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NEARBY

JD(U) always believed in divisive politics: Chirag

NEW DELHI
 Chirag Paswan on Wednesday accused his uncle, Pashupati Nath Paras, of betraying him, and the Janata Dal (United) of aiding the LJP rebels in crafting the split in the party.
NEWS | PAGE 9

'Centre denied nod to probe oxygen deaths'

NEW DELHI
 Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia claimed that the Centre has denied approval to a panel constituted by the Delhi government to probe the deaths of COVID patients due to oxygen shortage.
CITY | PAGE 3

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Delhi police move SC against bail to 3 students in riots case

They were booked under the UAPA after protests against the CAA turned violent

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
 Twenty-four hours after getting bail, student activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha are yet to taste freedom as the Delhi Police quickly moved the Supreme Court on Wednesday against their release.

The virtual court of sessions judge Ravinder Bedi heard the students' lawyers press for their immediate release, saying they could not be made to spend another night in jail after getting bail. But the police objected, saying they should not be released until the outstation addresses of the three students and their sureties were verified. In short, the police sought more time to file its verification report. Sessions judge Ravinder Bedi recorded that he had

Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha should not be made to spend another night in jail after getting bail

LAWYERS OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS

The High Court has lost sight of the evidence in the case. It was not a simple protest by students... there was evidence of terrorist activity

DELHI POLICE IN APPEAL BEFORE SC

heard both sides at "considerable length" and put up the case for orders at 4.45 p.m. However, at 6 p.m., the judge said his court had to go through a rather "heavy board" of bail applications and thus could not pass orders in the case. The judge went on to post the case for orders on Thursday at 11 a.m. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta is likely to mention the appeal against the bail order in the Supreme Court on Thursday. The police, in their appeal

ment of blurring the line between rightful dissent and terrorism. The police arrested Jawaharlal Nehru University students and Pinjra Tod members Ms. Narwal and Ms. Kalita last year. Mr. Tanha, a Jamia Millia Islamia University student, was taken into custody in May 2020. They were booked under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the Delhi riots that broke out last year after protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) turned violent. "It appears that in its anxiety to suppress dissent and in the morbid fear that matters may get out of hand, the State has blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed 'right to protest' and 'terrorist activity,'" the High Court said on June 15.

Excess deaths in T.N. over 4 times official COVID-19 tally

60,773 more fatalities during second wave

SRINIVASAN RAMANI RAMYA KANNAN CHENNAI
 The number of "excess deaths" registered by the Civil Registration System (CRS) in Tamil Nadu ever since the COVID-19 pandemic hit (from April 2020 to May 2021) is 6.2 times the official reported figure of 24,232 deaths. But in data accessed by *The Hindu*, the CRS recorded the number of deaths due to COVID-19 as 35,807 (14,652 in 2020 and 21,155 till May 2021), possibly adjusted over the months, an increase of nearly 47% in the deaths reported in the State health bulletin. After omitting deaths due to causal factors unrelated to COVID-19, it is estimated that there were 1,61,581 excess deaths amounting to an undercount factor of 4.5 for the

Missing numbers: The number of "excess deaths" in Tamil Nadu is over 6.5 times the official COVID-19 toll in 2021. Following an increase in the tally registered in the CRS and after omitting deaths due to causal factors unrelated to COVID-19, the undercount factor reduced to 3.7

Period	Excess deaths	Official COVID-19 toll	CRS COVID-19 tally	Under-count factor*	Adjusted undercount factor**
2021	78,531	12,110	21,155	6.5	3.74
Apr '20 - May '21	1,51,408	24,232	35,807	6.2	4.5
Apr '21 - May '21	61,413	11,513	20,512	5.3	3.01

* Based on official COVID-19 toll | ** Based on CRS death toll and adjusted for deaths unrelated to COVID-19

pandemic period - April 2020 to May 2021. In the second wave (April and May 2021) alone, the CRS registered 20,158 COVID-19 deaths, but it was found that this was undercounted by a factor of 3, as the estimated excess deaths for this period were 60,773. The undercount factor for 2021 was 3.7. Excess deaths in Tamil Nadu were calculated based on the month-wise number of deaths registered by the CRS from January 2018 to May 2021, besides utilising year-wise data from 2015. Data accessed by *The Hindu* included cause-wise deaths registered in the CRS and medically certified deaths data (close to 45% of deaths were medically certified in the State as of latest data from 2019).
CONTINUED ON | PAGE 8

Cabinet panel approves additional fertilizer subsidy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to hike subsidy rates for phosphorus and potassium-based fertilizers by 140% in a bid to provide relief to farmers as the kharif sowing season begins. The estimated additional subsidy burden is around ₹14,775 crore, with the Centre emphasising that this is a one-time measure as part of COVID-19 relief. Unlike urea, where the Centre sets a fixed maximum retail price, non-urea fertilizer prices are decontrolled, with the Centre fixing nutrient-based subsidy rates. So

far, a 50 kg bag of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), the fertilizer most popular with Indian farmers after urea, was sold at ₹1,200, including a subsidy of about ₹500. However, the bull run in the global commodity markets has seen a surge in prices of the imported raw materials as well as the finished fertilizer. In early April, a number of Indian fertilizer companies hiked their DAP prices to ₹1,900 per bag. Farmers' groups protested against the ₹700/bag hike, pointing out that their input costs for the kharif season would spiral out of control.
CONTINUED ON | PAGE 8

Soon, drones might ferry vaccines

ICMR invites expression of interest

JAGRITI CHANDRA NEW DELHI
 Drones could soon be used for delivering COVID-19 vaccines in remote and hard to reach geographies in the country. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited expression of interest from drone operators to "develop a delivery model". ICMR's Head of Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Dr. Samiran Panda said the aim was to develop a model through a pilot project that could be emulated and adopted by the State governments. The ICMR had conducted a feasibility study



Difficult terrain: Health workers on a vaccination drive in Tral village of south Kashmir. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

in collaboration with the IIT-Kanpur. "We need smart vaccination instead of mass vaccination to stem an epidemic. For this, we need to focus not only on areas where the

infection is intense but also on places where there are indications that the test positivity rate is still low and that if you saturate the priority groups there through innovative vaccine delivery mechanism, you can stop a surge. This is known as ring-fencing," Dr. Panda told *The Hindu*. **GOVT. TO FRAME NORMS | PAGE 9**

U.P. police book Twitter, news portal, journalists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW
 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of spreading "poison in society" over his tweet after the State police ruled out a communal angle in the assault and humiliation of an elderly Muslim man in Ghaziabad recently. The police lodged a FIR against social media site Twitter, news portal *The Wire*, journalists Saba Naqvi and Rana Ayyub, fact-checker Mohammad Zubair of *Alt-news* and three others associated with the Congress for allegedly sharing on Twitter a video of the incident and giving it a "communal colour" without verifying the details. The FIR was lodged against them under Sections 153, 153-A, 295-A, 505, 120-B and 34 of the IPC. The police said Abdul Samad Saifi was allegedly beaten up by the accused, who included both Hindus and Muslims, as they were unhappy with the effects of a 'taweez' (amulet) provided by him. It was an interpersonal dispute, claimed the Ghaziabad police, dismissing the allegations made in a video of the incident, in which the victim alleged he was made to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.
CONTINUED ON | PAGE 8

Mithun questioned on poll speeches

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA
 The Kolkata police on Wednesday questioned veteran actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty virtually for about 45 minutes in connection with a complaint that said he made inflammatory comments during the recent Assembly election. The complaint, filed at a police station by an individual, alleged that Mr. Chakraborty had made inflammatory remarks, which could lead to breach of peace and provoke enmity between different groups. Mr. Chakraborty, who was one of the star campaigners of the BJP, was often heard repeating dialogues from his films, such as *Ek Chobole Chobi* [death in one strike]. He joined the BJP on March 7 during a rally at Brigade Parade Ground in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. 'Recreational purpose' Mr. Chakraborty said his remarks were only for recreational purposes and had nothing to do with inciting violence. The 71-year-old ac-



Mithun Chakraborty at a campaign meeting held in Kolkata in March. tor had approached the Calcutta High Court for quashing the legal proceedings against him. On June 11, the court directed that the actor be interrogated via video conference for the time being. "In the meantime, the petitioner or his advocate on-record would communicate the e-mail address of the petitioner to the State so that for the purposes of interrogation or answering any query of the investigating officer, the petitioner can make himself available by way of video-conference," the order by Justice Tirthankar Ghosh read. The matter will come up for hearing again in court on June 18.

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Judo coach arrested in wrestler murder case

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Wednesday arrested a judo coach in connection with a brawl at Chhatrasal Stadium involving Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar in which a wrestler died, an officer said.
The judo coach, Subhash, was apprehended from his residence in Kirari here. He was arrested after interrogation. He works as a physical training instructor in a government school in Rohini. He had come to the stadium around 11.30 p.m. along with Kala, said the police.
Mr. Subhash along with Sushil Kumar and other accomplices had allegedly assaulted wrestler Sagar Dhankar and two of his friends on the intervening night of May 4 and 5 over a property dispute.
Dhankar, 23, succumbed to injuries later.
Sushil Kumar was arrested, along with co-accused Ajay Kumar, on May 23 from Outer Delhi's Mundka area. The police said 11 people, including Mr. Kumar, have been arrested so far in connection with the incident.

Case lodged for promoting 'religious disharmony'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
Delhi Police Special Cell on Tuesday registered a case following a complaint against an Instagram account allegedly making objectionable statements against three religions.
The police lodged a case on charges of promoting enmity among religions.
The complainant, a south Delhi resident, stated he came across "objectionable" content on the 'gurus' of three religions through WhatsApp on June 7 and the text was originally posted on Instagram.
A case under Section 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion... and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

Fed up with long queues, metro commuters take to social media

DMRC reiterates need to control passenger flow to ensure adherence to COVID rules

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
With the Delhi Metro services continuing to operate in a restricted manner, several stations are witnessing long queues outside the gates over the past few days.
On Wednesday, the DMRC took to Twitter to reiterate its message to passengers on the need to control the flow of commuters inside the stations. The public transport said that certain stations were intermittently being closed temporarily to ensure compliance of relevant COVID-19 guidelines.
As part of crowd-control measures, while only select gates are functional at each station, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has also been temporarily closing gates to ensure social distancing inside the stations.
Increased waiting time
"The waiting time at the entry of some of the stations is also high since only a limited



Commuters wait outside a metro station after it was closed temporarily due to overcrowding. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

number of passengers are being allowed inside through a specified number of gates. We are aware that this is causing inconvenience and delay in journey to some passengers, especially during the peak hours and we apologise for the same," read the statement.
Since the resumption of metro services from June 7, after nearly a month of being suspended due to a lockdown in the national capital, the Delhi Metro is operating at a 50% capacity only.
Due to the reduced capacity inside coaches, only 25 passengers are currently permitted to be inside coaches at any given point.
For safer travel
The DMRC further added, "However, it may be appreciated that these measures are being taken to regulate and control the flow of passengers for their safe travel. We expect the situation to improve once more relaxations are allowed by the authorities in the days to

come."
With the growing queues outside some of the stations, several commuters have also taken to social media to complain about the increased waiting period before being able to enter the metro stations.
On June 13, social media user, Harshit Agrawal, in a tweet had asked how passengers could know if the coach is already full. "Have you arranged guards in each coach so that they can inform passengers about [whether the] coach is filled or still have seats?" read Mr. Agrawal's tweet.
In response to the tweet, the DMRC said, "In order to ensure social distancing and compliance to 50% seating in trains, entry of passengers is allowed in limited and controlled manner. Drives are also being carried out to counsel or sensitise passengers. Announcements are being made in trains in this regard."

Youth held for running sextortion racket

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A 23-year-old Mewat-based man was arrested for allegedly running a 'sextortion' racket and victimising 200 people, the police said.
Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) B.K. Singh said that the accused has been identified as Barkat Ali, from Haryana's Palwal.
The police said that they were investigating complaints by people who stated that their morphed obscene videos were being sent to them and that they were being threatening that the videos will be uploaded on the

social media. "Criminals would demand ₹15,000 from their targets as the victims could pay up and not file any complaint because of the small amount," Mr. Singh said.
Ali was arrested after a team acted on a secret information on his arrival in Gurugram.
During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused used to prepare fake ID with profile name and photographs of women on social media application after which they would send friend requests to wealthy people. The accused would

Man kills wife, tries to give it theft angle

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A 25-year-old jobless man was arrested for allegedly stabbing his wife to death as she objected to his extramarital affair. The couple also had differences over taking care of their infant child, the police said on Wednesday.
The accused tried to make it look like a theft attempt gone wrong. DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said that the accused has been identified as Vikas.
The police said that on Tuesday, they received a call about a murder-cum-theft at a house in Ranhola. When they reached the spot, the victim's body with stab injuries was found lying on the bed. When asked, the husband stated that a thief had entered the house and escaped.
"Vikas's version was not found convincing. The spot was carefully examined which revealed that there was no disturbance to the main gate or other doors of the house from outside," Mr. Singh said.

