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Court in Dominica will hear plea on Choksi's deportation today



BRICS will assist India in fighting virus: Chinese Minister Wang Yi

Pope updates canon law to address

Mithali says it'll be good to have continuity in Test cricket



paedophilia by priests

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Page 13

NEARBY



Lowest hospitalisations

in Delhi in two months

The Capital on Monday reported the lowest number of COVID-19 patients being hospitalised in the last two months - 182 - as compared to 1,993 admissions on a single day on April 29 during the 61-day upsurge of the second wave of pandemic.

Apex court stays order on oxygen concentrators

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a Delhi High Court verdict that declared the levy of Integrated Goods and Services Tax on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use or as a gift as a violation of the fundamental right to life. The court issued a formal notice on an appeal by the Union Finance Ministry.

SOCIOLOGY **Online Test Series** Sociology by Aditya Mongra

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

OPPORTUNITIES PAGE 5

CBSE, CISCE scrap Class XII exams after review by PM

Central Board will compile results as per objective criteria, says PMO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Class XII examinations of the Central Board of Secondary Education have been cancelled, following a review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday evening.

"In view of the uncertain conditions due to COVID and the feedback obtained from various stakeholders, it was decided that Class XII Board Exams would not be held this year. It was also decided that CBSE will take steps to compile the results of class XII students as per a well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner," said a statement from the Prime Minister's Office issued after the meeting.

However, in case some students wish to take the exams, such an option would be provided to them by CBSE, as and when the situation becomes conducive, said the statement. The same option was offered last year as well.

Following the meeting, the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations also decided to cancel

Taking no chances

Assessments will be made as per well-defined objective criteria in a time-bound manner

■ CBSE will give students the option to take exams later when situation becomes conducive

JEE, NEET not discussed at review

its Class XII examinations. The issue of all India pro-

fessional entrance tests such as IEE and NEET was not discussed at the meeting, according to officials present.

Assessment method

CBSE is yet to announce its alternative assessment method. A senior CBSE official told The Hindu that one option being considered is grading based on the student's internal assessment and practical exam scores from Class XII, rationalised according to analysis of the

the board exams over the last three years. Another option would be grading based on the student's final exam

scores from Class IX, X and

We have taken a decision that is

health as well as future of our youth

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Congratulations,

students of class 12

heard. After all the uncertainty

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA, Congress leader

and stress, you deserve to

relax and celebrate today

for making your voices

student-friendly, one that safeguards the

At the review meeting, attended by senior Cabinet Ministers and Education Ministry officials, a detailed presentation was made on consultations held so far and views received from all stakeholders, including State governments.

"After extensive consultations, we have taken a decision that is student-friendly, one that safeguards the

health as well as future of our youth," Mr. Modi tweeted after the meeting.

I am glad 12th

were very worried about

A big relief

the health of our children.

exams have been

cancelled. All of us

States opinion

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Delhi CM

Although some State governments, including Delhi and Maharashtra, had called for the exams to be cancelled, most States had favoured holding a truncated version of the exams, with objective type question papers. About 14 lakh students had registered to write the examination, which was originally scheduled to be held in May.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

TMC, BJP spar over notice to former Chief Secretary

Centre's notice cites refusal to comply with orders

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

With the Centre issuing a showcause notice to the former West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay under the Disaster Management Act, a war of words erupted on Tuesday between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP.

Mr. Bandyopadhyay, who was on Saturday asked to report to Delhi on Tuesday, opted to retire on Monday and was then appointed Chief Adviser to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The showcause notice was sent to Mr. Bandyopadhyay late on Monday.

"...by this Act of abstaining himself from the review meeting taken by the Prime Minister, who is also the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the aftermath of Cyclone Yaas, Shri Bandyopadhyay, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, has acted in manner tantamount to refusing to comply with lawful directions of the Central government and is thus violative of Section 51(b) of the Disaster Management

The Centre seems to be guided by the logic that might is always right. This development indicates an ulterior motive on its part to not allow

the West Bengal government to function properly during a pandemic and post a natural disaster. SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY, TRINAMOOL CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

Theatre of the absurd is playing out in West Bengal. For the sake of her own ego, to destroy India's federal structure and protect the Chief

Secretary for his indiscipline, (non-MLA) CM @MamataOfficial. Didi is bringing disrepute to the CM office and the Constitution of India. SUVENDU ADHIKARI, WEST BENGAL LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Act, 2005," the letter addressed to Mr. Bandyopadhyay on May 31 read.

Even though the State Secretariat, Nabanna, was closed for sanitisation on Tuesday, the showcause notice to the retired bureaucrat created ripples in political circles of the State.

'Act of vengeance'

The Trinamool Congress leadership described the notice to the former Chief Secretary even after he had retired from service as an "act of vengeance".

"The Centre seems to be guided by the logic that might is always right. This development indicates an ulterior motive on its part to not allow the West Bengal government to function properly during a pandemic and post a natural disaster," Trinamool Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Roy told The Hindu.

Mr. Roy said many issues remained unanswered on why the former Chief Secretary after being granted a three-month extension (on May 24) was summoned to Delhi on May 28.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Give details on scheme for orphaned children, says SC

Centre promises to share mechanism of PM-CARES aid

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the "modalities" of a PM-CARES scheme to fund the education and welfare of children orphaned by the pandemic "need to be worked out". The government's explanation in the court came in response to queries on why the scheme was still not available in the public domain.

"We do not know how many children will be beneficiaries or how the Government of India is going to im-

the scheme plement announced on Friday," the court's amicus curiae, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, stated. He said the "scheme was not available, except in press notes". The Centre has said it would support the education of the children and set up a ₹10 lakh corpus fund for From what he could gath-

er, the scheme would help COVID-19 impacted children continue their education. It would fund educational requirements, in the form of uniforms, textbooks, etc. The scheme would also offer

financial help for their higher education. Each child had a corpus of ₹10 lakh, which he/she would get on reaching the age of 23. "This may be so that he or she would have some money when they start on their own... There is also health insurance till the age of 18."

Responding to the submission that the particulars of the scheme were not "available", Additional Solicitor General Aishwarva Bhati, for the Centre, undertook to file the details.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Taking a breather



Much-needed break: Healthcare workers relaxing outside the Regional Eye Hospital, which has been converted into a COVID-19 Hospital, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. With cases declining sharply, only five patients are now under treatment at the hospital. • K. R. DEEPAK

IMD increases monsoon rain outlook to 101%

Central India to see 6% increase

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects more rain in the monsoon months of June-September than its April estimate.

On Tuesday, it said monsoon rain would be 101% of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm. On April 16, it said the rain would be 98% of the LPA. In the agency's parlance, this still constitutes 'normal' rainfall, which is anywhere from 96-104% of the LPA.

The agency also said in its update that rainfall in the northeast would likely see a 5% shortfall whereas over



laden sky in Palakkad on Tuesday. • MUSTAFAH KK

central India, which constitutes the core rainfed agricultural region, there would be a 6% increase over the usual for the monsoon.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Delhi HC questions Centre on not prioritising youth for vaccination

'They are the ones who will take the country forward'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday questioned the Centre's vaccination policy for not prioritising the younger population over older people, saying "it is the younger people who are the future of this country".

Justice Vipin Sanghi said, "I can speak for myself ... You have announced the vaccination policy for 18- to 44-year-old persons now but you don't have vaccines. Then why do you have to announce and make a declaration when you don't have the vaccines?'

"We have to invest in the future and we are sidelining them. So many young people have lost their lives. It is the younger people who are the future. We are on our way out. I don't understand this policy at all," he said.

The Bench pointed out that many young persons have succumbed to CO-VID-19 during the second wave as they were not prioritised in the vaccination

"The 80-year-olds aren't going to carry this country



Beneficiaries above 18 years of age waiting for their first dose of COVID vaccine in west Delhi. • FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

forward. They've lived their lives," the court said, adding, "Ideally, we should be able to save everyone but if we have to choose, we have to save younger people." When the Centre's counsel said only "God could help us" now, Justice Sanghi said, "This is the area where gods can't help us ... the facts and figures are in front of us."

The High Court's observation came while directing the Centre to frame a policy on prioritising mucormycosis patients when it came to administering liposomal amphotericin B, which is currently in short supply. **Mucormycosis cases**

Noting that the shortage of liposomal amphotericin B has been continuing for over two weeks, leading to fatalities, the court said it was high time that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) came out with guidelines on the use of the drug.

66%. The cases of black fungus are showing an upward trend. The number of active cases on May 31 was 753 in Delhi and the same is at 792 today," the court noted.

"...There is a shortage of

Odisha, Jharkhand want Centre to procure jabs

Cite poor response to global tenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Days after Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan urged the Chief Ministers to come together to persuade the Centre to procure and distribute COVID-19 vaccines free for the whole nation, Odisha and Jharkhand have also called for centralised procurement.

Both underline the fact that vaccine manufacturers outside India are unwilling to deal directly with the States.

After receiving a lukewarm response to its global tender, the Odisha government said on Tuesday that it would be better if the Centre took the responsibility of dealing with the vaccine manufacturers. It said a major hurdle in procurement was the issue of indemnity sought by global manufacturers such as Pfizer and Moderna. According to officials, only the Centre could assure indemnity.

According to the State government, manufacturers were willing to deal only with federal-level Central procurement, at this stage. Global vaccine manufac-



turers would require the Central government's statutory clearances for supplying to the States, said Odisha Health and Family Welfare Minister Naba Kisor Das in a letter to Union Health and Family Affairs Minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday.

Flexibility of coverage In his letter of May 31 to

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren urged him to provide "free vaccines for beneficiaries of all age groups".

He also requested that the State be given the "freedom to define priorities for vaccination coverage".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Stand unchanged, says Sidhu after meeting Congress panel

Former Punjab Minister, Chief Minister at loggerheads

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu appeared on Tuesday before a three-member committee set up by the party to address factionalism in Punjab and asserted that his

stand remains unchanged.

Mr. Sidhu, who has been openly attacking Chief Minister Amarinder Singh over a Special Investigation Team (SIT) report on the incidents of Guru Granth Sahib desecration in the State, said "truth can be disturbed, but not defeated".

"I came here on the call of the high command and apprised them of the state of affairs in the party. I have brought the voice of the people of Punjab from the grassroots level to the party high command," he told reporters after meeting the committee members for over an hour and a half.

The three-member panel formed to broker peace between different factions in Punjab Congress comprises Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress general secretary in-charge of Punjab



out of Congress 'war room' in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■PTI

affairs Harish Rawat and former MP J.P. Aggarwal.

'Told the truth' "My stand is and will remain

the same and unchanged. Punjab's democratic right that goes to the government must return to the people in any form," the Congress leader said. "I have told the truth inside in a bold voice.

The voice of Punjab's truth and its rights have been conveyed to the high command. We have to defeat all anti-Punjab forces."

"The power of the people must return to the people. Every Punjabi must be made shareholder in Punjab's progress ... Jittega Punjab, jittegi Punjabiyat, jittega har Punjabi [Punjab will win, Punja biyat will win, every Punjabi will be victoriousl," he added.

For several weeks now, the cricketer-turned-politician has been attacking the Chief Minister for allegedly not doing justice to those who were involved in the desecration of Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari. He also lashed out at the government for failing to indict the Parkash Singh Badal-led Akali Dal government in the 2015 Kotkapura firing incident after protests erupted over the sacrilege issue.

Since Monday, the panel has been meeting party MLAs in batches of 25. It plans to meet the Chief Minister before submitting its report to Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Cleric held for molesting minor girl

STAFF REPORTER

A 48-year-old cleric was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl inside a mosque in North East Delhi's Harsh

Vihar, the police said. A senior police officer said that they received an information on Sunday following which a case on charges of rape and under relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act was

The police said that the girl used to go to the mosque to learn Koran from the accused.

On Sunday, he allegedly sexually assaulted her. Upon returning home, she told her mother about the incident after which the mother informed the pol-

The officer said that the accused was arrested on Monday from Ghaziabad's Loni and produced before the court after which he was sent to 14-day judicial custody.

The police said that the girl was counselled and is

Mercury dips after overnight thunderstorm

Heavy downpour causes waterlogging, gusty winds uproot several trees; Delhi records lowest-ever temperature in June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Temperatures fell by up to 10 degrees Celsius after a thunderstorm lashed the Capital on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The city recorded 15.6 mm of rainfall between midnight and 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday. The heavy downpour caused waterlogging across Delhi and gusty winds uprooted several trees.

15-year record

According to the meteorological department, the minimum temperature on Tuesday settled at 17.9 degrees Celsius, 10 notches below normal. The maximum temperature was 33.6 degrees Celsius, which is seven degrees below normal. The alltime lowest June minimum temperature so far was 18 degrees Celsius, recorded on June 17, 2006.

The weather observatory at Safdurjung recorded 15.6 mm of rainfall till 8.30 a.m., the Lodhi Road observatory 13.2 mm, Palam 16.4 mm and Ayanagar 6.8 mm.

The weatherman has foremore



Welcome showers: An uprooted tree at Pitampura; a waterlogged road near Dhaula Kuan in New Delhi on Tuesday after a thunderstorm lashed the Capital at night on Monday. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAF

The Delhi government's Public Works Department (PWD), which has jurisdiction over most arterial roads in the city, received 40 waterlogging complaints. The first complaint was logged at 7.35 a.m. on Tuesday, said a PWD official.

The spokesperson for the New Delhi Municipal Council

said no waterlogging was reported in the area but 17 complaints were logged regarding uprooted trees. The three civic bodies also reported trees being uprooted. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) stated eight trees were uprooted in

the Najafgarh zone, 16 in the

southern zone, three in the

central zone and eight in the west zone.

The North Corporation reported five incidents of wall collapse, two cases of damage caused to buildings and waterlogging at three locations in addition to the felling of 41 trees.

According to the Delhi Traffic Police, no major vehicular congestion was reported due to the weather conditions. A senior Traffic Police officer said they received one waterlogging call and seven calls related to uprooted trees. The officer said that waterlogging was reported

on the Mehrauli-Badarpur

Road at the underpass near

the railway crossing, "but it

congestion as the water was cleared in time". "Uprooting of trees was

reported from Tughlak Road, Akbar Road, Kingsway Camp, Safdarjung Enclave, Rajghat and Najafgarh Road but it had no impact on traffic movement," the officer

did not lead to any traffic

3 farmers held for lockdown violations

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi police on Monday arrested three farmers, who had come to Gurdwara Bangla Sahib without movement passes, for allegedly violating lockdown norms, officers said on Tuesday.

A senior police officer said that the three men, residents of Puniab, were arrested when they were on their way back to the Singhu border from the gurdwara. "They did not have a movement pass which amounts to violation of lockdown guidelines," the officer said.

