, including protection of their property rights of the children, their further education and employment opportunities and special care to be taken in respect of the girl child. These issues would be taken up in the next hearing on June 27.

## Nepal stops distribution of Coronil kits

Order says procedures not followed during procurement

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
 NEW DELHI

Nepal's Department of Ayurveda and Alternative Medicines on Monday stopped distribution of Coronil kits that were gifted by the Patanjali group of Indian yoga teacher and businessman Ramdev.

Kathmandu's order cited

that proper procedures were not followed while procuring the 1,500 kits of Coronil that Patanjali claims are useful in dealing with the COVID-19 infection.

**Move to 'delink'**  
 The issue has drawn attention as it is being interpreted as a move to delink the lead-

ing Madhesi political families from the Indian group.

The latest order of the Government of Nepal says, the tablets and nasal oil that are part of the Coronil kit are not equivalent to medicines to defeat COVID-19 virus.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Free rice offer boosts vaccination drive

Circle officer in Arunachal hit upon idea to push those above 45 years to take jab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 GUWAHATI

An administrative circle in Arunachal Pradesh has scaled up vaccination among those above 45 years of age with a free rice offer.

Rumours about COVID-19 vaccines causing impotency and microchips being injected through them have de-

terred many in the North-east, specifically those above 45 years, from taking the jab. Requests and threats have not worked in districts such as Baksa in Assam, which have among the lowest vaccination coverage in India.

Tashi Wangchuk Thongdok, the circle officer of Yazali in Lower Subansiri district

of Arunachal Pradesh, hit upon the idea of giving 20 kg of rice free to each person aged 45-plus who came forward to get inoculated. The offer worked. More than 50 persons turned up on Monday for vaccination despite heavy rain.

"We have been working on various strategies to improve

the vaccination coverage in the Yazali circle. We wish to continue giving away free rice until we achieve 100% coverage by June 20," Mr. Thongdok, a 2016-batch officer of Arunachal Pradesh Civil Service, said. He thanked two local activists – Taba Nagu and Lich Birbal – for donating the rice for distribution.

## Mammoth task



**Safety first:** Nasal swab being collected from an elephant at a camp in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve to test for COVID-19. A lioness died of suspected coronavirus infection in Vandalur zoo, prompting the forest department to conduct more tests. ■ M. SATHYAMOORTHY

## New Election Commissioner appointed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday appointed Anup Chandra Pandey, a retired Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer, to the post of Election Commissioner. The Law Ministry notified the appointment late on Tuesday evening.

Following the elevation of Sushil Chandra as the CEC, the position of an EC was vacant since April 13.

## JNU in list of top 1,000 varsities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
 NEW DELHI

JNU has entered the top 1,000 of the QS World University rankings for the first time, as its new undergraduate engineering programme now makes it eligible for the rating.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 8

## I thank Your Honour, schoolgirl tells CJI

She cites steps to handle pandemic; CJI lauds letter

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
 NEW DELHI

A 10-year-old Kerala schoolgirl has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana, saying how "happy and proud" she felt to see the Supreme Court make vital interventions to alleviate the sufferings of her fellow citizens in the grip of the pandemic.

"I am happy and feel proud your honourable court has moved orders for supply of oxygen and saved many lives. I understood your honourable court has initiated effective steps in bringing down COVID-19 and death rate in our country, especially in Delhi. I thank Your Ho-



**Thoughtful gesture:** The illustration that accompanied 10-year-old Lidwina Joseph's letter. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nour for this. Now I feel very proud and happy," Lidwina Joseph, a Class V student from Thrissur in Kerala, wrote in the letter that the Supreme Court received towards May-end.

Lidwina said she got the

news from *The Hindu*, adding that she had been "much worried" about the deaths caused by the virus.

The handwritten letter, in the form of a scroll, is accompanied by a colourful illustration showing a bespectacled

judge using his gavel to give the coronavirus a knock on its head. A portrait of the Mahatma hangs from a wall behind the judge.

Chief Justice Ramana replied to Lidwina, saying "I have received your beautiful letter along with a heart-warming illustration of the judge at work". He conveyed that she was impressed by the way she kept track of the happenings in the country.

He particularly took note of the student's concern for the well-being of her compatriots. "I am sure you will grow up into an alert, informed and responsible citizen who will contribute immensely towards nation-building," he said.

Chief Justice Ramana also sent her a signed copy of the Constitution.

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## Eyewitness in wrestler case moves HC for protection

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

An eyewitness in the wrestler Sagar Dhankar case has moved a writ petition in Delhi High Court, seeking protection for him and his family.

The witness claimed that nine accused have been arrested in the present case, so far.

The accused — Mohit, Bhubender, Manjeet and Gulab — have previous involvements in heinous cases; all of them are from Haryana. They were called by accused Sushil Kumar during the brawl.

During investigation, it is learnt that some of the accused persons are members of dreaded gangs operating in Delhi and adjoining States.

On June 2, the HC gave directions to take steps under the witness protection scheme, 2018 before the competent authority.

### 'Sushil is influential'

The witness claimed that the accused, Sushil Kumar, is an international wrestler, rich and is an influential person. There is an apprehension that the accused may cause harm to the victims/witnesses in the case. The case is very sensitive and widely covered by the media.

In view of the above, there is very much apprehension that the accused persons may cause any harm to the above-mentioned star witnesses of the case. It is, therefore, requested that adequate security may please be provided to the above-mentioned victims of the case as per the provisions of Delhi Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, as per Delhi HC order.

## Sushil Kumar seeks special food in jail

Court to pronounce its order today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court will pronounce its order on Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar's application seeking special food and supplements in the prison, where he is lodged in connection with the alleged murder of a young wrestler, on Wednesday.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Satvir Singh Lamba reserved the order after hearing the contentions of prosecution and defence at length. Sushil, who is facing charges of murder, culpable homicide and kidnapping, is currently lodged in Delhi's Mandoli jail.

In the plea, Sushil's counsels advocate Pradeep Rana, Kumar Vaibhaw and Satwik Misra stated that their client takes supplements like isolate whey protein, omega 3 capsules, jointment capsules, pre-workout C4 and hyde, multivitamin GNC, exercises bands etc.

The application added that denial of these basic re-



Wrestler Sushil Kumar on his way to court. ■ FILE PHOTO

quirements will have a huge implication on his career, as the special nutrition diet and supplements are extremely necessary for him to maintain his health and performance.

However, the jail authorities in their reply to the court have stated that Sushil's medical condition does not require food supplements or an extra protein diet as an "additional diet".

Advocate Rana said that the special diet and supplements have been sought at Sushil's personal expenses and not of the jail authorities.

## Policemen find it tough to ensure social distancing in busy markets

District police also deployed to manage traffic: over 1,200 fined on Day 1 of 'unlock'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The police on Tuesday said they are finding it "tough" to ensure social distancing in busy markets since the unlock process, which began on Monday.

"We are finding it tough to maintain social distancing in busy markets. Shopkeepers are making all efforts to maintain social distancing, but vendors are not following rules. We are imposing fines on them but people also need to be aware of the rules and follow them," said an officer.

The police said traffic has also increased.

### Barricades removed

"Apart from traffic police, District police have also been deployed in traffic management. During morning and evening hours, traffic jam was reported on several stretches," said the officer, adding that they had to remove barricades at ma-



Office-goers boarding a bus from the Seemapuri bus depot on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ny places to ensure smooth movement of vehicles.

Police personnel was deployed at liquor shops as well to maintain social distancing.

On Monday, the police fined over 1,200 people for not adhering to COVID guidelines. According to data shared by the police, a total of 1,285 challans were issued on Monday. Of them, 1,053 were for not wearing masks,

229 for not maintaining social distancing and three against the large public gatherings or congregations.

"The process of unlocking has begun, and we urge people to follow the COVID-appropriate behaviour. Use face mask when you step out of your house, maintain social distancing and regularly sanitise hands. People should not step out of their homes unnecessarily," said

Delhi Police Additional Public Relations Officer (PRO) Anil Mittal.

A total of 1,24,196 challans have been issued from April 19 to June 7, the data showed.

While 1,04,440 people were fined for not wearing face masks, 18,034 were penalised for not maintaining social distancing, 1,529 for large public gatherings or congregations, 72 for spitting and 121 for consumption of liquor, pan, tobacco etc., it stated.

On the first day of unlocking, Delhi Police and market associations had made announcements and also distributed pamphlets to visitors, urging them to follow the guidelines.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday had announced various relaxations in the ongoing lockdown that was imposed on April 19, saying the COVID situation was improving, and the economy needs to be revived.

## Liquor vends told to deploy marshals

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has directed all liquor vends in the city to deploy marshals and staff to strictly ensure COVID-appropriate behaviour.

"All the four Government Corporations viz. DSIIDC, DTTDC, DSCSC and DCCWS shall deploy adequate marshals at all their vends [L-6 & L-8] and private licensees [L-7, L-9 & L-10] shall deploy their staff to ensure that COVID-appropriate behaviour viz. wearing of masks, maintaining social distancing, regular use of sanitiser, no consumption of liquor, pan, gutkha, tobacco, etc. shall be ensured in all the liquor shops/vends/licenses," the Excise Department said in an order issued on June 6. It also directed them to coordinate with the local administration and police to maintain security.

The department has asked all vends to follow the orders issued by the DDMA.

## Jamia student gets bail to take B.A. examination

HC sets detailed conditions for the riots accused

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has granted interim bail to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) student Asif Iqbal Tanha, arrested in connection with the north-east Delhi riots, to allow him to take his three remaining backlog examinations to complete his B.A. (Hons.) (Persian).

A Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jai-

ram Bhabhani also attached a string of conditions for Mr. Tanha to comply with, including banning him from deleting or tampering with his browsing history/cookies on the computer, or any SMS or call records from the phone, during the interim bail period.

The 25-year old was arrested in May last year for allegedly being part of a "pre-meditated conspiracy" in the riots. He has been charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The HC ordered that Mr. Tanha be released on inter-

im custody bail on June 13 by 9 a.m. and shall be brought back to prison by 6 p.m. on June 26.

During this period, Mr. Tanha will stay at a hotel in Kalkaji under the custody of two prison guards who would be deputed by the Jail Superintendent.

Mr. Tanha will have to bear all charges, costs and expenses for two rooms at the hotel, one to be occupied by him and the other to be occupied by the two deputed prison guards.

As food is not available at the hotel because of CO-

VID-19 restrictions, food for Mr. Tanha as well as for the deputed prison guards will be arranged through online apps/websites by or on behalf of Mr. Tanha at his cost and expense.

"During the period of interim custody bail, Mr. Tanha shall not invite to the said facility any visitors or guests, including family members, friends, classmates or any other person," the HC ordered.

A laptop and a basic mobile phone, which will be used during the period, will first be checked by the police.

Mr. Tanha has also been directed to provide details of the IMEI number and the name of the manufacturer service provider of dongle/mobile hotspot, to the Special Cell officials.

The HC took note that Mr. Tanha has undertaken that he will not use the laptop or the phone or the dongle/mobile hotspot device for any purpose other than for study, preparations and taking of the exams.

Mr. Tanha will be entitled to make phone calls to his family and counsel for up to a total of 10 minutes per day.

## BJP names candidates for mayoral elections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP, with a clear majority in the three municipal corporations in Delhi, on Tuesday nominated its candidates for various posts in the civic bodies.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh and Archana Dilip Singh filed their nominations for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively, of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation; Jogiram Jain for Chairman of Standing Committee, Vijay Kumar Bhagat for Vice Chairman and Shail Bihari Goswami for Leader of the House.

For the East Delhi Municipal Corporation, Shyam Sunder Agarwal and Kiran Vaid filed papers for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Veer Singh Pawar for Standing Committee Chairman, Deepak Malhotra for Vice Chairman and Satyapal Singh for Leader of the House.

For the South body, Mukesh Suryan and Pawan Sharma filed their nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Colonel B.K. Oberoi and Poonam Bhati for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee and Inderjit Shera-wat for Leader of the House.

All the BJP candidates are set to be elected on June 16.


## Constables served show-cause notices for 'amusement videos'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI


A woman head constable and a male constable — posted in Model Town police station — have been served show-cause notices for uploading amusement videos in uniforms on social media, the police said on Tuesday.

The notice, served by DCP (North-West) Usha Rangnani,

said the two officials prepared amusement videos while on duty during the lockdown and also flouted COVID guidelines by not wearing masks. "Being members of a disciplined force, their conduct appears to be unprofessional in the discharge of their official duties," the order read. The officials told to explain their conduct in the next 15 days.



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**4<sup>th</sup> Extension Notice**

Tender extension notice for NIT No. 303/PR/JBVNL/20-21 the date extension for above NIT is available on the site [www.jharkhand.gov.in](http://www.jharkhand.gov.in).

A revised Date and Time for Bid Submission and Technical Bid Opening is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Details
1	Name of Work	Supply, Installation, Operation and FMS of AMI System for consumers having load above 10 KW in JBVNL. Estimated cost Rs. 20 Crores (Rs. Twenty Crores)
3	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids	05.07.2021 at 04:00 PM
4	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	05.07.2021 at 05:00 PM

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इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित अति-अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 05/2020-21(2<sup>nd</sup> Call), जो समाचार पत्रों में P.R. No. 246649 (Drinking Water & Sanitation) 21-22(D) द्वारा प्रकाशित किया गया था, में निम्न रूप से संशोधन किया जाता है -

क्र. सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (₹० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (₹० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹० में) (Non-refundable)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	Supplying, installation and commissioning of Horizontal split casing centrifugal pump of Kirloskar/ Jyoti/ WPIL/ Mather & Platt make capable of discharging 1704 m <sup>3</sup> /hr, against a total head of 76 meters and mounted on common base plate by suitable coupling with TEFC squirrel cage induction motor of ABB/ BHEL/ Kirloskar/ Jyoti Crompton Greaves make operated on 11 KV±15%, 3 phase, 50 c/s A.C. supply having speed 950-1500 rpm including C.I.D.F. S/V and Z/V valve with RCC foundation at Clear Water (Old) Pumping Plant Rukka - 2 nos. pump sets. Supplying and laying 400 mm <sup>2</sup> 3 core AL XLPE armoured cable from pole to VCB panel - 150 mtr. with termination kit and 185 mm <sup>2</sup> 3 core XLPE armoured cable - 175 meters with termination kit from VCB to motor for above pump sets. Supplying, installation and testing 11 KV, indoor floor mounted VCB horizontal draw out type 630 Amp, 11 KV, 25 KA for 1 sec (1 no. incoming and 2 nos. outgoing) - 1 No.	1,40,58,122.29	2,81,500.00	10,000.00 (Non-refundable)	Six months

निविदा के शेष भाग तथा नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत रहेंगे।  
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PR 247652 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D) पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता यांत्रिक नागरिक प्रमंडल, राँची।

## IP University starts online admissions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The IP University on Tuesday started online admission process for the upcoming academic session and also added five new programmes. The university has over 40,000 seats available in around 150 different programmes ranging from undergraduate to research-level.

The new courses that the university has launched will be offered at its new East Delhi campus in Surajmal Vihar. The new courses include B. Tech in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, B. Tech in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, B. Tech in Industrial Internet of Things and B. Tech in Automation & Robotics, under the newly created school - University School of Automation & Robotics (USAR), the university said.

The fifth course it is launching is a Bachelor of Design under another newly created school - the University School of Design & Innovation (USDI). The admission to the programme will be given on the basis of Nation Level Test - UCEED/NID.



**Timings**  
**DELHI**

WEDNESDAY, JUN. 09  
RISE 05:23 SET 19:19  
RISE 04:27 SET 18:27

THURSDAY, JUN. 10  
RISE 05:23 SET 19:19  
RISE 05:06 SET 19:23

FRIDAY, JUN. 11  
RISE 05:23 SET 19:20  
RISE 05:50 SET 20:16

**Delhi Weather** max min

Delhi City 42 29  
Safdarjang 42 29  
Palam 41 29

**Delhi Palam Today**  
42°C Another hot day and warm evening likely. Dry weather with moderate gusty winds during day.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
41°C Loo type situation likely at day. Dry weather with moderate gusty winds. Evening also would remain warm.

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*In the works*



Construction work of the Central Vista project in full swing in New Delhi. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Kejriwal writes to PM seeking approval for doorstep ration

‘Was not legally bound, yet sought govt.’s nod five times’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

When did the Central and Delhi governments become separate units if it was a matter of people’s welfare, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a letter, seeking his nod for the doorstep delivery of ration to the poor, here on Tuesday.

Was it prudent, Mr. Kejriwal asked, to have separate schemes entailing separate budgetary expenditure related to the same issue, in this case that of dry ration, especially when the ration in question “belonged neither to political leaders nor the Aam Aadmi Party or the BJP” but to the people instead.

“The home delivery of ra-

tion was about to begin. The scheme would have allowed a poor person to get properly packed ration delivered at home instead of being pushed around in lines outside [ration] shops... but suddenly, just two days before it was supposed to be implemented, it was stalled. People are asking why you did so,” Mr. Kejriwal asked in the letter.

**Ration mafia**  
Residents have, over the last 75 years, been targeted consistently by the ‘ration mafia’ and while the ration was supposedly delivered to them on paper, most of it was siphoned off, he alleged.

“It is being said that we did not seek the Centre’s approval for the scheme. This

is wrong, Sir...Legally, we do not require the Centre’s approval...but we did not want any dispute with the Centre so we took approval not just once, but five times,” the Chief Minister stated.

The Centre, Mr. Kejriwal further stated, had cited that the matter was sub judice at the Delhi High Court as a reason for not allowing its rollout. However, the Chief Minister argued, if the High Court had not stayed the scheme in spite of this, how could the Centre do so?

“If we want to deliver ration to needy residents, what is objectionable in that? I believe, given the pandemic, this scheme should not only be implemented in Delhi but across the country,” he said.

## Active cases fall below 5K, daily infections stay low

Capital reports 316 new infections; positivity rate at 0.44%

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The downward trend in COVID-19 cases continued in Delhi with the active cases falling below 5,000 on Tuesday, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

The city reported 316 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,29,791.

Also, 41 deaths were reported and the total number of deaths stood at 24,668. A total of 71,879 tests were done in a day, the bulletin said. Of the total cases, 14,00,161 people have recovered and there are 4,962 active cases.

The test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.44%, which means that less than one person out of 100 people taking COVID-19 tests are now positive for the virus.

AAP leader Atishi said



A woman undergoes a COVID-19 test at Kewal Park in north Delhi on Tuesday. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

that Covaxin doses for people in the age group of 45 years and above was almost over on Tuesday and vaccination using Covaxin in government hospitals and centres will be closed from Wednesday.

“We are waiting for the Central government to send another shipment of vaccines for this category. Cov-

ishield stock is available for 45+ category,” Ms. Atishi said.

About vaccination of 18-44 age group, she said, “We had 27,000 doses of Covaxin available till this morning. Young people eligible for the second dose will be given Covaxin for the next 1-2 days. But Covishield stock is not available with us at present.”

## Involve RWAs for job drive: HC to Centre

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to “seriously consider” involving the Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) in the Capital for organising vaccination drives within their respective colonies for the residents.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said “permitting vaccinations to be undertaken at such camps would go a long way in making it convenient and safe for the residents of the colonies to get themselves vaccinated at such centres”.

“The Centre should, therefore, seriously consider this proposal at the earliest,” the court said. “However, in case, the Centre, for any good reason, is not inclined to permit RWAs to organise such camps in association with private hospitals, the reasons shall be disclosed in the next status report,” the court said.

**IN BRIEF**

**Days after cocktail therapy, 2 test negative**

NEW DELHI  
Two COVID-19 patients, who were given ‘Monoclonal Antibody Therapy’, tested negative eight days after developing symptoms, Max Healthcare said in a statement on Tuesday. “They were administered Antibody Cocktail Therapy within three days of testing positive. This is the fastest ever recovery reported in patients, particularly senior citizens suffering from comorbidities,” the hospital said. The Antibody Cocktail Therapy costs around ₹60,000.

## North body wants its six hospitals to be taken over by Centre: Delhi govt. to HC

‘State govt. willing to take charge if Modi govt. uninterested’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has told the High Court that North body has been advocating that its six hospitals be handed over to the Centre to reduce the annual expenditure incurred by the civic body, which is facing financial constraints.

The six hospitals are Hindu Rao Hospital, Kasturba Hospital, R.B.I.PMT Hospital, Girdhari Lal Hospital, M.V.I.D. Hospital and Balak

Ram Hospital.

The Delhi government, represented by senior advocate Rahul Mehra, said that in February 2018, a communication was sent by the North municipal commissioner to its Municipal Secretary. The communication sets out the consolidated expenditure incurred in running the said hospitals in the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, and advocates that these hospitals be handed over to the Central govern-

ment so as to reduce the annual expenditure incurred by it to the tune of about ₹500-600 crore.

“In case, the Centre is not willing to take them over, the GNCTD would be willing to take over the said hospitals and medical college, considering the fact that health is a State Subject,” Mr. Mehra said.

An HC Bench directed the North body to submit a status report by July 8, the next date of hearing.

## Relaxations granted for installing oxygen plants

Key proposals get nod at DDA meeting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Tuesday chaired a Delhi Development Authority (DDA) meeting with senior officials in which deliberations were held and key proposals were approved by the authority.

According to Raj Niwas, a modification granting exemption from notice and building permit for erection or installation of PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption) plant or Liquid Medical Oxygen Plant and similar related infrastructure on ground in hospitals in open and setback areas subject to other mandatory clearances and making it free from FAR (Floor Area Ratio) and ground coverage norms was among the significant developments.

**Housing plots**

Disposal of group housing plots for construction of small size dwelling units not exceeding carpet area of 60 sq.m for providing affordable houses was another key proposal. In view of the current economic situation, the existing rates of additional

FAR and conversion charges would not be increased for all categories of properties and land rates for computation of misuse charges, it was decided.

The date of approval for redevelopment plans for stand-alone godowns in non-conforming areas was extended up to December 31, 2023.

The Master Plan for Delhi 2021 with respect to development control norms for unauthorised colonies for final notification by MoHUA was another proposal, which was cleared. DDA was allowed to undertake development and sanction building plans for its in-situ slum rehabilitation projects under PMAY falling in denotified areas.

Invitation of public comments and suggestions on proposal for change in land use from residential (redevelopment) to transportation for multilevel car parking at Idgah Road, Zone A as well as a review of the policy for fixation of reserve price in respect of unsold inventory of built-up shops or units by effecting reduction in reserve price was also passed.

THE HINDU  
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**DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**(MASTER PLAN SECTION)**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The extensive modifications which the Central Government/ Delhi Development Authority proposes to make to the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) keeping in view the perspective for the year 2041 as Master Plan for Delhi-2041 (MPD-2041), under Section 11A of DD Act 1957, is hereby published for public information.