One held for supplying arms to gang

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A 34-year-old man was arrested for allegedly supplying illegal firearms to members of a gang, the police said on Wednesday.
The arrest follows after three members of the "Santro gang" were apprehended for their alleged involvement in a series of crimes, including robbery-cum-murder, committed within a span of a few hours at night

in the national capital.
The accused arms supplier, Sonu Panwar alias Baba Khan, was arrested from Baghat district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, the police said, adding that he has also been found previously involved in a 2009 case of attempt to murder registered at Kotwali police station in the State.
Last week, the Delhi police had arrested three men, identified as Rizwan (28),

Shamshad (29) and Nasir (20), all residents of Lonli in Ghaziabad, from Garhmukteshwar in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly committing a spate of robberies in a single night in the national capital. Among the four cases registered against them, one was a robbery-cum-murder case.
According to the police, they arrested Panwar based on the disclosure made by Rizwan during interrogation.

Plea challenges capping non-PDS beneficiaries, HC seeks govt. reply

NGO demands foodgrains be given to all needy persons

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Delhi government to respond to a plea challenging its non-PDS (public distribution system) guidelines putting a cap of 20 lakh beneficiaries for providing them dry ration.
A Bench of Justice Navin Chawla and Justice Asha Menon gave the direction on an application by NGO Delhi Rozhi Roti Adhikar Abhiyan which said foodgrains be given to all needy persons.
Under the scheme, each beneficiary are to be provided with 5 kg foodgrains (4 kg of wheat and 1 kg of rice) free of cost.
Modify guidelines
The NGO has also sought direction to the city government to modify the May 27 guidelines to the extent that it should not be a mere one-



time relief measure and that the beneficiaries may receive dry ration (foodgrains) for every calendar month until further orders.
"The impugned guidelines [May 27] have put an arbitrary limit of 20 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme. This limit of 20 lakh appears to have no rational basis whatsoever. The provisioning and the estimate of the number of persons who are in need of the benefits

under the scheme ought to be based on the number of people who in fact had benefited under a similar scheme last year," the plea said.
"In 2020, when the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, pursuant the orders of this court..., nearly 69.6 lakh persons, who did not possess ration cards, registered under the e-coupon scheme and were provided dry rations. Therefore, rations must be provided to all those who are in need, as also ordered last year," the plea said.
The NGO also asked the authorities to provide for a helpline number for people to register complaints over registering or availing benefits under the scheme and a mandate for nodal officers to place on the official website the action taken by them within 24 hours of receiving a complaint.

Road safety to be focus of new centre at IIT-D

It will also study road planning, design

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
IIT-Delhi on Wednesday announced that it will establish a 'Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Centre (TRIP-C)' with a focus to produce state-of-the-art knowledge to address road transport and traffic safety in India and regions with similar socio-economic conditions.
The "Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP)" that has been running at the institute since 2002 as an interdisciplinary programme and founded by late Prof. Dinesh Mohan, a world-renowned expert on traffic safety and human tolerance to injury will be converted to a centre.
Sustainable transport
The areas of research and study will include road planning and design interventions associated with traffic safety, road-user behaviour associated with traffic safety and sustainable transport systems and safety aspects of new vehicle technology in mixed traffic.
The institute said that TRIP-C would offer academ-



Heavy traffic on the ITO Yamuna bridge in the Capital. ■ FILE PHOTO

Delhi govt. to start diploma course in yoga

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Wednesday said that it was going to launch a diploma course in 'Meditation and Yoga Sciences' at the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences Research University as part of the announcement made in the Delhi budget 2021 that seeks to make yoga a crucial part of everyone's daily life.
Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, announcing the course, said that yoga is a vital part of our rich and diverse Indian history and that it was the vision of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to make yoga a mass movement that reaches every household and impacts people positively.
Any student which has taken any stream in Class 12 can opt for this course after passing out from school. "The main centre for this diploma course will be housed at the DPSRU however, several satellite centres across city schools which will host evening sessions, thrice a week, for two hours," the government said.
Over 400 trainees will be trained online in the first batch, Mr. Sisodia said.

Delhi govt. to start 'Lighthouse project' for marginalised youth

It will help them acquire skills for better employability

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Wednesday said that the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) will identify youth in low-income or slum communities in the city to help them make more informed life choices and acquire necessary skills for improved employability.
Community growth
By partnering with Pune-based non-profit Lighthouse Communities Foundation, the Delhi government will set up "Lighthouses" in Kalkaji, Malkaganj, Matia Mahal and Patparganj.
DSEU Vice-Chancellor Neharika Vohra speaking about the initiative said that the university seeks to make education a

means for community growth and change.
"The vision of the DSEU is to intertwine the transformation of the individual and the community. Through the 'Lighthouse project' we feel we can take the university closer to the communities," Ms. Vohra said.
Kalkaji MLA Atishi said that the initiative would ensure that children and youth coming from marginalised backgrounds are not left behind.
This Lighthouse project will be a joint collaboration between the Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University and Lighthouse Communities Foundation supported by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, the government said.

Man buys bike with stolen money, arrested for theft of over ₹2 lakh

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI
A man was arrested for allegedly stealing over ₹2 lakh from a lab in South Delhi where he worked as an accountant, the police said on Wednesday.
The accused has been identified as Ranjan, 24, a resident of Tughlakabad, said DCP (South) Atul Thakur.
On Wednesday, the police received a complaint at Hauz Khas police station regarding theft of over ₹2 lakh. The manager suspected involvement of a staffer because there were no traces of a break-in. "After a case was registered, traditional policing methods of interrogation were

used with the lab's staffers. Their gestures were noticed while interrogating as there was no clue from CCTV footage," Mr. Thakur said.
The police said that activity of the accountant was found suspicious and it was revealed that he had recently bought a motorbike. When he was asked the source of money with which he bought the bike, he couldn't give a satisfactory response and started making excuses, the police said.
During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. He allegedly said that his wife was pregnant and he was in urgent need of money.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
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Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e., on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 21-06-2021 for each of the following works including Defect Liability & Maintenance Period of three years for Stage-I and five years for Stage-II and Bridge after construction.

S. No.	Name of Work/Package No.	Name of the PIO	Const. Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Maint Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Total (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of tenders	Class of contractor
1	Balance work for Construction of road from Dadar Morh to Kalah, Package No. JK14-429, Stage I, Phase X, Block Pouni, District Reasi. Length - 4.45 Kms. Advertisment Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 63.02 Lacs	Reasi	63.02	-	63.02	0.06	-	09 Months	1 st	23-06-2021 10.00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
2	Balance work for Construction of Road from "L053 Bhaga to Lalesa Mare" Stage-I, under Package No. - JK14-531 Regular PMGSY Batch-I, 2017-18, Block Reasi, District Reasi, Length - 3.900 Kms. Advertisment Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 225.05 Lacs	Reasi	225.05	-	225.05	0.06	-	09 Months	2 nd	23-06-2021 10.00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
3	Balance Work for Construction and Maintenance of road from Sulgar to Rua Bagh, Package No: JK14-314, Phase-VIII Stage-II, Block Ghordi & District Udhampur Length :10.300 Kms. Advertisment Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 95.60 Lacs	Udhampur	95.60	18.45	114.05	0.06	-	09 Months	1 st	23-06-2021 10.00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works
3	Balance work for Construction of Road from L022 Bamota to Douika, Under Package No: JK07-93, Phase-X, Stage-I, Block Duggan(Bani) and District Kuthana. Length :10.459 Kms. Advertisment Cost excluding Maintenance but inclusive of GST = Rs. 209.60 Lacs	Billawar	305.60	-	305.60	0.06	-	09 Months	1 st	23-06-2021 10.00 AM	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works

1. (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 06.55 PM On 11-06-2021 to 21-06-2021 (5.00PM)
(b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 05.00 PM on 14-06-2021 to 05.00 PM on 21-06-2021.
(c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 12-06-2021 at 12.00 Noon in the Office of The Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

No. : PW-CE-NH-CTR-Tender Notice/Consultancy/2021-8721-29 Dated : 15-06-2021

1. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Public Works Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh has assigned the work of Project Management Consultancy services for Widening to 4-lane of NH-503 Extn. from Km. 0/0 to 28/900 (Amb to Una) in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Widening to 4-lane of NH-70 (New-03) Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Gagret-Amb-Nadaun-Hamirpur-TauniDevi-Sarkaghat-Mandi road from Km. 58/400 to 114/00 (PB/HP border to Nadaun) in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

2. Proposals are hereby invited from eligible Project Management Consultancy (PMC) firms for preparation of Detailed Project Report, Pre construction activity and Project supervision during construction as well as maintenance period for the work of Project Management Consultancy services for Widening to 4-lane of NH-503 Extn. from Km. 0/0 to 28/900 (Amb to Una) in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Widening to 4-lane of NH-70 (New-03) Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Gagret-Amb-Nadaun-Hamirpur-TauniDevi-Sarkaghat-Mandi road from Km. 58/400 to 114/00 (PB/HP border to Nadaun) in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The Letter of Invitation (LOI) and Terms of Reference (ToR) including Request for Proposal (RFP) is available online on e-tender portal of <https://eprocure.gov.in>. The document can also be downloaded from www.infracon.nic.in. Cost of the Document must be furnished in the form of a non-refundable fee of INR 5,000 (Rupees Five Thousand only) by way of online payment only (payment through other modes shall not be accepted), through Bharat Kosh Portal (<https://bharatkosh.gov.in>) (Select (i) Purpose: Sale of Tender Documents (ii) Pay and Account officer: Regional pay & Account officer MoRTH (Chandigarh) and (iii) Drawing & Disbursing officer (DDO): Regional Officer, MoRTH, Shimla-171002. The online payment receipt shall be submitted while submitting the proposal. The application form without proof of payment of application fee will be rejected without any intimation. Brief particulars of the work are as follows:

State	Name of the National Highway	Tentative length in km	Estimated PMC cost (in Rs. Cr.)	Assignment period
Himachal Pradesh	NH-503 Extn. & NH-70 (New-03)	85.00 Km.	20.00	102 months (10 months for DPR+ 8 months for preconstruction activity + 24months for the construction + 5 years for Maintenance)

3. The RFP has also been uploaded on "INFRACON" (www.infracon.nic.in). As such before submitting the proposal, the PMC firms shall mandatorily register and enlist themselves (the firm and all key personnel), on the MoRTH portal "INFRACON" and furnish registration details along with its RFP. A copy of Infracon Operation Procedure is also enclosed for bidder's reference.

4. All the bidders registered on Infracon shall form a Team on Infracon and which would be assigned unique Infracon Team ID. Bidders while submitting the proposal shall quote the Infracon Team ID.

5. Bid must be submitted online at e-tendering portal of The Ministry Road Transport and Highway (<https://eprocure.gov.in>) on or before 15.07.2021 at 17:00 hrs.

6. The following schedule is to be followed for this assignment:

i) Deadline for downloading of bids	: 15.07.2021 at 15:00 hrs
ii) Last date for submission of queries	: 25.06.2021 at 15:00 hrs.
iii) Pre bid meeting	: 25.06.2021 at 15:00 hrs.
iv) Deadline for Submission of bids	: 15.07.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
v) Opening of Technical bids	: 17.07.2021 at 11:00 hrs

Yours Sincerely,
Chief Engineer,
National Highways,
HPPWD, Shimla-2

Phone : 0177-2629416
Email: ce-nh-hp@nic.in
romorthshimla@gmail.com

HP / 1564/21-22

Timings DELHI

THURSDAY, JUN. 17		
RISE	05:24	SET 19:22
RISE	11:28	SET 00:00
FRIDAY, JUN. 18		
RISE	05:24	SET 19:22
RISE	12:28	SET 00:32
SATURDAY, JUN. 19		
RISE	05:24	SET 19:22
RISE	13:30	SET 01:06

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	34	26
Safdarjang	34	26
Palam	38	25

Delhi Palam Today
37°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be very warm and humid. Night will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
38°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight hot with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm.