'Had come to pray'

The farmers allegedly told the police that they had come to the gurdwara in Connaught Place to pray and stayed there for two days, following which they were going back and had no intention to stage any protest there.

The three were subsequently released on bail. The farmers have been protesting at the Delhi borders since November last

DU will follow CBSE mechanism for merit list this admission season: V-C

'Common entrance test can be implemented if govt. approves'

SHINJINI GHOSH NEW DELHI

With the CBSE examination getting cancelled, Delhi University Vice-Chancellor P.C. Joshi on Tuesday told The Hindu that whatever mechanisms the CBSE compiles for merit lists will be followed for admissions this

Mr. Joshi added that the common entrance test can be implemented if the Ministry of Education approves

"Whatever merit system

CBSE comes up with will be followed by the university. One thing that DU will not compromise with is merit. The admissions committee will decide on a course of action soon. If the Ministry approves the CUCET [Central Universities Common Entrance Test] then that can also be implemented," said Mr. Joshi.

Further the V-C added, "We support the government's decision and the safety of students is of utmost importance. We look forward to the decision taken by the CBSE regarding the declaration of the results." Jyoti Arora, principal of

Mount Abu Public School said, "This decision is unusual and has been taken by considering the uncertainty of present times. The decision to consider physical and mental health of students as top-most priority is welcomed. I am sure the CBSE will soon come up with a well-defined objective criteria in the interest of students all across India."

Cancelling Class 12 exams a 'big relief', says Kejriwal

Decision cleared uncertainty: Sisodia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday termed the cancellation of Class 12 board exams a "big relief", after the Centre announced its decision to this effect amid the pandemic. "I am glad 12th exams

have been cancelled. All of us were very worried about the health of our children. A big relief [sic]," Mr. Kejriwal tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had asserted that the decision was taken in the interest of students, by putting an end to their anxiety, as well as those of parents and teachers.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia who also holds the education portfoidea of conducting the ex- time-bound manner.



The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by the PM. ■ FILE РНОТО

ams, said: "I am happy that the never-ending Class 12 for 1.5 crore students of the country will finally end."

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by the PM, in which it was decided that the CBSE will take steps to compile the results of Class 12 students as per a well-delio, and has been against the fined objective criteria in a

HC seeks reply on plea for begging ban

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the city government and police on a petition seeking to restrain begging at traffic junctions and markets to prevent COVID-19 spread as many of the beggars and vagabonds do not wear masks or maintain social distancing.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to also respond. Advocate Narender Pal Singh. in his plea, claimed that it is a sorry state of affairs to see mushrooming of beggars who touch cars at traffic lights "without sanitising their hands" and therefore. stand a chance of getting infected or becoming car riers of the virus.

Police suspend arms licences of Sushil, Kalra

They are facing criminal charges

Plea challenges ICMR

advisory on RT-PCR test

HC seeks reply from Centre, Delhi govt.

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi Police on Tuesday said it has suspended the arms licences of wrestler Sushil Kumar and businessman Navneet Kalra following criminal charges levelled against them. Joint Commissioner of

Police (Licencing) O.P. Mishra said the notices were issued on Monday.

"We have suspended their arms licences with immediate effect. The process of cancellation of their licences has been initiated. We have done it on the basis of reports by investigating agencies in the criminal casrecently registered against them," Mr. Mishra said, adding that both accused were served notices to explain why their licences should not be cancelled.

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on

Tuesday sought response

from the Centre and Delhi

government on a petition

challenging the Indian Coun-

cil of Medical Research's

(ICMR) advisory barring a re-

petition of the RT-PCR test

on those who tested positive

A Bench of Chief Justice

D.N. Patel and Justice Jyoti

Singh also issued a notice to

the ICMR and sought their

stand on the petition filed by

advocate Karan Ahuja. Mr. Ahuja said he and his

NEW DELHI

for COVID-19.

We have done it on the basis of reports by investigating agencies in the cases registered against them

Joint Commissioner of Police (Licencing)

Mr. Kumar was arrested for his alleged involvement in the murder of fellow wrestler Sagar Dhankar at Chhatrasal Stadium. He is currently in police custody.

Mr. Kalra was arrested for alleged black marketing and hoarding of oxygen concentrators. Over 500 concentrators were found at his restaurants in central Delhi and a godown in south Delhi.

He was arrested after being on the run for eight days. The businessman was granted ball last week by a local

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Executive Engineer HPPWD Rampur Division on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering, system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed Bid 14.06.2021 of Bid 6,45,000/- 21.06.2021 C/O link road from Shanadhar to Sharaikoti Km. 0/000 to 3,22,56,371/-9/500 (SH:- F/C, R/wall & B/wall CD works, P/L G.S.B, WBM G-II, WBM G-III, Premix carpet, C/O V-shape drain, ing structure in Km. 5/000 to 9/500) under NABARD RID The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders form the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Executive Engineer, Rampur Division (B&R), HPPWD. Rampur Bushahi

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

*** Notice Inviting Tender *

Sealed item rate tender on form No. 6 & 8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, HP PWD Division Tanda at Nagrota Bagwan on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh for the following work from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP PWD (B & R) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules so as to reach in his office on or before on 23.06.2021 up to 11:00 A.M. And the same shall be opened on the same day at 11:30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender form can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on 22.06.2021 up to 4:00 P.M and the application for issue of tender form shall be received on 21.06.2021 up to 12:00 noon. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificates/Saving Account of the Post Office /Time Deposit account/FDR in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, HP PWD Division Tanda at Nagrota Bagwan.

The conditional tender and the tender received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Iimit
1	Construction of link road from ITI Sarotari to Lahru in G.P. Sarotari in Distt Kangra (HP) (SH:-Providing and cement concrete pavement between Km 0/100 to 0/450)Under MMGSY	331764/-	6650/-	Two months
2	Construction of link road to Saheed Anil Kumar House in G.P. Thana Khas in Distt Kangra (HP) (SH:-Providing and laying cement concrete pavement various reaches between Km 0/700 to 0/800).	147448/-	2950/-	Two months
3	Construction of link road village Hausty to Uperli Kothi in Distt Kangra (HP) (SH:-Providing and laying metalling & Tarring in KM 0/500 to 0/800 and construction of causeway at RD 0/610 & 0/690 and C/O road side drain)	436559/-	8750/-	Three months
4	Construction of link road NH-88 to Gujjar Basti in G.P. Balugloa in Distt Kangra (HP) (SH:-Construction of edge wall and providing and laying cement concrete pavement on various RDs between Km 0/000 to 0/400).	372619/-	7500/-	Three months
5	Construction of Hall near Shiv Mandir Lakhamandal in Distt Kangra (SH:-Balance work of building portion etc;) (Deposit Work)	242462/-	4250/-	Three months
6	Restoration of rain damages on Tang Ramehar Baldhar Jassour road in Distt Kangra (HP) (SH:-C/O Edge wall at RD 4/600 to 4/650 and Providing and laying cement concrete pavement on various reaches between 4/570 to 4/685).	378828/-	7700/-	Three months

Terms &Conditions:-

HP / 1153/21-22

- 1. The contractor/firm should be registered as or dealer GST No.
- 2. The intending contractor / firm have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewa
- 3. If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazetted Holidays the same shall be processed on next working day. 4. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all
- tenders without assigning any reason. 5.The Contractor will have to submit affidavit along with application for issue of tender that he
- has not more than two works in hand. 6. Next tender will be issued only after completion of previous works in hand

Executive Engineer H.P.P.W.D. Tanda Division at Nagrota Bagwan

(On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh) HIMSUCHANA AVAM & JAN SAMPARK



राष्ट्रीय खास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश

(लोक स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन) 8, अरेरा हिल्स ओल्ड जेल रोड, भोपाल-462004



विज्ञापन

विज्ञा.क. / रा.स्वा.मि. / मा.संसा. / सेल-1 / 2021 / 8882

भोपाल, दिनांक 29/05/2021

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन म.प्र. के अन्तर्गत (राष्ट्रीय ओरल कार्यक्रम) में संविदा आधार पर संविदा दंत शल्य चिकित्सक के रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है यह अनुबंध 31 मार्च 2022 तक के लिये होगा, जिसे आगामी वर्षो की वार्षिक कार्ययोजना में स्वीकृत अनुसार नवीनीकृत किया जा सकेगा:-

丣.	पदनाम	रिक्त पद	मासिक मानदेय	अनिवार्य शैक्षणिक योग्यता	आयु सीमा
1	संविदा दंत शल्य चिकित्सक	51	30,000 रूपये प्रतिमाह	 भारतीय डेन्टल काउसलिंग (डीसीआई) द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त बी.डी.एस. की उपाधि। म.प्र. राज्य डेन्टल काउसलिंग से स्थायी जीवित वैघ पंजीयन। निर्धारित इर्न्टनशिप पूर्ण होने का प्रमाण पत्र। 	सीमा में (अनुसूचित जनजाति अनुसूचित जाति, अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग, निशक्त जन/महिलाओं (अनारक्षित/आरक्षित)
	` ` ` `		``	` ` ` ` ` `	*

आवेदन सेम्स लिमिटेड के बेब पोर्टल www.sams.co.in के माध्यम से किया जा सकता है, आवेदन के लिए लिंक दिनांक 05/06/2021 से उपलब्ध की जायेगी। ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 30/06/2021 है। ऑफ लाईन आवेदन किसी भी स्थिति में मान्य / स्वीकार नही किये जावेगें।

सावदा आर्थिक रूप अनुसूचित अनुसूचित अन्य पिछड़ा की मूल निवा																
	पद का नाम	संविदा स्वीकृत रिक्त पदों की	" "	रक्षित '%)	आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (10%)		अनुसूचित जनजाति (20%)		अनुसूचित जाति (16%)		अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग *(27%)		रिक्तियों में मध्यप्रदेश की मूल निवासी दिव्यागंजन अस्यार्थियों हेतु आरक्षित पदों की संख्या (6%)			
		संख्या	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	ओपन	महिला	व्ही. एच.	एच. एच.	ओ. एच.	एम. डी.
	संविदा दंत शल्य चिकित्सक	51	9	5	4	1	7	3	5	3	9	5	-	3		

- *अन्य पिछड़ावर्ग हेतु 27 प्रतिशत पदों में से माननीय न्यायालयीन प्रकरण व अतिरिक्त महाधिवक्ता के अभिमत अनुसार प्रतिशत पद सुरक्षित रखे गए हैं।
- संविदा दन्त शल्य चिकित्सक के 7 पद जो न्यायालयीन निर्णय उपरान्त उस वर्ग की भर्ती प्रक्रिया में उपरोक्त विज्ञापन के पात्र उम्मीद्वारों से पूर्ति की जावेगी।
- दिव्यांगजन का आरक्षण क्षेतिजिक (Horizonatal) के आधार पर 06 प्रतिशत का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है। नि:शक्तजनों के लिए कुल रिक्तियों में से 06 प्रतिशत पद दिव्यागजन के लिए आरक्षित है, जिस श्रेणी का दिव्यांगजन पदों के लिए चयनित होगा उसे उसी श्रेणी हेतू मान्य किया जावेगा। यह पद प्रत्येक श्रेणी की बिना वर्ग / ओपन नियुक्तियों में सम्मिलित है।
- कोविड—19 के अन्तर्गत अस्थायी एवं आकस्मिक रूप से कार्य करने वाले दंतशल्य चिकित्सक जिसने न्यूनतम अवधि 89 दिवस कार्य किया हो उसे संविदा दंतशल्य चिकित्सक की भर्ती प्रक्रिया में 10 प्रतिशत अधिभार अंक (Weightage) प्राप्त करने की पात्रता होगी।
- 3. निर्धारित प्रारूप में नही किये गए अथवा अपूर्ण आवेदन स्वयमेंव निरस्त माने जायेंगे। 4. अंतिम तिथि के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पर विचार नही किया जायेगा।
- 5. मिशन संचालक, राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. किसी भी आवेदन को बिना कारण बताये स्वीकृत / निरस्त करने
- अथवा प्रक्रिया करने का अधिकार होगा। संचालक G-12954/2021 जब तक कोरोना की दवाई नहीं, तब तक ढिलाई नहीं राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, मध्यप्रदेश

parents had tested positive

for COVID-19 on April 28 and remained under home isolation for a period of 17 days as per the home isolation guidelines issued by the Delhi government.

He said the Civil Defence

HP / 1139/21-22

guards deployed outside his house asked for a negative COVID-19 report to allow him and his family to step out of the house even to get

essential items.

When Mr. Ahuja and his parents went to the nearest dispensary in Sultanpuri to get tested again on May 18, the medical staff present at the counter refused to test them, citing orders not to test those who had tested positive.

The petitioner challenged the May 4 ICMR advisory, claiming it to be a violation of his fundamental rights.

"This particular recommendation in the advisory has led to a virtual blanket ban on COVID-19 testing among patients who have already tested positive, which has led to several complications," the petition said.

PRESS NOTICE SHORT TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, JSV Division Jubbal invites tenders on behalf of Governo of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) hrough offline process :

SN	Name of work	Estimated	Earnest	Time	Last date of sale from
		Cost	Money		Division office/ Opening
		(in Rs)	(inRs.)		Date
1	Providing LWSS/GWSS to var-	₹ 4,99,919	₹ 10,000	3 M	Last Sale of tender
	ious Hab under GP Darkoti,				form is upto 04:00PM
	Gareog, Bagdomehar, Tharola				of 09/06/2021
	and Pandli to cover FHTC of LO				Date of receiving of ten-
	house hold under JJM S/D KKi				ders from contractors
	Job-3 rd (GP Darkoti and Tharola)				Upto 03:00 PM of
2	Providing FHTC to L/O house	₹ 3,75,721	₹ 7,550	3 M	10/06/2021
	hold under JJM under J-K constit-				Date of opening of
	uency Job 2nd (J)				tenders
					10/06/2021 at 03:30 PM

The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website

Executive Enginee J.S.V. Division, Jubbal.

HIM SOOCHNA EVAM JANSAMPARK

CM YK

Timings

DELHI WEDNESDAY, JUN. 02 RISE 05:24 SET 19:16 □ RISE 00:49 SET 12:10 THURSDAY, JUN. 03 RISE 05:24 SET 19:16

RISE 01:23 SET 13:07 FRIDAY, JUN. 04

RISE 05:24 SET 19:16 RISE 01:53 SET 14:00

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

Delhi Palam Today 36°C A pleasant morning and warm day likely to prevail with cloudy sky. Rain and thunderstorm likely at some

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 37°C A comfortable morning and hot day. Thunderstorm may occur at few places.