**Any person having any objections / suggestions with respect to the Draft MPD-2041 may send the objections / suggestions via web portal: <http://online.dda.org.in/MPD2041> or in writing to the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Delhi Development Authority, 'B' Block, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi- 110023 within a period of Forty-Five(45) days from the date of issue of this notice. The person making the objections or suggestions in writing should give his/her name, address and telephone/contact number(s)/E-mail ID which should be readable.**

**The draft text document of MPD-2041 and land use plan shall be available at the Reception Desk of Vikas Minar, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002 on all working days during the period referred above. The same shall also be available on the following link i.e. <https://dda.org.in/hotlinks.aspx>**

**For any assistance contact Helpdesk on all working days (Timings 10.00 am to 5.30 pm)- Ph:9310829891 and 011-23370326.**

**Contact person: Dy. Director, Master Plan Monitoring & Review Unit (MPMR), 13th floor, Vikas Minar, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.**

**File No. :F.18 (15)/2021-MP**  
**Dated: 09.06.2021**  
**Place: New Delhi**

**Sd/-**  
**(D.Sarkar)**  
**Commissioner-cum-Secretary,**  
**Delhi Development Authority**

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at

Please visit DDA's Website at [www.dda.org.in](http://www.dda.org.in) or Dial 1800110332

**ENTERPRISE CONNECT** A Business Initiative

**GAIL launches #ChangeForGood awareness initiative on World Environment Day 2021**

Supporting the United Nation's theme of 'Ecosystem Restoration' for World Environment Day today, GAIL (India) Limited launched an engagement activity under its awareness initiative #ChangeForGood on its digital platform where netizens can take a pledge to reinforce their commitment for a better environment and showcase their efforts in this direction. GAIL has been playing a significant role in 'Energizing Possibilities' for a cleaner environment and sustainable living, with 'Environmental Responsibility' being one of the core elements of its vision statement. A micro site has been created by GAIL where individuals can click and upload photographs, short videos showcasing their terrace garden, photos of greener environment around their homes and their efforts towards the environment. The best contributions will be showcased through GAIL social media platforms. A video content and posts are also produced under its initiative 'Hawa Badlo' which advocates against air pollution, problems caused due to air pollution and solutions for curbing it ensuring a greener and cleaner tomorrow. The video and content focuses on improving the air and environment as we all are going through tough times due to the pandemic. Better air and environment will help building better health for healthier future.

**NTPC signs UN's prestigious CEO Water mandate**

NTPC Ltd, India's largest power utility has signed the prestigious UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate. With NTPC joining the coveted league of companies that focus on efficient water management, its Chairman and Managing Director Shri Gurdeep Singh has joined a select group of business leaders who recognize the ever-growing importance of water stewardship and have been working to conserve this precious natural resource. NTPC has already taken a series of measures across its plant locations on sound water management. NTPC will further imbibe the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) for water conservation and management while carrying out its core business activity of power generation. The CEO Water Mandate is a UN Global Compact initiative to demonstrate commitment and efforts of companies to better their water and sanitation agendas as part of long term Sustainable Development Goals. The CEO Water Mandate is designed to assist companies in the development, implementation, and disclosure of comprehensive water strategies and policies. It also provides a platform for companies to partner with like-minded businesses, UN agencies, public authorities, civil society organizations, and other key stakeholders. The growing crisis in both water and sanitation in many parts of the world poses a wide range of risks – and, in some instances, opportunities – for companies in all industries. NTPC is committed to proactively address water sustainability issues through implementing Water Policy, which will serve as a directive for establishing water management strategies, systems, processes, practices and research initiatives.

**Trifed launch plantation drive on the occasion of World Environment Day**

The lives of our tribal brethren has always been one that has been close to Nature. Living in her lap since centuries, and their survival and sustenance dependent on Nature and her bounties, it is not surprising that environment is a major part of the identity of our tribals. On the occasion of the World Environment Day on June 5, 2021, tribal members of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras across the country launched a drive to plant more trees. One such example was from the state of Maharashtra where the tribal members of VDVKC Adivasi Eakatkrit Samajik Sanstha, Shahapur planted 10,000 giloy plants in this drive that took place at Mokhavane and Kharid villages. To do its bit, TRIFED also had organised a VC under the Chairmanship of Shri Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED. Attended by all the different regional offices of TRIFED, this was an interesting session wherein the attendees were made aware of the symbiotic and close relationship between tribals and nature and how preserving the identity of tribals is a must while sustaining nature and conserving the environment. The support of the tribal brothers and sisters to conserve the environment is a must. TRIFED, as the nodal agency for empowerment of tribals, has put in place several outstanding initiatives to improve the lives of these people. The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana, implemented by TRIFED, is one such programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Products by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes.

**Tourism Stakeholders of Jammu Division Welcome Relief Package for Tourism sector**

The Tourism Stakeholders extend gratitude to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K for extending an additional package of Rs. 2,63,64,000/- as a relief measure in the wake of Covid-19 Pandemic in favour of various Tourism Stake Holders Viz. Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Shikarwalas, Boatwalas, Camelwalas etc. in Jammu region. As a matter of fact, initially an amount of Rs. 1.68 lacs was announced as a financial assistance for Tourism Sector Stakeholders. In wake of Covid-19 Pandemic, Tourism Sector which is one of the largest revenue generating industry of J&K has suffered huge losses. This sector employs many seasonal, professional, part-time and temporary workers. With the impact of crises expected, continuing over many months to come, Jobs directly or indirectly associated with the industry will suffer. This step of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K is a balance measure and was the need of the hour. The relief package has covered the remaining 951 No. of Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas etc. registered with the Office of Shivkhor Shrine Board. Also a considerable number of 12202 Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas registered with the office of Katra Municipal Committee will get their due share. The relief amount also includes 18 Shikarwalas/Paddle Boat Owners and 11 Ponywalas/Camelwalas registered with the Department of Tourism.

**POWERGRID extends COVID 19 care measures under their CSR initiative**

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Company under Ministry of Power, Government of India had as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility measures, embarked upon many initiatives during the pandemic, providing necessary help for treating COVID 19 patients and sensitising others about COVID appropriate behaviour. POWERGRID left no stone unturned for containing the spread of COVID 19 and arranging all possible facilities for the treatment of those affected by COVID 19. In this direction Northern Region-II of POWERGRID took many steps in the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, parts of Haryana and UTs J&K and Chandigarh to facilitate the needy during this pandemic. POWERGRID equipped District Administration, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh with Pulse Oximeters, oxygen cylinders, sanitizers, masks and oxygen regulator amounting to Rs. 3.30 lakh. COVID 19 had affected the villages also in this second wave, POWERGRID gave two oxygen concentrators to gram Panchayat village Damjan near its New Wanpoh Sub-station. As a preventive measure, sanitizers and masks were distributed to Chief Medical Officer of Fatehabad. POWERGRID also provided masks, PPE kits to primary health Centre Chattergam near Wagoora Sub-station. All these initiatives of POWERGRID have been instrumental in reaching out to not only the employees of the company but have provided relief to the common masses. Better treatment facilities have saved many precious lives through early detection and treatment.

**Vaccination drive organised by NBCC & NSL for construction workers**

On 5th June 2021 in the first phase, Covid Vaccination Drives were organized by NBCC and its Subsidiary NBCC Services Limited (NSL) especially for maintenance/construction workers at different strategic locations in New Delhi. The Camps witnessed an enthusiastic response wherein over 600 construction workers of different sites were inoculated at various locations in New Delhi. Both the Vaccination Camps were successfully managed and supervised by senior Officials, HRM Team and Staff of NBCC as well as NSL who voluntarily came forward for this initiative. NBCC and its subsidiaries are taking all necessary initiatives in this fight against COVID-19.

**Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN Conferred with PSU Award of The Year-2020**

Dalal Street Investment Journal (DSIJ) conferred PSU Award of the Year 2020 to Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director, SJVN. The award was conferred in recognition of the outstanding contribution made by Sh. Sharma to make SJVN most efficient & profitable Mini Ratna Company of the year 2020. Sh. Nand Lal Sharma is heading SJVN Limited as Chairman & Managing Director, a Schedule A, Mini Ratna Public Sector Enterprise. Under dynamic leadership of Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, SJVN has emerged as a major player in Power Sector in India and neighboring countries. SJVN currently is constructing seven (7) Power Projects with capacity of around 3300 MW in India, Nepal & Bhutan. His persistent and unrelenting efforts have resulted in allocation of more than 10 Power Projects in India & Abroad in last two years. SJVN has set ambitious targets of becoming a 5000 MW company by 2023, 12000 MW company by 2030 and 25000 MW company by 2040.







IN BRIEF



**Huzurabad will teach a lesson to TRS: Eatala**  
HYDERABAD  
Telangana former Minister and rebel TRS MLA Eatala Rajender said a new agitation for a democratic Telangana will start from Huzurabad and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) will get a befitting reply for failing the spirit of the statehood movement.

**A.P. to help small traders with interest-free loans**  
GUNTUR  
The Andhra Pradesh government credited ₹370 crore to 3.7 lakh small traders towards interest-free loans, under the second phase of Jagannanna Thodu scheme. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said that small and petty vendors, artisans needn't approach private parties for loans, as they can take loans from banks under Jagannanna Thodu scheme to cater to their working capital.

**One of Kuthiran tunnels to be opened on August 1**  
THIRISSUR  
One of the twin tunnels at Kuthiran on the Thrissur-Palakkad National Highway will be opened on August 1. After a high-level meeting to review the progress of the work on Tuesday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan asked the authorities to make arrangements to open one of the tunnels for vehicle traffic.

**Former Minister C.M. Udasi passes away**  
BENGALURU  
Six-time legislator and former Minister C.M. Udasi, 85, passed away on Tuesday at a private hospital here due to age-related illness. He is survived by wife, a daughter, and son Shivakumar Udasi, a BJP MP. A former Minister for Public Works in the B.S. Yediyurappa Cabinet in 2008, he was popular due to his easy access to people.

# Govt. staff in Lakshadweep worried

They are set to be given intelligence gathering job

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI**  
The Lakshadweep Government Employees' Union has objected to the island administration's decision to deploy government staff aboard fishing vessels for intelligence gathering.

In a letter to the Director of Port, Shipping and Aviation, union general secretary Fathahudheen said the decision had made government servants who are members of the union 'nervous'. He urged the union territory administration to desist from such a move. There were agencies such as the police, the marine force, Coast Guard and the Navy to guard India's territorial waters and beyond.



UDF members staging a protest, demanding withdrawal of the proposed 'anti-people laws' in Lakshadweep. •PTI

There were State and Central Intelligence agencies too working to detect security threats. For a government servant, other than those working in the field of fishing, being asked to work for eight to 10 hours on fishing boats would only unnervethem, Mr.

Fathahudheen said. In another development, following up on a letter written by T. Abdul Khader, chairperson of the Village (Dweep) panchayat in Kavaratti, its members, along with two members of the district panchayat, met the District Collector Asker Ali to re-

# Plea for providing food to needy islanders

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI**  
A writ petition was filed in the Kerala High Court on Tuesday seeking a directive to the Centre and Lakshadweep administration to provide food kits to needy islanders and transfer cash into their account till the lockdown is

lifted. The petition was filed by Nasih K.K. of Amini island. According to the petitioner, 80% of the islanders depend on fishing, coconut cultivation, and coir twisting. Most of them were jobless following the imposition of lockdown and curfew.

quest immediate assistance or supply of food and provision kits to self-employed and daily wage earners of the islands who have been hit hard by the nearly two-month lockdown to rein in COVID-19. Nizamuddin K.I., a village panchayat member in Kava-

ratti, told *The Hindu* that hundreds of daily wage earners and other low-income people found it hard to have a proper meal. "The Collector assured us that they would all be issued work passes and relief would be provided. But he's said this before too," he said.

# Sudhakaran is president of Congress in Kerala

Information was given by Rahul Gandhi

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**  
The Congress high command on Tuesday nominated K. Sudhakaran, MP, as the next Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president.

Mr. Sudhakaran said former AICC president Rahul Gandhi had informed him of the decision. "Mr. Rahul has a task cut out for me. He wants me to take everybody along and rebuild the party from the grassroots level by bringing dedicated workers to leadership positions," he said.

The AICC has attempted to rein in factionalism, which has dominated Congress politics in Kerala for decades. It had re-engaged



K. Sudhakaran

with powerful social groups by naming V.D. Satheshan as Leader of the Opposition and now, Mr. Sudhakaran as the party's State president. It had weighed several names for the post, including Kodikunnil Suresh, MP. It was likely to retain Mr. Suresh as working president.

# 'More people involved in parlour firing'

KOCHI BUREAU KOCHI

More people beyond the six accused are suspected to have links to the beauty parlour firing case being probed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS). So far, four have been arrested.

The agency has reached such a conclusion after grilling gangster Ravi Pujari during his nine-day-long custody, which ended on Tuesday.

"More people are involved in the case going by the confessions of Pujari. But that information will have to be verified before they can be arraigned in as accused," said ATS sources. The firing took place outside the beauty parlour on December 15, 2018.

# Maoists say police killed Madhukar

'But they claim he died of COVID-19'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD**

Communist Party of India (Maoist) on Tuesday alleged that Telangana police were carrying out a false campaign that its activist Gaddam Madhukar alias Shobh Rai died of ill health after being arrested in Warangal and admitted to Osmania General Hospital here, when actually the police "murdered him".

In a statement issued by Dandakaranya South Sub-Zonal bureau, the party condemned the "killing of Madhukar by police".

The bureau's official representative Samatha said the party appealed to all democratic activists not to be-

lieve such propoganda by the police.

Thirty-eight-year-old Madhukar hailed from Kondapally village of Bejjur mandal in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. He joined Sirpur squad of Maoists at the age of 16 in 1999.

The party's official representative said Telangana police had themselves declared that Madhukar was caught on June 1 when he was going to a hospital. Five days later, they announced that he died of COVID-19.

The CPI (Maoist) representative charged the police with subjecting Madhukar to torture from June 1 to 6 without extending him any medical treatment.

# WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds (speed reaching 40-50 kmph) at isolated places very likely over West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana, Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, central Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	30	29.4	25.0	Kozhikode	...	34.0	25.4
Ahmedabad	...	39.1	28.5	Kurnool	...	37.4	26.6
Aizawl	...	25.8	23.5	Lucknow	...	39.2	27.8
Allahabad	...	40.4	28.5	Madurai	...	36.8	26.8
Bangaluru	...	31.1	21.9	Mangaluru	...	30.8	23.4
Bhopal	6.2	39.5	24.5	Mumbai	21	32.1	25.5
Bhubaneswar	...	36.7	25.6	Mysuru	...	33.0	21.4
Chandigarh	...	40.7	28.3	New Delhi	...	41.7	28.6
Chennai	47	37.1	22.5	Patna	...	40.0	27.0
Coimbatore	...	35.5	24.4	Port Blair	...	30.7	24.9
Dehradun	...	36.9	25.3	Puducherry	...	35.2	26.6
Gangtok	6	22.3	17.7	Pune	...	31.4	22.5
Goa	7.4	30.6	24.5	Raipur	...	40.8	29.2
Guwahati	6	31.3	24.0	Ranchi	0.8	34.6	24.1
Hubballi	...	29.0	22.0	Shillong	2	28.1	16.5
Hyderabad	...	35.6	25.0	Shimla	...	30.7	22.9
Imphal	2	30.0	21.0	Srinagar	...	34.3	18.6
Jaipur	...	41.4	30.5	Thiruvananthapuram	1	32.1	25.5
Kochi	...	31.8	25.4	Tiruchi	...	38.6	26.6
Kohima	2	27.8	18.0	Vijayawada	...	39.4	27.0
Kolkata	40	36.1	24.3	Visakhapatnam	...	37.6	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	...	45	130	...	47	65
Bengaluru	...	3	52	...	21	28
Chennai	...	7	5	...	45	33
Delhi	...	2	46	...	128	400
Hyderabad	...	2	70	...	7	32
Kolkata	...	5	12	...	22	46
Lucknow	...	11	39	...	89	128
Mumbai	...	59	21	...	26	...
Pune	...	6	8	...	50	87
Visakhapatnam	...	17	47	...	19	57

**Air Quality Code:** ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
**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

# Maharashtra reports 10,891 COVID-19 cases, 295 deaths

16,577 patients recover; Mumbai records 682 fresh cases

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI**  
Maharashtra on Tuesday recorded 10,891 fresh COVID-19 cases and 295 deaths and added 407 previously unreported fatalities, while 16,577 patients recovered from the infection, the State Health Department said.

The State's caseload rose to 58,52,891, while the death toll increased to 1,01,172. On Monday, the State reported 10,219 COVID-19 cases, the lowest after March 9 this year, and 154 fatalities.

A total of 16,577 patients were discharged from hospitals during the day, raising the count of recoveries to 55,80,925 and leaving the State with 1,67,927 active

cases, the department said. Maharashtra's case recovery rate now stands at 95.35%, while the fatality rate is 1.73%. With 2,11,042 new tests, the number of samples tested so far went up to 3,69,07,181.

Of the 295 deaths, 208 occurred in the last 48 hours and 87 were from the last week. As part of a reconciliation exercise, the Health Department added 407 deaths, which occurred before the last week, into its cumulative figure, which means the fatality count increased by 702 on Tuesday.

Mumbai reported 682 fresh cases and seven deaths, taking the infection count to 7,12,055 and the toll

to 15,006. The State capital has reported its lowest single-day death count after March 28, when eight patients had succumbed to the infection.

The wider Mumbai division, which consists of the city and its satellite towns, reported 2,022 new cases and 49 deaths, raising the tally to 15,52,411 and the fatality count to 28,447, a release said.

Of the total deaths in the division, Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation areas and rural parts of Palghar district recorded 13 deaths each, it said. The Nashik division reported 953 new cases, while the Kolhapur division added 3,614 cases.

# Govt. must not disown responsibility: Fadnavis

Maratha outfits question outcome of CM-PM meeting

**STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI**

Maharashtra's Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not mean that the State could disown its responsibility.

"The Bhosale committee report has said that there are limitations for the effectiveness of revision petition on the Maratha quota issue. The State Backward Class Commission should be formed and the report must be sent to the Central Commission. Which means the State has to act first," he said.

Commenting on the issues raised by the delegation, Mr. Fadnavis said that the majority of the issues could have been handled at

the State level. "We do not understand the reason behind discussing the issue of appointment of 12 MLCs. It is to be done by the Governor and not the Prime Minister," he said.

When asked about the separate meeting between both the leaders, Mr. Fadnavis said that there was nothing surprising, adding that he was not sure whether such an interaction had taken place.

Meanwhile, various Maratha organisations have questioned the outcome of the meeting between the CM and the PM.

"The community is sad as there was no outcome for the Maratha community. We were hopeful but neither the State nor the Centre informed us about who will take the responsibility of ensuring reservation for the community," said Vinod Patil, one of the petitioners in support of Maratha reservation in the Supreme Court.

# Fun-soaked ride



**Moments of joy:** Rain lashed Mumbai and its neighbouring areas on Tuesday morning, bringing respite from the sweltering heat. The MeT department has termed it pre-monsoon showers. Picture shows two boys on a bicycle ride in the city. •EMMANUAL YOGINI

# Techie who sexually abused 12 women held

**RAINIA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI**

A computer engineer from Mira Road who had sexually abused 12 women whom he met via a matrimonial site has been arrested after more than four months.

A Pune resident had registered a case on January 29 with the APMC police against Mahesh alias Manoj Gupta (32). She said that she had met the accused via a matrimonial site and Mr. Gupta had invited her to a pub in the APMC area where he molested her. According to the police, for every woman he met, he

used a different handset and SIM card. After cheating one, he would change the SIM card and buy another second hand handset but the fake profile on the matrimonial site with his photo was never changed. The accused would introduce himself as a businessman. "We found call detail record of at least 10 mobile numbers used by Mr. Gupta. On Sunday, we traced him to Malvani in Malad where he originally hails from and arrested him," police sub-inspector Pankaj Mahajan from APMC police station said.

# Pune fire: case registered against owner

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PUNE**

A day after 17 workers, most of them women, were killed in a fire at a chemical plant in Pune district, a case of

culpable homicide was registered against one of its owners on Tuesday.

Fire safety measures such as installation of emergency exits had not been taken at

the plant, the police alleged. A case was registered against Nikunj Shah, one of the owners of SVS Aqua Technologies, said Abhinav Deshmukh, SP, Pune rural.

# REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES)

## HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (INDIA)

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy Services for providing Independent Quality Check Squads (IQCS) for all line departments/corporations and other agencies of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

### Introduction

There is a huge road network of around 38035 Km. in Himachal Pradesh, comprising of National Highways, 4681 Kms. of Major District Roads and 30762 Km. of Rural Roads. The H.P Public Works Department is responsible for planning, construction, up-gradation, maintenance and overall management of this road network with liberal allocation of funds from the Govt. of India against various schemes like PMGSY, Central Road Fund, EAPs and also from the State Government. The quality of road works except PMGSY and World Bank funded HP State Road Project, has been a serious concern for the GoHP for quite some time. The ever increasing road accidents, failure of bridge and road works draw public criticism reflecting poorly the image of Govt. of the day. Though there is a separate in-house Quality Control wing in the department headed by Engineer-in-Chief (Project) which is mainly catering for second tier quality assurance for PMGSY works, but due to certain administrative constraints it has no representation at Circle/Division level so as to exercise proper quality control over all major road/building works being executed by the HPPWD. As stated above quality of PMGSY and HPSRP roads is far better as compared to other state works. It is primarily because of the mandatory provision of a Third Tier quality assurance setup for both these Projects. Similarly there are several other civil/other infrastructure related works being executed by other departments/corporations like HP Jal Shakti Vibhag, HPSEB, Urban Development, Tourism, Forest, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Department & HPSIDC etc. There is no central Independent Quality Control Mechanism at the state level to ensure that all such works undertaken by various departments/corporations etc. are executed strictly as per the prescribed quality/standards/norms. The new dispensation has decided to implement the concept of Independent Quality Control mechanism in the state.

### PURPOSE

The QC cell of Hon'ble CM office shall assign specific works to the consultant from time to time; the executing and implementing agencies have to take adequate and proper steps to ensure control of quality and the work has to be executed as per specifications. It has to be further ensured that the work is being carried out as per contract specifications and relevant BIS specifications, IRC codes, Special Publications etc.

The basic concept of this process is that the existing executing Agency performs inspection & testing as per specifications to ensure a quality product and the IQCS performs testing and Inspection as per the Guidelines on Quality System for relevant infrastructure as per the Codal provisions.

### Objective

**Broad Objectives of the Consultancy shall include:-**

- Quality Control Check on specific works to be assigned to the consultant from time to time, both original and maintenance, infrastructure related works such as Building works, Bridge works, Jal Shakti Vibhag works, Electricity Transmission & distribution works and Road works including ongoing Annual Maintenance Plan/Periodic Renewal works, Periodic Maintenance works and OPBMC works etc. being executed by various departments/corporations and other agencies of the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- Any other task assigned by the Government from time to time within scope of consultancy service.