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Man held under anti-conversion law, rape charge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

The Greater Noida police on Wednesday arrested a 30-year-old woman's live-in partner over allegations of rape and coercing her into changing her religion for marriage, officials said.

The accused, who has been arrested by officials of the Biskrah police station, has been booked under the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020, among other charges, they said.

"Accused Murtaza alias Mritunjay, 33, is from Moradabad district in western U.P. and had been living in a rented accommodation in Biskrah. The accused and the complainant were in a live-in relationship," a police spokesperson said.

Insisted on marriage

"When the woman insisted on marriage, the man forced her for religious conversion. She approached us with allegations of rape and forced conversion attempt," the spokesperson said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Women and Child Safety) Vrinda Shukla said the FIR was lodged on June 14 and the man was arrested the very next day.

The FIR also invokes Indian Penal Code Sections 323 (causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), 376 (rape), 406 (criminal breach of trust).

Further legal proceedings have been initiated and will be completed soon, DCP Shukla added.

The woman claimed she worked in a pharmaceutical company where in 2019 she met the accused who was referred to as "Mritunjay" by colleagues.

After they started living together, the woman happened to see the accused's Aadhaar card, which allegedly mentioned his name as 'Murtaza'. When confronted, the man allegedly threatened and blackmailed her.

'Most corrupt' councillors appointed as Mayors: AAP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The AAP on Wednesday said that the BJP has appointed the "most corrupt" councillors as Mayors and Standing Committee Chairpersons in all three municipal corporations.

AAP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Vikas Goel said citizens of Delhi will give a befitting response to the "corrupt" methods of the BJP by throwing them out of power in the upcoming elections.

"BJP-ruled South body has brought a new Mayor who has been accused of corruption and the judi-

Kejriwal announces plan to train 5,000 youths as health assistants

They will help doctors and nurses in case a third wave hits the city, says Delhi CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To prepare for a possible third wave, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the Delhi government would train 5,000 youngsters as health assistants in the coming weeks. These Community Nursing Assistants will be trained in basic nursing, paramedic, lifesaving, first aid, home care, sample collection, oxygen concentrators and cylinders operations among other procedures.

"In case a third wave emerges, we might also witness a shortage of medical and paramedical staff as we had seen during the second and the first waves. Keeping this in mind, the government has devised a big plan for training 5,000 health assistants," the Chief Minister said during a digital briefing.

"In technical terms, they are called Community Nurs-



Healthcare workers at a COVID Care Centre in Delhi.

* FILE PHOTO

They will be trained for two weeks... they will be given a salary according to the number of days they work

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister

called when there is a need. They will be given a salary according to the number of days they work," he stated.

Apply from June 17

"So, online applications can be filled starting June 17. Training period will start from June 28 in batches of 500, that is the first batch of 500 will be trained for two weeks and after that, another batch of 500 will be trained," he also stated.

Mr. Kejriwal said all those who have passed their Class 12 exams are eligible. Applicants should be 18 years or

more and applications will be accepted on a first come first serve basis.

"I again hope that a third wave does not come about, but as per the information from the U.K., a third wave has emerged there. So we should also be fully prepared, keeping in mind the developments all over the world," he added.

The Delhi BJP, meanwhile, accused Mr. Kejriwal of attempting to take credit for the Centre-sponsored customised crash course programme for front-line workers.

"How long will you keep trying to take credit for the works of the Centre in your name? PM Narendra Modi is launching this programme on June 18. You are deliberately trying to show that you are doing it," Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana said.

Fresh stock of vaccine arrives for 18+ group in the nick of time

City sees 212 new infections; there are now 2,749 active cases

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital has received fresh supply of vaccines - 62,160 doses of Covaxin and 1,73,340 doses of Covishield - for 18-44 age group on Tuesday, AAP leader Atishi said while presenting a daily vaccination bulletin on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, she had said that all government-run vaccination centres for the age group will be shut from Wednesday due to shortage of vaccines. Fortunately, the government received the fresh stock later in the day, as per officials.

"The reason for slowing



down of the pace of vaccination is because of the dearth of vaccines for the youth. Yesterday [Tuesday], more than half the vaccination centres in Delhi were closed for youth," Ms. Atishi said.

A Delhi government spokesperson said as much. Meanwhile, the downward

trend in COVID-19 cases continued in the national capital with 212 new cases being reported in the last 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,31,710, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday.

Also, 25 deaths were reported and the total number of deaths stood at 24,876. A total of 77,891 tests were done in a day, the bulletin said. Of the total cases, 14,31,710 people have recovered and there are 2,749 active cases. The test positivity rate was 0.27%, which means that less than one person out of 300 people taking tests are positive.

'Centre denied nod to probe oxygen deaths'

Sisodia hits out at 'unnecessary interference' by Centre; BJP refutes allegations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday claimed the Centre has denied approval to a committee constituted by the Delhi government to investigate deaths of COVID-19 patients due to oxygen shortage and provide compensation.

"As all of you know, there was an oxygen crunch during the last wave of COVID in Delhi. Oxygen supply was diverted to other places. There were also some deaths due to lack of oxygen supply," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"The Delhi government announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives in the incident. Following the directive of the court, the



Manish Sisodia

Delhi government constituted a committee of health experts to look into the incident and ascertain what led to these deaths. It is extremely saddening that the Central government has dismissed this committee. I don't understand why the Centre has an issue with it," he added.

"The AAP government wants to offer compensation to the families of those who died and also probe and confirm what led to these deaths. The Centre is not letting this happen. Why does it like to obstruct any good step or work being done by the State governments?" Mr. Sisodia asked.

"There have been many incidents of unnecessary interference by the Centre. This decision to dismiss the committee is unreasonable and without any logic. I would like to request the Centre to stop such interference," he said.

Responding to Mr. Sisodia's claims, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said it is sad to watch Mr. Sisodia playing "dirty

politics" over such a sensitive matter.

'Panel already formed'

"The Supreme Court had already formed a committee with regard to oxygen deaths compensation on May 6 comprising Dr. Randeep Guleria, Dr. A. Budhiraja and Joint Secretaries from both Centre and State governments. This panel had been working for 10 days when suddenly the Delhi government jumped in to form a separate committee on May 27. In the light of the fact that already a high powered four-member committee with Delhi government representation is working on it, the Delhi government has been asked to dismantle its committee," Mr. Kapoor said.

L-G reviews water supply situation, requirements

'Use technology to detect leakages'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal on Wednesday reviewed the existing water supply situation, projected requirements, steps being taken to augment Delhi's domestic water availability and requirements of other States.

According to administrative sources, Mr. Bajjal presided over a presentation made by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) related figures projected being undertaken with regards to the setting up of STPs and WTPs and the rejuvenation of waterbodies.

Groundwater recharge, use of recycled water and rainwater harvesting were

also reviewed during the presentation made by the DJB.

"Reiterating that management of water in terms of wastage, leakage and distribution is an important area that could largely address supply constraints, the L-G advised the Delhi Jal Board to incentivise water saving and de-incentivise wastage by adopting differential pricing," sources said.

"He suggested that technology be used for detecting leakages in pipelines and the same be speedily plugged. Immediately addressing the wastage of water by tankers was also stressed upon," sources also stated.

Parts of city receive rain, mercury dips

Very light rain or thundershowers likely today: IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Some parts of the city received rain while overcast skies brought down the temperature and provided relief from the rising mercury. While the official weather station of the city, Safdarjung, did not receive any rain, the weather station at Pitampura recorded 24.5 mm of rainfall.

The maximum temperature settled at 34.2 degrees Celsius, which was five degrees below normal for the season. The minimum settled at 26.2 degrees Celsius, two degrees cooler for the season. The overcast sky managed to bring the temperature down from a maximum of 38.7 degrees Celsius recorded on the previous day.

The forecast for June 17



Motorists take shelter under a foot overbridge during rain at Rajouri Garden on Wednesday.

* SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

shows that the city will have a partly cloudy sky with possibility of very light rain or thundershowers. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be between 37 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

The monsoon was expected early in the city on June 15

ahead of its usual arrival date of June 27 but conditions were unfavourable for it to reach the city, the IMD said. "Large-scale atmospheric conditions are not favourable for advance of monsoon into Rajasthan, remaining parts of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi," the IMD said in its bulletin.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The AAP on Wednesday said that the BJP has appointed the "most corrupt" councillors as Mayors and Standing Committee Chairpersons in all three municipal corporations.

AAP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Vikas Goel said citizens of Delhi will give a befitting response to the "corrupt" methods of the BJP by throwing them out of power in the upcoming elections.

"BJP-ruled South body has brought a new Mayor who has been accused of corruption and the judi-

Chandni Chowk stretch now a no-vehicle zone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Transport Department has notified the site of the Chandni Chowk redevelopment project - from the Red Fort to the Fatehpuri Mosque a - non-motorised zone.

According to the notification issued on June 14, no motor vehicle shall be allowed to ply on the main Chandni Chowk Road from Red Fort to Fatehpuri Mosque from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on all days.

In addition to these, restrictions will also not apply to the Shanti Desai Marg towards main Chandni Chowk Road upto T-Point Shanti Desai Marg.

BJP raises questions over procurement of buses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta on Wednesday questioned the Delhi government's decision to keep in abeyance the procurement of 1,000 buses by the DTC after he approached the Lieutenant Governor with a complaint of graft in the process.

In an order issued on June 11, the Transport Department stated that proceedings related to the procurement of 1,000 DTC buses and their annual maintenance contract "be kept in abeyance till further orders."

"Delhi government has now put the order of the buses in abeyance in a hush-hush manner. The timing of withdrawing the purchase

order is highly suspect," Mr. Gupta alleged.

According to him, the order for 1,000 buses worth ₹890 crore was given to two private companies on a three-year warranty. However, despite the warranty, the government gave the order for maintenance from the very first day of the purchase worth ₹350 crore annually.

Responding to the allegation, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said: "The BJP had filed a complaint with the L-G. The L-G had constituted an inquiry. We have stopped the process of procurement till the report on this inquiry comes through. We are even ready for an inquiry by the BJP if it wants to institute one."

THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide orders dated 10.08.2020 and Commission For Air Quality Management (CAQM) have directed for cashless collection of ECC and Toll Tax from specified commercial vehicles entering Delhi. It has also been directed that commercial vehicles without valid RFID Tags & sufficient recharge be not permitted to enter into Delhi w.e.f. 01.07.2021.

Therefore, Owners/Drivers/Transporters of all specified commercial vehicles entering Delhi which enters into Delhi from any of 124 entry point are required to be equipped with RFID Tags with sufficient recharge to facilitate the Cashless Transaction of Toll Tax & ECC.

For purchase of RFID Tags a number of points of Sale are running at various Toll Plazas. But still it has been observed that a number of specified commercial vehicles entering Delhi Borders are not equipped with RFID Tags with sufficient balance thereby violating the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India & CAQM.

Transport Unions/Vehicle owners/Drivers are hereby informed that they may get their vehicle equipped with RFID Tags and get the Tag recharged at Points of Sale (POS) located at various Toll Plazas or online by the following process:-

- Download "MCD-Toll" mobile app from playstore; enter mobile no; you will receive OTP; enter OTP; your page will open; recharge using credit/debit card or Net Banking.
- Go to www.eccatagsdmc.com and then follow the same procedure.

Ro No. 19/DPWS/2021-22
Addl. Dy. Commissioner (Toll Tax)



Terrorising dissent

HC bail orders are an indictment of attempt to portray Delhi protests as terrorist acts

Caught between a statutory bar on grant of regular bail and a judicial embargo on any close examination of available evidence at the bail stage, those arrested under the country's main anti-terror law have been languishing in jails without trial for extended periods. The Delhi High Court orders granting bail to three student activists jailed for over a year for their alleged role in the February 2020 riots in Delhi represent a clear-headed effort to get around such impediments. Sound in legal reasoning and interpretation, the judgments of Justice Siddharth Mridul and Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani have made a salient distinction between those accused of offences against the country's integrity and security on the one hand, and protesters or dissenters roped in unjustifiably under the rubric of 'terrorism' on the other. The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been invoked by the Delhi Police against activists and others who were among those organising the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, on the claim that they had also fomented the riots. Under Section 43D(5), there is a legal bar on granting bail if the court is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accusation against those held is *prima facie* true. Adding to this onerous burden on the accused to demonstrate to the court that the accusation is untrue is a 2019 Supreme Court judgment that bars a detailed analysis of the evidence at the bail stage and rules that bail can be denied on "the broad probabilities" of the case.