IN BRIEF

Delhi govt.'s 'Operation SHIELD' failed: BJP

The BJP on Tuesday alleged that "Operation SHIELD", which the Delhi government had launched to confront the first wave of the virus in the Capital, had failed in front of the second wave. Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, under the initiative, the Delhi government had imported 10 sanitisation machines from Japan. "I want to ask where these machines with big photos of Mr. Kejriwal are now..," Mr. Bidhuri asked.

NDMC takes preventive measures against dengue

NEW DELHI The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Chairman Dharmendra on Tuesday gave directions to intensify preventive operations against vector-borne diseases and anti-larva activities. The civic body said that there have dengue till now this year.

Ganga Ram Hospital starts MAC treatment

NEW DELH Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Tuesday started administering monoclonal antibody cocktail (MAC) to COVID patients, the facility said. The hospital is administering a combination of casirivimab and imdevimab to consenting patients with mild symptoms at high risk.

Delhi reports lowest hospitalisations due to COVID-19 in over two months

From nearly 2K on April 29, the number of admitted patients came down to 182

JATIN ANAND

The Capital on Monday reported the lowest number of COVID patients being hospitalised in the last two months - over 10 times lesser compared to the peak of singleday hospital admissions recorded towards the end of

At 182, single-day COVID hospital admissions were the lowest on Monday compared to 294 on April 1 during the ascension of the second wave in the city.

34 discharged every hour According to Delhi government records, 44 COVID patients were admitted to hospitals and 34 discharged

every hour during the 61-day

upsurge of the second COVID

wave. Officials said the se-

cond wave seems to be at an

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi government has al-

lowed home delivery of alco-

hol through mobile apps and

websites under the amended

excise rules, but the option is

home delivery of Indian liqu-

or and Foreign Liquor by or-

dering through mobile app

or online web portal," said

the Delhi Excise (Amend-

ment) Rules, 2021, published

in a gazette notification on

delivery of liquor at the resi-

dences only if order is re-

ceived through mobile app

or online web portal and no

delivery shall be made to any

hostel, office, and institu-

tion," the amended rules

2010, which was followed

before this also allowed

home delivery of liquor

booked through e-mail or by

fax, but it was not happening

The Delhi Excise Rules,

"The licensee shall make

Monday.

said.

"Licence in Form L-13 for

yet to start in the city.



Scene outside the Lok Nayak Hospital on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Between April 1 and May 31, a total number of 65,762 COVID patients or 1,078 per day were admitted to city hospitals while 51,004 or 836 per day, were discharged, according to the records.

As the second wave got more virulent on a daily basis, it had peaked at 1993 admissions on a single day on

alcohol via mobile apps, websites

Facility yet to start; no licence issued for the same: spokesperson

The licensee shall

make delivery of

residences only if

order is received

telephone) and no

made to any hostel,

delivery shall be

through e-mail or by

liquor at the

Fax (not on

office, and

institution

in the city, according to offi-

cials. "The licensee shall

make delivery of liquor at

the residences only if order

is received through e-mail or

by Fax (not on telephone)

and no delivery shall be

made to any hostel, office,

and institution," stated the

spokesperson clarified that

no new license has been is-

sued for home delivery of al-

cohol. "L-13 is an existing li-

cense that has been

amended. No license for L-13

The Delhi government

Delhi Excise Rules, 2010.

DELHI EXCISE RULES, 2010

Govt. allows home delivery of

April 29 when the total number of hospital beds in the city stood at 21,152.

After a slight increase on May 25, with 388 admissions compared to 382 on May 24, the number of hospitalisations has been consistently going down for the last 4

These stood at 229 on May 28, 228 on May 29, 237 on

or home delivery of license

has been issued," the spokes-

BJP lashes out at govt.

The BJP hit out at the deci-

sion and said that the Chief

Minister couldn't give free

medicine and ration but is

serving liquor at the

ter if Kejriwal had rather con-

centrated on toning up the

healthcare system so that

scores of people would not

have died during the pan-

demic, running here and

there for treatment. The go-

vernment just sat lazily do-

ing nothing as people did not

get oxygen or doctors help

even while treating at home.

If only the government had

thought of it, these things

could have been delivered to

them at home," said Delhi

The Delhi government did

not issue any details on the

specifics of home delivery of

BJP President Adesh Gupta.

"It would have been bet-

person said.

doorstep.

May 30 and 182 on May 31. While as many as 333 patients were discharged on

Monday, the number of patients discharged on May 28 was 581, 619 on May 29 and 425 on May 30. The number of patients being discharged, as The Hindu has reported, had peaked only in mid-May - with 1384 patients leaving hospitals on May 13.

This peak in the number of patients being discharged, according to records, also marked the first time during the 61-day period that the number of patients being released overtook the number of those being admitted: 1,384 discharges were recorded against 1,366 admissions.

COVID admissions to hospitals had, so far, remained in three digits only between April 1 and April 12 when 932 admissions took place.

Hospitals ramping up infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hospitals across Delhi have started ramping up infrastructure to ensure availability of essential equipment, drugs and ICU beds for children as part of their plan to tackle a possible third wave of COVID.

The Delhi government has set up a task force to suggest measures to protect children from the third wave. Most of the hospitals are focussing on ramping up their ICU beds and facilities for children, amid fears that the third wave might be fatal for them.



Positivity rate remains below 1% for 2nd day

City sees 623 fresh cases and 62 deaths

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 623 fresh COVID-19 cases in 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,26,863, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

The test positivity rate (TPR) fell to 0.88%, which means that less than one person out of 100 people taking COVID tests is now positive for the virus. The TPR was 0.99% on Monday and this is the second consecutive day, the figure is below 1%. The TPR was as high as 36% on April 22 and has been coming down since then. Also, 62 deaths

were reported and the total

number of deaths stood at

A total of 70,813 tests were done in a day, the bulletin said. Of the total cases, 13,92,386 people have recovered and there are 10,178 active cases. Also, out of the total 24,752 hospital beds for COVID-19, 82.2% of beds were vacant. At the peak of the second wave in April, only 5-6% of beds were vacant on many days.

Atishi on shortage

"There are no vaccination doses available for the youth. Until the next installment of vaccines arrives on June 10, vaccination for the youth stands closed...," said AAP leader Atishi said.

the COVID-19 vaccination

drive. The organisation said

they will take the fight

ahead if Ramdev does not

apologise or authorities fail

to take any punitive action

against him.

In Haryana, 16% vaccination target achieved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

More than 57 lakh vaccination doses - around 16% of the total targeted 3.5 crore doses - have been administered in Haryana so far. The State has around 1.76 crore population above 18 years of age.

According to a Health Department spokesperson, the State aimed to administer vaccine to 1.76 crore beneficiaries, including 1.05 crore falling in the 18-45 age group and the remaining 71 lakh above 45 years.

Thus, around 3.5 crore vaccination doses are to be administered to 1.76 crore beneficiaries of which 57,11,985 doses have been administered which sums up to 16% of the targeted doses.

The State has already administered vaccine to 82% of its healthcare and front-line workers. Since the launch of the vaccination drive on January 16, the State has taken several steps to ensure administration of the vaccine.

THE HINDU

Air surcharge: Leh, Srinagar

& onward — Rs. 5.00

Doctors observe black day against Ramdev's remarks

STAFF REPORTER

Doctors of different hospitals across the country observed Tuesday as "black against comments made by Baba Ramdev, said Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA). The doctors protested by wearing a black band at hospitals.

FORDA said the resident

Kathmandu — Rs. 3.00. doctors protested against **TO ADVERTISE** the "illogical, unscientific, demeaning and derogatory **PLEASE CONTACT** statements" made by Ramdev against modern medi-Mr. N SELVA KUMAR cine, its practitioners and

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspape

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

BHEL supplies critically required Medical Oxygen in fight against covid 19 The second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic

has rapidly developed into an unprecedented crisis for the nation, and in the midst of this grave national crisis, BHEL has been working on war footing to do its bit for the country and fellow citizens. BHEL's plants, located at Bhopal and Haridwar, have responded to the situation with all possible resources at neir command for supplying medical oxygen in and around their vicinity BHEL Haridwar was having a capacity to produce 24,000 CuM oxygen per day for captive use through internal pipelines. Seeing the acute shortage of medical oxygen in the country during mid-April, the plant created cylinder filling capacity for over 3,000 cylinders per day in a record time of just one week along with putting in the entire logistics & manpower, working day and night for handling over 3,000 cylinders a day. This plant has so far filled almost 55,000 cylinders (over 3.00.000 CuM) of medical oxygen for meeting requirements of hospitals and district authorities, PSUs, armed forces in Uttarakhand, UP as well as Delhi NCR, thus saving thousands of lives in this crisis. BHEL's Bhopal plant has so far supplied over 1,53,000 cubic meters of oxygen (over 23,000 cylinders) to various Hospitals including Kasturba Hospital, AIIMS, Military Hospital, Railway Hospital and Police Hospital, in addition to various private Hospitals of Bhopal

NBCC bags project for construction of NIT campus, Uttarakhand

NBCC has been appointed as Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the construction and development works of the new Institute Campus of National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Sumari Village in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. This mega project has an estimated cost of Rs 596.75 crore and the buildings under this project will comprise of Academic blocks, Administration block, Hostel and Residential Buildings etc. having plinth area of approx. Rs. 90451.2 sqm. The company being a major implementing agency of the Govt. of India is currently executing various iconic projects such as academic buildings of Central/State Universities, IITs and IIMs across the Nation.

ONGC extends relief to affected families

and survivors of capsized Barge P-305 Cyclone Tauktae had hit Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai in the early hours of May 17, 2021 where ONGC's major production installations and drilling rigs are located. Three construction barges of M/s Afcons working on a project of ONGC in Western Offshore fields in the Arabian Sea and one floater drilling rig of ONGC were severely impacted in the cyclone. All the anchors of the Barge P-305 had given away, it started drifting and hit an unmanned platform of ONGC resulting in water ingress and eventually capsized at around 1700 Hrs of 17 May 2021, ONGC OSVs (Offshore Supply Vessels) were immediately pressed into service for rescue operation along with INS Kochi and INS Kolkata of Indian Navy and Coast Guard vessel.ONGC along with Indian Navy and Coast Guard immediately swung into rescue operations. ONGC Indian Navy along with Coast Guard and ONGC are continuing with extensive search and rescue operations. The combined rescue and search efforts will be continued for few more days and we hope that it will help us save more lives.In this compensation for the affected crew, which will

be operationalized soon. ONGC management has decided to extend an immediate relief of Rs.1 lakh to the survivors and Rs.2 lakh for the BNVs and missing persons' families. ONGC has also setup a helpdesk to extend help. ONGC will facilitate the dependent family members of the rescued crew in providing logistics and expenses.

Powergrid helps to restore power to DIU

afte Taukte Cyclone Power Grid Corporation of India Limited Ministry of Power, Government of India, was assigned the task of restoring 220 kV Timbdi-Dhokadva and Savarkundla-Dhokadva Transmission Lines feeding power to Diu following extensive damage due to Taukte cyclone. POWERGRID took up the restoration on a war footing and a team of about 600 personnel including expert manpower from POWERGRID worked round-the-clock for early restoration of the lines in which about 33 towers collapsed besides suffering other damage. POWERGRID used the Emergency Restoration System to set up eleven towers and also constructed 10 new towers restoring the 220 kV Timbdi-Dhokadva line on 28th May, 2021. With commissioning of this line fifteen 66 kV Sub-stations of GETCO could be energized to provide reliable power supply to Diu and nearby areas. Work for restoration of the Savarkundla-Dhokadva line is currently under progress. The Ministry of Power in a tweet said, "It's a matter of great pleasure that with the kind support of MoP, POWERGRID and all concerned, 220 kV Dhokadva substation has been charged through 220 kV Timbdi -Dhokadva line and load taken today on 28th May at 20:24 hrs." POWERGRID is at the forefront in helping state utilities across the country in restoration of power transmission lines affected by natural calamities.

SJVN commemorates 34th Raising Day SJVN a Schedule 'A' and 'Mini Ratna', Power

PSU commemorated its 34th Raising Day today at its Corporate Headquarters at Shimla and at all its Project Offices in Himachal, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and in neighboring countries of Nepal and Bhutan. The Company Flag was unfurled the Chairman and Managing Director Sh. Nand Lal Sharma in august presence of Director (Personnel) Smt. Geeta Kapur, Director (Finance) Sh. A.K. Singh and Director (Electrical) Sh. Sushil Kumar Sharma. Keeping in view the MHA guidelines of social distancing employees were connected through electronic means. Sh. Nand Lal Sharma, while addressing through virtual platform, stated that presently the whole world is facing the COVID-19 challenge and in view of the strict government guidelines, this year SJVN is not organizing any ceremonial activity. Sh. Nand Lal Sharma informed that a series of steps have been taken to support the governments of States and Centre, in battle against C OVID-19. These steps include procurement of ventilators & Cold Chain Equipments, Personal Protection Equipments (PPEs), food, masks, sanitizers and gloves etc.