**The detailed Request for Expression of Interest for the proposed assignment along with scope of work shall be made available on the following website w.e.f. 15-06-2021 at <http://hppwd.hp.gov.in/>**

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours i.e. 1000 to 1700 hours Indian Standard Time (IST) on working day. Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by 15-07-2021 at 1500 hours (IST).

Chief Engineer (S2), HPPWD, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 Himachal Pradesh Tel:+91-177-2620474 Fax: +91-177-2653362 E-mail: hp-shi4@nic.in





## A necessary reversion

The changes in vaccine policy should help improve India's response to the pandemic

The Centre has announced a much-needed course correction in India's vaccination policy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the podium to announce that the month-old decision to leave States to procure vaccines on their own for their 18-44 population would be ending in two weeks. States were allowed to procure 25% of the vaccines manufactured and the Centre 50%, a policy that the Supreme Court termed "irrational and arbitrary". The Court's comments have had a salutary effect. From June 21, the Centre will be procuring 75% and States will no longer have to pay vaccine companies for the same. Vaccines will continue to be free for all those who choose to get their shot at government centres. The 25% vaccines that were allotted to private hospitals will continue too, though the service charges that they charge will be capped at ₹150. This ceiling price on vaccines in hospitals will bring predictability and be hugely beneficial to citizens. The Centre, which controlled all supply of vaccines and had negotiated prices and orders with Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute saw itself desperately short of supply right in the middle of India's deadly second wave. The hospital emergencies worsened the Centre's panic and so it chose a path that no country had undertaken, of devolving the responsibility of buying vaccines to States. Health has traditionally been within the purview of States, and it stands to reason that they would invariably have to deal with the challenges that vaccination throws up. This includes vaccine hesitancy, the problem of transportation, the availability of trained personnel and the existing capacity at health-care sites. Faced with the intensity of the second wave, States demanded more vaccines and autonomy in deciding how to administer them. What resulted were frequent public spat, with the Centre blaming States for inefficiently using available stocks and yet demanding more.

Though there are substantial numbers of senior citizens yet to be vaccinated, particularly with a second dose, it is clear that the foreseeable demand will be in the sub-45 category. The Government appears more confident of getting a steady stream of supply from Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute and, in a bold move, has ordered 30 crore doses of an untested vaccine from the Hyderabad-based Biological E. Assuming that a third wave is not in the vicinity, these changes in total could be the beginning of a smoother, more efficient vaccine roll-out. Mr. Modi's announcement was preceded by a truculent defence of himself and his government and passing on blame to a variety of actors, including governments before 2014, for India's very real shortcomings on vaccination. However, the path to positive change is often meandering, and surviving the pandemic and being wiser from mistakes must be the spirit in which these policy changes are adopted.

## This time for Male

Maldives and India have an opportunity to work for changing power structures at the UN

The election of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid as the President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, that begins in September for 2021-22, is a major boost for the island nation's international profile. The election marks the first time a Maldivian will hold the post in the UN's history, and his margin of victory, 143 to his challenger's 48, indicating support from nearly three fourths of all countries at the UN, is significant. Maldives also sees it as a win for the 52-member Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which are battling climate change vulnerability and other developmental challenges. In addition, in a year when events in Afghanistan will draw attention as U.S. forces begin to pullout, Mr. Shahid's victory over his surprise opponent, former Afghanistan Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul, is remarkable. For India too, that helped Maldives canvass support, the outcome is welcome, not only because of its close ties with Male but also the high regard for Mr. Shahid, a key member of the Solih government. In a break from the norm of not announcing one's choice for an election by secret ballot, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla had announced India's support for the Maldives in November 2020, South Block's explanation being that Afghanistan had not yet announced Mr. Rassoul's candidature – which it did in January 2021. New Delhi should now ensure that the Afghan government carries no hard feelings, as some in Kabul had even hinted that India might wish to support Afghanistan as it had sacrificed its turn at the UNSC for India's current term there. It would also be important to analyse why Kabul decided to field a candidate late in the race, and not withdraw despite it being clear that its South Asian neighbour was ahead, and did not consult India closely on the process.

The focus now shifts to his tenure and South Asian issues such as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and equitable access to vaccines. Cooperation is close and Mr. Shahid is in discussions to appoint an Indian diplomat as his chief aide. Given that the previous President of the General Assembly, from Turkey, had ruffled feathers with his remarks in Islamabad that Pakistan was "duty" bound to raise the Jammu and Kashmir dispute "more strongly" at the UN, Mr. Shahid's tenure is expected to see a far smoother term for India, especially as the Modi government focuses on showcasing the country at the UN during India's 75th Independence anniversary next year. Above all, it is hoped that India in the UNSC and the Maldivian President of the General Assembly will work in tandem as New Delhi pursues its goals for multilateral reform, and re-energise the dormant process of effecting change in the old power structures in the global body.

# Bring genomic sequencing into the pandemic fight

Emerging variants, with evidence of higher transmissibility and immune escape, demand re-strategised responses



CHANDRAKANT LAHARIYA

If there is one tool in the COVID-19 pandemic response, which India has been slow in adoption and has used sub-optimally, it is genomic sequencing. An effective COVID-19 pandemic response requires, *inter alia*, keeping track of emerging variants (total 10 till now including variants of interest and concern) and then conducting further studies about their transmissibility, immune escape and potential to cause severe disease. Therefore, genomic sequencing becomes one of the first steps in this important process. When the success of the United States and the United Kingdom in containing the virus is discussed, a lot of credit is being given to the increasing vaccination coverage; however, it is often forgotten that alongside, these countries have scaled up genomic sequencing, tracked the emerging variants and used that evidence for timely actions. India seems to be faltering on both expanding vaccination coverage and genomic sequencing. Unfortunately, there is not enough attention to scale up genomic sequencing, which as per the original plan was supposed to cover 5% of confirmed COVID-19 cases (<https://bit.ly/3x76VVC>).

Though the procedural steps such as setting up the Indian SARS-CoV2 Genomic Consortia, or INSA-COG (<https://bit.ly/3uWp8Y>) have been taken, the sequencing has remained at a very low level of a few thousand cases only. It is no surprise that we understand the Delta variant (B.1.617.2, the original lineage B.1.617 was first reported

from Maharashtra, India in October 2020) far less than the Alpha variant (B.1.1.7, first reported from Kent, England in September 2020) reported just a month before Delta. The challenge of insufficient genomic sequencing is further compounded by the pace at which data is being shared, especially when the emergence of strains is so vital in tracking and responding to a pandemic. Reportedly, the Indian government took two weeks, from early March – when research scientists submitted information on new variants – to issue a public announcement on the variants on March 24, 2021 (<https://reut.rs/3cnhLWO>).

### The Delta strain

Amidst this, the release of findings of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics; Integrative Biology and National Centre for Disease Control and Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research study; tracking variants of SARS CoV-2 in Delhi; on a pre-print server (yet to be peer reviewed) is a welcome change and provides new insights (<https://bit.ly/3z9jd8j>).

Based upon the analysis of nearly 3,600 genomic sequence samples from November 2020 to April 2021, the authors have reported that by April 2021, the Delta variant became the most circulating variant in Delhi and was found in nearly 60% of the samples analysed; is 50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant (which already had 70% higher transmissibility over the ancestral virus); is likely to be associated with high viral load, as reflected by the declining Ct value (for RT-PCR) over the study period and resulted in a higher proportion of breakthrough infection (people already vaccinated getting infected). Based upon these findings, the authors attribute the Delta variant respon-



sible for the pandemic wave (which was fourth for the city state) in Delhi in April-May 2021. However, the authors did not find any difference in severity of disease or case fatality rate due to the Delta variant and suggested the need for further studies.

This is the first detailed study of SARS CoV-2 genomic sequencing data from any Indian State and provides very useful insight on the behaviour and impact of Delta variants. Around the same time, Public Health England (PHE) reported that the Delta variant has become the most common circulating strain in the U.K., replacing Alpha. The early data from the PHE has interpreted that the Delta variant may be responsible for more severe disease and higher rate of hospitalisation compared to all previous variants. A week before this data, on May 27, the PHE reported that the effectiveness of a single dose of vaccine (amongst symptomatic patients) was lower against the Delta strain. On June 3, medical journal *The Lancet* published research findings from laboratory studies which examined the neutralising capacity of antibodies from individuals vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, which was nearly 5.8 fold lower against Delta variants and 2.6 fold less against the Alpha variant (when compared with the ancestor virus (<https://bit.ly/2RzisV7>)).

Our scientific knowledge and

understanding about emerging strains is going to be the key to deploy public health interventions (vaccines included) to fight the pandemic. The emerging variants – with early evidence of higher transmissibility, immune escape and breakthrough infections – demand continuous re-thinking and re-strategising of the pandemic response by every country. Scientific research would make a difference only if it results in informed policy decisions. There are a few steps Indian policy makers should consider as urgent.

### The steps ahead

First, India needs to scale up genomic sequencing, across all States. There should be sufficient and representative samples collected for genomic sequencing to track district-level trends in circulating variants. More genomic sequencing is needed from large urban agglomerations. A national-level analysis of collated genomic sequencing data should be done on a regular basis and findings shared publicly.

Second, the Indian government needs to invest and support more scientific and operational research on vaccine effectiveness. The data should be analysed on a regular basis and should include various stratifiers such as age, gender and comorbid conditions, etc.

Third, there are early indications of immune escape and reduced vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant (especially after one shot). India, till the end of May, has administered at least one dose of vaccines to 43% of people older than 60 years and 37% of those older than 45 years. Does it mean the focus of vaccination should be to achieve saturation coverage of the high risk population, with both shots, than one shot to everyone? Does it mandate a need for a reduced gap between

two doses of Covishield for anyone older than 45 years? Should vaccination of those 18-44 years be put on hold till vaccine supply is assured or should it be done only in districts where the Delta strain is predominant? These are the questions which experts need to deliberate and come up with the answers.

The data from genomic sequencing has both policy and operational implications. The State and district officials should engage the epidemiologists in coming up with practical and operational implications and strategies. As Indian States plan to open up after COVID-19 restrictions, the settings with predominantly the Delta variant in circulation (which has higher transmissibility) should aim for far stricter adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour, in public places.

### Use evidence for actions

Continuation of many unproven and ineffective therapies in COVID-19 treatment guidelines is proof that India is not quick in adopting evidence to the practice. There is a need for rapidly expanding genomic sequencing, sharing related data in a timely and transparent manner, and understanding of the impact of new variants on transmissibility, severity and vaccine effectiveness. The only assured way to fight the pandemic is to use scientific evidence to decide policies, modify strategies and take corrective actions. As India prepares for the third wave, increasing genomic sequencing and use of scientific evidence for decision making are not a choice but an absolute essential.

*Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, a medical epidemiologist, is a public policy and health systems expert and co-author of 'Till We Win: India's Fight Against The COVID-19 Pandemic'*

## State interventions, Lakshadweep's future

The archipelago's integration into the mainstream should not lead to emotional alienation and physical damage



MUKUL SANWAL

The Lakshadweep Administration, which is now facing a storm over its draft rules introduced by its Administrator, has now provided a fresh rationale for its proposals, shifting from public policy to public purpose ignoring public interest, whereas the strategic issue is the interplay of ecological fragility, insular cultural geography and strategic location. There are two competing visions for its future. NITI Aayog, in 2019, identified water villas and land-based tourism projects as the development issue faced by the islands, suggested zoning based on land acquisition and focused on sustainable development ignoring the fragile environment and culture. The Integrated Island Management Plan prepared under the guidance of the Supreme Court and National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, in 2016, had rejected 'home stays' in view of the strict social customs and strong resistance of the vast majority. It stipulated that development programmes be implemented in consultation with the elected local self-government bodies adhering to scientifically determined plans (<https://bit.ly/3v4sdr0> and <https://bit.ly/2T5q81I>).

**Questionable public purpose**  
The rationale, or thinking, of the appointed Administrator of the

Union Territory, planning for flight loads of tourists, through four controversial proposals – the Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Regulation, Lakshadweep Panchayat Regulation and Lakshadweep Animal Preservation Regulation – as "regulations of peace, progress and good government", has apparently not even been able to convince the Union Home Minister. For the local people, and across the political spectrum, these changes are arbitrary, authoritarian and will destroy the way of life. The Administrator's fresh response is reliance on the power of government or 'public purpose' for acquiring private land, unnecessarily opening the door to conflict and the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court in the case of *Dev Sharan vs State of Uttar Pradesh*, in 2011, pointed out that, "Any attempt by the State to acquire land by promoting a public purpose to benefit a particular group of people or to serve any particular interest at the cost of the interest of a large section of people especially of the common people defeats the very concept of public purpose..."

The proposals have been challenged before the High Court of Kerala, which had, in 2019, in a separate case, recognised the special status given to the inhabitants for protecting their ethnic culture and traditions, and to maintain the serene atmosphere in these islands without unnecessary interference by mainlanders.

Lakshadweep is unique. It is an egalitarian coconut tree owning society, with little economic in-



equality, a very high level of both literacy and unemployment. The Muslim community is designated as Scheduled Tribes. The land area is fully covered with coconut trees, the main agricultural crop, and fisheries is the main economic activity employing a quarter of the working population. Electricity generation is mainly through diesel generators and is expensive and solar electricity has limitations as it requires a large land area. They need employment in the mainland.

### Review tourism strategy

The Lakshadweep Administration has framed the development issue as the development of the islands on the lines of the Maldives, whereas the fact is that it is adopting a very different strategy without any real consultation.

In the Maldives, tourism since the 1970s is centred on water villas in uninhabited islands, ensuring that very few coconut trees are cut with limited home stays introduced in 2015, and few cultural and other conflicts. Second, a 'one island, one resort' policy has kept pressure on reefs low due to a wide distribution of the tourist population. Third, the business

model is about giving coral reefs economic significance where rich and healthy reefs are essential for private capital's economic returns. Fourth, tourists come because of the natural beauty and the sheer amount of marine life; resort owners commit to conserve the reefs and divers at the resorts are quick to report illegal activities. Fifth, regulation is limited to ban on reef fishing and collection of corals, having no centrality to land acquisition.

In Lakshadweep, the separation of resorts from villages, including for drinking water, sewage disposal and electricity, gives priority to the fragile ecosystem, socio-economic conditions and well-being of the inhabitants. Groundwater occurs as a thin lens floating over the seawater and is tapped by open wells replenished by the monsoon; all the inhabited islands have a scarcity of drinking water supply. The conventional method of sewage treatment is not feasible because of the coral sandy strata and high water table. The existing water balance is already under stress and inhabited villages cannot accommodate tourism. Why the Ministry of Environment is quiet about this is not clear.

### Political insensitivity

Meanwhile, public interest is being re-defined, shifting the debate from private tourism to urbanisation, both inappropriate for inhabited islands. Despite inhabited islands being defined as 'cities' in the Census, they do not need to be developed as 'smart cities' with a focus on infrastructure requiring large-scale construction and land acquisition. The irony is that the

Administration has anticipated public opposition and, despite there being no case of murder, robbery or local involvement in smuggling, the new draft legislation seeks preventive detention for 'anti-social activities', and covers "cruel person" and "depredator of environment".

The relation between state and society is being arbitrarily changed, despite constitutional protection. The powers of the panchayats have been withdrawn on grounds of corruption, an unusual step. The two-child policy for those seeking election to panchayats does not exist in other Union Territories or States. A ban on beef has been instituted, contrary to the practice in Northeast India. Liquor is being permitted for tourists in inhabited islands.

### Innovation needed

Lakshadweep is a uni-district Union Territory with a top-heavy administrative system of more than half-a-dozen All-India Service officers essentially creating work for themselves.

Interventions should be limited to setting boundary conditions for both resorts and development institutions, with income from taxing resorts given to the inhabitants. Active state intervention should be limited to generation of electricity in partnership with public sector units, and water, sewage and health as well as education, technology-enabled employment in call centres and future employment in the mainland.

*Mukul Sanwal is a former Indian Administrative Service officer who has been to Lakshadweep in the 1970s*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Vaccine procurement

An evolving pandemic demands a fluid and dynamic approach to policymaking (Page 1, "Govt. will revert to centralised procurement of vaccines: Modi", June 8). Strategies need to be tweaked along the way depending on the nature of exigencies. Prime Minister Modi's turnaround in the vaccine policy is sensible though belated. States should work closely with the central government because the next couple of months are going to be critical for the nation. Expanding vaccination coverage is the only way to

prevent the pandemic's possible third wave. When are we going to build a collaborative political culture if not in a health emergency?

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ The Opposition, while remaining reasonably proud of its role in compelling the government to take the decision, should also appreciate the Prime Minister's gesture. The Supreme Court of India's posers and observations might have also dictated the course to the government. But, despite the policy-change, the situation is far

from satisfactory. It should be made clear that vaccination will be provided absolutely free of cost to all, without age specifications, making it truly universal. The process should be regulated only in relation to the time of production of vaccines, with consequent acceptance of some priority sections. Leaving 25% to private hospitals by asking them to purchase direct from manufacturers and allowing them to collect the cost of vaccine and service charge from the public is unacceptable. This does not tally with the Mr. Modi's own assessment that "never in a hundred years has there

been such a (global) pandemic". The old example of free universal vaccination for smallpox should be followed.

P.R.V. RAJA,  
Pandalam, Kerala

### Vaccination hurdles

I write this letter as senior consultant and professor, department of obstetrics and gynaecology, CMC, Vellore. There are media reports saying that the Union Health Ministry on Monday asked the States to include the Unique Disability Identification (UDDI) card as a photo ID for registration on [the] CoWIN 2.0 portal for COVID-19 vaccination'. I

wonder how many adult Indians on the margins of our society have Aadhaar/PAN/UDID cards and also a smartphone to register themselves on the CoWIN site. I am sure we can reach such people who cannot have access to a vaccine in the same way as schemes such as providing rations to their homes free of cost. If we want to return to normal, have our children get back to school, and not lose many productive lives, we need to work hard to immunise everyone – and this includes even those who have no access to CoWIN centres.

Ds. JESSIE LIONEL,  
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

**Unchecked and rising**  
Fuel prices, both petrol and diesel, have gone through the roof, yet the central government seems unconcerned about the plight of the people and blaming the rise in world crude oil prices for the increases. How long is the Government going to increase the pressure on consumers? It has stopped subsidies to LPG consumers too. People are suffering, already stressed beyond tolerable limits because of the COVID-19 crisis.

V. PADMANABHAN  
Bengaluru

To read more letters online, scan the QR code





# Preparing for the next COVID-19 wave

Vaccinating the vulnerable, constant surveillance and reliable data will help India tackle the third wave



GIRIDHARA R. BABU & V. RAVI

Using the data in Karnataka, Aniruddha Adiga et al. show in a paper in *medRxiv* that a third COVID-19 wave is imminent in the State even if the strongest non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are implemented and 1,67,000 persons are vaccinated each day. This is corroborated by evidence from other countries. It took nearly eight weeks in the U.K. to go from a second to a third wave, 17 weeks in Italy, and 23 weeks in the U.S. Some people are still debating whether there will be a third wave. It is not a question of 'if' but 'when'. In all likelihood, the next wave might be in late November or December in India. Despite the quantum of cases in the next wave, it is important to plan and prepare for it. These are several actions that India needs to take to prepare for and tackle the next wave.

## Vaccination

Data from several States indicate that the average age of mortality is reducing in several States and stabilising at 30-45 years. This suggests that vaccination might have already offered survival advantage to those aged 45 years and above. This was the main objective of providing vaccination: preventing deaths and limiting serious morbidity requiring ventilation or oxygenated beds.

Given the undoubted benefits of vaccination, extraordinary efforts will have to be made to secure vaccines for vulnerable people. The vaccine supply constraints are likely to be resolved by the end of July. Till then, people with co-morbidities, irrespective of age, should be prioritised for vaccination. Micro planning for vaccination should be strengthened. For this, health workers and volunteers need to go house to house and prepare lists of all the eligible beneficiaries. Next, efforts should be made to help in registering and vaccinating the vulnerable. We estimate that the country should vaccinate at least 10 million people each day to cover the vulnerable population in the next three months. To reach this pace, it is important to develop a strong mobilisation strategy, address



A healthcare worker administers a COVID-19 vaccine to a shepherd during a vaccination drive in Pulwama district in south Kashmir. • REUTERS

the concerns of the vulnerable, and improve access to vaccination sites. A strong focus on bottom-up micro planning, similar to what was adopted during the measles-rubella elimination programme and polio programme, can be helpful.

## The periods between waves

We only wake up to disease threats when there is a large outbreak. We have selective amnesia to health-related issues in the intervening periods and quickly get back to 'normal' activities. But it is these intervening periods between waves/outbreaks that are actually important. It is during these periods that surveillance needs to be meticulous. One of the critical aspects of surveillance is to sustain aggressive testing, especially in symptomatic individuals, and keep a close watch on the seven-day moving average of the test positivity rate (TPR). A TPR of less than 5% indicates that the disease is under control. Another important facet of surveillance is genomic sequencing to keep a watch on the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV-2.

The surveillance programme in the country needs strengthening, and strict review should guide the early identification of clusters. Timely investigation and early containment of outbreaks should be the mainstay of preventing the onslaught of cases and deaths. Combining the syndromic approach with enhanced testing levels is necessary for all the areas. Preparing for the next wave involves developing a standardised definition for minimum cases to be de-

tected in each part of the country. Based on the available data, States can aim to detect and review, say, 1,000-1,300 cases per million each month provided adequate testing is done. This will help them identify areas where there is poor reporting and strengthen the overall response in these areas. In order to detect these cases, nearly 20,000-25,000 tests per million will have to be done each month.

## Use data-driven interventions

As stated by historian John Barry, the most important lesson from the 1918 influenza is to "tell the truth". Whenever true figures are suppressed during a pandemic, the data get skewed. As a result, modellers make unreliable projections, and wrong policies and programmes are formulated. Hence, data should be made freely available to experts. Systematic collection, compilation and analysis of clinical, epidemiological and laboratory data is paramount to decision-making. A core expert group comprising clinicians, epidemiologists and laboratory personnel should be constituted at every level (district, State and national) and entrusted with the responsibility of suggesting appropriate interventions to the concerned authorities. Data alone should drive interventions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a high attack rate among household contacts. Therefore, non-pharmacological interventions represent the cornerstone to halting transmission. These include avoiding mass gatherings, closing schools, isolating those with infec-

tion, contact tracing, and implementing infection prevention strategies in health care settings. These are critical to achieving at least a 50% reduction in transmission, which correlates with a basic reproductive number lower or equal to one ( $RO \leq 1$ ). A critical determinant that ensures the success of any intervention, whether vaccination or NPIs, is appropriate communication. Therefore, a robust communication strategy must be developed that is directed at behavioural change for subverting the third wave.