The High Court has ruled that the bail court can look at the available evidence to satisfy itself about the *prima facie* truth of the case. In other words, there is no statutory invincibility to the prosecution case merely because the UAPA has been invoked. It has found that none of the three – Asif Iqbal Tanha, Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita – was specifically or particularly accused of any 'terrorist act', 'funding of a terrorist act' or an act amounting to a conspiracy to commit a terrorist act or something preparatory to it. Once the UAPA charges were not seen to be true, it was open to the court to admit them to regular bail until conclusion of the trial. Further, with 740 witnesses cited, there is no scope for early conclusion of the trial. Riots are matters concerning public order, and not the security of the state. The court's observation that the state, in its anxiety to suppress dissent, has blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed right to protest and "terrorist activity", is a stern indictment of the establishment. The Delhi Police has gone to the Supreme Court on appeal against the verdict, possibly in the fear that the ruling may foil its design to paint protesters as 'terrorists'. If the High Court's approach to grant of bail is upheld, it would help secure the liberty of other dissenters held under the UAPA elsewhere without sufficient basis.

Closure, compensation

Legal steps must go hand-in-hand with diplomacy to avoid *Enrica Lexie* repeat

Nine years after two Italian marines shot dead two fishermen off the Kerala coast under the belief that they were pirates, the criminal proceedings against them are set to be formally closed. The Supreme Court of India has ordered that the criminal trial against them be stopped, after Italy deposited compensation of ₹10 crore. The Permanent Court of Arbitration, a tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, had last year ruled that even though India and Italy had concurrent jurisdiction to try the case, the marines – Salvatore Gironi and Massimiliano Latorre – enjoyed immunity from Indian jurisdiction as they were acting on behalf of a state. The UN tribunal had also ruled that the Indian fishing boat, *St. Antony*, and the victims were entitled to compensation, as *Enrica Lexie*, the Italian vessel, had violated the boat's right of navigation under the Law of the Sea. The two marines are likely to face trial in Italy, but as far as India is concerned, the monetary compensation may have to be treated as the only available form of closure for the moment. Given the legal tangles over jurisdiction, the lawfulness of their arrest and the location of their trial, as well as the provisions of law under which they should be tried, legal accountability through a criminal trial had been rendered extremely difficult. The legal heirs of the two victims are likely to get ₹4 crore each, and the owner of the fishing vessel, ₹2 crore.

In hindsight, the diplomatic turbulence the incident set off in the early days, the nationalist passions the killings raised and much of the delay in resolving the issue could all have been avoided. A possible way out was to have agreed to Italy's offer of compensation and a trial in its own jurisdiction – the very thing that came out of the UN tribunal's ruling. At that time, many in India believed it was an act of wanton killing, while those in Italy believed the fears of piracy were genuine. India's efforts to assert criminal jurisdiction succeeded in national courts, with the Supreme Court ruling in 2013 that prosecuting the marines, who had been brought into Indian waters from the Contiguous Zone, where the incident took place, was solely in the Union government's jurisdiction. However, when the NIA invoked a stringent anti-piracy law – the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, 2002 – it was received with consternation in Italy. European nations objected to the trial taking place under a law that provided for the death penalty. The provisions of the Act were dropped, but this led to significant delay in prosecuting the matter. A lesson is that such incidents should be dealt with a combination of legally sustainable steps and diplomatic efforts to find early resolution.

'Record' FDI inflows, yes, cause for celebration, no

The inflows during 2020-21 have not been in sync with the Government's priorities for economic recovery



BISWAJIT DHAR &
K.S. CHALAPATI RAO

In an otherwise gloomy economic scenario, one area of cheer for the Government has been the numbers on inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI). In a recent press release, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced that "India has attracted highest ever total FDI inflow of U.S.\$81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21 and it is 10 percent higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20" (<https://bit.ly/3wBcEd6>). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that the equity component of inflows was over U.S.\$61.4 billion, a 19% increase over the U.S.\$51.7 billion received in 2019-20. The credit for this record level of inflows was given to FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business.

Taken on their face value, these numbers are indeed creditable, especially given that global FDI inflows in 2020 had declined by 42% over the level in 2019, and inflows to developing countries had fallen by 12%. However, if we consider the disaggregated data on inflows into India, the reality of foreign investors' participation in the Indian economy seems a sharp contrast to what the Ministry has presented (<https://bit.ly/35yBiyN>).

RBI data as a pointer

The RBI provides a useful disaggregation of total inflows of foreign capital into India. This shows that net of repatriation/disinvestment, FDI inflows had declined by 2.4% in 2020-21, as compared to the previous year. This was due to a

47.2% increase in repatriation/disinvestment, which had reached a record level of U.S.\$27.0 billion. The RBI reports yet another disquieting aspect of foreign capital inflow in 2020-21, a high increase in portfolio investment, fuelled entirely by a 69-fold increase in the participation by foreign institutional investors (FIIs), totalling U.S.\$38 billion. This was the second highest level of FIIs' involvement in India, after they invested U.S.\$42 billion in 2014-15. Surely, sustained sizeable repatriation of the long-term FDI, together with a large increase in speculative capital does not bode well for an economy looking to recover from an economic slump.

Who the recipients are

Analysis of FDI inflows remains largely incomplete without referring to the largest recipients of FDI, which is possible using the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade database. Currently, data for the first three quarters of 2020-21 are available, during which 86% of the equity inflows for the financial year were received. This data shows that three Reliance Group companies, namely Jio Platforms, Reliance Retail Ventures and Reliance BP Mobility, together received U.S.\$27.8 billion or, 54.1% of the total equity inflows during the three quarters. Other large recipients, though with far lower shares, were Schneider Electric India, Byju's, ArcelorMittal India, GMR Airports and Amazon Seller Services.

More than U.S.\$20 billion of promoter's shares in Jio Platforms, currently having the largest wireless subscriber base in India, were sold to 14 foreign investors, including Facebook, Google, KKR & Co., Qualcomm and a number of financial investors and sovereign wealth funds. A major part of the funds was meant to facilitate Reliance In-

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



dustries to withdraw its investments already made in the form of Optionally Convertible Preference Shares. This, therefore, amounted to indirect acquisition of shares held by Reliance Industries. While the entire investment in Reliance Retail was by financial investors, viewed in the context of Reliance Group's expansion through acquisitions (e.g. Future Group and Urban Platter) the end use of the inflows becomes obvious. Again, bulk of the investment into Reliance BP Mobility was through the acquisition route.

Facebook's entry in Jio Platform offered two significant benefits to the foreign partner; one, to substantially expand its social media reach by piggy-backing on Jio Platforms and, two giving Facebook a share in India's rapidly expanding e-commerce business through Jio Mart. Following the Facebook deal, Reliance announced its partnership with Google for building an Android operating system, by selling 7.7% in Jio Platforms. Facebook's shareholding was pegged at 9.9% presumably because the International Monetary Fund (and also the RBI) stipulates that if a foreign investor holds 10% or more of voting shares in a company, the investor "exercises a significant degree of influence on its management". Interestingly, Jio Platforms remains "Indian controlled", even though two major American companies now own nearly 18% of its shares.

Acquisitions lie behind other

major inflows as well: Schneider Electric's acquisition of L&T's Electrical & Automation business, ArcelorMittal's acquisition of Essar Steel, and Byju's acquiring a number of companies including Akash Educational Services. GMR's deal with Groupe ADP of France paved the way for a foreign government-controlled company to have a say in India's aviation infrastructure. It may be pointed out that the RBI's data on acquisition-related inflows grossly underestimate the extent to which foreign investors have taken over existing businesses.

Skewed distribution

Perhaps alluding to these large cases of inflows, the RBI commented in its Annual Report thus: "Even though FDI inflows were stronger in 2020-21, their distribution was highly skewed. The coefficient of variation of FDI flows (based on transaction size) was larger during the pandemic period, implying concentration in distribution. The lower incidence of transactions points to the underlying weakness in FDI inflows during the year. Without the top five FDI deals, FDI inflows during 2020-21 would have declined by about a third of their level a year ago". The RBI is entirely correct in its observation that without the large inflows mentioned above, there is a serious question mark over FDI inflows. In the absence of large inflows, FDI equity inflows suffered a precipitous fall in Q4 of 2020-21, the second lowest inflows in Q4 since 2014-15 barring 2016-17.

Although the RBI has expressed its optimism that "[G]oing forward, the pipeline of FDI for 2021-22 could be supported by the thrust given to PLI and domestic growth prospects", the nature of the bulk of the "investments" which involved a mere transfer of shares without creating productive assets in the country perhaps belies the expectation that FDI can

contribute to the revival of the economy. This view is reinforced by the fact that contrary to the Government's expectations of a larger magnitude of inflows into the manufacturing sector, this sector received just 17.4% of the total inflows during 2020-21.

To the services sector

The services sector attracted nearly 80% of the total inflows with information technology enabled services (ITes) being the largest component, accounting for over 47% of the inflows thanks to the RBI's classification of Jio Platforms as "Other information technology and computer service activities". Wholesale and retail trade were the other prominent ones. According to the RBI, non-acquisition-related inflows into the manufacturing sector were the lowest in 2020-21 even in absolute terms, over the past five years. They were U.S.\$6.7 billion in 2020-21, as compared to U.S.\$12 billion in 2016-17, and were lower than even the previous year's amount of U.S.\$8.2 billion by 1.3%. Quick calculations based on the RBI data (which are gross underestimates) show that 34.9% of the reported inflows into the manufacturing sector were acquisition-related.

Clearly, FDI inflows have not been in sync with the government's priorities for the post-COVID-19 economic recovery: the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, anchored on the revival of the manufacturing sector through the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. When this is the situation, 'record' levels of FDI inflows during 2020-21 cannot be a cause for celebration.

Biswajit Dhar is Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. K.S. Chalapati Rao is former Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Energy inefficiency can short circuit cooling India

As Indian homes will be a key site where future cooling demand will play out, awareness of energy efficiency is crucial



ANNA AGARWAL

More frequent and intense heat waves are expected with a rise in global temperatures due to climate change. In the last three decades, there have been 660 heat waves across India causing 12,273 deaths (<https://bit.ly/3pXxtNj>). India, with currently low penetration levels of air conditioners (ACs), will likely require substantial cooling services to keep citizens healthy and productive. The India Cooling Action Plan (<https://bit.ly/3pZnm5B>) projects the number of room air conditioners to become about four times in the next 10 years, and about 10 times in the next 20 years, making India the world's largest energy user for cooling.

Scant data

Here lies a conundrum. Cooling will likely be at the forefront of India's adaptation to climate change, but if cooling needs are met with inefficient ACs, it could be the bane of India's mitigation efforts. Indian homes will be an important

site where this conundrum between cooling needs and potential emissions will play out. Despite its clear importance, the implications of an increase in residential cooling demand have not been carefully examined. Estimates of AC ownership and usage, the two factors which will determine the extent of future cooling demand, have little empirical backing. We know little about what cooling appliances people seek, and how and why people make their purchase decisions. The pursuit of energy efficiency, too – for instance, who buys efficient technologies and why – remains underexplored.

Delhi survey results

In a recently published paper (<https://bit.ly/3vBTtU>) in the *Environmental Research Letters*, my colleagues and I look at household cooling patterns, and unpack household characteristics that are leading to increased use of air conditioners and adoption of energy efficient choices. The findings are based on a door-to-door household survey in areas of Delhi, with above average levels of AC penetration.

We find that the desired levels of cooling vary greatly even among relatively homogenous communities. In Delhi's wealthy neighbourhoods, 43% of the households own an AC, 39% own coolers and 18%

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



only have a fan. Further, the way households use ACs also differs quite a bit. While most households use an AC for three to four hours a day during peak summer months, about 15% use ACs for over eight hours a day. It is interesting to note that the India Cooling Action Plan in its estimation of residential cooling demand, assumes that an average household uses an AC for eight hours a day, which as per our study seems to be an upper bound. People prefer different AC set-point temperatures, again indicative of varying perceptions of thermal comfort. Half of the households set their ACs between 24°C-26°C, and 27% prefer their AC temperature to be between 21°C-23°C. This wide range of preferred AC temperatures have important implications on energy demand requirements, as every 1°C increase in AC set-point temperature can lead to additional 6%

energy savings (<https://bit.ly/2TDCd3j>).