NFL Nangal Unit dedicates 20-bed ward for Covid Care

To support the Government's efforts to fight Covid pandemic, NFL's Nangal Unit in Punjab has handed over 20-bed facility of its Hospital to District Authorities to be used as COVID care Centre.Company's doctors, nurses and other para medical staff have been deployed to take care of the Covid patients here. The facility is equipped with oxygen supply through already existing pipeline from the centrally located oxygen cylinders.In addition to the above, NFL is also setting up Oxygen A Business Initiative

PSPCL CMD Shri A.Venu Prasad said that

PSPCL is committed to ensure 8 hours of

PSPCL commits to quality 8 hour power supply for the coming paddy season

quality power supply to agricultural tubewell connections daily in the upcoming paddy

season and has made all the arrangements to fulfil the commitment.CMD said that there is as such no shortage of material which its distribution among various categories of consumers. Distribution transformers poles &conductor (ACSR) etc. are available in sufficient quantities in stock to meet with the requirement in the summers and upcoming paddy season. He also said that the material management wing of the PSPCL has already planned in this regard and is on job to meet with any sudden increase in demand for crucial equipment and material in the ensuing paddy season and as such additiona quantities of cables, PVC and transformers have been ordered to be purchased so as to ensure that sufficient and optimum stock o these materials is available in the stores

Himachal Govt Launches Covid Care app for home isolated patients

Himachal Pradesh Government is ensuring proper utilization of information technology to tackle the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic.To facilitate the home isolated Covid patients, the State Government has launched Himachal Covid Care Mobile App to connect asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic Covid-19 patients with their designated doctors. Through this app doctors will be able to monitor health status of Covid-19 positive patients regularly and take quick decision hospitalization of the critica patient, if required. The application has been developed by the National Informatics Centre The app would soon be hosted on the Google Play Store ,it can also be downloaded from the website . Himachal Covid Care App launched by the State Government is an innovative step for not only monitoring the health parameters of the home isolated patients but also for providing required medical assistance

ALLEN commences Selective Interactive Revision course from June 1

ALLEN Career Institute strives to help the students in all the possible ways to prepare for the exams without any obstacle. Not only this, but the institute is always on the upfron to adopt new methods to fulfill the dreams of students. Under such effort, the ALLEN Selective Interactive Revision (SIR) course is announced for the students who will appea in NEET UG-2021 exam. This course wil commence from June 1. Director Sh Brajesh Maheshwari said ALLEN SIR is India's first unique innovative course. It is an interactive rigorous revision course explicitly designed by the Best Result Producing Faculty Team of ALLEN Kota for aspirants to develop examination-specific theoretica and practical knowledge to ace NEET-UG 2021. In this 60-day course, students will get Recorded Lectures on Selective Topics from Physics/Chemistry, which are most important and challenging for NEET-UG. Each Lecture of Physics and Chemistry will be 30 to 45 minutes long and will be uploaded for 24 hours on ALLEN YouTube Channel every day. He said that as the exam time is getting closer and due to the lockdown and other restrictions studies are getting affected. Given all these circumstances, ALLEN Career Institute once again decided to support the students to prepare for the exam.

ployees of the civic body died due to COVID between ing COVID and losing his life in the line of duty, to pay his April and Mav. Mr. Prakash made the last respects. comment while visiting the "The North body is doing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

North Delhi Mayor Jai Pra-

kash on Tuesday said 49 em-

NEW DELHI

at the civic body's Hindu Rao Hospital in the Anesthesia Department before contract-

every possible bit for the fa-Ghaziabad residence of Dr. A.K. Bahl, who was serving milies of those who died due to COVID while performing their duties. As many as 49 employees in different categories of sanitation, engineering, health, education and other departments of the corporation died from

49 North body employees died due to virus from April till now'

April till now," he said. The families of such employees, he said, will be offered jobs and compensation out of the fund created for the purpose as per policy and such cases will also be sent to the Delhi government for compensation of ₹1 crore each.

Pay salaries and pensions, HC tells North corporation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the North body commissioner to make an endeavour to comply with the judicial orders to clear arrears of salaries and pension of its serving and retired staffers of all categories, saying it is not acceptable that a poor employee is not paid

The court also said may be the corporation needs to rationalise its staff strength and undertake a review and conduct an audit as it could be overstaffed or carrying a baggage of past.

"We are sure you are aware of the situation that employees not are getting their salaries. This is completely unacceptable that a poor employee is not paid salary. If somebody has to take a cut, let it start from the top. Senior officers can take 50% of their salaries. Are you getting your full salary?," a Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmeet Singh asked North body commissioner who was present in the hearing in pursuance

to court's earlier direction. The court asked the commissioner to file an affidavit in two weeks in response to a plea seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against the authorities for failure to comply with the order to pay salaries and pensions of employees and retirees and listed the matter for July 8.



PR- 01829 (Ni Ni) 2021-22

Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited 4th floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited. Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna 800023 Phone/Fax: + 919471009193, +919471009074

of Bihar

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Tender for rate contract and supply of Drugs for different healthcare facilities of state of Bihar Notice Inviting Tender Ref No.: - BMSIC/DRUGS/21-06

(Only through E- Tender on website: -www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) invites E-Bids from the interested parties for "Tender for rate contract and supply of Drugs for

different healthcare facilities of state of Bihar", vide Notice Inviting Tender No. BMSIC/DRUGS/21-06. Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria selection mechanism, other terms and conditions are available on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in. **Tender Schedule**

Tender Reference No.	BMSIC/DRUGS/21-06
Date and time for downloading of bid	Upto 16 th June 2021 till 1800 Hrs.
document	
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	08 th June 2021 at 14:30 Hrs. in Conference hall
	BMSICL, 4 th Floor, BSBCCL, Hospital Road, Shastri
	Nagar
Last date and time of submission of online bids	17 th June 2021 by 18:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original bid	18 th June 2021 till 14:00 Hrs.
documents with EMD and Tender Fees	
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical	18 th June 2021 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of
Bid	www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of Financial Bids	To be announced later on www.bmsicl.gov.in and
	www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs. 10000/- (Ten Thousand only) Non-refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 1180/-(One thousand one hundred eighty only)
	Non-refundable.
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए state.bihar.gov.in/prdbiha	ar पर देखा जा सकता है।
	GM (Procurement)

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🐼 Toll Free No.: 🕇 🚺 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

BMSICL

Farmers block JJP MLA Babli's vehicle in Haryana

They were protesting against farm laws

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A group of farmers on Tuesday blocked Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) MLA Devender Babli's vehicle at Tohana in Fatehabad, Haryana, shouting slogans and raising black flags as a mark of protest against the Centre's farm laws.

The JJP is a coalition partner of the BJP in the Haryana government.

While the MLA alleged that the farmers smashed his vehicle's windscreen, the farmers said Mr. Babli hurled abuses and instigated the protesters. The police said the MLA was on his way to a hospital at Tohana to attend an event when a group of protesters surrounded the vehicle and shouted slogans.

The MLA and the protes-

ters exchanged heated words during the incident. Talking to presspersons, Mr. Babli said farmers did not involve themselves in such a kind of protests, adding that certain anti-social elements were behind the

Boycott of legislators

Farmer outfits have announced that all legislators, including those from the BJP, the JJP and other Independents, who have been favouring the Centre's farm laws would be boycotted and not be allowed entry into villages across the State.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) president Gurnam Singh said the BJP-JJP MLAs were trying to instigate farmers and Mr. Babli's visit was the latest in the se-

Rajasthan govt. to conduct audit of COVID-19 vaccines

Report cited by Vardhan about wastage is false, says Minister

cine wastage.

The Minister termed the

report cited by Dr. Vardhan

as false and said the matter

had been thoroughly en-

quired by his department's

officers, who had found it as

not based on facts. "Some-

times it happens that after

MOHAMMED IQBAL

An audit of the COVID-19 vaccines will be conducted in Rajasthan to ensure that the doses are not wasted.

The exercise is being undertaken following reports of alleged wastage of vaccines, though the State government has claimed that the vaccine wastage was limited to 2%, which was below the national average of 6%.

With 1.70 crore people in the State having received the vaccine doses, Rajasthan had remained a front-runner in vaccinating the beneficiaries and was among the leading States where the wastage was very low, Medical and Health Minister Raghu Sharma said here on Tuesday.

Mr. Sharma said there was

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

Jai Shree Krishna

Pujyashree

PREMA PANDURANG

12th June 1945 - 1st June 2021

Adveshta sarvabhutanam maitrah karuna eva chal

Nirmamo nirahankarah samaduhkhasukhah kshami ||13||

Santushtah satatam yogi yatatma

Drdhanischayah

Mayyarpitamanobuddhiryo madbhaktah sa me priyah ||14||

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- Bhagavat Gita Chapter XII (verses 13 & 14)

zero vaccine wastage in the opening the vial, the unused doses have to be discarded inoculations for the people in the age group of 18 to 44 due to safety concerns. It years. "We have placed a speleads to some amount of wascial emphasis on the quality tage," he said. of vaccination processes. I **'Wastage within limit'** have directed my depart-

ment to do a thorough quali-The wastage rate in Rajasty check of the vaccination than was well within the limit being carried out in the permitted by the Centre, said State," Mr. Sharma said in a the Minister. Dr. Vardhan letter shot off to Union had cited a report of about Health Minister Harsh Vard-500 vials found in the waste han in response to his combins, into which he had munication asking for a sought an investigation. probe into the issue of vac-

As part of the audit exercise, the Chief Medical and Health Officers in all districts will ensure inspection of vaccination centres once every week and pay attention to the inoculations as per the "queue dynamics", after which the proper entries will be made in the software.

HC flags Chandigarh's power privatisation bid

'It is in direct conflict with nation's agenda'

VIKAS VASUDEVA

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has asserted that the Chandigarh administration's proposed action of electricity privatisation is in direct conflict with the nation's agenda 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas'.

Hearing a petition on May 28 of U.T. Powermen Union, Chandigarh, which has challenged the decision of the privatisation of electricity in Chandigarh, Justices Jitendra Chauhan and Vivek Puri observed ".. The proposed action of privatisation is in direct conflict with the nation's agenda 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas'. We feel that privatisation is not a panacea for all the ills and privatisation with

THEMOHINDU

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. :

NER-BSB0SnT-OT-08-2021
Open Tenders" through Online (I

endering) are invited by Division

Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)

Varanasi/ N. E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following

works: SN: 1. Tender Notice No. and

Description of Work: NER-BSB0SnT-

OT-08-2021, Name of work: Replacement of Quad Cable (In Patch) or

72 block section for Strengthening for

Axel Counter BSB Division. Details:

Approx. Value: Rs. 25332241.00,

Earnest Money: Rs. 00.00, Cost of

Tender Form: Rs. 00.00, Completio

period: 18 Months, Tender Closing date

& Time: 24.06.2021 up to 15.00 Hrs. 1.

Tender Online will be submitted up to 15

Hrs on date 24.06.2021. 2. For full details

and submission of bid kindly visit the

Official website of Indian railways i.e

Divl. Rly. Manager (S&T),

Varanasi

blind motive of so-called efficiency falls flat as this department is not only a profitable one but also time and again matched the high standards of customers' satisfaction and has a big role in maintaining the City Beauti-

'Undue hurry'

"With great pain and anguish, it is recorded that we are unable to reconcile with the fact that when the whole world is grappling with the deadly virus, when there is no oxygen, no ICUs, a long queue at cremation grounds and no place in the hospitals, the undue hurry on the part of the administration to hand over the profit-making department to the private entity at this stage of the history and in this situation of crisis faced by the entire mankind, seems to be misplaced," added the judges.

'NSCN(I-M) using new outfit as front in Assam'

RAHUL KARMAKAR GUWAHATI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (I-M) could be using a new extremist group as a front for extortion in Assam, officials of security forces engaged in counter-insurgency operations said.

A combined team of the Assam police, paramilitary forces and the Army have been probing a possible nexus between the NSCN (I-M) and the Dimasa National Liberation Army (DNLA) after the latter's "army chief" Minom Phunglasa was caught a few months ago.

'Arms for money'

Phunglasa is alleged to have told his interrogators that the NSCN (I-M) was helping the DNLA with arms, training and shelter near Nagaland's Dimapur town in exchange for a share of money collected as "taxes" from contractors, traders and timber dealers in Assam, primarily the adjoining hill districts of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong.

He also named NSCN (I-M)'s "brigadier" Chiplemi Shimrang as having offered weapons and explosives to the DNLA, which was formed before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls for securing a separate State for the Dimasa community.

The security forces followed this lead, gathered intelligence in Nagaland and tracked the movement of people suspected to be DNLA members. This culminated in the May 23 encounter in which six DNLA members were gunned down "when challenged" at Dugudisha in Karbi Anl-

gong district. A seventh DNLA member named Mushrang escaped from the encounter site toward Nagaland.

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WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM TO E-AUCTION SALE PROGRAM

Addition e-Auction Sale program

during June, 2021 P. Way and other Various Scrap Please refer to e-Auction Sale Notification No. S III/ Auction Programme-1/JUNE-2021Dated

15/05/2021, following additional e Auction Sale program for disposal of P Way and other Various Scran material will also be held in June, 2021 for ADI Division: Additional e-Auction program of June. 2021: 11/06/2021 Division ADI Divisional officer in Charge Sr. Divisional Materials Manage -ADI Contact No.: 07922205888

09724093750. All other terms conditions will and unchanged. Please visit Railway Website Manage ment Department www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in as well as on www.ireps.gov.in

0144

Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer,HP.PWD. Division Sarkaghat H.P. on behalf of Governor of H invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of each of this following works from the eligible Class of contractors registered with HP.PWD for the work

Sr.	Name of work	Estimated	EMD	Cost of	Time	Eligible
No.		cost		tender	limit	class of
						contractor.
1.	Construction of Indoor Stadium Building at Govt. Degree College Sarkaghat (SH:- Construction of building portion water supply and sanitary Installation septic Tank soak pit RWH system and site development)	5,78,88,303/-	5,00,000/-	5,000/-	One Year	Class - A

. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 21.06.2021 Starting and Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering

21.06.2021 at 11:00 A.M. to 05.07.2021 up to 11.00 A.M.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

of PS Karawal Nagar, Delhi since 10.05.21. In this regard a

case FIR No. 220/21 dated 17.05.21 U/S 363 IPC has been

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/

Tele: 011-23014046, 23015218 PS: Karawal Nagar, Delhi

<u>www.hptender.gov.in</u>

4. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept /reject any tender/application or a nder without assigning any reasor

General public is hereby informed that

one girl namely Kajal, D/o Shri Bangali

Babu, R/o H.No. Village Badoli, Fateh

Khan, District Aligarh, Uttra Pradesh,

Age about 17 years, Height 5'3"

Complexion Fair, Face Long, Thin Built,

Wearing Pink colour kurti, black colour

lower and hawai chappal in feet has

been missing/ kidnapped from the area

Ph.: 011-22932231, 22932232

Sarkaghat Division HP.PWD.Sarkaghat. For behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

HP / 1144/21-22

Kajal

registered at PS Karawal Nagar, Delhi.

kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

that a dead body of a male Namely Sonu S/o Manshalal, R/o RZ-58, Gali No.1, East Sagarpur, Delhi Cantt. Age: about 30 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: White coloured shirt with Blue coloured stripes & Black dark coloured pant,

was found dead on 20.05.2021 from

If any one having any clue about deceased male may

P.S. Delhi Cantt., New Delhi

Ph.: 011-25693161, 25694136 Mob.: 7702395780

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely Neetu Devi, W/o Pankaj

come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as

SEARCH FOR MISSING General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Mangal Gowala @

E-mail ID:cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-23011334

Mangal Gowala @ Akash

Akash, S/o Tilu Mahali, R/o Banarhat, T Garden, Dhupguri, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal has been missing from since 10.05.2021 from Platform No. 11, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD** No. 17 A dated 17.05.2021 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped person is as under: Age:

28 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'3", Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red colour shirt and white colour pant, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

y your soul rest in peace an nappiness upon us 4-2627 4034 / 94449 75565

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES DEATH ANNIVERSARIES 7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY 4th Anniversary

Head of Screening Committee for Parliamentary Journalists

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P. Ravi Tez & Family

P. DEV KUMAR 94442 22980 30-09-1940 02-06-2017 Senior Distinguished Journalist honored by PIB, GOI Bureau Chief UNI, Bhubaneswa Special Correspondent, UNI, New Delhi Please contact: 1st Qualified Ranji Trophy Umpire of Orissa 011-43579797 Honorary Captain of Indian Army given to War Correspondents

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HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 9th Circle Nurpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites th item rate bids, in the electronic tendening system from the eligible class of contractors registered wi HPPWD for the works as detailed in the tabl

ww.ireps.gov.in.