The available data indicate that every age group was affected in the second COVID-19 wave. The susceptible persons comprise those not protected by vaccination or those who are not infected yet. The proportion of susceptible people is higher in the younger age groups, including children. A higher risk of infection is not the same as a higher risk of serious illness, especially for children. However, even if there is a small proportion of complications and deaths, absolute numbers can strain the health system resulting in a shortage of beds. Higher mortality is not so specific to the virulence of the virus, or age group, but mostly arises from the shortage of beds during a sudden surge in cases.

To reduce the number of deaths, we should immediately create adequate capacity to handle the surge. More paediatric ICUs and specialist care are needed to handle a complex disorder, namely Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome. Enhancing paediatric specialised beds and ICUs can help in managing meningitis and other diseases in the community. Many patients who have recovered from active COVID-19 infection are experiencing long-term residual effects of the disease both physically and mentally. It is necessary to address these issues in all hospitals through counselling at the time of discharge and by establishing post-COVID-19 care clinics and services. We need to make a realistic assessment of needs. Every effort should be made to strengthen the human resources and infrastructure in the rural, vulnerable and remote areas.

Giridhara R. Babu is a Professor of Epidemiology at the IIPH-Bengaluru, Public Health Foundation of India and V. Ravi is a Neurovirologist and nodal officer for genomic confirmation of SARS-CoV-2, Government of Karnataka

# The proportionality principle

Hamas endangers Israeli civilians by targeting them and endangers Gazan civilians by using them as human shields



MICHAL GUR-ARYEH

Every war is tragic. Every civilian death is a world lost. Nevertheless, when legal discourse is applied to a war, legal terminology, concepts, and resulting conclusions should be accurately implemented. One common misconception concerns the term 'proportionality'. Particularly, it is the argument that proportional use of force is a numbers game; that one only needs to compare the number of casualties on each side of the conflict in order to deduce which side used force disproportionately. From a legal standpoint, this notion is flawed. Had this been true, many NATO operations would have been guilty of being disproportionate and unlawful.

## What proportionality means

The principle of proportionality is defined as the obligation to refrain from "any attack which may be expected to cause incidental loss or injuries to civilians, or damage to civilian objects, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated". What does this mean in practice? At the outset, it may be useful to stress what 'proportionality' does not mean: clearly, it does not address casualties in a collective manner pertaining to the whole conflict, but rather, refers to particular attacks; it does not address only civilian casualties and damage, but also the intended military advantage; and it is not examined in hindsight, but before the attack takes place.

The proportionality principle means that before every military strike, military commanders must assess two factors. First, they must examine the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from an attack, when naturally, the neutralisation of some targets would have a higher advantage than others. In order to offer such advantage, the target must be a military target, such as a weapons depot. Importantly, a seemingly civilian object, used by the adversary for military purposes (for example, a residential building used to store weapons) may be considered a lawful target.

Second, the commanders must assess, based on reasonably available information at the time of the attack, what the expected collateral damage would be. They must assess how many civilians, if any, will be present in the area of the planned attack. Then they must assess the extent of expected damage to civilian property, including indirect damage that is to be accounted for, such as infrastructure. Lastly, they must implement all

feasible precautions to mitigate harm to civilians and civilian objects. If the assessment of the two factors leads to the conclusion that the expected damage to civilians or civilian objects is deemed excessive in relation to the anticipated military advantage, carrying out an attack would be unlawful.

It follows that not every civilian death in armed conflict necessarily testifies to a breach of international law. This principle of proportionality is the way that the law, created by states, saw fit to balance the military needs of states, who fight to protect civilians, with humanitarian imperatives.

## Wrongfully blamed

How is the principle of proportionality affected when instead of protecting its civilians, Hamas intentionally conducts its military activity from within densely populated areas? How is Israel expected to protect its major cities from Hamas rockets, when these rockets are developed, built and launched from within Gazan civilian population? Hamas is committing a double war crime - endangering Israeli civilians by targeting them and endangering Gazan civilians by using them as human shields. What does international law require Israel, a law-abiding state, to do, when facing Hamas' unlawful tactics?

The law of armed conflict states that when civilian presence is used to shield military objectives from attacks, that presence does not grant the target immunity. When Hamas commits the double war crime of attacking Israeli children, schools and airports from within its own civilian population, the analysis of the situation would be distorted if its criminal behaviour is not taken into account.

Despite Hamas's blatant disregard for the law or its citizens' well-being, Israel does everything feasible in order to prevent or at least minimise harm to the Palestinian civilian population, often at the cost of operational advantage. In doing so, Israel employs precautions that exceed the requirements of international law, as well as the practices commonly employed by advanced militaries of western states. Fighting an enemy that deliberately abuses the law of armed conflict raises grave challenges for Israeli soldiers. Nevertheless, Israeli commanders apply international law, including the principle of proportionality, in every military action.

Why is Hamas using its own population as human shields? This brings us back to the misconception of the principle of proportionality, and the knee-jerk reaction that ignores the question, who put Gazan civilians in danger in the first place? In other words, Hamas pays no price for its war crimes and often it is Israel that is wrongfully blamed. This situation provides an incentive to Hamas to continue with its heinous practices.

Michal Gur-Aryeh is a senior Israeli diplomat

# Building trust in governance

A service delivery platform which builds trust between citizens and government has shown results

VIRAJ TYAGI

Historically, Indians have had low social trust and have looked to authorities to enforce compliance. But over the last decade, India has witnessed a big and welcome change in social trust. Indians are increasingly comfortable sending money to a phone number from their phones (UPI, PayTM) and getting into taxis driven by strangers (Ola, Uber).

## How trust grows

This trust is experiential: it is built as consumers get consistent information and predictability, over time, every time. When we book an Ola cab, we get an OTP every time, we can track our cab every time, the OTP works every time we give it to the driver, and so on. Of course, the actual delivery of service needs to live up to expectations for trust to be built, and there can be the occasional glitch. Still, having visibility of interactions directly (without having to go ask someone to look up a request status or complaint number) and a mechanism to hold the service provider accountable is fundamental to building trust.

In our experience in working in the area of service delivery by urban local bodies, we find that citizens' default position is low trust. Their past experiences, where requests have not been responded to, or have vanished into the ether, adds to this sense of apprehension. Corruption makes this worse. The worst is paying a bribe and still not being served. We also observe power imbalance: citizens feel that they do not have any recourse.

These frictional interactions pile up over time. They lead to apathy, disengagement, a 'nothing will happen' mindset. The good news is that when government service delivery manifests this new currency of social trust - visibility of status, alerts at key stages, knowing who is accountable, ways to escalate the complaint, ways to rate or give feedback - the confidence of citizens starts to grow. Over time, the trust deficit is re-

versed, and citizen participation increases.

In Andhra Pradesh, we at eGov Foundation partnered with the government to roll out a citizen services delivery platform (PuraSeva) in all 110 towns and cities. We saw the positive impact of this platform on social trust. One of the areas reformed was the complaints process: multiple channels to lodge complaints, prompt acknowledgment with a reference number assigned, SMS notifications providing an expected completion date and responsible person, and notifications of each status change. Finally, citizens are invited to provide a star rating upon completion. Moreover, citizens and civil society groups can view the performance data for their localities through open dashboards.

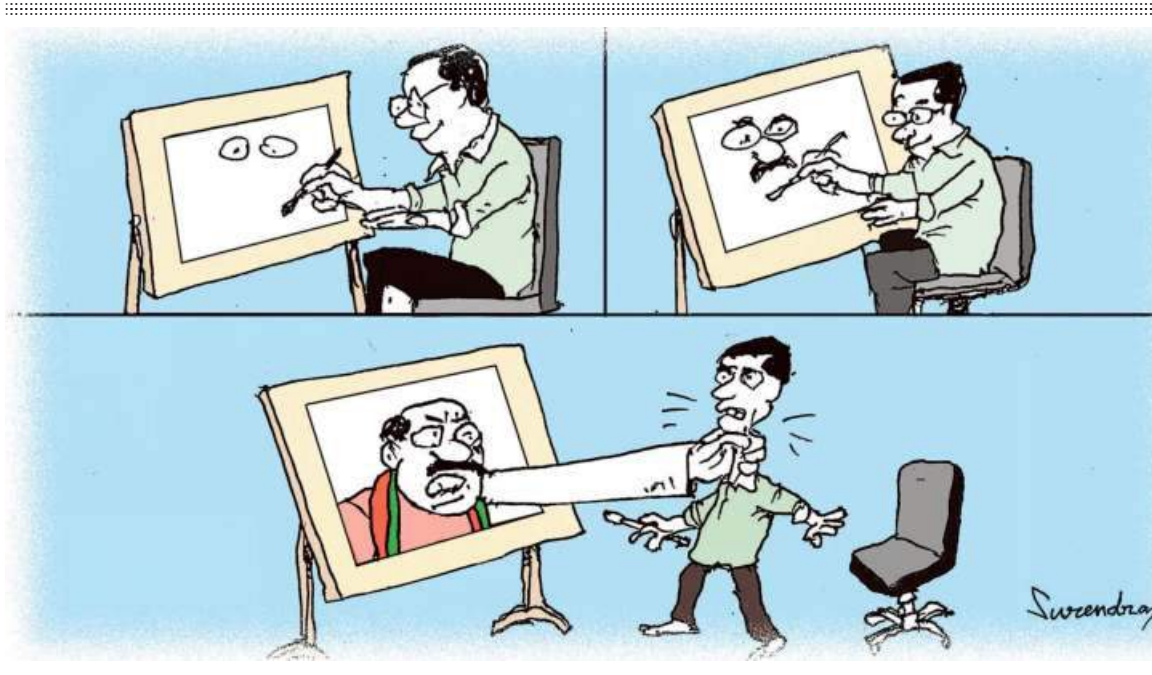
## Encouraging results

The results have been encouraging. The number of complaints has increased - not because problems have gone up, but because citizens trust the government to resolve them. The speed of resolution and the percentage of complaints resolved within the designated time have

both increased sharply. Perhaps the best indicator of this new approach is that if a citizen does not provide a star rating, they will get a call from the local government, asking them to rate their satisfaction with the services received. When the government seeks and responds to feedback, it is rewarded with trust.

When a digital system is designed, its attention to the small things creates these trust-building environments. These include what the user sees when they first log in, how many steps they are being asked to take, what feedback or signal they are receiving at each step, and so on. Each interaction is an occasion to send a trust signal, to raise low expectations and meet new, high ones. This is how the 'nothing will happen' mindset gets replaced with the confidence that yes, something will be done.

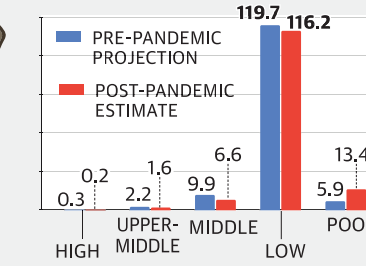
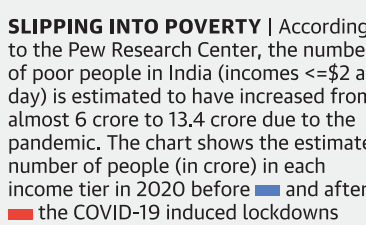
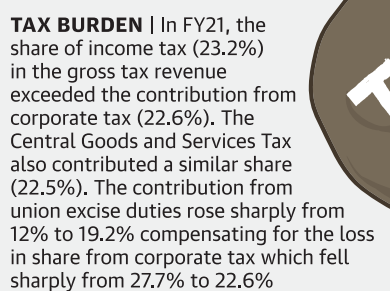
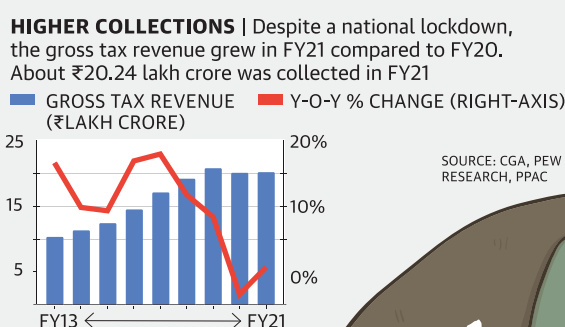
Viraj Tyagi is CEO, eGov Foundation



## DATA POINT

### Shifting the tax burden

In FY21, despite a stringent lockdown and a raging COVID-19 first wave, the gross tax revenue collected by the Centre increased over FY20. However, the increase was made possible by a sharp rise in contributions from union excise duties. This compensated for the sharp drop in the share of corporate tax collection. The shift in tax burden from the corporates to the masses has come at a time when the pandemic has led to many job losses and reduced income levels thereby pushing more people into poverty. By The Hindu Data Team



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1971

## Demonetisation meant to hit refugees

The Pakistan Government's demonetisation of its currency in the denominations of Rs. 500 and Rs. 100 yesterday has been regarded in official circles here [June 8, New Delhi] as a deliberate move to inflict more hardship on the refugees who have crossed over to India. Pakistan's decision to demonetise notes bearing the slogans, "Joy Bangla", "Bangla Desh" and "Dacca" is also regarded as evidence of continued resistance within Bangla Desh to the reign of terror under the Pakistan Army. The Pakistan Government would not have found it necessary to declare these notes as ceasing to be legal tender, unless the circulation of these notes had assumed huge proportions.

UPI reports from Islamabad: The Pakistan Government claimed to-day that a large number of people were turning up at banks to surrender the notes. The authorities have ordered the banks to accept 500 rupee notes to-day and to-morrow and 100 rupee notes until Thursday.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1921

## Payment for jurors

Jurors are not paid for their work, which is generally regarded as a privilege and even a duty attaching to their citizenship. They may be kept hanging about a court for several days to the complete dislocation of their business. The rigid rule of punctual attendance and the monotony of trials often cause great hardship. It is stated that the Special Juror in the United Kingdom is more or less "adequately rewarded," with the fee of a guinea for each suit to which he listens, but the Common Juror is a "very long suffering individual". A private member's Bill in the House of Commons seeks to sanction the payment of expenses which Common Jurors incur in the discharge of their duties. There is no idea of paying any remuneration for his work and the proposal is merely to reimburse his out-of-pocket expenses. Jury service is generally not popular and it may grow more and more unpopular if it should involve personal expense. It stands to reason that the honorary worker in the great cause of Justice should not be victimised in his pocket for the common good. The success of the private member's Bill will be watched with wide interest since none would like honorary work becoming a source of expenditure.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Centre places orders for 44 crore vaccine doses

To be able to administer at least a single dose to all adults by December, over 9 crore people need to be inoculated per month.

The government has earmarked ₹35,000 crore towards vaccine procurement. Until May 28, it had ordered 28.5 crore doses for ₹4,488 crore according to data from the Health Ministry.

Biological E said it had got permission from India's Drug Controller on April 24 to begin phase-3 trials in India. The Phase III clinical study to be conducted in 15 sites across India would evaluate the extent and nature of immunity and safety of Biological E's SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 vaccine in about 1,268 healthy subjects in the age range of 18 to 80 years. It

is intended to be part of a larger global Phase III study, the company said in a statement.

Biological E has successfully concluded the Phase I/II trials of the vaccine candidate, which began in India in November last year. Data from the Phase I/II trial suggested that the Covid-19 vaccine was "safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic," according to a company statement.

The vaccine candidate has an antigen developed by the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development and is licensed from BCM Ventures, Baylor College of Medicine's integrated commercialisation team, and Dynavax Technologies' advanced adjuvant, CpG 1018TM.

## Nepal stops distribution of Patanjali's Coronil kits

While pointing at shortcomings of the kits, Nepalese officials pointed to the recent statements against Coronil by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which has challenged Mr. Ramdev to prove the efficacy of his products to deal with the COVID-19.

Nepal is the second country after Bhutan to stop distribution of Coronil kits. Bhutan's Drug Regulatory Authority has already stopped distribution of Coronil in the kingdom.

However, Nepal remains close to the Patanjali group as the organisation maintains a large production facility and distribution networks in Nepal. It is not yet clear if the ban on the distribution will be limited to the particular consignment or get expanded to cover Coronil kits across the country.

Monday's order also sparked controversy within the Government of Nepal as the Coronil kits were received during the tenure of previous health minister Hridayesh Tripathi and the minister in charge of women and child development, Juli Mahato. Soon afterwards, Ms. Mahato and her husband Raghuvir Mahaseth tested positive drawing attention to attention to their support for Patanjali group.

The latest order is being interpreted as an attempt by Oli government to distance itself from the Patanjali group as it is perceived to be close to Ms. Mahato's brother, industrialist Upendra Mahato. Mr Mahato is one of the biggest industrialists of Nepal and is widely known to be a partner of Patanjali group in the country.

## Ladakh reserves all jobs for region residents

'A welcome but delayed move'

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

All jobs in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh have been reserved for the residents of the region, according to an order issued on Tuesday.

"No person shall be qualified for appointment to the service unless the person is a resident of the UT of Ladakh," reads the order issued by Lieutenant-Governor R.K. Mathur.

The new recruitment rules are mentioned in the Clause II of the Union Territory of Ladakh Employment (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules, 2021.

The move has met a long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh, after it was carved out as a UT on August 5, 2019. "It was our demand since the bifurcation of J&K almost two years ago.

It's a welcome move," Chief Executive Councillor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil, Feroz Ahmed Khan told *The Hindu*.

He said the order has come very late as many unemployed youths have crossed the upper age limit in the past two years. "We will also demand age relaxation for fresh recruitments," Mr. Khan said. He said there should be similar laws on land too. "At present, the State land of the UT comes under twin elected councils, Leh and Kargil. However, private land does not have any protection."

Mr. Khan said till the Centre meets the demand of the Sixth Schedule for the UT, it should also grant legislative powers to the twin councils.

# New norms for digital content

Children with special needs must find it operable, understandable: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry has laid down new guidelines for producing digital education resources for children with disabilities, after a year in which the COVID-driven shift to online education has spotlighted the lacunae in such resources.

However, the PDF document containing the guidelines does not even follow its own rules, making it partially inaccessible to the visually challenged, says an activist, raising concerns about effective implementation.

### Guidelines released

The guidelines, released by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Tuesday, are based on four guiding principles, stipulating that all resources must be perceivable, operable, understandable and robust for disabled students.



Learning activities must include multimodal experiences, norms say.

They recommend that all textbooks be made digitally accessible in a phased manner, so that they are available in multiple formats such as text, audio, video and sign language with turn-on and turn-off features. Detailed technical standards have been provided.

The closure of regular schools and learning centres due to COVID-19 has led to special difficulties for many disabled children.

For instance, a recent stu-

dy by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy showed that more than half of the NCERT textbooks available on the government's virtual education platform DIKSHA were not accessible for visually impaired students.

### Supplementary content

The guidelines provide strategies to produce supplementary content for varying disabilities, including students who face visual and hearing challenges, those on the autism spectrum, those with intellectual or special learning disabilities, and those with multiple disabilities.

They note that learning activities must include audio, visual and tactile experiences, while evaluation must be multimodal.

Ironically enough, while the guidelines call for the use of image descriptions wherever pictures are used

in order to be accessible to visually challenged students using screen readers, this is not even followed by the guidelines document itself, according to Muralidharan, secretary, National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled.

"So much for a document that talks of e-accessibility," he said. "As guidelines they are very comprehensive and cover all aspects... Concerns of each disability are identified and solutions worked around them. How far they would be implemented is something that we will have to see. The taste of the pudding will lie in its eating."

The guidelines do include an implementation roadmap. The next steps are the nomination of an expert technical team to update the DIKSHA platform, followed by training and development of prototypes of the accessible digital textbooks.

## Crackdown on fake medicines

Interpol-led Operation Pangea XIV targeted sale of counterfeit health products

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

More than 1.1 lakh web links, including websites and online marketplaces, have been taken down in an operation involving the police, customs and health regulatory authorities of 92 countries against the sale of fake and illicit medicines and medical products.

Code-named "Operation Pangea XIV", the exercise was coordinated by Interpol. Indian agencies also participated in the operation, said an official of the Central Bureau of Investigation that is the nodal body for the Interpol in the country.

The operation resulted in 1,13,020 web links being closed down or removed, the largest since the first "Operation Pangea" conducted in 2008, the arrest of 277 suspects and seizure of

potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals worth over \$23 million.

It showed that criminals were continuing to cash in on the huge demand for personal protection and hygiene products due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of all the medical devices seized during the operation from May 18 to 25 were fake and unauthorised COVID-19 test kits.

In the United Kingdom, apart from the seizure of some three million fake medicines and devices worth over \$13 million, the authorities removed more than 3,100 advertising links for the illegal sale and supply of unlicensed medicines, and shut down 43 websites, Interpol said in a statement on Tuesday.

A person in Venezuela was arrested for developing



Fake surgical masks were seized as part of the effort.

an e-commerce platform on WhatsApp to sell illicit medicines. "In Italy, authorities recovered more than 500,000 fake surgical masks as well as 35 industrial machines used for production and packaging," said the statement, adding that globally, about nine million medical devices and illicit pharmaceuticals were seized.

"As the pandemic forced more people to move their lives online, criminals were

quick to target these new 'customers'," said Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

During the operation, searches of about 7.10 lakh packages led to the discovery of fake and illicit drugs concealed amongst a range of legitimate products, including clothes, jewellery, toys, food and baby products. "In Qatar, officials discovered 2,805 nerve pain tablets hidden inside tins of baked beans," said the Interpol.

The seized items included hypnotic and sedative medication, erectile dysfunction pills, medical and surgical devices like COVID test kits, masks, syringes, catheters, analgesics/painkillers, anabolic steroids, antiseptics and germicides, anti-cancer medication, anti-malarials and vitamins.

## Rengma Nagas demand autonomous council

They write to Union Home Minister and Assam Chief Minister, asking for their voices to be heard

VIJAITA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Rengma Nagas in Assam have written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding an autonomous district council amid a decision by the Central and the State governments to upgrade the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) into a territorial council.

The Rengma Naga Peoples' Council (RNPC), a registered body, said in the memorandum that the Rengmas were the first tribal people in Assam to have encountered the British in 1839, but the existing Rengma Hills was eliminated from the political map of the State and replaced with that of Mikir Hills (now Karbi Anglong) in 1951.



Long fight: The Rengma Naga community has been seeking an autonomous council for many years now. ■ FILE PHOTO

Narrating its history, the council said that during the Burmese invasions of Assam in 1816 and 1819, it was the Rengmas who gave shelter to the Ahom refugees.

The petition said that the Rengma Hills was partitioned in 1963 between As-

have no history in the Rengma Hills. People who are presently living in Rengma Hills are from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. They speak different dialects and do not know Karbi language of Karbi Anglong," the memorandum said.

RNPC president K. Solomon Rengma told *The Hindu* that the government was on the verge of taking a decision without taking them on board and thus they had written to Mr. Shah and Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"How can they do this? We have been writing to them for many years. The KAAC population is around 12 lakh and the Karbis constitute only 3 lakh, the remaining are non-Karbis, including

the Rengma Nagas, whose population is around 22,000. We are also demanding a separate legislative seat for Rengmas," he said.