Unfortunately, energy efficiency does not feature as a priority in the purchase of cooling appliances. Only 7% of the households have an energy efficient (star-rated) fan, and 88% of the coolers are locally assembled. Most people prefer to buy a three-star AC, and less than 20% of AC-owning households bought the highest rated five-star AC.

An obstacle

Large-scale adoption of efficient cooling appliances will be essential to providing the required thermal comfort in a low carbon manner. We find that low levels of energy efficiency awareness are a major bottleneck that hinders the purchase of more efficient appliances. A third of the households did not know of the Star Labelling programme, which is a government programme mandatory for refrigerators and air conditioners. Of the households that had heard of the programme, only half of them understood what it meant. We find that it is this set of informed households that are more likely to own a higher efficiency AC, and also likely to use the appliance efficiently. Higher upfront cost and low market availability of more efficient air conditioners (four-star and five-star) are other

reasons for buying a less efficient AC. We find that many households also use alternative cooling strategies to keep cool, with the use of a fan being the favourite non-AC cooling option, and use of non-energy cooling methods such as natural ventilation being a common practice. Households using such non-AC cooling methods were found to use their AC for fewer hours.

Other solutions

The impending cooling demand transition in India offers a potential advantage. Because a majority of investments in cooling technologies, infrastructure, and behaviours are yet to be made, there is a unique opportunity to lock-in energy efficient consumption patterns. Awareness campaigns on the benefits of energy efficiency along with subsidies and financial incentives that help with the higher upfront costs can help drive up the adoption of more efficient technologies. Encouraging the use of passive cooling alternatives including energy efficient building designs can help provide the desired thermal comfort with reduced dependence on energy intensive cooling technologies.

Anna Agarwal is a fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Court's bail orders

The Delhi High Court's orders granting bail to activists and students charged under the stringent UAPA, is the higher judiciary's firm reiteration of the constitutional right of people to dissent and protest (Page 1, "Delhi riots: 3 student activists get bail", June 16). The judicial observations are as strong a judicial indictment of the cavalier attitude of the Delhi police in mechanically invoking such stringently laws as they could be. The judgment also exposes a total lack of professionalism on the part of the Delhi police. One does hope that the Supreme Court of India will lay down certain mandatory criteria for invoking the UAPA by investigating agencies.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

■ This is an era defined by a strong executive that does not hesitate to wield vaguely worded provisions of draconian laws to shrink spaces for dissent and criminalise the protester. The High Court has spoken directly and wisely to fundamental concerns of the times, making it a good day for democracy.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

Waiting for justice

The Italian marines obeyed the Supreme Court of India's orders for their trial and right till the end, the integrity and dignity of the Indian judicial process have been upheld (Inside pages, "SC closes trial against Italian marines", June 16). Yet, many of us do not understand why the law that was applied to prosecute the Italian marines is silent when it comes to the FIRs raised

against Sri Lankan Navy personnel for killing Indian fishermen off the coast of Rameswaram since 1983. Trespassing the waters of Sri Lanka should not result in killings; instead, judicial custody and diplomatic steps alone should be the remedy. The fact is that since 1983, the families of victims have been waiting for justice.

EDMOND RAVEN,
Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu

Kerala and education

A letter ('Letters to the Editor', June 16) in connection with the article, "Higher education in Kerala needs a new chapter" (Editorial page, June 14) justifies the setting up of more colleges to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of the State of Kerala. Merely increasing GER will not improve the quality of higher education. Mediocre institutions will only add

numbers but not academic quality. Getting very high ranks in the NAAC accreditation *per se* is not the right barometer of merit. It is an open secret that these accreditation processes are biased in many ways.

MARY OOMMEN,
Kuttapuzha, Tiruvalla, Kerala

■ The state of education in Kerala leaves much to be desired. An egalitarian social setup, where women and marginalised sections enjoy greater freedom, social mobility and economic security, has never been the aim of (higher) education in Kerala. The rampant commercialisation of education, with self-financing colleges and unaided schools mushrooming everywhere, makes it something that has nothing to do with critical thinking and social change and justice. A fundamental

overhaul of the system is needed to make society in the State a real democratic one.

SUKUMARAN C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

On the fringes

Primarily, as with any investment, the value of cryptocurrencies can fluctuate. Within their nascent stage of development (OpEd page, "Embracing cryptocurrency", June 16) there have been ups and downs in value and also sensitivity to publicity due to the high number of informal

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The reference in the penultimate paragraph of "The race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong" (Between the Wickets column, June 16, 2021, Sports page) to India's win of the 1983 World Cup (50-over) should be corrected to (60-over).

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturba Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

A seesaw of science and pseudoscience

India is drifting rapidly towards a state of ignorance even as it aims for development



G.R. GOPINATH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi seems thoroughly modern. But he also appears to be steeped hopelessly in superstition. He promotes the exploration of the moon, orders the most sophisticated fighter jets, launches the first bullet train project, boasts about India being a vaccine 'powerhouse' that supplies vaccines to the world — all products of modern science. But he also simultaneously pumps for pseudoscience. He invokes cosmic energy to drive out the SARS-CoV-2 by exhorting the public to beat gongs and blow conches at auspicious hours based on ancient numerology; he does not pull up his Cabinet colleagues when they launch a yoga guru's concocted COVID-19 medicine, drugs that have no clinical evidence of trials and have been condemned by the Indian Medical Association. Mr. Modi speaks glowingly of India's scientific accomplishments in its mythic past and cites, for example, the elephant head transposed on Lord Ganesha as great strides in plastic surgery, long before the West invented it.

Nobel-winner physicist Richard Feynman coined the term 'cargo cult science' to describe all kinds of pseudoscience that passed off for science over the ages — ancient superstitions, black magic, voodoo, witch doctors, astrology, mind reading, ESP (extrasensory perception), expanded consciousness, aphrodisiacs made from rhino horns, and other debatable ideas. He spoke of a 'Cargo Cult' of people, the South Sea islanders in the Pacific, who, during the world war, had seen planes landing and delivering cargoes. After the war, they wanted to receive similar gifts from the skies. So they prepared landing strips to resemble runways, set up flares on either side, made wood pieces that looked like headphones, stuck bamboo stakes to resemble antennas, and waited for planes to land to deliver the goodies, the cargo. They waited and waited and repeated their exercise by adjusting the sticks and flares but the planes did



People in Gujarat applying cow dung on their bodies believing it will boost their immunity against COVID-19. — REUTERS

not land. They were missing something. They did everything right. But there were no planes. They were changing the form but not the substance. "We really ought to look into theories that don't work, and science that isn't science," said Feynman. "Cargo cult science" was his phrase for research that mimicked science. Despite never seeming to yield verifiable results, it garnered public acceptance because it seemed to possess the semblance of rigorous methodology.

A slew of offerings

India has a surfeit of charlatans — godmen and 'sadhus' of various hues, dieticians of native foods who have morphed into self-anointed doctors, and quacks who have turned apothecaries and practise various alternative medicines. Traditional practitioners have set up labs on a limited scale for analysing blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and equipment like X-ray machines and ECGs on the lines of western medicine to acquire the veneer of science that gives them credibility. They peddle everything from esoteric diets to cow dung and cow urine, as 'cure-alls' for all ailments, including the COVID-19 infection, which has ravaged the country. They offer various things to the rising middle class, from Vedic medicines, which promise immunity and boost potency to increase libido, to 'instant nirvana'.

It can't be denied that home remedies are often beneficial. If one has a bad cold, a concoction of crushed black pepper and turmeric boiled in milk will do wonders. A terrible bloated stomach can be eased by buttermilk garnished with garlic and ginger. Corns in the feet can be man-

aged without surgery by applying fresh lime and wrapping the affected parts in a ripe banana peel.

From home remedies to Ayurveda, there are many cures that work for illnesses. Alternative medicines from other parts of the world, including treatments from medicines used by tribal communities, have been useful and passed down from generations. But their limitations have to be recognised and acknowledged. Modern medicine, an offshoot of science that questioned existing beliefs and practices, discovered the method of experimentation to find out whether medicines worked, and if they did not, it encouraged exploring new ideas. This was the beginning of the scientific age.

Scientific progress has been possible only because the great men of science acknowledged their ignorance and were not afraid to question; each generation added to the fount of knowledge because they left the door to the unknown ajar. However, pseudoscientists are a danger to society because they are cocksure of their belief systems. They are not comfortable with doubts and uncertainties. It is alright to be not sure because certainty shuts all doors to corrections and blocks progress, which can be fatal for a civilisation.

Returning to the subject, one is compelled to wonder whether Mr. Modi is a man of science or pseudoscience. Why is he pushing both at different times and on different occasions? If it is a political strategy with an eye on the electorate to appease the public, both the modern and the rational, the traditional and the superstitious, it has not, going by the recent State elections, yielded the expected results. His mixed messaging,

mystic symbolism and mythic metaphors are incongruous with the image of a leader in a hurry to propel India to a technologically advanced nation alongside the modern developed economies of the world. While Mr. Modi's loyalists — both within the saffron fold and on the fringes — are wreaking havoc and showing India in a bad light as a country of obscurantists lost in ignorance and superstition and going back to the Middle Ages, his administrators and scientists at the helm of policymaking are paralysed by the predominance of regressive orthodox forces and are unable to give impetus to scientific advancements and infrastructural progress to lead India into the comity of developed economies. India, hitherto a rising power, suddenly seems a foundering ship adrift on the seas of pseudoscience amid a huge calamity.

Core values

The Indian civilisation, from its known beginnings, has served as a quest for knowledge for people to explore the deep meaning of life and existence. It is a great adventure of ideas in the history of the human spirit stretching back three thousand years. "Nothing is more sacred to man than his own history ... For us Indians, a study of Upanishads is essential, if we are to preserve our national being and character," said Indian philosopher and former President S. Radhakrishnan. He added, "There is much in our past that is degrading and deficient but there is also much that is life-giving and elevating. If the past is to serve as an inspiration for the future, we have to study it with discrimination and sympathy ... While the fundamental motives, the governing ideas which constitute the essential spirit of our culture are a part of our very being, they should receive changing expression according to the needs and conditions of our time."

Mr. Modi must heed the above words. Modern science is not antithetical to Indian thought. The spirit of enquiry, embracing new ideas and evolution through acquiring new knowledge is at the core of our being from the Upanishadic times. Without losing time, Mr. Modi must steer the nation back on to the path of science.

Capt. Gopinath is a soldier, farmer and entrepreneur

Acquitted but not forgotten

The right to be forgotten must be studied along with the concepts of fair criticism and accountability



RAMESH KALPATHY VAIDYANATHAN & SUYASH SARVANKAR

In an important development for the 'right to be forgotten', the Delhi High Court recently ordered the removal of one of its own judgments from easy access. The petitioner was acquitted of certain crimes by the court and the judgment was freely accessible on the Internet. Unhappy with this, the petitioner sought removal of the judgment from a leading database platform and search engines. The court, as a temporary relief, asked search engines to remove this order from search results, and ordered the database platform to block the judgment from being accessed by search engines. The High Court recognised that the petitioner may have a right to be forgotten, which must be balanced with the right of the public to access courts of record.

The right to be forgotten is, generally, the right to have information about a person removed from public access. The proponents argue that individuals should be able to determine the development of their life in an autonomous way. Persons cannot be perpetually stigmatised for past conduct.

In 2017, the Supreme Court recognised the right to be forgotten as being under the ambit of the right to privacy (specifically, informational privacy) under the Constitution. It observed that if someone desired to remove personal data from the virtual space, it ought to be respected. The top court observed that a lot of personal information may serve no "legitimate interest", was "incorrect", or was not "necessary" or "relevant". However, the right to be forgotten was subject to reasonable restrictions based on countervailing rights such as free speech. But despite the Supreme Court's judgment, the right remains underdeveloped in India.

For now, individuals may request data hosts to take down some content, and it may be taken down based on the policies of the respective hosts. For example, some embarrassing selfies that a person posted as a minor may violate the terms of service. These photos may be taken down if so requested because they not only violate terms of service but are also unnecessary and irrelevant. However, if these photos have since become part of, say, a scientific study on Internet usage patterns by teens, or if the person now holds a prominent government office, they

now serve a public purpose.

There is a general consensus that people should be allowed to modify or delete information uploaded by themselves. However, whether this extends to information uploaded by third parties is uncertain. Take for instance a news article reporting an accusation of sexual harassment against a public figure. If the person was never convicted, should they continue to bear the infamy? Is abhorrent conduct reportable only if there is a legal proceeding to support it?