PRO/SIG=11

Sr.	Name of work	Estimated	Starting date	Earnest	Deadline for
No.		Cost (Rs.)	for download-	Money	submission
			ing Bid.		of Bid.
1	Construction of BhatoliMalhanta road to KafnaliNagal road KM 0/0 to 2/480 under NABARD MLA Priority for the year 2011-12 Priority No.1(C) (New Scheme) (SH: Construction of Earth work, Retaining wall, Brest wall, Wire Crate, Cross Drainage		11-06-2021 10.00 AM.	3,10,000/-	19.06.2021 (5.00 PM)
	work, RCC Span slab Culvert, Providing and laying Sub base Course, WBM Grade-II and WBM Grade-III, Metaling and Tarring , Construction of V-shape & U-shape drain and parapets (Under NABARD RIDF-XXVI).				

uperintending Enginee

Pin No. 176202 Tel. No. 01893-220098 ernor of Himachal Prades

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General Public is hereby informed

the area of P.S. Delhi Cantt., New Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Safdarjung Hospital Mortuary. In this regard a DD No.28A, dated 20.05.2021, u/s 174 Cr.P.C has been lodged at P.S. Delhi Cantt., New Delhi.

kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers

DP/669/SW/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

have been made by the local police to

Name: Neetu Devi, Gender: Female, Age: 23 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Red colour golden saree, blouse and black colour sandals. If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi.

Fax: 011-24368639 P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. Ph. No. 011-22145602 DP/149/RLY/2021

About any passenger amenity aplaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955 Do Not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train nformation.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender from the department website .www.hi tenders.gov in.Date of opening of tender is 21-06-2021.

on behalf of Gov HP / 1155/21-22

Paswan **R/o** Village Naya Tola, Parwati Dhobiya Kali Sthan PS Vishavvidhalay, Distt Bhagalpur, Bihar has been missing since 24.05.2021 from PF No. 3, Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 27-A dated 25.05.2021 has been registered at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts trace out the missing lady but no clue has

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/151/RLY/2021



Former Chief Secretary

Former Chief Secretary of combined Andhra Pradesh S.V. Prasad passed away on Tuesday at a private hospital He was 69. He was admitted along with his wife and two COVID-19 treatment. He from 2010 for two years when K. Rosaiah was the Chief Minister.

A.P. releases ₹1,497.62 cr.

Biggest lot of Sputnik vaccine lands in India

27.9 lakh doses arrive in Hyderabad in third consignment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A specially chartered freighter aircraft landed in Hyderabad airport with the single largest consignment of Sputnik V vaccines from Russia to India early on Tuesday. GMR Hyderabad Air Car-

go (GHAC) handled the shipment on freighter RU-9450, which touched down at 3.43 a.m. While GHAC has already handled several import shipments of vaccine prior to this, Tuesday's shipment of 56.6 tonnes is the biggest import shipment of CO-VID-19 vaccines handled in India till date. This shipment completed all processes and was dispatched to Dr. Reddy's Labs in less than 90 minutes, an official spokesman

This is the third consignment of Sputnik V vaccines from Russia – the first was for 1.5 lakh doses, second



Shot in the arm: The Sputnik V vaccine consignment at the Hyderabad airport on Tuesday. • PTI

60,000 and now 27.9 lakh doses. Another 50 lakh doses are expected this month, making Dr. Reddy's Labs ready to roll out the vaccine for administration.

Sputnik V vaccine requires specialised handling and storage, requiring to be kept at a temperature of -20° C. GHAC has been working closely with the experts from the customer's supply chain team, officials from Customs department and other stakeholders over an extended period of time to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and handling processes are fully in place at the Air Cargo Terminal.

Pharma companies based in Hyderabad are expected to produce or import over 3.5 billion doses of different varieties of COVID vaccines over the next couple of years and GHAC has been gearing up on all fronts to handle the surge in vaccine shipments.

Pakistan repatriates Hyderabad techie

He was held for illegally crossing border

ABHINAY DESHPANDE

A Hyderabad-based software engineer, who was arrested by Pakistan's Bahawalpur police two years ago for illegally entering that country, was repatriated through the Attari-Wagah

border on Monday.

The techie, Vaindam
Prashanth, 31, along with Durmi Lal, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh, was arrested in the Cholistan desert area in Bahawalpur, Punjab province, Pakistan. The police registered an FIR against them under the Pakistan (Control of Entry) Act on November 14, 2019. They had crossed the border without any identification papers and proper documents, according to the FIR.

The Madhapur police brought Mr. Prashant here on Tuesday afternoon, after he was set free. Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar produced him at a media conference where

the latter turned emotional and said he never expected to return home. He said he read books in jail and picked up Hindi.

On April 11, 2017, Mr. Prashanth boarded a train to Bikaner and crossed the border illegally by jumping the fence. After walking deep into Pakistani territory, he was apprehended and sent to jail.

The Pak. authorities suspected him to be a spy but later believed his story that he was trying to reach Switzerland to meet his online girlfriend. Mr. Prashanth surfaced in Pakistan after having gone missing for two

"I am very happy I have come back home after more than four years," were Mr. Prashanth's first words after entering the Indian territory. He said he was in love with a girl living in Switzerland, but did not wish to discuss it saying it was his personal matter.

Policemen to be sacked for

custody death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Kerala government has

permitted the prosecution

of five police officers ar-

raigned as accused in the

custodial death of Rajku-

mar in the Nedukandam

It directed the State pol-

In an action taken report

tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday, the government

said it had accepted and

acted upon the recommen-

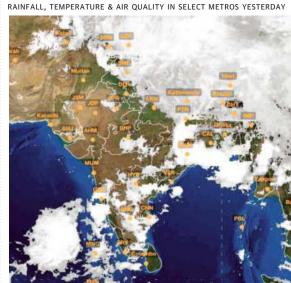
dations of the K. Narayana

Kurup probe commission.

ice chief to dismiss the of-

police station in 2019.

ficers from service.



Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, West Bengal, Sikkim, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Bihar, Jharkhand, central Maharashtra, Puducherry and Karaikal

gartala	3627.625.0	Kozhikode	23	31.6	23.
hmedabad	– 37.5 26.8	Kurnool		38.6	28
.izawl	11.427.017.5	Lucknow		34.4	27.
.llahabad	36.229.0	Madurai		40.2	27.
engaluru	32.021.1	Mangaluru	1.7	30.8	23.
hopal	40.025.9	Mumbai	48	33.7	27.
hubaneswar	37.726.6	Mysuru		33.1	21
handigarh	22.631.920.9	New Delhi	16	33.6	17.
hennai	38.529.6	Patna	14.6	34.0	23.
oimbatore	33.823.0	Port Blair		31.9	25.
ehradun	931.519.7	Puducherry		39.4	26
iangtok	3320.415.9	Pune	40	34.7	22
ioa	1532.625.9	Raipur		42.0	29
iuwahati	2429.824.4	Ranchi		35.0	24.
Iubballi	29.022.0	Shillong	36	23.1	16
lyderabad	37.425.6	Shimla	31	21.4	10.
mphal	729.722.1	Srinagar	1.8	26.1	13.
aipur	36.025.0	Thiruvananthapuram	7	32.4	22
ochi	2731.224.0	Tiruchi		41.1	27.
ohima	3.425.8 16.0	Vijayawada		40.7	28.
olkata	436.527.2	Visakhapatnam	12	36.4	24.
Rainfall data i	in mm: temperature in C	elsius)			

...41 ..4436 ..139 .152 ...5036

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

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

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

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

Form evacuation norms, HC tells Lakshadweep panel

Orders it to submit them within 10 days

K.C. GOPAKUMAR

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the committee constituted by the Health Services Director, Lakshadweep, for recommending medical evacuation of patients from various islands, to formulate guidelines on the method manner functioning.

The Bench comprising Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque and Justice Kauser Edappagath also ordered SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court directed the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Amini to take up the cases of those who were detained decisions of the Lakshadweep

that the guidelines be placed before the court within 10

rectives on a writ petition filed by P.M. Mohammed Sa-

administration through videoconferencing and release them on bail by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

They were remanded in custody by the Executive Magistrate of Kiltan Island.

The Bench consisting of Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque and Justice Kauser Edappagath

liah from Amini in Lakshadweep, challenging the order ber committee for recommending special evacuation

or Kavaratti from other is-

Services Director said the committee would make a recommendation on a case-to-

case basis after evaluation of all relevant documents uploaded online by the medical officer in charge of the respective islands, along with a specialist at the Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti.

Great hardshipThe order had put the peti-

tioner and other inhabitants in great hardship since it would delay the processing of the evacuation request, endangering the lives of patients. Earlier, patients in critical condition used to be airlifted as soon as the medical officer of the respective islands made a request to the Health Services Director functioning in Kavaratti.

THE HINDU

Class XII exams crucial for students: State govt. to HC

PIL petition challenges the decision to cancel Class X exams

The Bombay High Court will continue hearing on June 3 the plea challenging the Maharashtra government's decision to cancel board exams for Class X.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by professor Dhananjay Kulkarni challenging the decision by the Secondary School Certificate Board. The PIL sought a direction from the court to hold the exams and not mark students without assessment. There are several interveners in the matter defending the stand of the State on not

holding the exams.

In the last hearing, the court had asked the State to file an affidavit listing reasons for holding board exams for Class XII and cancelling those for Class X. In an affidavit filed on May

31, the Maharashtra government defended its stand and said, "HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examination is a more important milestone in the education of students as their careers depend on it." On holding exams for Class X and not Class XII, the State said, "The stage at which two examinations are to be undertaken by the students in their overall career, the consequences and effects of undergoing the

examinations are not comparable. Class XII students are more mature, independent, socially aware, bodily and mentally fit as compared to students of Class X."

The court asked Uday Warunjikar, the advocate appearing for Mr. Kulkarni, that once the State had decided to not hold the exams, could a writ court cancel that decision?

Mr. Warunjikar said the situation was different this year. The court interrupted him and said, "You think the situation is better? Corona is targeting young people. If the State thinks it is not wise to hold the exams, we do not have the power to strike that decision down."

postpone civic polls, says BJP

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena, which is ya Janta Party has said.

pandemic, the Sena wanted to hold mid-term polls. But it was not successful due to the second wave. It then started the debate about ward delimitation claiming the BJP did it in 2017 for its benefit. But it was done on the basis of the 2011 census. And now using the second wave as a pretext, the Sena is trying to postpone the civic polls by two years," BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said.



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of A.P. dies of COVID-19 HYDERABAD

here after battling COVID-19. sons a couple of days ago for served as the Chief Secretary

for disbursal of pension

Social security pensions were on Tuesday disbursed at the doorstep of the beneficiaries by a team of ward / village volunteers in Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, the State government had released ₹1,497.62 crore for the purpose. A total of 2.66 lakhs volunteers were on job for disbursing pensions

to 61.46 lakh beneficiaries across the State.

Release protesters on bail, says court

in connection with the protests against the

The court passed the di-

constituting the four-memof patients to Kochi or Agati

lands.

The order of the Health

passed the directives on a

Rahmathulla and 11 other

to the petition, they were

arrested and remanded in

days. Though the offences

slapped on them were

bailable, they were not

released on bail.

custody on May 28 for seven

arrested persons. According

petition filed by

Sena trying to

STAFF REPORTER

"In the first wave of the

TV actor Karan Mehra held for beating up wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Popular television actor Karan Mehra was arrested for allegedly beating up his wife at their residence in Mumbai, a police official said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night following which the actor was taken into custody. He was released on bail from the police station in the early hours of Tuesday, the official said. The Goregaon police re-

ceived a call from their control room about the incident around 11 p.m. on Monday. His wife Nisha Rawal, who is also a TV actor, lodged a police complaint against him after they had a fight, the official said.

CSMT redevelopment: Adani among 9 shortlisted bidders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC) has shortlisted nine bidders of the 10 applicants who had submitted quotations for the redevelopment of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) railway station in Mumbai.

The nine bidders are Godrej Properties Ltd., Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Ltd., Oberoi Realty Ltd., ISQ Asia Infrastructure Investments Pte Ltd., Adani Railways Transport Ltd., Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd., GMR Enterprises Private Ltd., Moribus Holdings Pte Ltd., and BIF IV Infrastructure Holding DIFC Pvt. Ltd..

"The CSMT railway station redevelopment is one of our most ambitious projects

and we are committed to transforming it into a stateof-the-art transport hub," S.K. Lohia, managing director and CEO, IRSDC, said. The applications were evaluated in accordance with their financial capacity that is a minimum net worth of ₹821 crore.

A request for proposal (RFP) would soon be called from the shortlisted applicants, Mr. Lohia said, adding that the selected bidder at the RFP stage would take up the redevelopment project. The redevelopment cost

of the railway station (mandatory cost) including the cost of financing and contingency is ₹1,642 crore. The investment opportunity for redevelopment is on the DBFOT (design, build, finance, operate and transfer) basis.

properties to banks: court

A special PMLA court in lowed the restoration of which were seized by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to a consortium of banks which had provided cond such order passed by Special Judge J.C. Jagadale

Mallya is an accused in a bank loan default case of

GENERAL

leading the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, is trying to postpone the upcoming civic polls under the pretext of the pandemic, the Opposition Bharati-

Restore Mallya's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai on Tuesday alproperties of fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya, him loans. This was the sein over a week.

over ₹9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines. A consortium of 17 banks that gave Mallya loans, led by the State Bank of India, had sought restoration of his properties seized by the ED.