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland or NSCN (Isak-Muivah), which is in talks with the Centre for a peace deal, said in a statement on Monday that the Rengma issue was one of the important agendas of the "Indo-Naga political talks" and no authority should go far enough to override their interests.

More than 3,000 Rengma Nagas were forced to relocate to relief camps in 2013 after several people were killed in a series of attacks following a call given by a Karbi insurgent group.

## Rajnath lauds India-Sweden ties in defence production

Minister points to growing co-development options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

There is lot of scope for Swedish and Indian defence industries for co-production and co-development and Indian industry can also supply components to Swedish industries, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

"On behalf of Government of India, I would like to extend an invitation to a delegation at highest level from Sweden to India and have a glimpse of Indian defence industries and defence industry corridors," Mr. Singh said at an India-Sweden defence industry webinar.



Close network: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh releasing the first copy of the SIDM Members Directory 2020-2021. ■ PTI

Welcoming the recent understanding by India and European Union to resume negotiations on a free trade agreement, Swedish Defence Minister Peter Hultqvist said one area with potential for deepening defence industry cooperation was amongst Small and

Medium Enterprise (SME) businesses. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed during the event between Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers and Swedish Security and Defence Industry Association to promote bilateral defence industrial relations.

## Delhi ration shops urged to use ePoS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey has written to the Delhi government, urging it to resume the use of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) machines at ration shops, so that the One Nation One Ration Card scheme can be implemented in the State.

In a time of COVID-related distress, the scheme would be of immense help to an estimated 10 lakh migrant workers in Delhi who have ration cards in their home States but are unable to access subsidised foodgrains in the capital, Mr. Pandey wrote in his letter to Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Kumar Dev on Tuesday.

## Webinars to provide expert career guidance to students

They will explore trends in higher education and industry

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

Hindustan Institute of Technology & Science (HITS), in association with *The Hindu* Group, will host a series of webinars focusing on providing expert career guidance to students from Classes 10, 11 and 12.

The virtual sessions will have speakers who are subject matter experts from academia, and industry representatives.

The webinars aim to offer concise and insightful information on courses that students can consider.

The webinars will also explore trends in higher edu-



cation and the industry that will help students choose streams that align with their personal expectations and resonate with the rapidly evolving industry requirement.

### Health sciences

On June 11, a webinar on 'Career in Allied Health Sciences: Current Trends and Future Prospects' will be held at 11 a.m. At 4 p.m. on the

same day, a webinar on 'How a Liberal Arts education helps promote interdisciplinary learning' has been scheduled.

On June 16 at 4 p.m., a webinar on 'Technology is changing the legal field and what students need to do to adapt' will be held and a webinar on 'Why sustainability must be a part of management education' has been scheduled for June 18 at 4 p.m. To register for the webinar series, log on to [bit.ly/THHITS1](https://bit.ly/THHITS1) or scan the QR Code.



**Top varsities** | JNU, featuring for the first time in the QS World Universities Ranking list, is among the top-600 in the world

2022 global rank	Name
177=	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
185	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
186=	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
255=	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
277=	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
280	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
395=	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
400=	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
501-510 (ranking band)	University of Delhi
561-570 (ranking band)	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

## JNU enters list of top 1,000 universities

IIT-Bombay ranks the highest in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University has entered the top 1,000 of the QS World University rankings for the first time, as its new undergraduate engineering programme now makes it eligible for the rating. It debuted at the 561-570 ranking band in the rankings, which only rate institutions offering both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Overall, there are 22 Indian institutions in the top 1,000 list compared to 21 last year, with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Madras making major strides in rankings.

However, some institutions are still worried that the rankings do not accurately reflect the quality of education in India, as they are largely dependent on international perception factors.

IIT Bombay maintained its position as the top Indian institution for the fourth consecutive year, although it fell five places in the global rankings to the joint 177th position.

IIT Delhi (185th rank) overtook the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (186th rank), giving India

three institutions in the world's top 100. IISc was also declared the world's top research university by the indicator of most citations per faculty member, when adjusted for faculty size.

The citations per faculty metric were also key to the 75 rank jump by IIT Guwahati and the 73 rank jump by IIT Kanpur, according to QS regional director Ashwin Fernandes.

**Commercial pressure**  
However, one IIT director, who did not wish to be named, alleged that this year's improvement in scores was simply a manipulation of numbers by the rankings agency, driven by commercial pressures.

Of the 35 Indian institutions in the rankings, 20 have improved on academic reputation this year.

"Half of the score comes from reputation indicators which are based on perception, rather than any objective methodology. They cannot afford too much unhappiness, or they may face a boycott like the THE [Times Higher Education rankings], so they manipulate the numbers. It does not reflect the quality of Indian education in any real sense," said the director.

### IN BRIEF



**Farooq says he is not against delimitation**

SRINAGAR  
National Conference (NC) president and MP Farooq Ahmad on Tuesday said his party would continue to strive for J&K's special status and was not against the ongoing delimitation process. "The method adopted is not in tandem with the procedure," he said. Party vice-president Omar Abdullah also asked the workers "to remain steadfast in their resolve to fight for the right cause".

**M.P. CM's new OSD quits after row over his tweets**

BHOPAL  
A newly appointed communication adviser to Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Tuesday that he would not take up the post after some BJP leaders flagged his past tweets criticising the Hindutva ideology. "I have decided to not accept the responsibility offered to me by @chouhanshivrajji and have communicated my inability to the CM," Mumbai-based Tushar Panchal said in a tweet from the handle @tushar. It could not be ascertained if it was Mr. Panchal's own Twitter account, but a State BJP leader confirmed that he has refused to accept the post. ■ PTI

**SAD hits out at govt. for case against its leaders**

CHANDIGARH  
A day after the Punjab police booked its leaders and workers on the charge of violating COVID-19 curbs, the Shiromani Akali Dal hit out at the Congress-led Punjab government on Tuesday for "suppressing" the voice of those standing by the people in this hour of crisis. ■ PTI



IN BRIEF



Four take oath as Rajya Sabha members

NEW DELHI  
Four Rajya Sabha members — two elected from Kerala and two nominated members, including Swapna Dasgupta — took their oaths on Tuesday. Mr. Dasgupta returned to complete his tenure after having resigned ahead of the West Bengal election, where he contested on BJP ticket. The other nominated member was senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani. The two members from Kerala were senior journalist John Brittas and CPI(M) leader V. Sivadasan.

Maratha quota: CM seeks lifting of 50% ceiling

MUMBAI  
A delegation led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps to lift the 50% ceiling on reservation to ensure that Marathas and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) continue to get benefits. "The Supreme Court scrapped the Maratha reservation and also the political reservation for OBCs in local civic bodies. We presented all the facts and the steps to be taken for the same," Mr. Thackeray said at a press conference after a meeting with Mr. Modi.

Gujarat BJP convenes meeting on June 15

AHMEDABAD  
The Gujarat BJP has convened a legislature party meeting on June 15. All MLAs from the party have been asked to attend. Members of the State parliamentary board, State party chief C.R. Paatil and other top office-bearers of the party will also be present. "We have called the meeting of all legislators to brief them about the measures the government has taken during the pandemic second wave," Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said in a statement. Mr. Patel said no meeting of the party's office-bearers and legislators had been held for two months and, hence, this meeting.

# On vaccines, India always quick on the uptake

PM's claim that country earlier had to wait decades for procuring vaccines from abroad is at odds with the facts

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Monday presentation of India's vaccination history is at odds with the facts. "If you look at the history of vaccinations in India, whether for smallpox, hepatitis B or polio, you will see that India would have to wait decades for procuring vaccines from abroad. When vaccination

a history of vaccination in India published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research* (IJMR) by Chandrakant Lahariya in 2012 said, was first administered to a three-year-old Indian, in 1802, a mere four years after English physician Edward Jenner published the result of his experiments on inoculating subjects with a cowpox virus. The smallpox vaccines were imported until 1850, but preserving the liquid lymph solution was a challenge. This led to institutes in India researching ways to increase lymph supply with early success by 1895.

NEWS ANALYSIS

programmes ended in other countries, it would not have even begun in our country," he claimed.

India, even before Independence, was among the countries that indigenously manufactured vaccines a few years within their discovery, historical records suggest.

While there have been several challenges to the uptake of vaccines, their availability was the least of the problems.

A vaccine for smallpox, as



Viral claims: Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving the second dose of the vaccine in New Delhi in April. \*AFP

small fee contributing to its fluctuating uptake.

"The vaccination coverage went down and in 1944-45 in India, the highest numbers of smallpox cases in the last two decades were reported. As soon as World War II ended, the focus was brought back on smallpox vaccination and cases decreased," Dr. Lahariya said. "In 1947, India was self-sufficient in the production of smallpox vaccines." It took until 1971 to eradicate the virus in South America and 1975 in Asia

(and India) and 1977 in Africa. The challenge, said Dr. Lahariya, was not a lack of access to vaccines, but social and economic factors surrounding vaccination.

The history of polio vaccination in India is more complicated. "India was also the pioneer-leader in polio research — epidemiology, vaccine-prevention — and in the manufacture of both Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV). India's lead position was squandered in later years

due to short-sighted policies and capricious decisions, a blot in our history of public health," write T. Jacob John and M. Vipin Vashista in the 2013 edition of the *IJMR*.

The Pasteur Institute of India developed and produced, for the first time in India, an indigenous trivalent OPV in 1970. It was not until 2006 that IPV was licensed for manufacture in India.

It was only due to the use of a combination of both kinds of vaccines, concerted sustained campaigns and inadequate attention by governments to boost vaccine production that it required until 2011 to eliminate polio. Again, it was not because India was unable to make those vaccines.

The Prime Minister also claimed that since 2014, the Mission Indradhanush programme had increased the percentage of children covered under vaccination from 60% to 90%. The latest round of the National Family

Health Survey, which provides data only for 17 States and five Union Territories, showed that none of the States had achieved 90% vaccination coverage. The Health Ministry released data on this on December 2020 and was expected to provide data from the remaining States by May this year.

A vaccine against the bacterium causing plague was made by Waldemar Haffkine at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, in 1897 that he first tested on himself and later on the inmates of the Byculla jail. A Plague Laboratory was set up in 1899 and in 1925, it was renamed the Haffkine Institute.

Several vaccine institutes came up in different provinces of the country, including the 1948 BCG (for tuberculosis) Laboratory in Guindy, Madras. These institutes enabled the manufacture of vaccines for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus in India, before 1940.

## 'High number of Cong. MLAs joined BJP'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The highest number of MLAs who switched parties in the recent Assembly elections left the Congress and joined the BJP, according to a report released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) on Tuesday.

The ADR report said the highest number of MLAs who changed parties were from the Congress (20 or 39.22% of the total. Fifteen All-India Trinamool Congress MLAs, or 29.41% of the total MLAs, who switched parties left to contest elections.

"In the recent Assembly elections 2021, 20 [39.22%] out of 60 recontesting MLAs who switched political parties joined the BJP, followed by 17 [33.33%] MLAs who joined AITC and 7 [13.73%] MLAs who joined Amma Makkal Munetra Kazhagam," it said.

Out of the 60 recontesting candidates in the five Assembly polls, the maximum number (eight or 13.33%) left the Congress.

## Group seeks action against NRC head

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

A minority organisation has asked the Union Home Ministry to take action against Hitesh Dev Sarma, Assam's Coordinator for the National Register of Citizens (NRC), for "biased activities" and failure to issue rejection orders to those excluded from the updated list of citizens.

In a letter to the Ministry's Secretary on June 7, the All Assam Minority Students' Union said bias had prompted the NRC Coordinator to file two applications in the Supreme Court on May 11 seeking re-verification of the list of citizens published in 2019.

## Adopt a transparent policy in allocating vaccines: Congress

Spell out road map of meeting deadline by Dec., it tells govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the reversion to the centralised procurement of COVID-19 vaccines from June 21, the Congress on Tuesday asked the government to adopt a transparent policy in allocating vaccines to the States and spell out a road map of meeting its own deadline of fully vaccinating 100 crore citizens by December.

The Congress reiterated its demand for free universal vaccination, whether these vaccines are administered in a private hospital or a government one, and questioned the government's decision of continuing with the policy of allowing the private



Jairam Ramesh

sector to obtain 25% of the vaccine production.

Addressing a virtual press conference, former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh claimed that 50% of the vaccines meant for the private sector had been "grabbed" by nine major hospital groups with presence in metro cities and that was a

"dangerous situation" as it affected supply to smaller hospitals in non-metros and small towns.

The government should also do away with the procedure of registering oneself in the CoWIN app and set up walk-in vaccination for all categories.

"This government is headline-driven and not deadline-driven," Mr. Ramesh said.

"The government must work out a transparent allocation formula in consultation with States for providing vaccines, as we have seen that BJP-ruled States have been favoured by the Central government in the past in allocation of vaccines and medicines," he alleged.

## '25% of vaccines for private hospitals is a licence to loot'

CPI(M) demands an immediate withdrawal of the clause

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre's failed vaccine policy has not been fully reversed, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement here. By reserving 25% of vaccines for the private sector, the party said, the government was providing them with a licence to loot. The party demanded an immediate withdrawal of this clause, too, to bring in 100% universally free vaccines.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau said the Modi government had been forced to withdraw its "liberalised vaccine policy" for three reasons — a strong opposition, pushback from States and the Supreme Court's criticism. Prime Minister Narendra



Commuters travelling in the Metro on Monday in New Delhi. \*SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Modi's efforts to lay the blame at the door of the State governments, the party said, was condemnable. The "liberalised vaccine policy" was a unilateral decision made by the Centre.

"However, the failed vaccine policy has not been fully

reversed. The government has chosen to continue the dual pricing policy. As much as 25% of vaccine production is still reserved for the private sector. This is nothing but a licence to loot by private manufacturers to make super profits," the statement said.

And this 25% diversion of vaccines, the CPI(M) said, came at a time of acute vaccine shortage. This would "dilute and weaken" the need for universal vaccination, essential to prevent a third wave of COVID-19. The Centre must procure all the vaccines manufactured in India and bought globally, and distribute it to States in consultation with them, the statement said.

## Monsoon session of Parliament likely to begin in July: Minister

COVID-19 protocols on seating are expected to continue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The monsoon session of Parliament is expected to begin on schedule in July, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Tuesday.

As per norms, the session is held in the second or third week of July. The last session of Parliament was curtailed and ended *sine die* on March 25 and under the Constitutional norms, the next session has to be held within six months. This period ends on September 14.

Three sessions have been curtailed since the pandemic began in March last year. First of these was the Budget session of 2020. The winter session last year was also cut



Pralhad Joshi

short. Last year, the monsoon session, which usually starts in July, began in September.

"I am hopeful that the Parliament session will be held as per its normal schedule in July," Mr. Joshi told PTL. However, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkiah Naidu did not share Mr. Joshi's opti-

mism. At an oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected members, Mr. Naidu, said, "Oath and affirmation has been arranged now because convening of the next session may take some time."

Sources said with the COVID-19 spread under control and the possibility of a third wave in the coming months, the government did not want to postpone the session to September. The monsoon session, sources said, would be short. Most MPs have got at least one dose of the COVID vaccine. However, the COVID-19 protocol followed in the last three sessions, including members sitting in galleries to maintain physical distance, is expected to continue.

## Bengal BJP speaking in different voices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

A month after the Assembly election, the rift in the West Bengal unit of the BJP is out in the open, with leaders speaking in different voices on crucial issues, including Article 356. On Tuesday, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suwendu Adhikari met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party pre-

sident J.P. Nadda in Delhi. Mr. Adhikari said the situation "is far worse than what is required for the Centre to impose President's Rule under Article 356".

But party leader Rajib Banerjee on social media said if at "every stage the party tries to scare people by pointing at Delhi and the ghost of Article 356, the people of West Bengal will not

take it well". Mr. Adhikari and Mr. Banerjee were Ministers in the Trinamool government and had joined the BJP before the Assembly election.

The State BJP held a meeting in Kolkata under the leadership of Dilip Ghosh. Mr. Ghosh had a tough time explaining why Mr. Banerjee and party leader Mukul Roy did not participate.

## Cong. income dips; AAP, CPI(M), NCP post increase in 2019-20

EC publishes annual audit reports of parties other than BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress saw its income decrease by over ₹200 crore from 2018-19 to 2019-20, the financial year in which the 2019 Lok Sabha election was held, while the Aam Adam Party (AAP), the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the CPI(M) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) all reported an increase in receipts over the previous year's.

The parties' annual audit reports for 2019-20, which were published by the Election Commission (EC) on

Monday, showed that the Congress went from having a surplus of ₹448.11 crore in 2018-19 to a deficit of ₹315.94 crore.

Its income decreased from ₹918.03 crore in 2018-19, which was the financial year in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, to ₹682.21 crore in 2019-20.

In its report, the AAP declared an increase in income from ₹19.31 crore the previous year to ₹49.65 crore in 2019-20, while its expenditure rose from ₹16.1 crore to ₹38.8 crore.

The Shiv Sena's report showed a decrease in income from ₹135.5 crore in 2018-19 to ₹111.4 crore, of which ₹40.98 crore came from electoral bonds.

The Nationalist Congress Party's income increased from ₹8.15 crore to ₹50.71 crore, as did its expenditure from ₹8.84 crore to ₹24.99 crore. The CPI(M)'s income went up from ₹100.96 crore to ₹158.62 crore and its expenditure from ₹76.1 crore to ₹105 crore. The BJP's annual report was yet to be published by the EC.

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

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Support Agencies for Promotion of Organic Farming under CSP scheme of Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the State of Odisha

Sealed proposals are invited from reputed Govt./ Semi-Govt. Institutions, FPOs, Partnership/ Professional Firms, Pvt. Companies, Cooperative Societies, NGOs and NCOF empanelled Agencies for empanelment as Support Agency on adoption and certification of Organic Farming under CSP Scheme of Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhhati (BPKP) under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) in the State of Odisha. The proposals should come in sealed envelope super-scribed as "Application for Registration of Support Agency for Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Padhhati (BPKP) under PKVY Odisha" from the Organizations as per the enclosed application format by registered/ speed post. No e-mail will be entertained for submission of proposals in this regard. Interested parties should apply for implementation in Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Baragarh, Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Gajapati, Khordha, Cuttack, Kandhamal & Sundargarh districts on pilot basis in the first phase in an area of 24,000 ha along with a non-refundable application fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred) only in form of D.D./ Pay Order in favour of CDAO of the concerned district payable at district headquarter. Filled EOI should reach in the Office of CDAO of the respective district on behalf of the undersigned. Last date for receipt of application is **22.06.2021 up to 2.00 PM** and the same shall be opened on the **same day at 4 P.M. in the Office of CDAO of the respective district** in the presence of authorised signatory or representative. The application form and the terms & condition are available at the website of [www.odisha.gov.in/](http://www.odisha.gov.in/) [www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in](http://www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in) from Dt. 09.06.2021.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha  
OIPR- 01034/11/0006/2122

**TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD**

6<sup>th</sup> Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-6 / DSP – VPM Pkg I / DO / CE / VLR / 2021 / Dated : 07.06.2021

Name of work - Design, Build, Operation of 60 MLD Capacity Desalination Plant based on (SWRO) Sea Water Reverse Osmosis at Koonimedu near Marakanam in Villupuram District in Tamil Nadu and Operation and Maintenance for 20 years (Paid Maintenance) – Package I - Period of Execution – 24 months (Design part – 6 Months – Execution part – 18 Months) – Trial run period - 6 Months.

Ref : 1. This office Invitation of Bid No. IFB No. 15/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 07.01.2021  
2. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-1/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 09.02.2021  
3. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-2/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 25.02.2021  
4. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-3/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 09.03.2021  
5. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-4/DSP – VPM Pkg I/DO/CE/VLR/2021/Dated : 08.04.2021  
6. Tender Extension Notification No. IFB No. 15-5 / DSP – VPM Pkg I / DO / CE / VLR / 2021 / Dated : 13.05.2021

The tender extended for the above work vide reference 6<sup>th</sup> cited is hereby again extended as follows :

Sl. No.	Description	Already given	Extended upto
1	The sale of Tender Schedule	Upto 5.45 PM on 09.06.2021	Upto 5.45 PM on 12.07.2021
2	The last date of receipt and opening of tender	Upto 3.00 PM and 3.30 PM on 11.06.2021	Upto 3.00 PM and 3.30 PM on 14.07.2021

The other terms and conditions specified in the tender documents for above work remain unaltered. Please Visit our Website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and "www.twadboard.tn.gov.in" for further details.

Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, Villore-6  
DIPR/ 1702 /TENDER/2021

**Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited**  
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001  
Tel.:(0674) 2380660; Website: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in); Email: [logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in)

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
Bid Reference No.:OSMCL/2021-22/SHORT-ANTIFUNGAL/22

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Anti Fungal Items as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	08/06/2021, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 09/06/2021, 11 AM 17/06/2021, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	17/06/2021 11:30 AM
4.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in) and <https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>. OSMCL reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha  
OIPR-10112/11/0020/2122



IN BRIEF



**Bihar lifts lockdown; night curfew to stay**

**PATNA**  
The Bihar government on Tuesday announced that the lockdown will be lifted from June 9. However, night curfew will continue from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. Government and private offices can open with 50% strength till 4 p.m., but malls, schools, colleges, religious places and cinema halls will remain closed. Shops will be allowed to remain open till 5 p.m. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar cautioned people to avoid crowded places.

**Railways to run 100 more trains soon**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Indian Railways are making all efforts to ramp up passenger services and will begin running 100 more trains in the next five or six days to meet the increase in demand, Railway Board Chairman and CEO Suneet Sharma said on Tuesday. The Railways are currently running 889 Special Mail Express trains on an average daily. "We want to normalise services as soon as possible... we had operationalised about 1,500 trains before the second wave of the pandemic. However, due to the pandemic and restrictions on movement in various States, we faced challenges," Mr. Sharma said.

**Odisha to start unlock process in phases**

**BHUBANESWAR**  
Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday said the State government was contemplating starting the unlocking process in districts registering a decline in COVID-19 infection rate. He also asked the administration to ensure a foolproof preparation for the possible third wave. He was reviewing the prevailing corona situation in the State. While expressing satisfaction over the decline in cases in certain districts, he said the State was yet to get out of the impact of the second wave.

**Piramal Foundation, NITI unveil home care drive**

**MUMBAI**  
Piramal Foundation, in association with NITI Aayog, on Tuesday unveiled a campaign to provide COVID home care to 20 lakh citizens staying in rural areas. The Foundation, which has been working in 25 districts to provide COVID care to senior citizens, has now expanded its scope of work to 112 backward districts. The 'Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan' will be rolled out in these 112 aspirational districts to assist the administration in providing home-care support to patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms. Most of these districts are in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra, officials from the Foundation said.