The U.S. example

Perhaps there is a lesson in the American civil rights movement. Back then, some governments filed defamation claims against newspapers to disincentivise them from reporting violence against protesters. In one of these cases, *The New York Times* was held liable to pay \$500,000 (a king's ransom in 1962) by an Alabama court for some errors in their content. In appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court intervened in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan (1964)*, and ruled that public interest reporting may continue without fear as long as it did not intentionally or recklessly make outright false statements. Thus, the court disallowed suppression of criticism and accountability, especially against powerful figures. The case has been cited by the Supreme Court of India several times. Nonetheless, many courts in the country have ordered take-down of unflattering news articles pertaining to legal proceedings, redaction of names of litigants, and removal of references from search results. However, this is perhaps the first instance of a court ordering the removal of access to its complete final judgment from certain spaces.

While there may be significant merit to the right to be forgotten, whether it extends to the removal of judgments of courts of record is uncharted territory. Judgments are published for good reasons. Trials held under public scrutiny act as a check against judicial caprices and help in enhancing the confidence of the public in the fairness and objectivity of the administration of justice.

The wrong that the Delhi High Court sought to correct could have been achieved by narrow tailoring. The court could have ordered that the name and personal details of the petitioner be redacted while maintaining public access to the judgment itself. Unaware of the Streisand effect, the court names the petitioner repeatedly in its interim order, while removing the acquitting judgment from easy access. The issue has been listed for a final hearing and the outcome is keenly awaited.

The authors are with Advaya Legal

Higher education and COVID-19

Institutes should be given financial assistance to create safe campuses for students and staff

MILIND KUMAR SHARMA

The state of campuses of higher education institutes in India is at its nadir currently. The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic brought the entire country to its knees and people struggled to access basic healthcare facilities. But there is still a lack of serious consideration for the safety of campuses, which may be among the most vulnerable sites for the spread of infection at the community level. Apart from routine advisories in the form of notifications for standard operating procedures, protocols or guidelines issued from time to time at the apex level by the University Grants Commission (UGC), and at the State level by the respective Education Departments, nothing concrete has been done on the ground.

Campuses that house hostels, libraries, common rooms-cum-washrooms, canteens, auditoriums, gymnasiums, playgrounds, administrative offices, staff rooms, guest houses and staff quarters, besides classrooms and laboratories, require resources to change and modify their current settings for COVID-19-appropriate behaviour. Taking the 'business-as-usual' approach could lead to risking the lives of both students and employees on a very large scale. On May 10 this year, the UGC suggested a slew of measures that higher education institutes should adopt to fight the COVID-19 crisis. It recommended, inter alia, constituting a task force and setting up helplines, roping in counsellors and mentors for providing mental health support and enabling the well-being of all stakeholders, and creating a team of well-informed volunteers trained in life skills, including the NCC and the NSS. However, it did not mention the means and mechanisms for training the workforce for these specialised tasks. In the absence of that, such measures remain empty efforts.

Numerous orders

The abysmal financial state of higher education institutes, especially State-run universities, combined with a lack of will on the part of State governments already overwhelmed by the vaccination drive, has exacerbated

ed the situation. Reports of deaths of several teachers in prominent universities highlight the loss of the national intellectual capital and scholarship.

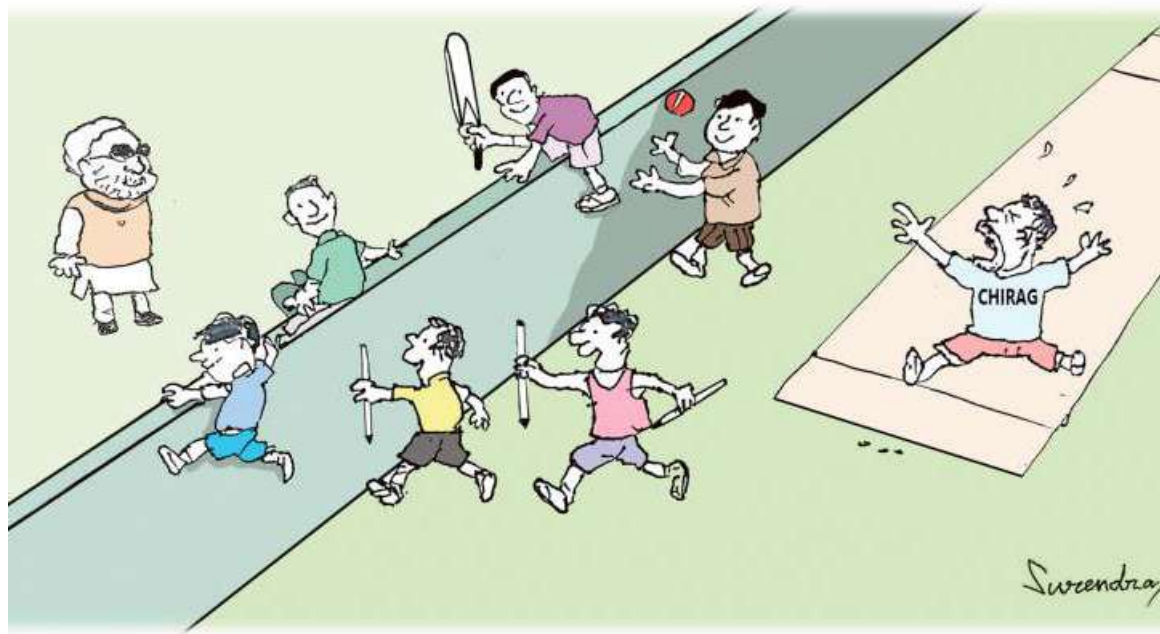
The UGC in its order dated November 5 last year listed guidelines for colleges to reopen post the lockdown. It recommended that State governments estimate and prepare for the required procurement of essentials, such as disinfectants and face masks, in each of their districts and zones in consultation with higher education institutes; it also asked them to draw out a plan for distribution. Universities and colleges were instructed to ensure a sufficient supply of these items to students, faculty and staff. The UGC also suggested that higher education institutes set up on-campus facilities for the isolation of symptomatic persons and for quarantining of those who were in contact with infected persons. Alternatively, they could tie up with State-run hospitals or other approved premises, as suggested by local authorities, for providing essentials to quarantined or isolated persons.

The need for quick action

But these measures are far from reality. Explicit budgetary allocations for higher education institutes for COVID-19 management were found to be missing in the States' annual budgets. This apathy on the part of institutes and policymakers (both at the Central and State levels) could endanger lives and may lead to a complete shutdown of academic activities in the time to come.

It is incumbent upon the UGC to direct State governments to generously provide financial assistance to higher education institutes for managing the COVID-19 crisis. The resources could come from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for the year 2021-22, which was released by the Department of Expenditure at the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs much before the normal schedule, in view of the extraordinary public health crisis.

Milind Kumar Sharma teaches at the Department of Production & Industrial Engineering, M.B.M. Engineering College, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur. Views expressed are personal



DATA POINT

Out of school

According to the NFHS-5, in 2019-20, only 29% of girl students attended higher secondary school in rural Gujarat, compared to a figure of 93.6% for rural Kerala. Similarly, only 45% of male students attended higher secondary school in rural Gujarat, compared to 90.8% in rural Kerala. In all States analysed, school attendance dropped as the education level increased. Specifically, the fall was more pronounced when students reached the higher secondary level. While the drop in attendance was much lower in rural Kerala, it was the highest in rural Gujarat. By Jasmin Nihalani, Vignesh Radhakrishnan and Sumant Sen

State	RURAL MALE (AGE GROUP)				NOTE: AGE 6-10 (PRIMARY SCHOOL), 11-13 (UPPER PRIMARY), 14-15 (SECONDARY), 16-17 (HIGHER SECONDARY)	RURAL FEMALE (AGE GROUP)			
	6-10	11-13	14-15	16-17		6-10	11-13	14-15	16-17
Kerala	99.5	99.8	98.2	90.8	Kerala	99.4	99.9	98.9	93.6
Goa	99.1	95.8	100	90.1	Sikkim	98.5	97.6	94.1	84.2
Sikkim	98.2	97.4	89.5	87.2	Goa	100	96.3	100	81.3
J&K	96.9	97.7	91.8	85.4	Himachal	99.4	98.3	94.4	81.1
Himachal	99.4	98.6	95	79.4	Manipur	97.3	95.2	91.4	81
Telangana	98.6	96.4	92	76.6	J&K	96.4	97.1	91.9	79.5
Manipur	98.2	97.9	92.3	76.4	Nagaland	94.3	93.9	89.8	77.3
Maharashtra	97.6	97.1	90.2	74.7	Meghalaya	95.2	95.9	87.8	76.1
Andhra	99.1	95.6	85.8	70.2	Telangana	98.3	96.3	89.4	70
Mizoram	96.3	96.7	89.1	69.5	Maharashtra	97.9	95.6	87.7	66.9
Bihar	90.5	89.5	80.9	69.2	West Bengal	98.5	97.2	92.3	65.2
Meghalaya	92.4	92.1	80	68.9	Mizoram	96.6	94.1	86.3	63.3
Karnataka	97.6	96.8	87.8	68.6	Karnataka	97.8	97.1	87.3	62.7
Nagaland	94.4	94.3	80.4	64.2	Assam	96.7	94.7	84.5	60.6
Tripura	97.7	97.1	83	62.2	Bihar	89.9	88.7	76.3	60.4
WB	98	93.3	79.1	58.6	Andhra	99.3	96.5	83.5	58.6
Assam	96.2	92.7	80.2	58	Tripura	97.3	95.3	90.4	57.6
Gujarat	96.4	91.4	69.7	45	Gujarat	97.3	85.9	53.7	29.2

1 In Bihar, attendance levels were relatively poor right from primary level of education. They were also poor in Meghalaya and Nagaland for the same level

2 In 10 States, less than 70% of rural girl students attended higher secondary school. Similarly, poor levels were observed among rural boys in 9 States

3 Rural Gujarat recorded the highest fall in attendance levels as students progressed from lower to higher education

4 The attendance levels did not drop much in rural Kerala with increase in education levels
Data are for 18 States/UTs for which detailed tables were released recently by the NFHS-5. All the figures pertain to 2019-20

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1971

'Pakistan may seek a solution'

[Washington, June 17] The United States believes that there is an "increasing awareness on the part of Pakistan" that it must seek a political settlement with representative elements in East Bengal. Though General Yahya Khan has said nothing to indicate such a change of attitude, and has insisted all along that the Awami League is dead as far as he is concerned, the United States is proceeding on the assumption that he will eventually seek a solution within the framework of proposals made by the Awami League prior to March 25.

United States official sources say they have detected an inclination on General Yahya Khan's part to abandon his initial attempts to set up a "puppet Government" in East Bengal.

The United States itself is unwilling to define what it means by its calls for a "political accommodation". But it is less reluctant to concede that the Awami League's 'six-point' plan constitutes the "floor" for any settlement.

The United States still believes that the leaders of East Bengal will settle for such a solution even after all the carnage perpetrated by the Pakistani army.

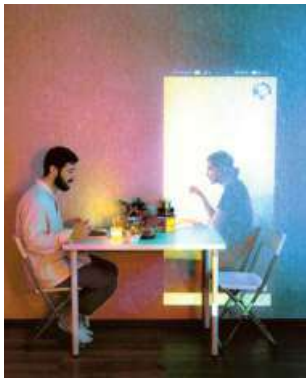
A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 17, 1921

Agricultural studies

The scientific study of agriculture has generally been recognised as opening up a career with great possibilities and the demand for it appears to be steadily growing in India. Agricultural education is said to be engaging the earnest attention of the Bombay Government and the leaflet issued by the Director of Information describes briefly what Bombay is doing in that direction. The Bombay Government has provided, it is stated, excellent facilities for agricultural education both at the Government College of Agriculture, Poona, and in six schools of agriculture in other parts of the Presidency, where the education is imparted in the appropriate vernaculars. These schools are under the Department of Agriculture. There is noticeably a large increase in the number of students at the Poona College, where there are now 203 pupils as against 170 in 1919 and 115 in 1916. The number of students from outside the Presidency is 67, of whom 23 came from South India and Ceylon, 19 from Burma, 7 from Bengal and 7 from the Nizam's dominions.