Tenuous revival

Creating jobs and boosting incomes, along with vaccination, can sustain the economy

The national income estimates released by the NSO posit an economy that appears to have found some footing in the January-March quarter before the pandemic's second wave hit. GDP expanded by 1.6% in the final quarter of the last fiscal, an acceleration from the 0.5% growth in the preceding threemonth period, that marginally softened the extent of the full-year's record contraction to 7.3%. The Centre had earlier projected full-year GDP to contract by 8%. There was a 3.7% growth in fourth-quarter gross value added, with all but two of the economy's eight broad sectors posting expansions. Mining and quarrying and the worst-hit contact-intensive omnibus services category of trade, hotels, transport, communications and broadcasting contracted 5.7% and 2.3%, respectively. Still, the pandemic's crushing impact over the preceding three quarters meant that only the agriculture, forestry and fishing and the utility services recorded fullyear growth. On the expenditure side, private consumption spending appeared to have rebounded to growth for the first time in four quarters, posting an expansion of 2.7% that moderated the full-year's contraction to 9.1%. And gross fixed capital formation, a proxy for private investment, jumped 11% in the three-month period, most likely helped in fair measure by an increase in capital spending by the Government.

The NSO data, however, needs to be seen in perspective. With the ground having shifted since March with the surge in COVID-19 infections, it is vital to correlate the figures with on-the-ground information. Manufacturing GVA appeared to have gained some traction in the last quarter (a 6.9% expansion), following a return to growth in the September-December period after five straight quarters of contraction. Disappointingly, IHS Markit's Manufacturing PMI survey for May showed the key sector facing the prospect of stagnation as weakening demand pushed increases in new orders and output to 10-month lows. Similarly, the fiscal 2020-21 provisional estimates for private consumption spending the bulwark accounting for over 50% of GDP – showed the expenditure figure at ₹75.6-lakh crore, its weakest level in three years. Here again, the Refinitiv-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index for May, showed consumer confidence had tumbled by 6.3 percentage points from April as fears over the pandemic's impact depressed respondents' outlook on all four fronts including jobs and personal financial conditions. With unabated job losses pushing overall unemployment to a one-year high of 11.9% in May, as per CMIE data, and rural areas ravaged, only an accelerated nationwide vaccine roll-out and direct job and income boosting measures can prevent the economy from backsliding again.

When two is too little

China's demographic interventions have had unintended social, economic consequences \bigcap ix years after abandoning the "one child policy" of 1979, China's Communist Party has now introduced a "three child policy". The move is to "improve China's population structure, actively respond to the ageing population, and preserve the country's human resource advantages", the party's Politburo said on May 31. The once-in-a-decade population census, released on May 11, may have prompted the latest change, recording 12 million births in 2020, the lowest since 1961. The census said there were 264 million in the 60 and over age group, up 5.44% since 2010 and accounting for 18.70% of the population. After the one child policy, China's fertility rate fell from 2.75 in 1979 to 1.69 in 2018. Monday's announcement is as much an acknowledgement as may ever come of the unintended consequences of deeply intrusive family planning measures, going back even before 1979, to Mao's "later, longer, fewer" campaign, which itself, ironically, followed his exhortations to have more children to build the workforce. The party officially still defends the one child policy – that it prevented an additional 300 million births. Yet, the urgency of recent measures suggests otherwise, as China grapples with both an ageing and deeply gender-imbalanced population, and demographers' worst fears of countries getting old before they get rich.

In 2013, China allowed couples to have a second child if either parent was an only child, with the two child policy introduced in 2015. Explaining why the measures did not boost birth rates, economists Jin Zhangfeng, Pan Shiyuan, and Zheng Zhijie wrote last year the two child policy "substantially increase[d] the number of second-child births" among those "less sensitive to child-rearing costs" but "substantially decrease[d] the number of first-child births" attributing it to rising costs. "Other developing countries, even without China's stringent child-limitation policies, have also experienced declines," they argued, suggesting "policy makers should give priority to reducing the child-rearing costs borne by prospective parents rather than simply relaxing or even abolishing birth quotas". The latest announcement did acknowledge those broader structural problems, pledging to reduce families' spending on education. It is, however, by no means an abandoning of China's family planning policies. The entrenched and widely reviled - family planning bureaucracy remains in place, and this week's statement underlined that the "current reward and assistance system and preferential policies" for those following rules continue. Even leaving aside the strong moral argument against intrusive family planning - enforcement has meant forced abortions, sterilisations, and other abuses, some of which are still being reported in parts such as the Muslim-majority Xinjiang region – China's experience is a reminder of the unintended social and economic consequences of state-led demographic interventions.

COVID diplomacy 2.0, a different order of tasks

Indian diplomacy will have to handle the fallout of the vaccine collapse and bio-research regulations



SUHASINI HAIDAR

rime Minister Narendra Modi's words on Buddha Purnima, that in times to come the planet will remember events as either "pre-Covid or post-Covid" (https://bit.ly/2SIywUO) could not hold truer than for India's diplomatic structure worldwide. In the past month, the focus for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Missions abroad has shifted. While the focus in 2020, during the first wave of the pandemic, was on coordinating exports of COVID-19 medicines, flights to repatriate Indians abroad (the 'Vande Bharat Mission') after the lockdown, and then exporting vaccines worldwide ('Vaccine Maitri'), after the second wave, Covid Diplomacy 2.0 has a different order of tasks, both in the immediate and the long term.

The health crisis

The immediate imperative was to deal with oxygen and medicine shortages that claimed the lives of thousands in the matter of a few weeks across the country. In Delhi alone, more than 3,000 people died in the last week of April, including some from Delhi's diplomatic community, which comprises officials, retired diplomats and foreign diplomats.

The Ministry of External Affairs has had to deal with internal health concerns while galvanising help from abroad for others. It did not help that medical protocols to treat COVID-19 have changed constantly; if the first rush was about bringing in Remdesivir and favipiravir from the United States and Russia, Indian missions are now requesting black fungus medication, as the previous ones have been dropped from the protocol. Despite all this, the Ministry of External Affairs has completed the task of bringing in supplies in a

timely manner, and with success.

Handling vaccine shortages

The rest of the year, if not much of 2022 will focus on bringing in vaccines. The shortage of vaccines in the country has arisen from three factors: the failure of the Government to plan and place procurement orders in time; the failure of the two India-based companies to produce vaccine doses they had committed to, and the MEA's focus on exporting, not importing, vaccines between January and April this year. The challenge now for diplomats has been made all the more imperative by these failures, and much harder, as the visit of the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, to Washington last week showed. With the companies manufacturing AstraZeneca and Sputnik-V stretched as far as future production is concerned, and Chinese vaccines a non-starter given

bilateral tensions, it is clear that

the Narendra Modi government is

looking to the U.S. to make up the

The aim is to do this in several ways. These include requesting the U.S. to share a substantial portion of its stockpile of AstraZeneca doses and to release more vaccine ingredients which are restricted for exports; to buy more stock outright from the three U.S. manufacturers, Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, and to encourage production in India of these vaccines. On each of these issues, the MEA has had to negotiate a difficult route. The U.S. government is holding up its AstraZeneca exports until its own United States Food and Drug Administration approves them; while it has released a small amount (20 million doses) of vaccine ingredients and components, it has not changed the policy yet. Production of Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccines in India, as had been announced during the Quad summit (https:// bit.ly/3ySd1l2), will take some time. And as they were originally meant for distribution in South East Asia, it is unclear how many will be provisioned for India.

Even buying vaccines directly



will need nimble negotiations as the U.S. companies seem set on getting both an indemnity waiver from India as well as Emergency Use Authorisation prior to supplying them. While the government has relaxed its rules for American and other foreign manufacturers, waiving the need for bridge-trials prior to clearance, these demands will need considerable backtracking from firmly held principles. The Government may also need to make a U-turn from its publicly announced policy that States in India will need to negotiate purchases directly, as the U.S. manufacturers want centralised orders, with payments up-front. Diplomats working to help tie up contracts have their work cut out as time is of the essence for India to complete its vaccination goals ahead of a possible third wave of the pandemic.

Patents, diplomatic fallout

Nor will the promise of patent waivers, from India's joint proposal at the World Trade Organization (WTO) reap early benefits, despite support from world leaders such as the U.S., Russia and China. As Mr. Modi during his virtual summit meet with European Union leaders in early May, or as diplomats negotiating to bring Quad partners Japan and Australia, and BRICS partner Brazil on board have found, many countries are still holding out on the idea of freeing up intellectual property rights on vaccines for three years. That could ultimately hold up proceedings at the WTO, as it works by consensus.

The third big challenge for Indian diplomacy is to manage the fallout of the vaccine collapse. Domestically, the Government has defended its decision to export more than 66 million vaccines doses to 95 countries between January and April this year, pointing out that only 11 million were grants from India, 35 million were commercial exports and 20 million were sent as part of the global CO-VAX coalition commitments. Its adding that all exports were stopped as soon as cases in India began to soar is an argument that does not wash internationally. Both India's neighbours and partners in Africa as well as global agencies depending on India for vaccines have been left in the lurch by the Government's failure to balance its vaccine budget.

Perhaps the most egregious case is that of Bhutan and its vaccine drive which depended entirely on India's promise of vaccines for its whole population. In March, once India completed delivery of the first batch, of 550,000 Covishield doses, Bhutan completed the administration of the first dose to 93% of its population in a record 16 days. Two months later, Bhutan does not have any vaccines to complete the second dose and has been left requesting other countries for vaccines so it does not miss the deadline amidst a rising number of cases there. Others in the neighbourhood and further afield have fully-paid-up-but-unfulfilled orders. It is no surprise that each of India's neighbours has now sought help from China and the U.S. to complete their vaccination drives. Making amends and regaining trust for India's vaccine and pharmacy exports in the future is going to be a challenge left to the MEA and its missions in sev-

Tracing virus pathways

eral capitals.

Finally, as more waves of COVID-19 are being speculated, it is becoming increasingly clear that there must be a fuller understanding of what caused it, and India, as one of the worst pandemic-hit countries, must be at the forefront of demanding accountability. Eight-

The economic contraction and

(https://bit.ly/3uElFAd) and over three million deaths later, the World Health Organisation (WHO) which studied "pathways of emergence" of SARS-CoV2 in Wuhan, listed four possibilities: direct zoonotic transmission, an intermediate host, cold chain or transmission through food, or a laboratory incident. While WHO has concluded that the fourth pathway is "extremely unlikely", scientists and agencies around the world are now calling for more research and transparency from China, particularly over the activities at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Beijing appears adamant on blocking these studies and even the U.S. appears to have dragged its feet on a conclusive finding, possibly because the U.S. National Institutes of Health had funded some of the Wuhan Institute's research, and its Office of the Director of National Intelligence decided last year to discount the "lab-leak" theory (https://bit.ly/2TokFmI).

On regulations

India, which has now begun to speak up on the issue, must call for a more definitive answer and also raise its voice for a stronger convention to regulate any research that could lead, by accident or design, to something as diabolical as the current pandemic. Towards that end, it is necessary to revamp the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (formally known as The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction) to institute an implementation body to assess treaty compliance, and build safer standards for the future. With its seat at the UN Security Council as non-permanent member and its position on WHO's Executive Board, India could seek to regain the footing it has lost over the past few months of COVID-19 mismanagement, by taking a lead role in ensuring the world is protected from the next such pandemic.

Breaking the cycle of child labour is in India's hands

Though the pandemic has amplified its contributing factors, policy and programmatic interventions can save children



The true extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on child labour is yet to be measured but all indications show that it would be significant as children are unable to attend school and parents are unable to find work. However, not all the factors that contribute to child labour were created by the pandemic; most of them were pre-existing and have been exposed or ampli-

What the data show

As the world enters the third decade of the 21st century, 152 million children around the world are still in child labour, 73 million of them in hazardous work. A Government of India survey (NSS Report No. 585, 2017-18, Statement 3.12, p.35) suggests that 95% of the children in the age group of 6-13 years are attending educational institutions (formal and informal) while the corresponding figures for those in the age group of 14-17 years is 79.6%. Hence, a large number of children in India remain vulnerable, facing physical and psychological risks to a

healthy development. The Census of India 2011 reports 10.1 million working children in the age group of 5-14 years, out

of whom 8.1 million are in rural areas mainly engaged as cultivators (26%) and agricultural labourers (32.9%). While multiple data vary widely on enrolment/attendance ratios in India, UNESCO estimates based on the 2011 Census record 38.1 million children as "out of school" (18.3% of total children in the age group of 6-13 years). Work performed may not appear to be immediately dangerous, but it may produce long-term and devastating consequences for their education, their skills acquisition, and hence their future possibilities to overcome the vicious circle of poverty, incomplete education and poor quality jobs. A Rapid Survey on Children (2013-14), jointly undertaken by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF, found that less than half of children in the age group of 10-14 years have completed primary education. These remain challenges we must overcome.

A decrease in India

One piece of good news is that child labour in India decreased in the decade 2001 to 2011, and this demonstrates that the right combination of policy and programmatic interventions can make a difference. Policy interventions such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, the Right to Education Act 2009 and the Mid Day Meal Scheme have paved the way for children to be in schools along with guaranteed wage employment (unskilled) for rural families. Concerted efforts towards

convergence of government schemes is also the focus of the implementation of the National Child Labour Project. Ratifying International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 in 2017. the Indian government further demonstrated its commitment to the

elimination of child labour includ-

ing those engaged in hazardous

occupations.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment-operated online portal (www.pencil.gov.in) allows government officials, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organisations to share information and coordinate on child labour cases at the national, State and local levels for effective enforcement of child labour laws. While child labour has declined during the past decade globally, estimates indicate that the rate of reduction has slowed by twothirds in the most recent four-year period. These positive and negative trends have to be taken into account when developing India's policy and programmatic response during and after the novel coronavirus pandemic.

lockdowns ensuing from the pandemic have affected all countries in Asia, leading to income reducmany of them in the informal economy. The large number of returned migrant workers has compounded the socio-economic challenges. India experienced slower economic growth and rising unemployment even before the pandemic. Subsequent lockdowns have worsened the situation, posing a real risk of backtracking the gains made in eliminating child labour. With increased economic insecurity, lack of social protection and reduced household income, children from poor households are being pushed to contribute to the family income with the risk of exposure to exploi-

Challenges in education

With closure of schools and challenges of distance learning, children may drop out leaving little scope for return unless affirmative and immediate actions are taken. As many schools and educational institutions are moving to online platforms for continuation of learning, the 'digital divide' is a challenge that India has to reconcile within the next several years. The NSS Report No. 585 titled 'Household Social Consumption on Education in India' suggests that in 2017-18, only 24% of Indian households had access to an Internet facility, proportions were 15% among rural households and 42% among urban households. The An-

nual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2020 survey highlights that a third of the total enrolled children received some kind of learntions for enterprises and workers, ing materials from their teachers during the reference period (October 2020) as digital mode of edu-

cation was opted for. The challenges are significant and manifold but it is not impossible to meet them if the right level of commitment among all the relevant stakeholders and the right mix of policy and programmatic interventions are present. It is through strategic partnerships and collaborations involving government, employers, trade unions, community-based organisations and child labour families that we could make a difference building back better and sooner. As we reinforce the commitment to protect children from unacceptable forms of work, our focus to mitigate the aftermath of the pandemic also remains. We need a strong alliance paving our way towards ending child labour in all its forms by 2025 as countries around the world have agreed to in Sustainable Development Goal 8.7.