# Take action against illegal adoption: SC

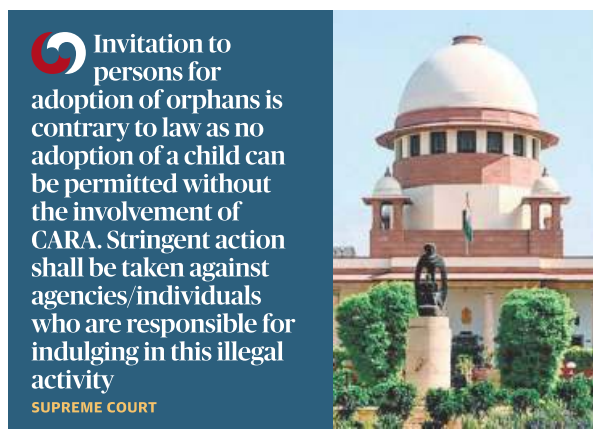
It directs govt. to prevent private entities from revealing identity of children orphaned by pandemic

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has directed the States and the Union Territories to take stringent action against private individuals and NGOs who invite people to illegally adopt children orphaned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose, in an 18-page order published on Tuesday, directed the government to step in and prevent private entities from revealing the identities of affected children, usually on social media, and inviting people to adopt them.

"The State Governments/Union Territories are directed to prevent any NGO from collecting funds in the names of the affected children by disclosing their identity and inviting interested persons to adopt them. No adoption of affected children should be permitted con-



**Invitation to persons for adoption of orphans is contrary to law as no adoption of a child can be permitted without the involvement of CARA. Stringent action shall be taken against agencies/individuals who are responsible for indulging in this illegal activity**  
SUPREME COURT

trary to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015," the court ordered.

**CARA involvement**

It was illegal to invite strangers to adopt children, already traumatised by their personal losses, without the involvement of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), a statutory body under the Women and Child

Development Ministry, it said. "Invitation to persons for adoption of orphans is contrary to law as no adoption of a child can be permitted without the involvement of CARA. Stringent action shall be taken by the State Governments/Union Territories against agencies/individuals who are responsible for indulging in this illegal activity," it observed.

The order came after the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), on Monday, raised the alarm on a spate of complaints about illegal adoption of COVID-19 orphans through private individual and organisations. "Social media posts are circulating that children are up for adoption. This is plainly illegal and violates the Juvenile Justice Act," advocate Shobha Gupta, for intervenor 'We the Women of India', made an impassioned plea.

NCPCR statistics show that 3,621 children were orphaned, 26,176 children lost either parent and 274 abandoned between April 1, 2021 to June 5, 2021. The court is hearing a *suo motu* case on the plight of children impacted by the pandemic.

**Child trafficking**  
Advocate Gaurav Agrawal, *amicus curiae*, said cases of

child trafficking have been going up. The government should intervene to care and protect children orphaned, abandoned or whose families have lost their earning members.

The court said lack of knowledge about the rights of children under the Juvenile Justice Act had led to many falling victim to efforts at illegal adoption. It directed the Centre, States and the Union Territories to give wide publicity to the provisions of the 2015 Act at regular intervals so as to make the general public, children and their parents or guardians aware of such provisions. It ordered the States and the Union Territories to continue with their efforts to identify children in need of care and protection after March 2020 and upload their details on the NCPCR database in order to provide them welfare schemes.

# 'Maintain vigil over private hospitals'

They may sell vaccines at a higher price, unless regulated stringently, SC told govt.

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court was worried about the role of private hospitals in COVID-19 vaccination, saying whether they would prefer profit over public health.

The court's anxiety is real and present as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Monday revealed that private hospitals would retain their capacity to buy 25% of vaccine stock from the manufacturers.

The court had advised the government to maintain a strict vigil over private hospitals in a May 31 order. It had

raised apprehension that private hospitals would sell vaccines they procure at higher prices unless they were "regulated stringently". It had reminded the government that private hospitals, though they provide public health service, have "profit" at the core of their existence.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, L. Nageswara Rao and S. Ravindra Bhat said, "Further consequences of vaccination by private hospitals under the liberalised vaccination policy relate to a simple issue at the core of their existence: that

while they provide a public health service, they still remain private, for-profit entities. Consequently, they may sell the vaccine doses procured at a higher price, unless regulated stringently."

**Transparency issue**

The court was also worried about transparency. "Private hospitals also may not sell all their vaccine doses publicly through appointments on Co-WIN, but rather sell them for lucrative deals directly to private corporations who wish to vaccinate their employees," it said.

The Bench pointed out

that many, especially those who live in small cities and villages, have limited access to private hospitals. "Private hospitals are not equally spread out across a State/UT and are often limited to bigger cities with large populations. As such, a larger quantity will be available in such cities, as opposed to the rural areas," it stated.

However, the court clarified that it was not against private hospitals playing a role in the vaccination drive. It accepted the Centre's point that they would reduce the burden on government facilities.

# Union seeks compensation for pilots

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

As nearly 21 pilots have succumbed to COVID-19 during the second wave, a welfare association has moved the Bombay High Court demanding that it determine suitable compensation in case of death of a pilot operating flights under the government's Vande Bharat Mission.

In its PIL plea, the Federation of Indian Pilots sought an interim ex gratia of ₹10 crore for all those who have lost their lives in the line of duty due to COVID-19.

# Probe ordered into 'mock drill' by Agra hospital

It cut off oxygen supply for 5 minutes

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
LUCKNOW

The Agra district administration launched a probe after the owner of a private hospital was heard in a video allegedly claiming how the hospital shut down oxygen supply for five minutes on April 27 as part of a "mock drill" to see which patients would survive and which would not.

Twenty-two patients "started turning blue, while 74 others survived", the owner of Paras Hospital, Arinjay Jain, can be heard saying in the video.

Mr. Jain, whose face is not visible, says there was acute shortage of oxygen on the day and claims they were told that even the Chief Mi-

nister could not arrange oxygen for them. He says they started discharging patients. While some were willing to listen, others did not. This is when he decided to conduct the "mock drill". "We did a mock drill at 7 a.m. and identified 22 patients. We realised they would die. We shut it [oxygen] down for five minutes. They started turning blue."

Agra District Magistrate Prabhu N. Singh, after conducting a preliminary probe, said there were no deaths due to lack of oxygen in the hospital. He also said an FIR would be lodged against Mr. Jain for trying to spread "fear". The hospital would also be sealed with immediate effect.

# Over 88,000 new cases recorded

Country also registers over 2,100 deaths; test positivity rate drops below 4%

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

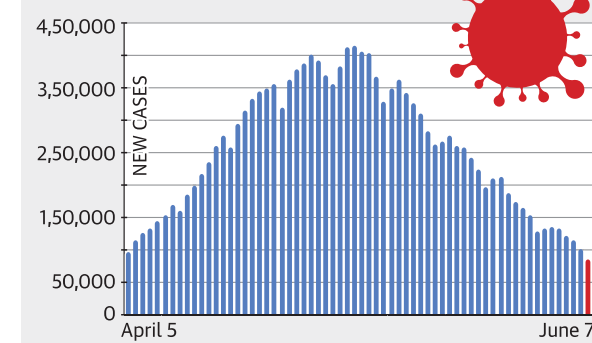
India recorded 88,747 new COVID-19 cases and 2,128 new deaths till 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The country has so far reported a total of 2,90,84,204 cases and 3,53,463 deaths.

Tamil Nadu reported 18,023 new infections, followed by Kerala (15,567) and Maharashtra (10,891). Maharashtra recorded 702 new casualties on the day, followed by Tamil Nadu (409) and Karnataka (179). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous reports.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep and

# Easing burden

Daily recorded COVID-19 cases in India fell below the 1 lakh-mark on Monday, the first time in 62 days. However, 4.48 lakh fewer samples were tested on Sunday (results of which were made available on Monday) compared to the previous day



Ladakh. The data are sourced from the health bulletins of the respective States.

Nearly 18.73 lakh samples were tested in the country on Monday (the results for which were made available

# Govt. caps prices of COVID-19 vaccines at private hospitals

High cost unacceptable: V.K. Paul

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has capped the prices at which vaccines will be sold at private hospitals. With a ceiling of ₹150 that hospitals can charge per dose as 'service charge' and a GST of 5%, the maximum price chargeable for Covishield is ₹780, for Covaxin, ₹1,410 and for Sputnik V ₹1,145, the Union Health Ministry said in an order on Tuesday.

The State governments would be entrusted with ensuring that these price barriers were not breached and if, in future, vaccine prices fell, it would influence the maximum cap.

The high price of COVID-19 vaccines at private hospitals is "unacceptable", and the revised vaccination policy will see reductions, said V.K. Paul, Chairman of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, on Tuesday.

Dr. Paul's remarks came a day after the Centre announced a revised vaccine policy from June 21 in which everyone above 18 will be eligible for free vaccines at government centres and State governments will no longer need to compete to buy vaccines.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Paul said, "It is unacceptable that hospitals charge ₹1,600 or even ₹4,000 for vaccines that cost ₹600. They must limit their price. Earlier it was ₹100 and we felt that there is a need for it to be increased. We are confident that this will encourage more hospitals, across the country and



Covishield will cost ₹780 a dose and Covaxin ₹1,410.

not just big cities, to come forward for administering vaccines."

Though vaccines would be available to all the Centre would continue to give "the highest priority" to health-care workers, Dr. Paul added.

Currently, nearly 9,000 private hospitals across the country are involved in the vaccination programme, and the government expects more of the 25,000-30,000 hospitals across the country to be more involved in the programme.

Private hospitals have, however, expressed reservations over the changed norms. The larger hospital chains that dominate vaccine procurement say the price is too low given the higher costs the hospitals incur, and the government should aim to reduce the vaccine prices for the private hospitals as well.

"The cap of ₹150 will not cover the additional costs incurred for such off-site vaccination camps which involve substantial costs... We urge the government to consider a higher charge," Fortis Healthcare said in a statement on Monday following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address.

# U.S. firm pays \$15 million for Covaxin rights

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
HYDERABAD

Ocugen Inc, the U.S. partner for Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine, announced the payment of \$15 million upfront to the Indian drug maker for extending the vaccine rights to Canada.

In a regulatory filing, Ocugen said it had agreed to pay another \$10 million within a month from the commercial launch of Covaxin in Canada. Bharat Biotech on June 3 said it had agreed to expand the agreement with Ocugen Inc to commercialise the jab in Canada.

The two firms have entered into an agreement to co-develop, supply and commercialise Covaxin for the U.S. market.

**THE CROSSWORD + 13269** Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers into our online grids! @ <https://qr.go.page.link/jjpTn>

(set by Arden)

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- ACROSS**
- No. 1 story about happiness (7)
  - Boy wonder, at last one becomes an outlaw (7)
  - I've struggled in pain to succeed (7)
  - The schism stops the German, but he always moves on (7)
  - A Syrian perhaps is crazy to reject a fight (9)
  - Walk into a team bleary eyed (5)
  - Ready and neat source of funds (4,3)
  - Dined at home, most clean (7)
  - Israel has another hidden capital (5)
  - Fruit crate broken - it's sort of square outside (9)
  - Currently active, reviewed in one to ten games (7)
  - Censure gets a doctor in finally... (7)
  - ... so eat it as a snack (7)
  - National greeting for spotless environment all around (7)
- DOWN**
- Taken prisoner, soldier brought in giving signal (6)
  - Total chaos, prime minister once was on edge (6)
  - Decapitate spear fish (4)
  - Join flower girl on top (6)
  - Go with bundle, free to kill (8)
  - Capital supplement, is the music group getting across? (5,5)
  - Detailed study onboard can be carried out (8)
  - Dries out wet clothes, it's extremely strange (8)
  - Sent to have a fill with zero capital (10)
  - Disaster state, peace will come later (8)
  - Kidnap quietly, criminal again found outside hotel (8)
  - Turnover now, finally one separated the chaff (8)
  - Some political icons are dressed in rough white cloth (6)
  - One month is a long time in pictures (6)
  - Reach for old wine (6)
  - Cripple Mike and Mark (4)

# SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

**Solution to puzzle 13268**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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



# BRICS opposes exceptionalism: China

Beijing frames BRICS Ministers' statement as opposing the West, emphasises on multilateralism

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Monday sought to frame a joint statement from the Foreign Ministers of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries, who met virtually last week, as standing in opposition to what Beijing has increasingly hit out at "bloc politics" from the United States and the West.

The BRICS Foreign Ministers, at a virtual meet last week, put out a joint statement on multilateralism, in addition to the usual Ministers' press statement. China's Foreign Ministry on Monday said the idea behind the statement was to forge a common understanding among the BRICS countries when there were "so many different interpretations and definitions of multilateralism in the world".

Ironically, among the targets of Beijing's recent at-



Looking ahead: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin in Beijing, in this file photo. ■ REUTERS

tacks on what it calls "selective multilateralism" is the India-Australia-Japan-U.S. Quad grouping, which Chinese officials have repeatedly criticised. India, which is the BRICS chair this year and will host this year's leaders summit, which may also take place virtually, finds itself in a curious position of being described by Beijing as both a partner and a target in its recent emphasis on the im-

portance of "multilateralism" and its criticism of calls for a "rules-based order", voiced not only by the U.S. but also by the Quad.

## Multilateral system

On the "different interpretations" of multilateralism, the "BRICS countries, as representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, have tackled the problem head-on and given

their answer", Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

"The BRICS Joint Statement on Strengthening and Reforming the Multilateral System laid out the following principles," he added. "First, it should make global governance more inclusive, representative and participatory to facilitate greater and more meaningful participation of developing and least developed countries. Second, it should be based on inclusive consultation and collaboration for the benefit of all. Third, it should make multilateral organisations more responsive, action-oriented and solution-oriented based on the norms and principles of international law and the spirit of mutual respect, justice, equality, mutual beneficial cooperation. Fourth, it should use innovative and inclusive solutions, including digital and technological

tools. Fifth, it should strengthen capacities of individual States and international organizations. Sixth, it should promote people-centered international cooperation at the core. This is the answer given by the BRICS."

He added that the BRICS countries were "indeed different from a few developed countries in their attitude towards multilateralism and multilateral cooperation." "The BRICS countries stress the need to observe the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and oppose exceptionalism and double standard," he said. "We are committed to extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and oppose hegemonic bullying and zero-sum games. We pursue openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation, and reject bloc politics and ideological confrontation."

# China offers ASEAN nations support on vaccines

It seeks deeper 'economic ties' to offset maritime disputes, push back against U.S. outreach in the region

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Tuesday offered ASEAN countries its vaccines as well as closer cooperation on joint vaccine development and production, as it hosted 10 Foreign Ministers from the Southeast Asian grouping.

The meeting comes as China looks to deepen its economic ties with the region as well as push back at what it sees as a renewed effort at regional engagement from the new Biden administration in the U.S. in particular, as well as from the India-Australia-Japan-U.S. Quad grouping, which earlier this

year came out with a regional vaccine initiative.

On Tuesday, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the visiting Ministers that China and ASEAN should "jointly carry forward Asian values" in a subtle dig at the West. President Xi Jinping had in 2014 put forward the idea that it was for "Asian people to uphold Asia's security".

Mr. Wang made a similar point on Tuesday, saying that "taking root in the Oriental tradition, both sides should strengthen mutual learning and cultural exchanges, and carry forward Asian values, instilling posi-

tive energy to global and regional governance."

"Both sides should continue to embrace the 'Asian Way' of consensus building and accommodating each other's comfort levels, build an inclusive and co-existed family, and forge a cooperation circle featuring common development," he said. "We should adhere to independence, self-reliance and self-strengthening to support the ASEAN integration, and forge a closer community with a shared future."

China's hosting of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in the city of Chongqing marked the 30th anniversary

of ties and came as Beijing deals with recent disputes with both the Philippines and Malaysia. The meeting reiterated the need to "advance consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea" but as the recent incidents underlined, progress has been slow.

Beijing is banking on deep economic links to both offset maritime disputes and the push among some ASEAN countries for closer defence ties with the U.S. amid their concerns about China's growing military footprint in the South China Sea.

Mr. Wang said China-ASEAN trade had grown to \$

684.6 billion and the expectation is for that to only grow following the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal.

On COVID-19, China said it would "do its best to provide vaccines to ASEAN countries and strengthen cooperation in vaccine R&D, production, procurement, vaccination, and supervision with other countries", Mr. Wang said, as he also put forward a proposal to implement a "China-ASEAN Public Health Cooperation Initiative" and an "ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies."

# FBI-run app tricks criminal gangs globally, 800 arrested

The operation led to police raids in 16 nations, drug seizures

ASSOCIATED PRESS THE HAGUE

Criminal gangs divulged plans for moving drug shipments and carrying out killings on a messaging app secretly run by the FBI, law enforcement agencies said on Tuesday, as they unveiled a global sting operation they said dealt an "unprecedented blow" to organised crime in countries around the world.

The operation known as Trojan Shield led to police raids in 16 nations. More than 800 suspects were ar-



A box containing cash discovered during a raid in New Zealand. ■ AP

rested and more than 32 tonnes of drugs - including cocaine, cannabis, amphetamines and methamphetamines - were seized along with 250 firearms, 55 luxury

cars and more than \$148 million in cash and cryptocurrencies.

The seeds of the sting were sown when law enforcement agencies earlier took down two encrypted platforms, EncroChat and Sky ECC, that had been used by criminal gangs to organise drug trafficking and underworld hits. With the gangs in the market for a new means of communication, the FBI stepped in with a covertly developed app called ANOM that was installed on modified mobile phones.

# 'Hate crime': Canada truck driver kills Muslim family

Planned, premeditated attack: police

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

A man driving a pick-up truck slammed into and killed four members of a Muslim family in Ontario province, in what police and officials said on Monday was a premeditated attack motivated by "hate".

A 20-year-old suspect wearing a vest "like body armour" fled the scene on Sunday evening, and was arrested at a mall 7 km from the intersection in London, Ontario, where the attack happened, said Detective Superintendent Paul Waight.

"There is evidence that this was a planned, premeditated act, motivated by hate. It is believed that these victims were targeted because they were Muslim," he said.

Canada's Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair described it as a "horrific act of Islamophobia".

The names of the victims were not released, but they included a 74-year-old woman, a 46-year-old man, a 44-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl - representing three generations of the same family, according to London Mayor Ed Holder.

## ELSEWHERE



### Castillo leads in Peru vote, rival alleges fraud

Far-left trade unionist Pedro Castillo took a narrow lead on Monday in Peru's presidential run-off election against right-wing populist Keiko Fujimori, who alleged fraud in the vote count. With 94.8% of ballots counted after Sunday's vote, Mr. Castillo was ahead of Ms. Fujimori with 50.2% compared with her 49.7%, though there could be a prolonged wait for the final outcome. ■ AFP

### Death toll rises to 65 in Pakistan train collision

The death toll from a horrific collision of two trains in southern Pakistan rose to 65 on Tuesday after rescuers pulled 15 more bodies from crumpled cars a day after the crash, government officials said. The collision took place on a dilapidated railway track in Ghotki, when an express train barreled into another that had derailed minutes earlier before dawn on Monday. ■ AP

# Swathes of Internet go down after cloud outage

Glitch traced to U.S.-based firm Fastly

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON

Dozens of websites briefly went offline around the globe on Tuesday, including CNN, The New York Times and Britain's government home page, after an outage at the cloud computing service Fastly, illustrating how vital a small number of behind-the-scenes companies have become to running the Internet.

The sites that could not be reached also included some Amazon pages, the Financial Times, Reddit, Twitch and The Guardian. The sites that could not be reached also included some Amazon pages, the Financial Times, Reddit, Twitch and The Guardian.

San Francisco-based Fastly acknowledged a problem just before 6 a.m. About an hour later, the company said: "The issue has been identified and a fix has been applied."



Websites, including Reddit and Spotify, went offline for some time. ■ GETTY IMAGES

and are only rarely the result of hacking or other mischief.

Still, major futures markets in the U.S. dipped sharply minutes after the outage.

Fastly is a content-delivery network, or CDN. It provides vital but behind-the-scenes cloud computing "edge servers" to many of the web's popular sites. These servers store, or "cache," content such as images and video in places around the world so that it is closer to users, allowing them to fetch it more quickly and smoothly.

# Guterres gets second term as UN chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEW YORK

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday approved Secretary General Antonio Guterres for a second term, with conflict resolution set to top his agenda at the world body's helm.

The 72-year-old former Prime Minister of Portugal has held the office since 2017 and faced no competition for the next term in the job.

During a brief closed door session the Security Council voted unanimously to recommend that the General Assembly give Mr. Guterres another term, said the council's current President, Estonian ambassador Sven Jurgenson.

Approval from the General Assembly is seen as a formality and expected to take place soon.

During his first term, Mr. Guterres was forced to concentrate on limiting the potential damage from the unilateral and nationalist foreign policy of then U.S. President Donald Trump.

# U.S. Senate report puts spotlight on failures during Capitol attack

It pinpoints security missteps, leaves Trump's 'role' unprobed

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON

A Senate investigation of the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol has uncovered broad government, military and law enforcement missteps surrounding the violent attack, including a breakdown within multiple intelligence agencies and a lack of training and preparation for Capitol Police officers who were quickly overwhelmed by the rioters.

The report released on Tuesday is the first - and could be the last - bipartisan review of how hundreds of former President Donald Trump's supporters were able to violently break into the Capitol that day, interrupting the certification of President Joe Biden's victory.

## Sweeping changes

It includes new details about the police officers on the front lines who suffered chemical burns, brain injuries and broken bones and who told Senators that they were left with no direction when command systems broke down. It recommends immediate changes to give the Capitol Police chief more authority, to provide better



Systemic collapse: Pro-Trump protesters storming the U.S. Capitol in Washington on January 6. ■ REUTERS

planning and equipment for law enforcement and to streamline intelligence gathering among federal agencies.

As a bipartisan effort, the report does not delve into the root causes of the attack, including Mr. Trump's role as he called for his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat that day. It does not call the attack an insurrection, even though it was. And it comes two weeks after Republicans blocked a bipartisan, independent commission that would investigate the insurrection more broadly.

"This report is important in the fact that it allows us to make some immediate improvements to the security situation here in the Capitol," said Michigan Senator

Gary Peters, the chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which conducted the probe along with the Senate Rules Committee.

The report details hours of calls between officials in the Capitol and the Pentagon as the then-chief of the Capitol Police, Steven Sund, desperately begged for help.

It finds that the Pentagon spent hours "mission planning" and seeking multiple layers of approvals as Capitol Police were being overwhelmed and brutally beaten by the rioters.

The Senators also criticise the FBI and the Homeland Security Department for downplaying online threats and for not issuing intelligence bulletins that help law enforcement plan.

# Gunmen kill 27 in central Nigeria attack

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ABUJA

Gunmen stormed a market place and a football field in a rural town in central Nigeria over the weekend, killing at least 27 people and leaving others wounded, state police said on Tuesday.

Benuue is part of the Middle Belt region, where communal clashes are common between nomadic herders and local farmers over land, grazing and water.

The attack hit the Agatu area on Sunday when locals were just closing up the market after trading, a police spokeswoman said.