A window into the world

(Clockwise from right) A work by Karman Verdi; Mads Nissen's photograph of 85-year-old Rosa Luzia Lunarid being embraced by nurse Adriana Silva da Costa; the team behind CAM; a click by Andrea Grimaudo; and an interpretation of Salvador Dali's Persistence of Memory by Hayati Evren • COVID ART MUSEUM



Warm hugs from miles away

Covid Art Museum, a global digital collective, has been documenting the pandemic through artworks and photographs that embody hope, fear and courage

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Even as COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc, artists are finding creative ways to express the myriad moods associated with the pandemic and lockdowns.

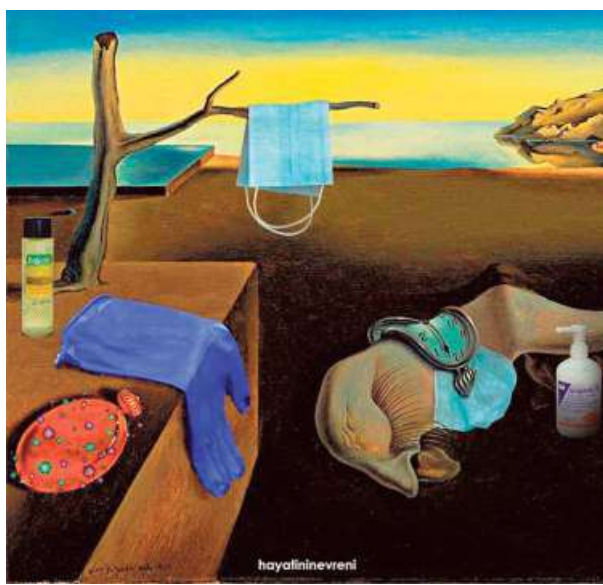
The Covid Art Museum (CAM), perhaps the first of its kind in the world, features art conveying hope, anxiety, courage, fear, boredom, struggle, solidarity, loneliness, and, even the feeling of 'languishing.'

Created by Emma Calvo, José Guerrero and Irene Llorca, three friends, advertising executives and art enthusiasts in Barcelona, Spain, the digital museum, launched on March 19, 2020 features art from all over the world. Centred on the pandemic, it includes photographs, animation, installations, illustrations, graphic art and cartoons.

Common elements such as masks, sanitisers, gloves, methods of social distancing and, of course, the Coronavirus itself, can be found in many of the pieces.

Edited excerpts from an e-mail interview with José Guerrero:

Why did you create this



digital museum?

● We created the museum because we were locked up at home like everyone else, in Spain. It was a strange and worrying situation, but people were doing amazing things such as concerts on balconies, yoga classes on rooftops and streaming choreographies.

One of these activities was also art that talked about the pandemic. We thought it would be a good idea to bring all these works together in one museum so they

wouldn't fall into oblivion. That's how we created The CAM on Instagram from the sofa of our homes.

How many works are there now?

● There are more than 840 publications at the time of this interview. Every day we upload new works. They come from all over the world – from Brazil, USA and Spain to India, Indonesia and Russia.

How are the artworks



selected?

● The main criteria is that they should be related to the current moment: the crisis of COVID-19. That's why we don't close ourselves to any technique.

We collect all kinds of art whether they are illustrations, photographs, paintings, poems, drawings, animations, videos.... From all the works received or found, a selection of those that best reflect the situation, is published.

Quality and originality are also important to us. Even if it is digital right now, we are still a museum. We want to keep the standards of a museum you would physically visit.



Has anyone from India been featured?

● There are several published works that have come from India and they are very interesting projects. They bring their particular vision of the situation, because despite the similarities, each part of the world has experienced the pandemic in a different way.

How do you think art has helped people cope with social isolation?

● The Internet connects people from all over the world regardless of distance, and that is very useful in the context of crisis, pandemic and quarantine.

Being stuck at home, under such circumstances, one can feel depressed, worried and very lonely.

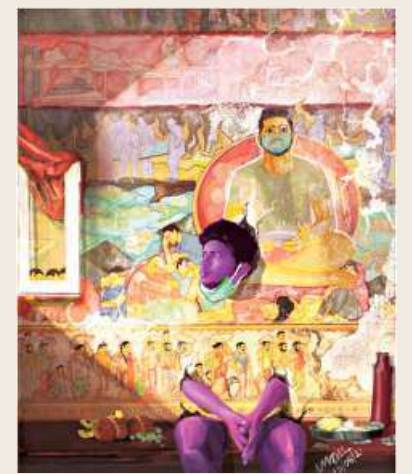
That's why we thought it was a good idea to create a museum that would show what was happening at the time.

Then, the public would see that millions of people were living and feeling the same thing. In times of crisis, it is essential to feel accompanied.

With the museum, people felt integrated into a community where they could participate and contribute their own works or simply write their thoughts in the comments section.

Portrait of an artist in quarantine

Art director Bala Govind Kumar's series, Quarantine Days, documents his days of living in isolation



ANASUYA MENON

When Bala Govind Kumar tested positive for COVID-19 on April 26 in Chennai, he spent 14 days in isolation at his rented apartment, feeling lonely and listless. Through these days, he used his iPad to create a visual diary of his emotions through art.

The series of six paintings, Quarantine Days, is an exploration of the concept of self. "All I could see was myself. Why not create self-portraits, I thought," says Bala, whose style is greatly inspired by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. He recorded a video of himself engaged in various daily chores and made a montage of the stills for his first work titled Rooted. It shows versions of himself staring out the window and at the ceiling, eating, and looking at his phone.

For the 25-year-old self-taught artist and architect hailing from Tirunelveli and working as an art director in Chennai, this was a healing process. "Art is my natural way of self-expression. And it made my days of isolation easier to bear."

Bala chose to work digitally as it did not require him to go out to procure art supplies. "In another time, I would have preferred

acrylic or oil paint. But now I realise digital art gives you a lot of artistic freedom; it is easy to pursue even in extraordinary circumstances such as this."

The works are a meeting place of Bala's emotions and his physical reality. He describes each stage of the disease and his mental state – breathing difficulty, loss of taste and smell and fatigue.

"I could not work every day. On the days I felt better, I would create two works," he says.

After six days indoors, he went up to the terrace, spending time with plants which rejuvenated his mind and he captured that, in one of the works. Bala explains how art was not just restorative but also gave him a glimpse into the philosophical. "We are bound by time. Whatever we may think we are, we cannot run from this."

Bala plans to exhibit his works when the COVID-19 situation improves.

Currently in Tirunelveli, he is working on a series, Misplaced Goat, which is a quest to rediscover his hometown through its rich tradition of folk art.

Bala Govind's works are for sale @kalaa_shala on Instagram.

Talking to myself Bala Govind Kumar says his artworks proved restorative

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A hundred ways to say thank you

The Gratitude Project shows appreciation to frontline workers through a shared online journal

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

"It's one thing to be grateful, it's another to express it in ways that are deeper than just the words 'thank you,'" says Maya Patel, one of the founders of Mumbai-based Gratitude Project (GP) that was started in the last week of May. "We wanted the wall to be a space of that expression of how people's lives have been touched in positive ways."

Over the last year, there have been many projects offering thanks to frontline workers in healthcare, agrarian community, last mile delivery, law enforcement, sanitation, security, and media. Some of them write letters, some raise funds and others pitch in to buy them essentials.

Maya is also glad the project comes at a time when many people feel demoralised by the state of the nation while the rest of the world gets back to normal. While social media has certainly become a black hole of rants, they wanted GP to be a ray of light amid the noise.

Those working on the project are Maansi Vohra, Hriyanka Shah, Mili Sanwalka, Shivika Poonglia, Latisha Shah, Alekha Advani and Maya, all of whom worked with the YouthFeed India campaign over the pandemic. Through their work, the girls were able to see which communities were not given as much thanks as they deserved, and they conceptualised a gratitude hub.

The website, designed by SH-One with graphics by Ravina Puri, is minimalist so posts have more impact.

Maya adds that the team wanted people to be creative and explore beyond a 'normal thank you'. A skim of the website wall



Good messaging The TGP team; (below) some of the posts of gratitude on the site • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

reveals different mediums such as photos, poetry and drawings – many in Hindi, Marathi and Punjabi.

"More than the messages we have received, it is the responses," says Maya. "As an initiative, our mission is to get as many posts up as possible, but to also get this in front of as many frontline workers as possible. We've been contacted by delivery executives and doctors who tell us, 'this made my day, I've had so many days of darkness'. That is our fuel to keep going."

Maya explains GP's core value: "If we couldn't show the frontline workers the gratitude they have received, we wouldn't have proceeded. We want people to know this whole concept is larger than it looks on-screen, in terms of impact."

With the number of posts shooting past 500, including those written by Athiya Shetty and Soha Ali Khan, GP may be growing but Maya and her team want gratitude to grow more. "Our country has shown us there is humanity left and that people are happy to just help!"



The red-nosed superhero

This clown walks the streets of Mumbai, sanitising localities and spreading the word about hygiene and pandemic awareness among kids

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Spiderman is often at Dharavi. Santa Claus, too, is a frequent visitor. Only, last Christmas he doled out masks instead of candy. All thanks to 37-year-old Ashok Kurmi, a benevolent shape shifter who changes his getup at the behest of children living in the Mumbai slums.

An employee with a pharmaceutical company, Ashok took it upon himself to spread not only joy, but also the message of hygiene, social distancing and the importance of masks, when the pandemic took the country in its grip last March.

"I was working from home. At about 11.30 am I would set out to various parts of Mumbai, sanitising localities and spreading awareness on COVID-19. I want to help people living in the slums, and the homeless who live under flyovers," he says.

Initially, Ashok wore a PPE kit but that made people, especially kids, nervous. They assumed that he was in their neighbourhood to take away a COVID patient. "I realised that if I wanted to communicate with kids, I should dress in a way that connects with them. So, I started visiting in a Mickey Mouse



costume. I got a good response and could teach them about the virus and how to stay safe," he says.

Eventually, the children started suggesting different characters for Ashok to dress up as. Doraemon, Santa and Spiderman followed in quick succession. He changes his look every 25 days.

Now, if you spot a clown armed with a sanitisation device on the streets of Mumbai, be sure to give him a pat on the back. "That is my current avatar," Ashok says over a call from Mumbai.

Being a clown does not come cheap. He bought a sanitisation machine for ₹9,000 with his own savings. "The sodium hypochlorite so-

lution that I use, costs around ₹1,300 for five litres. That quantity is easily used up in one area," he says.

So far, Ashok says he has sanitised around two lakh houses in the city. Right from conveyance and the masks he distributes to his costume and the charts he makes for the kids, all expenses are borne by him. It amounts to roughly ₹15,000 a month. Ash-

High fives and smiles Ashok Kurmi doing his rounds in Mumbai • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ok revisits every locality after two weeks. He first sanitises the streets, the houses, doors and windows and then calls out to the kids, asking them to wear their masks before making an appearance. "Now they eagerly wait for me to visit them," says Ashok, adding that he is pleased to see them following his advice. It takes him around six hours to complete his work in a locality.

Sometimes, language can be a barrier, he says: "In some areas the kids understand Hindi or Marathi and in some places they understand Tamil. I plan ahead and make charts in those languages, with a little help from the Internet."

Ashok also takes the time to draw boxes at bus stands and taxi stands so people can maintain social distancing. He says the police are happy with his work, and even suggest which area to head to next.

Old habits

"Getting dressed up as a character is not new to me," says Ashok, "Every December, I used to distribute gifts to children in the waiting area of Sion hospital and Tata Memorial Hospital as Santa Claus," he says. This new role is an offshoot of that.

His family comprising his parents, wife and two-and-a-half year old daughter were reluctant to let him out initially. "But I explained to them that this needs to be done. People on the streets don't really have an idea of the risks and how to stay safe, and need help. Now, my family is supportive," he says, adding that they help him with his one hour make-up routine, as he starts getting into the character of a clown.



The resurgence of JADDU



From dealing with criticism to battling injuries, Ravindra Jadeja talks about everything cricket and how he keeps mental health in check

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

A year-and-a-half leading up to the England tour of 2018 was hard on Ravindra Jadeja. It had been over eight years since he made his international debut. His potential as an all-rounder was still in question. He wasn't a regular in the side, especially in the limited-overs format. Between January 2017 to June 2018, Jadeja was not a part of four Tests, 25 ODIs and 22 T20s that India played.