We – governments, employers, unions, civil society organisations and even individuals - must rise and pledge to 'Take Action against Child Labour' as a part of the UN's declaration of 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Our actions today will determine the future of children tomorrow.

Dagmar Walter is Director, International Labour Organization India Country Office

 $LETTERS\ TO\ THE\ EDITOR\ \ \ \text{Letters\ emailed\ to\ letters\@thehindu.co.in\ must\ carry\ the\ full\ postal\ address\ and\ the\ full\ name\ or\ the\ name\ with\ initials.}$

Court and COVID policy The Supreme Court's rap on the Government's knuckles over its confused vaccine policy is spot on

(Inside pages, "Policy should be clear, flexible: SC", June 1). With GDP contracting due to the pandemic, the Government will do well to quickly procure vaccines and for free. Immunisation in the rural areas has to be ramped up quickly without having to register on CoWIN which may not be feasible due to the digital

divide (Inside pages, June 1). Finally, all talk about 'vaccine interchangeability' and single-dose efficacy is superfluous till the vaccine shortage issue is addressed and everyone above 18 is immunised quickly. D_R. THOMAS PALOCAREN, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

■ The top court questioning the central government on its dual price vaccination policy, vaccine procurement by States on their own through global tenders and digital registration for

vaccine jabs are genuine points which every rightthinking Indian has on his mind. India is one of the best countries which has a robust immunisation system in place, which has central procurement and with one of the best preventive strategies to face epidemics. The central government instead of reinventing the wheel should utilise its existing robust immunisation system and preventive strategies to face the COVID-19 pandemic. T. KAILASH DITYA, Hyderabad

Crimes of the past The report on the remains of children being found in a

former school in Canada was chilling. But it is also a season of repentance for

former colonial powers, a right step in this direction having been taken by French President Emmanuel Macron for the genocide in Rwanda. This should set a precedent

for all countries to own up to past mistakes.

SHARADA SIVARAM,

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the story titled "Pace of vaccination suggests complete immunisation unlikely by year end" (June 1, 2021), Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, epidemiologist, had been wrongly referred to as former consultant to the World Health Organization. He was not a consultant. It should have been "formerly with

In the article titled "Lakshadweep - Between the sea and a hard place" (Profiles, May 30, 2021) - a reader pointed out – the reference to Ubaidulla's landing following a shipwreck on the shores of Amini in AD 7 is wrong. It should have been 7th century AD.

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, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai,

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What explains the surge in FDI inflows?

Unprecedented short-term foreign portfolio investments are entirely responsible for the surge



Total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow in 2020-21 is \$81.7 billion, up 10% over the previous year, reported a recent Ministry of Commerce and Industry press release. It further added, "Measures taken by the Government on the fronts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business have resulted in increased FDI inflows into the country." The short press release highlighted industry and State-specific foreign investment figures without detailed statistical information.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bulletin, which was released a week earlier, has the details. They are conceptually more transparent and consistent. The table below summarises the main headings for 2019-20 and 2020-21 and the percentage growth

What accounts for gross inflow? "Gross inflows/gross investment" in the RBI report is the same as "total FDI inflow" in the press release, identical to the Commerce Ministry's estimate. The gross inflow consists of (i) "direct investment to India" and "repatriation/disinvestment". The disaggregation shows that "direct investment to India" has declined by 2.4%. Hence, an increase of 47% in "repatriation/disinvestment" entirely accounts for the rise in the gross inflows. In other words, there is a wide gap between gross FDI inflow and direct investment to India.

What is repatriation? Why is it so significant? FDI inflow increasingly consists of private equity funds, which are usually disinvested after 3-5 years to book profits (per its business model). In principle, private equity funds do not make long-term greenfield investment.

Similarly, measured on a net basis (that is, "direct investment to India" net of "FDI by India" or, outward FDI from India), direct investment to India has barely risen (0.8%) in 2020-21 over the last year.

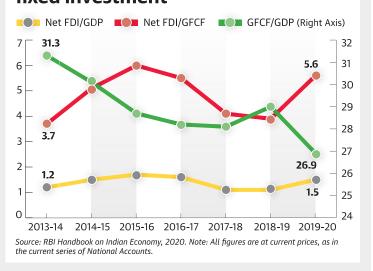
What then accounts for the impressive headline number of 10% rise

Foreign investment into India

Item No	No Investment category	2019-20	2020-21	Growth rate (%)
1	Gross inflows/Gross Investments (Items 3+5)	74,390	81,721	9.9
2	Foreign Investment Inflow (Items 4+7)	44,417	80,209	80.6
3	Direct investment to India (items 4+6)	56,006	54,665	-2.4
4	Net Foreign direct investment (Items 3-6)	43,013	43,366	0.8
5	Repatriation/Disinvestment	18,384	27,056	47.2
6	FDI by India (Outward FDI)	12,993	11,299	-13.0
7	Net Portfolio investment	1,403	36,843	2526.0
7.1	(of which) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)	552	38,097	6801.6

Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, May 2021, Table No. 34

Net FDI as ratios of GDP and fixed investment



in gross inflow? It is almost entirely on account of "Net Portfolio Investment", shooting up from \$1.4 billion in 2019-20 to \$36.8 billion in the next year. That is a whopping 2,526% rise. Further, within the net portfolio investment, foreign institutional investment (FIIs) has boomed by an astounding 6,800% to \$38 billion in 2020-21, from a mere half a billion dollars in the previous year.

So, the mystery of the surge in gross FDI inflows is solved. It is entirely on account of net foreign portfolio investment. What is portfolio investment, and how is it included in FDI inflow? FDI inflow, in theory, is supposed to bring in additional capital to augment potential output (taking managerial control/stake). In contrast, foreign portfolio investment, as the name suggests, is shortterm investment in domestic capital (equity and debt) markets to realise better financial returns (that is, higher dividend/interest rate plus capital gains). But the conceptual distinctions have blurred in official reporting, showing an outsized role of FDI and its growth in India.

If the deluge of FII inflow did little to augment the economy's potential output, what then did it do? It added a lot of froth to the stock prices. When GDP has contracted by 7.3% (as per the official estimates released

last Monday) in 2020-21 on account of the pandemic and the economic lockdown, the BSE Sensex nearly doubled from about 26,000 points on March 23, 2020 to over 50,000 on March 31, 2021. BSE's price-earnings (P-E) multiple - defined as share price relative to earnings per share is among the world's highest, close behind S&P 500 in the U.S.

Modest contribution

Thus the surge in total FDI inflow during the pandemic year is entirely explained by booming short-term FI-Is in the capital market - and not adding to fixed investment and employment creation.

For years now, the government has showcased the rise in gross FDI inflows as a badge of the success of its economic policies to counter the widespread criticisms of output and investment slowdown and rising unemployment rates (especially during the last year).

As Figure 1 shows, between 2013-14 and 2019-20, the ratio of net FDI to GDP has remained just over 1% (lefthand scale), with no discernible rising trend in it. Likewise, the proportion of net FDI to gross fixed capital formation (fixed investment) is range-bound between 4% and 6% (left-hand scale). These stagnant trends are evident when the economy's fixed investment rate - gross fixed capital formation to GDP ratio has plummeted from 31.3% in 2013-14 to 26.9% in 2019-20 (right-hand scale). Thus, FDI inflow's contribution to domestic output and investment remains modest.

To sum up, the Commerce Ministry press release claims an unprecedented surge in gross foreign capital inflow of \$81.7 billion in 2020-21, rising 10% over the previous year. The rapid influx is evidence of the success of the economic policies during the pandemic, the government claims. Is it so? Probably not. Unprecedented short-term foreign portfolio investments are entirely responsible for the surge. And within the portfolio investment, FIIs shot up to \$38 billion in 2020-21, from half a billion-dollar the previous year. The flood of FIIs has boosted stock prices and financial returns. These inflows did little to augment fixed investment and output growth.

R. Nagaraj is Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum

A fatal war on transparency

Official secrecy on pandemic policies aggravates a crisis



ANIKET AGA & CHITRANGADA CHOUDHURY

In August 2020, the Modi government constituted the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) as a nodal agency on all matters related to vaccine administration and rollout. Asked under the Right to Information (RTI) Act for details of the NEGVAC's meetings, the Health Ministry, which anchors the expert group, replied that it does not know where the concerned documents are. Asked for the dates and minutes of meetings of other task forces constituted to deal with the pandemic, Dr. Nivedita Gupta of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) denied the request with this bizarre logic: "The information is not in the public domain". Asked for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICMR and Bharat Biotech for the rollout of Covaxin, she gave the same response.

Through seven years in power, the Modi government has systematically hobbled the RTI Act. In the face of the pandemic, its war on transparency brings fatal consequences. Brazen denials mark its responses to RTI requests filed over the past year. Such secrecy runs through the full spectrum of COVID-19related matters - from vaccine manufacturing and pricing decisions, to last year's lockdown planning and the establishment and running of the ₹10,000 crore-plus PM CARES fund. Opacity serves as a cover for largescale over-centralisation and misgovernance.

Botched up vaccination programme

Despite thousands of daily deaths, the government continues to withhold information on critical life-saving policies and decisions. Take, for example, India's botched up vaccination programme. On January 3, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved Covaxin. Until today, Bharat Biotech has not published peer-reviewed interim efficacy analyses from Phase 3 clinical trials. The DCGI has denied RTI requests about its decision to grant emergency approval to Covaxin and Covishield, claiming that information about efficacy and safety constitutes confidential commercial information. But such data are routinely published in peer-reviewed journals and disclosed to the public by regulators. Effectively, the DCGI is keeping secret decision-making on what it called a "110% safe vaccine". But people being administered Covaxin had to consent to a declaration that in case of serious adverse impacts, compensation will be awarded only if a causal link to the vaccine is established.

Second, the rollout of vaccines is badly hit by shortages. Against the target of 30 crore Indians being vaccinated by July, only over 4 crore have been fully vaccinated so far. Covaxin is developed with the help of the ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), and co-owned by the ICMR. Its production is the easiest for the government to ramp up, and massive vaccine production capacity in the public sector is lying idle. So, what explains the government-enabled scarcity of vaccines?

Like the ICMR, the NIV too refuses to disclose the MoU with Bharat Biotech, and the full extent of public investment into Covaxin's research and development. Similarly, asked for details of the research collaboration with Bharat Biotech, and investment of public funds in Covaxin, the IICT too denies information, calling the request "an unwarranted invasion of privacy". Meanwhile, Covaxin has reached private hospitals as among the most expensive vaccines in the world, at over ₹1,200 a dose. And the ICMR is earning 5% royalties on the vaccine. This and other scraps of information are public only thanks to the Supreme Court hearing a suo motu PIL on the pandemic. The government's summary dismissals not just violate citizens' fundamental right to information but also push RTI requests into an appeal process that can take over two years. Time and resources go waste as citizens have to approach Information Commissions and High Courts to access basic information.

Information blackhole

Effective planning and administration cannot occur in the dark, and experts attribute the death toll and suffering to mismanagement and lack of preparation as much as the virus itself. Official secrecy is undermining the capacity of scientists, public health and policy experts to provide timely feedback and suggestions to the government. Such is the information blackhole that over 900 scientists have appealed to the Prime Minister for access to information and data. But little has changed.

The Supreme Court should order the government to suo motu disclose information related to COVID-19 policies, in line with Sections 4 and 7 of the RTI Act, which deal with proactive and urgent disclosures with consequences for life and liberty. Writing about famines in colonial India, Amartya Sen argued that mass hunger and death do not occur where information flows freely. Ditto for pandemic management.

Aniket Aga teaches at Ashoka University; Chitrangada Choudhury is a journalist on the editorial board of

The Mindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A piquant situation has arisen for the Centre

following the reluctance of the Punjab Go-

vernment to transfer Fazilka to Harvana,

which was agreed upon when the Prime Mi-

nister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, gave her award

on the future of Chandigarh [New Delhi,

June 1]. The tussle between the two States

over Chandigarh went on for over three

years when finally Mrs. Gandhi announced

her verdict that the city should go to Punjab

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1971

The economic toolkit revealed

With monetary policy having run its course, fiscal policy alone can spur the economy

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Reading the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 's annual report for 2020-21, the economist is driven to rethink why India today needs its central bank more than ever before. So, what would be the direction from which these thoughts are likely to flow? Most likely it will be the one suggesting that perhaps the RBI is to be desired more for its role as a source of unbiased and reliable information on the economy than its potency in driving it. The former is not a trivial presence at all, especially at a time when citizens are sceptical of the independence of government agencies originally intended to be free from its influence, leave alone stranglehold. The annual report is a splendid document. The information presented in it enables us to understand which economic policy can move the economy even as it shows that the RBI's own capacity in this task may currently be limited. This by itself is vital guidance at this moment, though the RBI may not read the situation in the same way as others do.

A coherent story

In the annual report we find data on the movement of three variables over the past year, namely, interest rates, inflation and credit flow. Helpfully, in some cases the data are exactly for one year commencing March 27, 2020, a few days after the nationwide lockdown was announced. So, we are able to track the path of the variables of our interest since. Together they tell a coherent story.

And. what is that story? First, it is one of the very active use of monetary policy to stave off the negative impact of the lockdown. The RBI immediately lowered the interest rate in its command, the repo rate, in fact more than once, and has held it since. Then it attempted to influence the long-term rate of interest through targeted long-term repo operations (TLTROs) in order to encourage investment. It enhanced liquidity by lowering the cash reserve ratio. Finally, in sync with the credit guarantee available under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme of the Government of India, the on-tap TLTRO

scheme was expanded to cover 26 stressed sectors. These amounted to a combination of incentives, enabling measures and safety nets revolving around credit. India's monetary authority cannot be faulted for the speed with which it acted, which was markedly different from what was seen on the fiscal front.

A limited policy

The second part of the story is that these thoughtful monetary policy actions were not successful in spurring the growth of credit, and thus economic activity. In the following year, credit growth slowed further, remaining barely positive for industry, a sector highly dependent on bank credit. To get the picture, non-food credit to this sector grew by a mere 0.4% in 2020-21.