# Macron slapped in the face during walkabout

Incident draws widespread condemnation

REUTERS PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron was slapped in the face while greeting a crowd in southeast France on Tuesday, a security scare that drew widespread condemnation ahead of regional elections this month.

Video footage on social media showed Mr. Macron approach a barrier to meet and shake hands with voters, where a man in a green T-shirt took hold of his elbow and said a few words before slapping him.

Mr. Macron's bodyguards quickly intervened and two people were detained after-



Emmanuel Macron

wards, local officials said.

Two 28-year-old men living in the region are being questioned, the local prosecutor's office said, but "at this stage of questioning, their motives remain unknown."

**C-til**  
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)  
Thiruvananthapuram-27  
Ph: 0471-2380910/912

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
e-tender is invited for the Supply of Testing Equipment - Civil/ Electrical. For details and online submission of bid please visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Last date of submission of bid: 22.06.2021, 03.00 PM.  
Tender id: 2021\_CDIT\_425405\_1  
07.06.2021 Registrar, C-DIT

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**  
An unknown male person named Gopal and aged about 60 years shown in the photograph, who was found under a bad physical condition at T 06724 Kollam-Chennai Egmore special express train which arrived on Railway Platform Number 1 at Railway station Thiruvananthapuram on 19/03/2021, 16.10 hrs was brought to General Hospital Thiruvananthapuram and died on 22/05/2021 03.20 Hrs. In connection with this case was registered at Railway Police Station Thiruvananthapuram as Crime No. 15/2021 U/S 174 CrPc. If anyone obtained the where about of the above said deceased person please inform to the nearest Police Station or the Govt. Railway Police Station Thiruvananthapuram Kerala.  
Contact No: 9497981113, 04712331258  
Station House Officer,  
Railway Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram  
850/F2/2021/1&PRD

भारत सरकार Government of India  
अंतरिक्ष विभाग Department of Space  
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन Indian Space Research Organisation  
अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE  
समयसभ्यद Ahmedabad 380 015

**रद्दीकरण संबंधी सूचना Cancellation Notice**  
दिनांक 06.08.2016 के विज्ञापन सं. सेक-डेकू:02:2016 के पद कोड-04 के द्वारा अधिसूचित वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता-एससी (कंप्यूटर साइंस) की 13 रिक्तियों के लिए भर्ती को रद्द किया जाता है।  
13 vacancies for recruitment to the post of Scientist/Engineer-SC (Computer Science) notified vide Post Code - 04 of Advt. No. SAC-DECU-02:2016 dated 06.08.2016 stands cancelled.  
हस्ता. Sd/-  
प्रधान, का. एवं सं. प्र. Head, P & GA

**कार्यालय नगर परिषद, पाली (राज.)**  
सहाय्यकार नगरपालिका कार्यलय, सूचनाओं के लिए, पाली, तारिकांक - 306401  
दूरभाष: 02932-221301, ई-मेल: emcpali@yahoo.co.in, वेबसाइट: [www.mcpal.com](http://www.mcpal.com)  
क्रमांक: प.12 ( ) विकल्प/2021/469 दिनांक: 01.06.2021

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
नगर परिषद, पाली की ओर से राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न विभागों में मंचीयुक्त संवेद्यकों से Selection of Concessionaire for Repair/Retrofit, Develop, Operate & Transfer (ROOT) by converting existing Government funded vacant houses into Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), Model-1 for a period of 25 years कार्य हेतु Request For Proposal (RFP) आमंत्रित की जाती है। संवेद्यक दिनांक 08.06.2021 से दिनांक 30.06.2021 तक अपने आवेदन जमा करा सकते हैं जिन्हें दिनांक 06.07.2021 को खोला जायेगा। उक्त RFP हेतु Pre-Bid Meeting का आयोजन दिनांक 07.06.2021 को अयोधरसागरकरवाली कार्यालय में रखा गया है। इच्छुक संवेद्यक RFP से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण वेबसाइट <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://www.arhc.mohua.gov.in> तथा अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। उक्त EOI के सूचीबद्ध संख्या DL82122WS0805455 एवं टेण्डर आडोडी 2021\_DLB\_224786\_1 है।  
अतिशयोक्ति अधिकारी  
Raj.Samwad/C/1913/2021-22 आयुक्त, नगर परिषद, पाली

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Department of Fisheries**

**ADVERTISEMENT** Date: 07-06-2021  
Leading vendors/ Suppliers/ agencies/ companies are called for Request for Proposals (RFP) for selection of agency for the two ways communication & Tracking devices for Marine Fishing Crafts (Motorized & Mechanized Boats) in EEZ including territorial waters of A.P.  
The detailed RFP documents can be downloaded from the website of <https://tender.apecurement.gov.in> and [www.fisheries.ap.gov.in](http://www.fisheries.ap.gov.in) from 10-06-2021 and the last date for submission of bid is 25-06-2021. For more details contact: Office of the Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P., Vijayawada. Website: [www.fisheries.ap.gov.in](http://www.fisheries.ap.gov.in), email: [apfisherietender@gmail.com](mailto:apfisherietender@gmail.com).  
DIPR 139PPI/CL, Dt: 08-06-2021 Sd/- Commissioner of Fisheries (FAC)

**COMMON MANAGEMENT ADMISSION COMMITTEE-2021**  
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY,  
NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
INDIRA GANDHI DELHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

**Admission Announcement for MBA Programme 2021**

Online applications are invited for admission to two-year full-time MBA Programme (2021-23 batch) of the following Departments of Universities established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

- Delhi School of Management (DTU Main Campus)
- University School of Management & Entrepreneurship (DTU East Delhi Campus)
- Department of Management Studies, Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT Main Campus)
- Department of Management, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW)-Open Only for Women Candidates

**Eligibility Criteria:** A candidate who has passed any graduate examination with 60% marks in aggregate from a recognized university with valid CAT-2020/CMAT-2021 score is eligible to apply. For relaxation of eligibility criteria applicable to different categories/sub-categories, refer brochure of respective universities. Those who are appearing in final semester examination may also apply, provided that they submit the proof of eligibility by a specific date declared by the University.

**Information Brochure and Application Form:** The candidates should visit [www.cmca.admissions.nic.in](http://www.cmca.admissions.nic.in) to download the information brochure and fill online application form.

Opening of online application form	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Last date of filling online application form	30 <sup>th</sup> June, 2021

E-mail to [helpdesk.cmca Delhi@gmail.com](mailto:helpdesk.cmca Delhi@gmail.com)



## MARKET WATCH

	08-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,275	-0.10
US Dollar	72.89	-0.12
Gold	49134	2.13
Brent oil	71.57	0.13

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	874.20	-4.40
Asian Paints	2926.25	-6.85
Axis Bank	746.35	-4.75
Bajaj Auto	4269.90	20.15
Bajaj Finserv	11733.10	-95.45
Bajaj Finance	5755.40	25.65
Bharti Airtel	546.80	10.35
BHCL	487.45	6.05
Britannia Ind	3601.75	59.15
Cipla	953.75	13.95
Coal India	156.00	-0.25
Divis Lab	4241.20	11.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5274.75	55.55
Eicher Motors	2763.80	9.35
Grasim Ind	1503.15	2.15
HCL Tech	967.20	17.60
HDFC	2554.50	-31.25
HDFC Bank	1483.05	-16.80
HDFC Life	689.70	9.60
Hero MotoCorp	3055.95	3.70
Hindalco	387.75	-7.25
Hind Unilever	2359.00	19.70
ICI Bank	642.40	-5.80
IndusInd Bank	1020.15	-5.05
Infosys	1412.95	23.30
Indian Oil Corp	116.70	2.00
ITC	212.65	-2.30
J&S Steel	707.50	-8.25
Kotak Bank	1793.55	-21.35
L&T	1549.15	-8.65
M&M	807.85	4.00
Maruti Suzuki	7336.75	61.10
Nestle India Ltd.	17482.60	-49.95
NTPC	116.20	-0.20
ONGC	124.80	-0.35
PowerGrid Corp	234.05	-2.20
Reliance Ind	2214.60	-12.80
SBI Life	979.85	-8.65
State Bank	427.20	-5.05
Shree Cement	2895.35	-200.45
Sun Pharma	678.75	3.40
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	710.45	10.50
Tata Motors	352.75	7.25
Tata Steel	1111.10	-17.60
TCS	3200.15	16.95
Tech Mahindra	1057.75	23.35
Titan	1712.50	27.40
UltraTech Cement	6794.40	-55.25
UPL	853.55	3.05
Wipro	550.60	2.35

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	72.69	73.01
Euro	88.54	88.96
British Pound	102.83	103.32
Japanese Yen (100)	66.41	66.70
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.41
Swiss Franc	81.07	81.48
Singapore Dollar	54.92	55.17
Canadian Dollar	60.16	60.46
Malaysian Ringgit	17.63	17.72

## IN BRIEF



## Mercedes-Benz unveils Maybach SUV at ₹2.43 cr.

MUMBAI Mercedes-Benz India has forayed into the ultra-luxurious SUV segment with the introduction of Mercedes-Maybach GLS 600 4MATIC, the first-ever SUV in the Maybach range. It has been introduced at starting prices of ₹2.43 crore ex-showroom all India. Fifty customers have booked the SUV so far, the company said.

## Ashok Leyland effects senior level changes

CHENNAI Ashok Leyland has made senior-level organisational changes to strengthen the sustainability agenda through its Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) initiatives. N.V. Balachander president, human resources, communication and CSR, will lead the sustainability agenda as president - ESG. Amanpreet Singh has been appointed as president and head of HR. He is currently vice-president, Group HR.

## VA Tech Wabag Q4 profit surges to ₹33 crore

CHENNAI VA Tech Wabag Ltd., a water and waste-water treatment solutions provider, reported net profit for the quarter ended March surged to ₹33 crore from ₹1.4 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue jumped to ₹700 crore (₹491 crore). Order book stood at more than ₹9,500 crore. "We are poised to generate value for our stakeholders with almost ₹10,000 crore orders to execute," said Rajiv Mittal, managing director.

## 'Preserve CCTV footage of demonetisation days'

MUMBAI The RBI on Tuesday asked banks to preserve the CCTV recordings of their branches and currency chests from November 8, 2016, to December 30, 2016, to assist enforcement agencies to take action against those involved in illegal activities during the demonetisation period. On the basis of various inputs, the agencies started probing illegal accumulation of new currency notes. PTI

## World Bank sees India growing by 8.3%

Lender says forecast, however, masks damage from COVID second wave; pegs global growth at 5.6%

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

India's economy is expected to grow by 8.3% in the fiscal year that began in April 2021, the World Bank forecast in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects released on Tuesday. The forecast, however, masked the significant expected economic damage caused by the "enormous" second wave of COVID-19, the Bank said.

Raising its projection for global growth, the bank said the world economy would expand at 5.6% in 2021, the fastest post-recession growth rate in 80 years, underpinned by U.S. stimulus spending and faster growth in China. Observing that global output would still end up 2% below pre-pandemic projections by the year end, the development lender said



Widening gap: 'Highly unequal' access to vaccines is a factor in the uneven global recovery, says World Bank. \*FILE PHOTO

"highly unequal" access to COVID-19 vaccines was a factor in the uneven recovery.

"In India, an enormous second COVID-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity

seen during the second half of FY2020/21, especially in services. With surging COVID-19 cases, foot traffic around work and retail spaces has again slowed to more than one-third below pre-

pandemic levels since March, in part due to greater restrictions on mobility," the bank noted.

## 'Collapse and recovery'

Economic activity in India would likely follow a similar but less pronounced 'collapse and recovery' trend seen during the first wave, the bank said in its outlook.

"The pandemic will undermine consumption and investment as confidence remains depressed and balance sheets damaged. Growth in FY2022/23 is expected to slow to 7.5% reflecting lingering impacts of COVID-19 on household, corporate and bank balance sheets; possibly low levels of consumer confidence; and heightened uncertainty on job and income prospects," the global lender added.

For the world as a whole, losses to per capita income would not be reversed by 2022 for some two-thirds of emerging market and developing economies, the bank said. Low income countries that had lagged in vaccinations had witnessed a reversal in poverty reduction, with the pandemic exacerbating insecurity and other long-standing challenges.

"While there are welcome signs of global recovery, the pandemic continues to inflict poverty and inequality on people in developing countries," World Bank Group President David Malpass said in a press release.

"Globally coordinated efforts are essential to accelerate vaccine distribution and debt relief, particularly for low-income countries," Mr. Malpass added.

## 63 Moons to challenge Piramal-DHFL resolution

'Plan is against NCD holders' interests'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

63 Moons Technologies said it will challenge the order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Mumbai allowing Piramal Group to acquire DHFL under the IBC.

"63 Moons believes the current resolution plan is contrary to law and against the interest of all DHFL's creditors, including NCD holders," it contended.

"DHFL's administrator has filed applications for the recovery of almost ₹45,000 crore under the IBC against promoters and other persons," 63 Moons said, adding that the ₹45,000 crore must be paid to the defrauded parties who are creditors. "Instead, the resolution

plan favours the resolution applicant" Piramal Group, allowing it to reap the benefits of recoveries, it held.

Ascribing a value of ₹1 to the recoveries of fraud where claimers were in excess of ₹45,000 crore "creates unjust enrichment of the buyer" at the cost of creditors, 63 Moons argued.

"Piramal has bid only for the current value of DHFL which does not include the amounts taken away fraudulently. Hence, the recoveries must come to creditors only," it said. 63 Moons, which holds over ₹200 crore of DHFL's NCDs, had filed an application in the NCLT, demanding the payment of fraudulent transaction recovery benefits to creditors.

## Franklin Templeton to move SAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) said it strongly disagreed with the findings of SEBI's order in the case of winding up of 6 debt schemes in 2020 and has decided to challenge the direction in Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).

SEBI barred the entity from unveiling any new debt scheme for two years and imposed ₹5-crore penalty for violating norms.

Also, it has been asked to refund investment management and advisory fees of over ₹512 crore. A Franklin Templeton spokesperson said, "We strongly disagree with the findings in the order and intend to file an appeal with the SAT."

## 'Free vaccines to States to add just ₹10,000-cr.'

Fiscal deficit to widen by only 0.4%: UBS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The government's move to supply free coronavirus vaccines to the States for universal inoculation and extend free rations to help the poor tide over the pandemic will only add an additional 40 basis points (bps) of GDP to fiscal deficit, says a report.

The increased allocation of free vaccines to all above 18 years coupled with extending free foodgrain supplies through rations will add only 40 bps to the overall fiscal deficit in FY22, which poses upside risks to the estimated of 6.8% of GDP, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, economist at UBS Securities India, wrote in a note.

Assuming an average



price of ₹150/dose, with a similar amount incurred on logistics and supply charges, we estimate the total fiscal cost to the Centre will be ₹40,000-₹45,000 crore and of this, ₹35,000 crore has already been provided for in the Budget, which means the Centre will have to allocate a maximum of ₹10,000 crore for this, she said.

## 'Textile units in Kanpur, Chennai-Kancheepuram worst hit by COVID stress'

Credit to sector fell 20%: SIDBI report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India's textile clusters in Kanpur and Chennai-Kancheepuram have been worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the highest proportion of loans turning delinquent by December 2020, according to a report.

The country's textiles industry has been in trouble since the national lockdown imposed in March last year, with outstanding credit to the sector falling 20% year-on-year by December 2020 and loans to export units falling by a sharper 25%, according to a SIDBI-CRIF report on the sector released on Tuesday.

The textiles and apparel industry provides direct and indirect employment to an estimated 10.5 crore Indians and contributes 2% to GDP.

A recent short survey carried out by SIDBI of textile units in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat revealed that the sector also faces several operational roadblocks at the ground level, including high fuel and raw material prices, challenging GST norms and delayed tax refunds.

Almost 82% of loans extended to textile units in Kanpur had turned delinquent by December 2020, with the Chennai-Kancheepuram belt reporting a delinquency rate of 42.6% of outstanding credit. Loans are labelled delinquent after past dues accumulate for more than 90 days.

## 'Lowest in Ahmedabad'

The Pune-Kolhapur belt, and the Ludhiana-Jalandhar-Amritsar textile region reported delinquency rates of 32% and 29% in the same period. Ahmedabad and Ti-



ruppur-Coimbatore-Madurai recorded the lowest proportion of loans going bad, at 8.24% and 8.6%, respectively, compared with the overall delinquency rate of 16.4% in the textiles sector.

Among micro, small and medium textile enterprises, the textiles cluster in Punjab reported the highest delinquencies at almost 25%, followed by Chennai-Kancheepuram (23.6%) and Hyderabad-Guntur (22.8%).

The SIDBI survey found that ongoing changes in the GST portal and filing of returns has created confusion for units, with exporters stating that getting Integrated GST refunds is a 'major challenge'. The lack of clarity on the export benefits that would accrue under the new Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme, isn't helping.

Most units said access to working capital was a challenge and cash flows were constrained, while 'ever-increasing fuel prices' have escalated transport costs. The rise in yarn and other raw material prices, and fluctuating cotton prices, are also difficult to cope with, even as export orders have slowed down due to COVID-19, the survey found.

## LIC weighs on life insurers' performance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Life insurers have reported a 5.55% decline in first-year premium at ₹12,976.99 crore for May, a performance dragged down by market leader LIC's 12.4% lower mobilisation, and coming on the back of lockdown restrictions across most States.

LIC's showing effectively shadowed the performance by private players, who together posted a 14.2% increase in the premium at ₹4,029.35 crore, as against ₹3,527.48 crore in the year-earlier period.

The first-year premium of LIC, which accounts for more than 60% of the market share, stood at ₹8,947.64 crore (₹10,211.53 crore), the new business statement of life insurers released by IRDAI showed.

## IP Rings, U.K.'s Eminox to develop exhaust systems

JV to address ₹8,000-crore market

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

IP Rings Ltd. (IPRL), a part of the Amalgamations Group, and U.K.-based Eminox have signed an agreement to set up an innovation and technology centre here with an initial investment of ₹20 crore.

IPRL is a major player in the Indian automotive, agriculture and power-generation components and equipment markets while Eminox is a leading European designer and manufacturer of exhaust and emissions control systems for heavy-duty vehicles and equipment.

Ram Venkataramani, MD, IPRL and Mark Runciman, MD, Eminox Ltd., signed the pact recently. The joint venture will be called IPR - Eminox Technology Centre. Mr. Runciman will head the

The innovation and technology centre will entail initial investment of ₹20 crore

JV. Eminox and IPRL would develop exhaust after-treatment systems for India in compliance with emerging legislation, with a highly talented pool of engineers and senior management.

The addressable market size is ₹6,000 crore for light, medium and heavy commercial vehicles and ₹2,000 crore for off-highway applications, said IPRL officials.

"We have very ambitious plans with IPRL to develop and supply EATS for a range of diesel and CNG engines used off-road and on-road across the Indian market," said Jog Lall, OE sales & marketing director, Eminox.

## 'Jobs outlook likely to be stable for 3 months'

54% employers to hire in June: survey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

India's employment outlook would be more or less stable for the next three months of calendar 2021, a survey by ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey showed.

Workforce gains are anticipated in 6 of the 7 industry sectors during the upcoming quarter. While the transportation and utilities sector would be the strongest job market with a net employment outlook of +10%, the outlook for the services sector would be +7%.

However, mining and construction sector employers are expected to trim payrolls, reporting a weak outlook of (-2%), the survey conducted across 1,303 enterprises revealed.



The strongest hiring pace was recorded in the medium-sized organisations followed by large enterprises.

About 54% of the respondents said they would hire in June 2021, while 46% did not know when they would resume regular hiring.

About 40% expected to have their employees work from home full time, while 38% wanted to have either flexible or condensed work hours for their employees.

## Urban Company to scale up hiring

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Urban Company on Tuesday said it would hire more than 100 engineers in the current financial year along with various leaders across verticals, as it plans to drive technological innovation in the home services industry.

"These hirings will drive our next growth phase, enable the build of deep tech and help us invest in data science and developing tech playbooks," said co-founder Raghav Chandra.

The company also announced the appointment of Amit Das as V-P, Design & Research, and Rishabh Singh as V-P, Engineering. Urban Company had recently announced raising Series F funding of \$255 million.

## OBITUARY &amp; REMEMBRANCE

## IN MEMORIAM

## 56 NDA COURSE

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Bravo  
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Charlie  
Flt Lt CM Shivkumar, Lt Col H Pahwa, Flt Lt AG Narahari, Col SN Jha

Delta  
Wg Cdr C Vinodkumar, Lt (IN) SG Pynumootil, Capt (IN) P Baokar, Capt Gurpreet Singh

Echo  
Cmde DS Chhillar, Col B Yadav, Lt SK Mahakal, Lt J Rajkhowa, Col S Maira, RAdm SS Jamwal, Fg Offr S Kaul, Maj KV Thomas

Fox  
Col NK Jha, Gp Capt KR Rathindranath, Maj CM Vishwanathan

Golf  
Lt Col SK Rathore, Fg Offr PB Madhavan, Maj J Pandian, Col AV Dhuri, Maj SK Agnihotri

Hunter  
Maj A Sahore, Brig S Gracias, Maj Manohar Singh, Maj SR Nayak

Juliet  
Sqn Ldr UK Baweja, Flt Lt RK Singh, Flt Cdt AM Prasad, Capt A Pradhan, Capt N Gorti, Capt MK Singh, Col S Jakhar

Kilo  
Cmde SP Yadav, Col MB Ravindranath, Maj A Pradhan, Sub Lt Mosaati SF, Maj Gen Sarabjeet Singh

Lima  
Col RK Popli, Flt Lt SK Bhukar

Forever missed with love by  
Col David Devasahayam and  
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IN BRIEF



**'Milkha has shown continuous improvement'**

**CHANDIGARH**  
Legendary Indian sprinter Milkha Singh's battle with COVID-19 at PGIMER's Intensive Care Unit completed its sixth day on Tuesday amid continuous improvement in his condition. "...there is continuous improvement in the condition of sprint icon Shri Milkha Singh Ji, who has been admitted in the Intensive Care Unit of the NHE Block of PGIMER since June 3 and getting treated for COVID-19," PGIMER official spokesperson Prof. Ashok Kumar said. PTI



**Robinson has team's full support, says Anderson**

**LONDON**  
Veteran England pacer James Anderson says the team has unanimously accepted Ollie Robinson's apology for posting racist and sexist tweets as a teenager nine years ago. "He stood up in front of the group and apologised and you could see how sincere he was and upset he was. He's done a lot of maturing and growing since then, and he's got the full support of the team," said Anderson. PTI



**Hasan, Jayawickrama and Mushfiqur nominated**

**DUBAI**  
Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali, in pic, Sri Lankan spinner Praveen Jayawickrama and Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC men's Player of the Month award for May. The ICC also nominated Kathryn Bryce of Scotland and Irish duo of Gaby Lewis and Leah Paul for women's honours. PTI

**CA adds six players to preliminary squad**

**MELBOURNE**  
Cricket Australia, concerned that top players might opt out of the limited-overs tours of the West Indies and Bangladesh due to "bubble fatigue", has added six cricketers to its preliminary squad for the upcoming assignments, beginning July 10. Australia's white-ball squad swelled to 29 after the selection committee called up Ben McDermott, Dan Christian, Cameron Green, Ashton Turner, Wes Agar and Nathan Ellis. PTI

# Historic highs for Zidasek, Pavlyuchenkova

Reach Grand Slam last-four for the first time; defending champions Swiatek, Nadal stay on course

**ROLAND-GARROS**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Before the French Open, Tamara Zidasek had never advanced past the second round at any Grand Slam. The former snowboarder has now become the first woman representing Slovenia to reach the semifinals at a Major.