"It was one of the hardest phases of my life, I used to be awake till early morning thinking about the game. I was constantly contemplating on how to overcome my hurdles, boost my confidence, and up my game," says Jadeja aka Jaddu from Southampton, where he is preparing for India's World Test Championship (WTC) final against the world's top-ranked side, New Zealand.

Jadeja is now an indispensable member of the team. His unbeaten 86 off 156 balls in the Oval Test of 2018 replenished his confidence.

Impressive performances followed across formats. Sample: a first Test century against the West Indies in 2018, a 59-ball 77 in the 2019 World Cup semi-final (albeit in a losing cause), and a 28-ball 62 in the Indian Premier League this year.

The Oval Test knock, according to Jadeja, was a marker of his resurgence. He ceased having sleepless nights after that. But that innings was not a magic pill. "I worked hard on building my health and my mind," he tells us in an interview organised by ASICS, the sports brand he is associated with.

Jadeja explains how he takes care of his mental health: "I stick

to my routine that includes waking up early, following my diet, working out, spending time with my family, and most importantly

Whenever I get some break, I visit my farmhouse and spend time with my horses as they have become an imminent part of my life.



With the WTC final set to begin on Friday, the focus, however, is back on cricket. Jadeja, due to an injury, missed the historic Gabba Test in Australia earlier this year and the home series against England that followed. So, he is raring to be a part of what promises to be another special match against New Zealand.

"It's a big advantage to have them with you on tours. You can spend time with them when you have nothing to do. When there aren't many restrictions, you can even go for a walk and explore new places with them," he adds.

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Playing it my way Ravindra Jadeja • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

How to go green

Sustainability consultant Shriya Suriyanarayanan's podcast, Footprint, is a beginner's guide to sustainable living in India



ANASUYA MENON

Shriya Suriyanarayanan came to a point in life when she saw plastic waste all around her. Greatly bothered by this, Chennai-based Shriya, an Engineering graduate from NIT Tiruchi, spent over two years following people and initiatives towards managing plastic waste and sustainability in India.

Today, Shriya is a sustainability consultant. Her podcast, Footprint – A Guide to Sustainable Living, acts as a beginner's guide to sustainability and has built a listenership of over 40,000 since July 2020.

Season One, which contains 10 episodes, talks about sustainable choices in different aspects of life. From growing one's own food and zero-waste living to home care, self-care and a career in climate, Shriya's panel of experts and practitioners offer multiple sustainable solutions.

Hosted on Aawaz.com, the podcast has featured Anuradha Kedia, co-founder of the Better Home Cleaners which deals with environment-safe home cleaning products; Abhay Rangan, founder of a plant-based dairy company Goodmylk; and Anshuman Bapna, founder and CEO of Terra.do, an online school working to solve climate change, to name a few.

If there is going to be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans by 2050, it is about time we did something about it, she says in one of the episodes. "Legislative changes around climate change and plastic waste are expected to be implemented over the next few years. There is

Right on target Shriya's podcast is aimed at young, urban Indians and families • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

massive progress and innovation being led by startups, NGOs and individual contributors across India. But we still need to talk about this constantly because consumer demand will drive Government and private sector action."

Consumer behaviour is something she is optimistic about: "According to Google Trends, search interest in 'sustainable lifestyles' has increased over six times in the past year. This means there are people who want to lead a sustainable life, but are not sure how. When I was doing my research on sustainable solutions, I found a wealth of information available, but it was scattered." The extra time she had during lockdown in 2020 was when she "decided to channel that into something productive and bring all this information together as one comprehensive guide".

In the right context Shriya adds that her focus is on the Indian consumer and Indian products. "Indians inherently lead more sustainable lives due to our cultural practices and socio-economic conditions. According to a recent report, India's per capita plastic consumption is half the global average. But we need to build on that with solutions that are viable in the Indian context. These podcasts help young, urban Indians and families take the next step towards alternative solutions," she states.

While Season One is from an individual's point of view – on how to lead a sustainable life, Shriya is considering making Season Two from a business perspective. "It could cover issues such as sustainability within larger brands, how does one judge sustainability relatively, ethical and fair manufacturing, trade practices and the like," she muses.

Shriya admits that a sustainable lifestyle is not a pocket-friendly decision. She explains, however, "It is more expensive today because demand is less and the raw materials costlier. We hope to reach economies of scale soon, so it becomes affordable. But we need to remember that living more sustainably doesn't mean buying a lot of sustainable products. If you just buy less and use what you have for longer, that's a great start. Minimalism and sustainability are very closely linked."

The podcast has built a listenership of over 40,000 since July 2020



Conscious shoppers, designers and the creatively inclined, can source pre-used silk and cotton saris, dupattas and more from The Rewrap Company



Draped in memories Deepa and Mansi are full of ideas for how old fabrics can be reused • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

fabric and maintenance," says Deepa. Mansi adds, "Some of our customers recycle saris into curtains or cushion covers. Silk is made into handbags or sari covers. People seem to have the time and are showing great interest in home decor now."

At The Rewrap Company, one can also buy yardage of upholstery fabrics, sourced from the manufacturer directly. "Apart from being useful for making table runners, shopping bags and cushion covers, we use these to make covers for the saris we sell," Mansi says.

The Rewrap Company has stocked over 150 products, and prices start from ₹150. Currently, they operate through the Instagram handle @therewrapcompany, but plan to launch a website soon.

"We want to be in the fabric space and stay away from pre-loved stitched garments. We cater to conscious buyers. Going forward we plan to offer consultancy in preserving saris that have antique or sentimental value. We can help preserve them by repurposing them in various ways. For example, a silk sari can be framed and mounted on the wall or even used as a partition. A cotton sari on the other hand, will be ideal for use as a blanket or curtain. Wedding *veshtis/dhotis* can be made into sari covers," says Deepa."

as sari or *dupatta* or stole can be recycled and repurposed imaginatively in many ways," she adds.

In April, the duo launched The Rewrap Company, an online shop to buy and sell pre-loved, gently used fabric. "We carefully choose the products we sell by assessing the garment for any stains or damage, sanitising it, and labelling it. If required we dry clean the sari. A significant number of saris in our collection are unused with the price tag intact," says Deepa, who shut her travel company which she ran for 23 years when the pandemic began.

"The initial week was chaotic with our bedrooms filled with stuff we received from everyone. We segregated the collection based on quality, design,

A sari, reimagined

CHITRADEEPA ANANTHARAM

When friends and neighbours Deepa Balaji and Mansi Karra had to end their respective careers last year due to the pandemic, they decided to get together and focus on sourcing and selling pre-loved, unstitched fabric.

"My mother has been my biggest influence when it comes to the idea of sustainability. I grew up wearing my elder sister's outfits, which were later used by my cousin," says Mansi. "As an event planner, I observed that most brides use their expensive bridal wear such as sari or *ghagra*, just once. These special outfits could be used multiple times if shared with friends or cousins. I also realised that unstitched garments such

Been there, done that



Alien invasion Chris Pratt in a scene from *The Tomorrow War* • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chris Pratt on playing a Former Delta Force Operator going to the future in 2051 in *The Tomorrow War*, to fight deadly aliens and save the planet for his daughter

MINI ANTHIKAD CHHIBBER

In *The Tomorrow War*, an upcoming military science fiction film, Chris Pratt plays Dan Forester, a Former Delta Force Operator going to the future, 2051, to fight deadly aliens and save the planet for his daughter, Muri (Ryan Kiera Armstrong). The film directed by Chris McKay, has some hair-raising action sequences.

Talking of the biggest adrenaline rush at a virtual press conference, the *Jurassic World* actor said, "There was so much to choose from. Off the top of my head, there is a great sequence when we make the jump to 2051. There is this transition where we fall from the sky in Miami to land in a pool. There was some serious water work. We got to jump off of this high dive that we built out of a fork lift into the water. The camera followed us down and there were stunt people jumping down and landing on top of you forcing you under water. That sequence probably took two or three days. You are trying to get smashed into the ground, come up and struggle into a close up underwater. It was a lot of fun."

Unlike the real world, in *The Tomorrow War*, it is the older people who are sent to fight the aliens. "Everyone who goes forward into the future is over the age of 30 and eve-

ryone who comes back to train us is under 30 because you can't live in both timelines at the same time. They are drafting a crop of people who are going to be dead in 2051. You are dealing with people who are making life decisions based not on the life that they could lead, but rather the world that they are leaving for their children. My character, Dan is doing this to protect his family. It is different to think about people being drafted away from their children rather than children being drafted away from their parents."

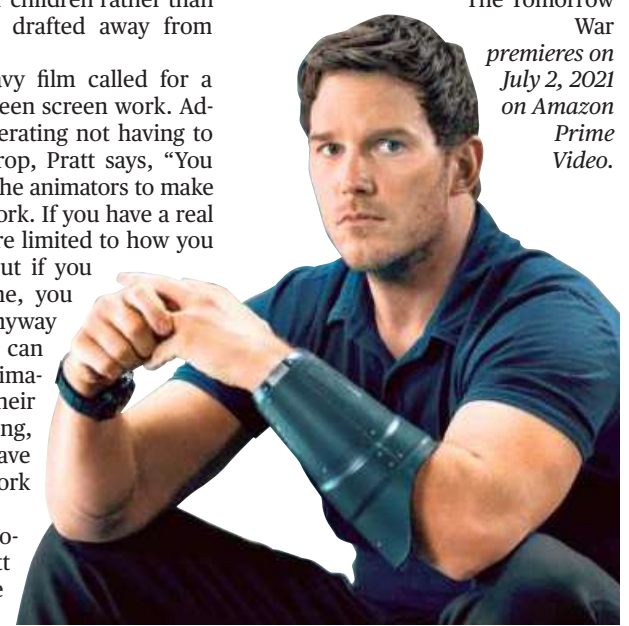
The SFX-heavy film called for a great deal of green screen work. Admitting it is liberating not having to work with a prop, Pratt says, "You basically force the animators to make your choices work. If you have a real tentacle, you are limited to how you can move it, but if you have a fake one, you can move it anyway you like. You can imagine an animator pulling their hair out saying, 'Oh, great. I have to make that work somehow.'"

Drolly elaborating, Pratt says, "I have had my fair

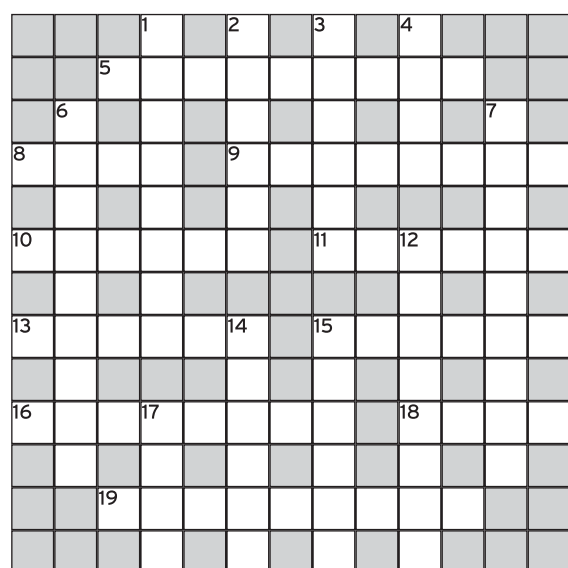
share of running from and fighting against creatures that aren't there. You could have a whole podcast episode about the way to achieve it. It is a combination of various things you are going to look at, whether it is a tennis ball or the guy named Troy who is seven feet tall and very scary. You look at Troy and think, "That is certainly a person who could lift me up and break me in half." He becomes significantly less scary when he is put in a giant grey leotard."

Acting opposite or fighting something that is not there is particularly embarrassing, Pratt says. "You put your trust in the director that they will not allow it to become a viral YouTube sensation."

The Tomorrow War premieres on July 2, 2021 on Amazon Prime Video.



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13417



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

- Across
5 Deceitful – hedonists (anag) (9)
8 10 cents (4)
9 Sofa bed (3-3-2)
10 Bring into use (6)
11 Render harmless (6)
13 Exhausted the supply (4, 2)
15 Vulgarised art (6)
16 Make sense of – trounces (anag) (8)
18 South African currency (4)
19 One aims to score between them (9)
- Down
1 Traduced (8)
2 A little rough (6)
3 Joined together – in duet

- (anag) (6)
4 Scandinavian capital (4)
6 Amusement – temporary redirection (9)
7 Severe storm (9)
12 Soak (8)
14 Overweight (6)
15 Continue (4, 2)
17 Try – ammunition (4)

The solution will appear on June 24, 2021.

Solution No. 13416