Spurred on by the vocal support of her coaching team on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 85th-ranked Zidasek defeated Spanish rival Paula Badosa 7-5, 4-6, 8-6 Tuesday at the clay-court tournament.

"It feels overwhelming," she said.

The French Open is the only remaining Grand Slam where tiebreakers are not played in the last set. Wimbledon recently installed tiebreakers at 12-12 in the final set.

**Losing it**

After splitting the first two sets, Badosa violently threw her racket in anger at the changeover after Zidasek held for a 6-5 lead in the third.

She regained her composure, but Zidasek then saved three break points to take a 7-6 lead and converted her second match point with a big forehand in the next game. Zidasek's next opponent at the clay-court event will be Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, another first-time semifinalist.

Pavlyuchenkova came out



**THE HIGHLIGHTS**

**WEDNESDAY'S PICKS:**

**Men:** 3-Nadal vs 10-Schwartzman  
1-Djokovic vs 9-Berrettini (night session, 11.30 p.m. IST)  
**Women:** 8-Swiatek vs 17-Sakkari  
24-Gauff vs Krejickikova

**1** Maiden Grand Slam semifinal for Pavlyuchenkova, snapping a six-match run in Major quarterfinals without victory

**2** Last eight opponents Nadal and Schwartzman are the only two remaining in the men's draw who are yet to lose a set this edition

**2** Defending singles champion Swiatek has entered the doubles semifinal for the second straight year

**3** Zidasek, prior to her semifinal run, had only won three main draw matches from eight Grand Slam appearances. At 85, she is also the lowest-ranked Slam semifinalist since No.131 Nadia Podoroska (2020 French Open)

**6** There were six first-time Slam quarterfinalists in the women's draw, an Open Era record for ladies. Only Swiatek and Pavlyuchenkova had prior experience

**I didn't feel myself in the whole match. I couldn't control the nerves during the entire match. But at least I fought until the last moment and had my chances. Credit to her**

**BADOSA, AFTER HER TIGHT THREE-SET LOSS**

**I knew before the match that it's going to be a tough battle. I was a set and 4-2 up. She came back. I was struggling a little bit but I managed to get [into] my groove**

**ZIDASEK, AFTER BEATING BADOSA**

on top of another tense battle to rally past her doubles partner Elena Rybakina 6-7 (2), 6-2, 9-7. The 31st-seeded Russian had lost at this stage 10 years ago at Roland Garros and was 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals before taking to the court.

"Mentally it was really, really hard this morning," she said. "Especially since I needed to play Elena. But this is tennis, we both wanted to win. The key was to be able to return her serve."

Pavlyuchenkova did it well and converted six of 17 break points against her rival and friend.

Earlier on Monday, de-

fending champion Iga Swiatek reached the quarterfinals after beating unseeded 18-year-old Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round.

Kostyuk saved one match point on her second serve at 30-40 as she held in the ninth game of the second set.

**Smart job**

That forced Swiatek to serve out the match and she clinched victory with a smart lob from the net.

Swiatek has now won 22 straight sets at Roland Garros, including her run to the title last year. She next faces

17th-seeded Greek Maria Sakkari, who reached her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Swiatek continued to impress in doubles too as she and partner Bethanie Mattek-Sands beat the 11th-seeded pair of Darija Jurak and Andreja Klepac 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

**Unrelenting run**

Rafael Nadal reached the French Open quarterfinals for the 15th time on Monday to stay on course for a 14th title and record-setting 21st Grand Slam with his biggest challenge posed by blinding stadium lights.

Third seed Nadal downed

# Chhetri stays as humble as ever



**On the prowl:** Chhetri, who moved past Messi in the scorers' list, says he doesn't count his strikes. \*TWITTER/INDIANFOOTBALL

**FOOTBALL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DOHA

Sunil Chhetri has never liked counting his goals and he prefers to keep it that way even after surpassing the great Lionel Messi as the second-highest scorer among active players in international football.

The 36-year-old Chhetri achieved his 74th strike with his brace against Bangladesh in the joint preliminary qualifying round match for 2022 FIFA World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup here on Monday night. Messi has 73 so far.

The skipper said he will get down to counting his goals probably 10 years down the line.

"I do not count the number of goals. 10 years later, we will sit together, have a chat and then count," the veteran said.

Instead of his goals, Chhetri focused on the many lessons his team will take home from Monday's game. "We were guilty of missing a lot of chances. We could have done better. It has been a topsy-turvy qualifying campaign. We will talk about it but I am happy that we got three points," Chhetri said.

The India captain is just a goal away from entering world football's all-time top-10. He is behind Hungary's Sandor Kocsis, Japan's Kunishige Kamamoto, and Kuwait's Bashir Abdullah, who all have 75 goals.

# Indians to get time to switch off

Will have a three-week break between WTC final, England series

**CRICKET**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

The Indian team management has decided to give a three-week break to its players after the World Test Championship (WTC) final in a bid to address the mental fatigue that might be triggered by lengthy spells in a bio-bubble.

The WTC final against New Zealand will be held from June 18-22 at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton and the members of the Indian

squad will disperse for close to three weeks (20 days) before regrouping on July 14 to prepare for the five-match series against England starting in Nottingham on Aug. 4.

"As skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri had told the media at the pre-departure press conference, there will be a break. There is a six-week gap between WTC final and the opening Test against England and we had to address the issue of players' well-being. Within the UK, they can disperse off, go for a holiday, meet

friends and family," said a senior BCCI official.

"Most of them have come to the UK many times and have friends and acquaintances around the country. It's only fair that they can switch off," said the source.

**Officials for WTC final**

England's Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough will be the on-field umpires for the WTC final. Richard Kettleborough will be the TV umpire and Alex Wharf the fourth official. Chris Broad will be the match referee.



**Welcome break:** The Indians can cool off after the WTC final. \*FILE PHOTO

# Temporary truce reached, SLC names squad for England tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan cricketers have agreed to compete against England on a tour-specific contract, but would not sign the annual contracts unless Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) explained the evaluation process.

The Minister of Youth and Sports, Namal Rajapaksa, gave his approval for the chosen Sri Lanka squad. It is scheduled to play three T20Is and as many ODIs between June 18 and July 4.

**The squad:** Kusal Perera (Capt.), Kusal Mendis, Danushka Gunathilaka, Avishka Fernando, Pathum Nissanka, Niroshan Dickwella, Dhananjaya de Silva, Oshada Fernando, Charith Asalanka, Dasun Shanaka, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ramesh Mendis, Chamika Karunaratne, Dhananjaya Lakshan, Ishan Jayaratne, Dushmantha Chameera, Isuru Udana, Asitha Fernando, Nuwan Pradeep, Shiran Fernando, Lakshan Sandakan, Akila Dananjaya and Praveen Jayawickrama.

**FIRST MATCH**  
**June 16**  
vs Germany, Munich, 12.30 a.m.

**Form guide: W D W W W**  
**Euro appearances: 9**

**UEFA EURO2020**  
JUNE 11 - JULY 11

**Usual formation: 4-2-3-1**

**FORWARDS**  
**MIDFIELDERS**  
**DEFENDERS**  
**GOALKEEPER**

**THE FRENCH CONNECTION**

France may need to change its usual slow-burn approach to tournaments at Euro 2020, but with the unexpected inclusion of Karim Benzema in the squad, the world champion has what it takes to go all the way

**GOALKEEPERS:** Hugo Lloris, Mike Maignan, Steve Mandanda

**DEFENDERS:** Lucas Digne, Leo Dubois, Lucas Hernandez, Presnel Kimpembe, Jules Kounde, Clement Lenglet, Benjamin Pavard, Raphael Varane, Kurt Zouma

**MIDFIELDERS:** N'Golo Kante, Thomas Lemar, Paul Pogba, Adrien Rabiot, Moussa Sissoko, Corentin Tolisso

**FORWARDS:** Wissam Ben Yedder, Karim Benzema, Kingsley Coman, Ousmane Dembele, Olivier Giroud, Antoine Griezmann, Kylian Mbappe, Marcus Thuram

**ONE TO WATCH**  
**N'Golo Kante** | Coming off a fantastic run in the Champions League knockout stage, the diminutive Kante holds the key for Deschamps in France's midfield

**KEY PLAYER**  
**Antoine Griezmann**  
The influence of EURO 2016's best player and top scorer on the team has deepened with time; he scored three and set up seven in EURO 2020 qualifying, and has since overtaken David Trezeguet in France's all-time top scorers' rankings

**Best performance: Winner in 1984, 2000**

**COACH:** Didier Deschamps

**COMPILED BY S.V. SRIRAM | SOURCE: UEFA/AGENCIES**

# Cricket's practices are held together by a set of tacit agreements



**BETWEEN WICKETS**  
SURESH MENON

The badminton great Prakash Padukone once pulled up a youngster for literally toying with an opponent, playing trick shots, pretending to smash and occasionally holding his racquet in the wrong hand. It was a friendly match, yet Prakash called the youngster aside and told him that a sportsman should never disrespect an opponent.

All sports have ways of dealing with unsportsmanlike conduct. The 'diver' in football, the racquet abuser in tennis, the player showing dissent at an umpire's decision in cricket all have to pay the price. Whole books have been written about golf etiquette. There are rules and then something called 'spirit'.

What is legal may not always be acceptable. When Trevor Chappell bowled an underarm delivery to

the New Zealander Brian McKechnie to prevent him from hitting a six to win the match, it was within the laws, but it caused a scandal. The Australian skipper Greg Chappell said later that all his frustrations had boiled over on that day. The authorities quickly banned the underarm delivery.

**Unsportsmanlike behaviour**

Similarly, a bowler running out the non-striker who is backing up is within the laws, but it never fails to provoke a discussion on unsportsmanlike behaviour when it happens.

"Like other forms of life, cricket is the outcome of informal social contract," writes Mike Brearley in *Spirit of Cricket*. "Its practices are held together and supported by a set of mostly tacit agreements, all part of our legacy from past generations."

Entering the world of cricket is to enter such traditions and expectations, and feel safe enough within them...

The philosopher David Papineau points to an interesting anomaly in what is acceptable. "While it would

be disgraceful for a cricketer to claim a catch he hasn't made," he writes, "this is morally quite acceptable in a baseball player." The explanation lies in the difference between morality and convention, says Papineau.

Bowlers goading a batsman into doing something irrational - like suddenly jumping out to loft a spinner - happens more often than is acknowledged. It borders on the edge of the acceptable, but once wives and girlfriends come into the conversation, then it tips over into the other side.

The Preamble was written into the Laws of Cricket in 2000. It had 417 words. In 2017, it was cut to 163. Mike Brearley has suggested a 39-word version: All those involved in cricket should respect the integrity of the game. On the field, and off it, the spirit of cricket asks us to 'play hard but fair'. And let's not lose the essence of the word 'play'.

**Sunil Gavaskar responds**

On a different topic, Sunil Gavaskar has reacted to last week's column saying he wasn't throwing a tantrum when he batted left-handed in a Ran-

ji Trophy match against Karnataka. Here's his letter to me in full.

Hi Suresh,  
I read your column about ambidextrous athletes with great interest because if there is someone really good being ambidextrous especially as a bowler, he offers not just an exciting sight but extra options to the captain while deciding his playing eleven.

However I was very disappointed to read the bit about my batting left-handed as not being a tactic but a tantrum.

Worse still you have tried to fire over the Karnataka team's shoulders by saying that they believe till this date it was a tantrum.

Clearly your idea of the Karnataka team is one of a few members who socialise with you and not eleven members as a cricket team is supposed to be, for I know for a fact that Raghuram Bhat who was Mumbai's nemesis in that game thought it was a great tactic to neutralize him and did not think it was done out of pique as many others with a chip on their shoulders about Mumbai cricket feel.

Obviously you were not at the

ground during that time else you would have noticed that when a right hand bowler came on to bowl I switched to batting right-handed so the turning ball would hit my body and not take the edge, which was exactly the thinking for batting left-handed against the left-handed spinners Raghuram Bhat and Vijaykrishna who did most of the bowling.

If that was not a tactic, I don't know what cricket tactics are. Tantrums will only get a batsman out more often than not and I remained unbeaten batting left / right handed for more than an hour.

Yes, we Mumbai cricketers are not as brainy, intelligent or educated with impressive degrees like the Karnataka cricketers are but our cricket sense has always been better than most as our Ranji Trophy record shows.

Now that I have brought the facts to the fore I hope you will do the right thing and correct the erroneous impression about that effort that you have created in the minds of the readers.

Regards,  
Sunil

# Only four foreigners in playing XI from 2021-22

The reduction from five last year will benefit Indian players

**ISL**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The 2021-22 Indian Super League (ISL) season will witness a minimum of seven Indian players on the field at any point of time, up from the present six, thanks to a new set of guidelines issued on Tuesday.

A rise in the number of Indian players means one spot less for foreign stars, which will now be capped at four.

The four foreign player rule is in accordance with the Asian Football Confederation's (AFC) club competition regulations. Clubs can sign a maximum of 6 fo-

reign players of which one is required to be from an AFC member nation.

A club also has an option to sign a foreign marquee player within the League-approved classifications.

However, unlike in AFC competitions, clubs in ISL are not mandatorily required to have an AFC member-nation foreign player on the field at all times.

The inaugural ISL edition in 2014 had witnessed a playing composition of six foreigners and five Indian players. Over the years, the league has gradually increased the spots for Indians.

"The latest changes in player guidelines are incorporated with the League's philosophy of bringing constant improvement to India's premier football event," said the ISL press release on Tuesday.



TV PICKS

Roland-Garros: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Nets steamroller Bucks

NEW YORK Kevin Durant had 32 points as Brooklyn Nets rolled to its largest playoff win in franchise history on Monday with a 125-86 beat down of Milwaukee Bucks in game two of their NBA series.

Siddhant Banthia beats second seed

MONASTIR (TUNISIA) Siddhant Banthia knocked out second seed Lee Duckhee of Korea 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament here on Tuesday.



Italy calls up Pessina for injured Sensi

FLORENCE Atalanta midfielder Matteo Pessina was called up Monday as a late replacement for the injured Stefano Sensi in the Italy squad for the upcoming European Championship.

Ankita to partner Sania at the Olympics

There is also a strong possibility of the former making the singles entry list

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN NEW DELHI

It was the best kept secret in Indian women's tennis for some time.

The country's top-ranked woman player, Ankita Raina, went on Instagram to announce that she would be competing in the Tokyo Olympics doubles event with six-time Grand Slam champion Sania Mirza.

"I will do my best to make India proud!" Ankita stated.

Ranking

Former World No. 1 Sania will make the Olympics entry on the basis of her injury-protected ranking of No. 9.

As per the rule, Sania can

make the doubles draw with a partner ranked in the top-300.

The 28-year-old Ankita is 183 in singles and 95 in doubles. The ranking list on June 14 will be applicable for making the cut.

Sania had played the last three Olympics in Beijing, London and Rio with Sunitha Rao, Rushmi Chakravarthi and Prarthana Thombare respectively.

There is also a strong possibility of Ankita making the singles entry list in Tokyo as the Asian Games bronze medalist.

The gold and silver medalists from China, Wang Qiang and Shuai Zhang, ranked 39 and 46 at the moment, could get direct entry when 56 players are taken

into the Olympics singles event on the basis of their world ranking.

Before the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-off in Latvia recently, Sania had invited Ankita to Dubai for a week-long training.

Funding

The two were soon inducted into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) by Sports Authority of India (SAI) so as to provide them funding for Olympic preparation.

Thanking her employer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Ankita wrote, "the effort and hard work put in all these years have been fruitful with your invaluable support and encouragement".



Ready for action: Sania will take part in her fourth Olympics with a new doubles partner in Ankita.

Board discusses about more vaccinations

REUTERS

TOKYO Japan's 2020 Olympics committee may seek further vaccine donations to make the rescheduled Games as safe as possible, Tokyo 2020's CEO Toshiro Muto said after an executive board meeting on Tuesday, stressing that there had been no talk of further delays.

"There was no talk on that whatsoever," he told reporters. Media arriving from abroad to cover the Games will be closely monitored (using GPS) to ensure they don't leave pre-registered areas, Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto said.

Roads closed

Roads were being closed off on Tuesday around the venues, including the new

National Stadium where the opening ceremony is set for July 23.

Most people in Japan oppose holding the Games at all, several polls have shown, and a top Japanese virologist and government adviser was quoted on Tuesday as saying it was impossible to have a risk-free Games.

Tohoku University professor Hitoshi Oshitani was an architect of Japan's "Three Cs" approach to the pandemic, which advises avoiding closed spaces, crowds and close contact.

"It's 100% impossible to have an Olympics with zero risk...of the spread of infection in Japan and also in other countries after the Olympics," the London Times quoted Oshitani as saying.

IOC picks 29-member refugee team



All the best! IOC president Thomas Bach at the unveiling of the refugee athletes.

REUTERS LAUSANNE

An expanded refugee team of 29 athletes competing across 12 sports at next month's Tokyo Games will provide hope and inspiration to the world, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Tuesday.

The team, which will compete under the Olympic flag and include people from countries including Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran, is almost three times as big as the inaugural team at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics.

The athletes, who will march into the stadium dur-

ing the opening ceremony in second place behind ancient Games founder Greece, were selected from a pool of 56, supported by Olympic scholarships from 13 different countries.

"I speak on behalf of the entire Olympic Movement when I say that we cannot wait to meet you in person and to see you compete in Tokyo," IOC president Thomas Bach said at a virtual presentation of the team.

"It will send a powerful message of solidarity, resilience and hope to the world... You are an integral part of our Olympic community, and we welcome you with open arms."

Srihari and Sajan's next attempt

SPORTS REPORTER BENGALURU

Srihari Nataraj and Sajan Prakash will continue their quests for the elusive A-mark Olympic Qualifying Time by participating in the Belgrade Trophy (June 19 and 20) and Sette Colli Trophy in Rome (June 25 to 27), both FINA-accredited Olympic Qualifying events.

Both have achieved the B-mark times. At the Uzbekistan Open in April, Srihari had clocked 54.07s in the 100m backstroke event, a new National record which was just 0.22s short of the mark for Tokyo.

Sajan, chasing the A-mark in 200m butterfly (1:56.48s), had clocked 1:57.85s in Uzbekistan.

The team also includes seasoned back-stroker Maana Patel along with youngsters Aryan Nehra, Shoaib Ganguli, Tanish Mathew and Kenisha Gupta.

Deepak pulls out of Poland Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WARSAW

Olympics-bound Indian wrestler Deepak Punia, on Tuesday, pulled out of the Poland Open here to avoid aggravating his left-elbow injury that he carried into the last ranking series event before the Tokyo Games. Deepak was to take part for the 86kg event but forfeited his quarterfinal against American Zahid Valencia. It has been learnt that the 2019 World Championships

bronze-medallist had suffered the injury during practice a few days before leaving for Warsaw.

"He did not want to aggravate the injury and had informed the federation that he will take a call on competing after reaching. After assessing his hand this morning, he decided not to take the mat," a source in the Indian camp said.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) confirmed the sequence of events.



Deepak Punia.

Three para shuttlers make it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Three Indian para shuttlers, including World No. 1 Pramod Bhagat on Tuesday officially qualified for the Paralympics, scheduled from August 25 to Sept. 5.

Besides Bhagat (SL3 - standing/ lower limb impairment/ minor), Tarun (SL4 - standing/ lower limb impairment/ severe) and Nagar Krishna (SH6 - standing/ short stature) too received invitations to participate in the Paralympics.

Two flag-bearers likely: sBatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

In a first, India might have two flag-bearers - one male and one female - at the upcoming Tokyo Olympics to ensure "gender parity", the Indian Olympic Association chief Narinder Batra said on Tuesday.

FIFA imposes transfer ban on Blasters, EB

FOOTBALL

STAN RAYAN KOCHI

Football's world body FIFA has banned Indian Super League (ISL) clubs Kerala Blasters FC and SC East Bengal from signing players from the coming transfer window after receiving complaints about unpaid wages.

"The list includes Kerala Blasters, East Bengal and Churchill (I-League) but it is only an issue of making the payment (to players)," Kushal Das, AIFF general secretary, told The Hindu on

Tuesday. "I think there are three or four clubs, I don't remember the exact details since it comes to our legal department. Whoever has not made the payment, it is there and once you make the payment the ban will be lifted."

FIFA acts when players complain when terms of their contract are not fulfilled by clubs. "They have specified the foreign player (who has complained to FIFA)," said Das. In Blasters' case, one learns that it is former Slovenian striker Matej Poplatnik.

EB's woes increase

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA KOLKATA

East Bengal has found itself in big trouble following the FIFA Players' Status Committee (PSC) barring it from signing Indian players in the upcoming season. With the club already embroiled in a dispute with its investor, the ban will stop its team-building process ahead of the new Indian Super League season.

The ban comes as an aftereffect of a failed tie-up with its previous investor Quess Corp, who quit the deal midway last season (2019-20) without making full payments to contracted players. As the club took back the "sporting rights" from Quess, it did it without ensuring that the investor pays off the dues in time, according to a senior club official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

With their payments falling due, some players approached the All India Football Federation (AIFF)

through the Football Players Association India seeking a resolution. Some international players took the matter to FIFA's PSC. The club failed to reply convincingly to the queries from the world and the national bodies following which the ban came into effect.

The sanction will be revoked once the payments are made but East Bengal finds itself in a financial constraint as its officials are yet to formalise the final agreement with its new investor, Shree Cement. The new investor has distanced itself from accepting any liability of the club existing before September 1, 2020, the day when the new agreement (term sheet) was signed.

However, Shree "may consider paying off the dues and will be considered as loan to the club. But everything will happen only when the final agreement is signed," said an official from the investor's side.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD (Central University) Brief Advertisement. Advertisement for Non-Teaching Positions. University of Allahabad invites applications from the Indian citizen for the post of Controller of Examination (01), Internal Audit Officer (01)-On Deputation, and Deputy Registrar (01) on leave vacancy for the period of one year.

Table with 2 columns: Activity and Tentative Dates. Activities include on-line registration, payment of application fees, and conduct of pre-exam training.

COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE). NEEDS (DEFENCE BUSINESS). Applications are to be submitted through online. Last date of receipt of online application is 25 June 2021.

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