To understand this outcome we do not have to seek very far. It is not as if the reduction in the central bank's interest rate actions did not have an impact on commercial bank lending rates, which too declined for all the sectors of the economy. Thus, the socalled 'transmission mechanism' worked. That it did not spur credit growth though is to be seen in the light of experience gained from episodes when aggregate demand collapsed. The lockdown did set off such a movement. We see replicated in India the global history of the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Great Recession of the 2000s when monetary policy was ineffective, as animal spirits, at least among investors outside the stock market, were bearish. However, in the case of inflation, again meticulously documented by the RBI, India's experience stands out. Here, after the lockdown and contrary to the global pattern, the inflation rate has risen well beyond the target, leaving in doubt the ability of

monetary policy to control it. The contribution of the RBI, through its admirably transparent annual report, is to have laid bare the economic toolkit at our disposal. It is plain that monetary policy has run its course. Fiscal policy alone can spur the economy now.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University

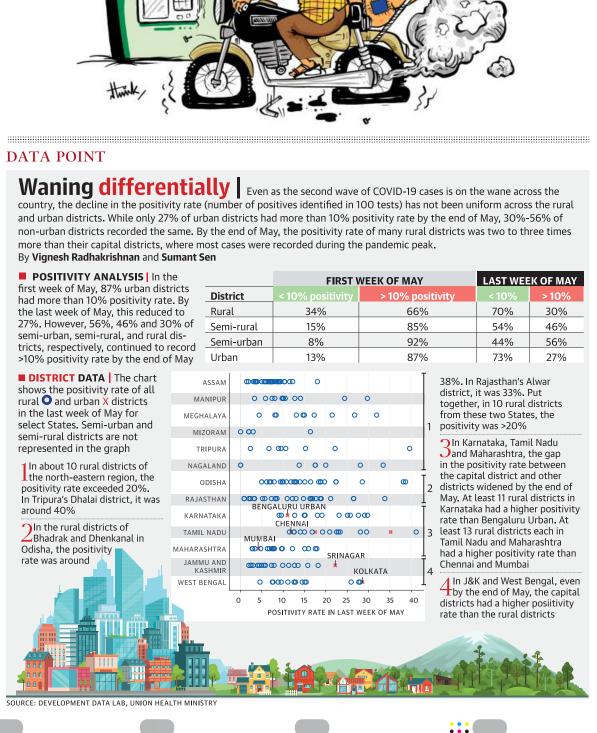


and, in return, the latter would make over the Fazilka Abhor area to Haryana. It was also agreed that Haryana would construct a new capital for which a sum of Rs. 20 crores has been promised in the agreement, and, for five years, the State also would have its capital at Chandigarh. A Boundary Commission was to be appointed to go into other territorial adjustments among Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Fazilka is to be transferred to Haryana to synchronise with the boundary adjustments recommended by the Commission. Since the award has been given, several meetings have been held by the Union Home Minister and the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana on the terms of reference to the Boundary Commission.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 2, 1921

Tagore on Non-Co-operation

The following is, an extract from Tagore's latest letters to shantiniketan published in the 'Servants': - Of the politics of our own country, I get some news in occasional hints and suggestions but cannot understand everything distinctly from such a distance. So I cannot make bold to judge of them. Recently a presidential address of Bepin Baba has reached my hands, from which I have got the version of one side, but as yet I have not had the opportunity of bearing the version of the other side fully and clearly. After comparing the Swadeshi movement of Bengal with the present movement, Bepin Baba has remarked that our movement was not a destructive (nastika) but constructive one (astika). To me this appears to be an exaggeration. For my complaint was just this at that time and I was abused for it by my countrymen. A perusal of my writings of that period will make this clear. At that time it was the aim of Bengal to do injury to Englishmen by having recourse to boycott. Only I myself protested against it and held that the foundation of self-government in the country was to be laid with our own efforts.



FROM PAGE ONE

CBSE, CICSE scrap Class XII exams after review

Faced with the second wave of the pandemic in April, the Centre then cancelled Class X exams and postponed Class XII exams, promising a review of the situation by June 1.

A large section of students and parents had called for Class XII exams to be cancelled, and took their

plea to the courts as well. On Monday, the Centre told the Supreme Court it would announce a decision by Thursday. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who had advocated for cancellation. congratulated "students of class 12 for making your voices heard'

TMC, BJP spar over notice to ex-Chief Secretary

However, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari of the BJP, demanded action against Mr. Bandyopadhyay and targeted the Chief Minister, accusing her of trying to "to destroy India's federal structure". "Theatre of the absurd is playing out in West Bengal. For the sake of her own ego, to destroy India's federal structure and protect the Chief Secretary for his indiscipline, (non-MLA) CM @MamataOfficial. Didi is bringing disrepute to the

CM office and the Constitution of India," Mr. Adhikari said on social media.

It was the presence of the Nandigram MLA at the meeting called by the Prime Minister to review the situation on May 28 in the aftermath of Cyclone Yaas that had irked the Chief Minister.

Ms. Banerjee had repeatedly raised the point that from a PM to a CM meeting, the agenda was changed, and BJP leaders and Union Ministers were made to join the meeting.

'Give details on scheme for orphaned children'

The court asked Ms. Bhati to detail the mechanism for identifying the beneficiaries of the scheme and the method to monitor the flow of benefits to the children.

The court further agreed with Mr. Agrawal's suggestion to initially focus on the welfare schemes available for COVID-19 orphaned children in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand. Mr. Agrawal explained that these States were ahead in their compilation of data about children orphaned by COVID-19 and he would start with them while giving other States time to compile information within their own jurisdictions. The court is hearing an application filed by Mr. Agrawal, who placed on record a report in The Hindu about the plight of children in the pandemic.

He said the pandemic had wreaked havoc on the lives of many children who have either lost both parents or guardians to the virus. Quoting the newspaper report, he said there had been a marked increase in child trafficking, especially of girls. The government had an obligation to protect children, he added.

IMD increases monsoon rain outlook to 101%

Rainfall over the northwest would be 'normal' though this is a wide range from 92-108% of the LPA and that in the southern peninsula 93-107% of its normal.

Seasonal rainfall is most likely to be below normal over the northeast (<95%) and above normal over central India (>106%), the update noted.

"This year we expect a good monsoon and especially over the core agricultural region," M. Mohapatra, Director General, IMD, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

The latest global model forecasts say the sea surface temperatures at the Equatorial Pacific conditions are unlikely to significantly rise. There are also 'negative' IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole)

Ocean during the monsoon season. Put together, they mean that these larger climate factors are, as of now, unlikely to have a significant influence over the prevailing monsoon. "As sea surface temperature (SST) conditions over the Pacific and the Indian Oceans are known to have strong influence on the Indian monsoon, IMD is carefully monitoring the evolution of sea surface conditions over these Ocean basins," the statement said

conditions over the Indian

The monsoon was to have arrived in Kerala on May 31 but the IMD, on May 30, said its advent would be delayed to June 3 because windspeeds and cloud formation over the Kerala coast hadn't picked up yet.

the difficulties in procuring

vaccines. "Jharkhand is put-

ting all efforts to procure di-

rectly from the available ma-

nufacturers. However, the

supplies against the orders

placed continue to remain

extremely limited and it ulti-

mately depends on alloca-

tions made by the Central

response from suppliers,

Odisha Minister Das said,

There has been limited res-

ponse to the [State's global]

tender ... The Serum Insti-

tute and Bharat Biotech

have not participated in the

pre-bid meeting. It is under-

stood that at their present

capacity they won't be able

to provide vaccines on a

scale required by the

States."

Echoing the lukewarm

government," he said.

Odisha, Jharkhand want Centre to procure jabs

On the issue of asking States to procure vaccines on their own, Mr Soren said it "stands against the principle of co-operative federalism". Mr. Soren said, "It is requested to provide to the State free vaccines for all age groups and also give us freedom to define priorities for vaccination coverage," adding, "this would help in achieving the target of full vaccination in a timely

While the Naveen Patnaik government said it did not want free vaccines for the 18-44 age-group, it also demanded flexibility in distribution as it planned to do and people in rural areas.

Mr Soren also highlighted

away with online registration issues to help the poor

COVID-19, says China Minister Foreign Ministers express 'grave concern' over the impact of the pandemic KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI The Foreign Ministers of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) grouping on Tuesday expressed "grave concern" with regard to the global CO-VID-19 pandemic.

Addressing a virtual meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed solidarity with India over the recent surge in COVID-19 cases, and said the grouping was ready to assist the country to fight the pandemic "as long as needed".

The Ministers also agreed on reforming the multilateral system, which was the "first time" that such a consensus was reached, sources

"The Ministers expressed grave concern over the continuing public health, societal and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic globally. They expressed condolences for lives lost and pledged solidarity with the affected families," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The gathering described



BRICS will help India in fighting

Coming together: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the BRICS 2021 Foreign Ministers meeting. • PTI

the pandemic as one of the most serious challenges before the world, while also highlighting the importance of "respect for territorial integrity" and the "sovereign equality" of states. In his comments, Mr.

Wang said, "At this trying time, China stands in solidarity with India and all the BRICS countries. As long as it is needed by India, I believe that all BRICS partners, including China, will provide further support and assistance at any time. We are fully confident that India will certainly overcome the pandemic."

Welcoming the partici-

pants, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recollected the journey that the BRICS Foreign Ministers had undertaken since their first meeting in New York in 2006. India is the Chair of BRICS for 2021, when the organisation completes its 15th year of ex-

A joint statement issued after the meeting called for "equitable" access to vaccines, medicines and technologies as well as equipment to deal with the pandemic. "The Ministers reaffirmed the need to use all relevant measures during the pandemic, including supporting ongoing consideration in the WTO [World Trade Organization] on a CO-VID-19 vaccine intellectual property rights waiver and the use of flexibilities of the TRIPS [Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Propertv Rightsl agreement and the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health," the statement said. The mention of the term

"flexibilities" in the joint statement is being viewed as a normative step forward towards greater vaccine equality and availability in the Apart from the support at

the WTO, the Foreign Ministers also expressed support for the "comprehensive strengthening and reforming" of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, the UN Secretariat and the Economic and Social Council.

The statement also reflected the grouping's determination to deal with global terrorism and expressed commitment to fully implement the BRICS Counter Terrorism Strategy.

New chief at Andaman and Nicobar Command

Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh assumes charge

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Among a series of top-level appointments in the armed forces on Tuesday were the new Commanding-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the Eastern Army Commanding-in-Chief, the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff and the Director-General of the Assam Rifles.

Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh assumed charge as the 16th Commanding-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only triservice command of the armed forces based at Port Blair. His predecessor, Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande, who relinquished charge on May 31, took over as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command based in Kolkata.

"A fifth generation Army as well as cavalry armoured corps officer, with family service of over 162 years since September 13, 1858, Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh is an alumnus of The Lawrence School, Sanawar and National Defence Academy [NDA] and Indian Military Academy [IMA]," a Defence



Lt. Gen. Ajai Singh

Ministry statement said.

Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair took over as the 21st Director-General of the Assam Rifles

In a series of changes in the Navy, Vice-Admiral Ravneet Singh took charge as the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff from Vice-Admiral M.S. Pawar, who superannuated on May 31.

Vice-Admiral Sandeep Naithani assumed charge as the Chief of Material of the Navy from Vice-Admiral S.R. Sarma, who superannuated on May 31.

Vice-Admiral Sreekumar Nair took over as the Director-General, Naval Projects (DGNP), Visakhapatnam, while Vice-Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi assumed charge as Chief of Personnel.

IN BRIEF

Court in Dominica to hear Choksi case today

Eastern Caribbean SC to consider implementation of International Red Corner Notice in India's favour

SUHASINI HAIDAR DEVESH K. PANDEY

Lawyers for fugitive businessman and diamond dealer Mehul Choksi and the public prosecutor in Dominica filed written submissions at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court on Tuesday, ahead of a hearing on Wednesday on whether he will be deported.

As Indian investigators watch the outcome of the hearing carefully, lawyers are expected to argue over whether Dominica is prepared to implement the International Red Corner Notice in India's favour, and whether his citizenship will be a factor in the court's de-

Mr. Choksi's lawyers are asking the court that if he is deported, he should be sent back to Antigua and Barbuda, where he is already fac-



Wanted posters: A number of notices have been put up outside Mehul Choksi's residence in Mumbai. • PTI

ing an extradition trial as well as a case to revoke his Antiguan citizenship, but enjoys protection from immediate deportation to India. "My client, Mr. Mehul

Choksi, is citizen of Antigua and is entitled to all constitutional protections under the Antiguan Constitution and all remedies available to him under law, which he has even successfully availed,"

Mr. Choksi's lawyer in India Vijay Aggarwal told The Hindu, alleging that Mr. Choksi had been "abducted" from Antigua by a group of individuals led by a woman, who had befriended him on false premises.

While Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said Mr. Choksi remained an Indian citizen as he has not completed the renunciation process, Mr. Aggarwal pointed out that "as per Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, a person would cease to be an Indian citizen the moment he acquired the citizenship of any other country," as Mr. Choksi did, when he received Antiguan citizenship in 2017. Later, he and his nephew

Nirav Modi, who are accused of defrauding the Punjab National Bank of ₹13,500 crore in bad loans, fled India, and are being pursued by the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"From our perspective, we need to prove that irrespective of his Antiguan citizenship, the crimes that he is alleged to have committed were committed when he was an Indian citizen and at least before he acquired Antiguan citizenship," said Rupin Sharma, senior IPS officer and author of a book on extradition procedures.

Case of injuries

made it clear that the manner of Mr. Choksi's appearance in Dominica, exhibiting bruises and injuries, would be part of the plea in the Dominica court, as they would make the case that he was forcibly taken from Anti-

"All these theories of Mr. Choksi fleeing from Antigua voluntarily is opposed to common sense. Firstly, he has a stay in his favour in Antigua. Secondly, I have been informed that his passport is in Antigua only, so nobody will try to escape without having his passport in his pocket. Brutal marks on his body and the passport factor now establishes abduction

Justice A.K. Mishra appointed NHRC chief Aggarwal, however, NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday formally appointed Justice Arun Kumar Mishra as the Chairman of the National **Human Rights Commission** (NHRC). Justice Mishra's name was recommended by a high-powered selection panel consisting Prime Minister Narendra Modi; Union Home Minister Amit Shah; Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh;

Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge **IUML** challenges order on citizenship in SC

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla;

and the Leader of the

Opposition in the Rajya

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has challenged in the Supreme Court a May 28 government order inviting non-Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. residing in India, to apply for citizenship. An application urged the court to stay the order. It said the order delegated the power to grant citizenship by registration and naturalisation to Collectors of certain districts. The Union Home Ministry's order was a clever way to implement the "malafide designs" of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

HC asks AI to reinstate pilots with back wages

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday directed Air India (AI), the national carrier, to reinstate with back wages several pilots whose services were terminated with effect from August 13. Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction on petitions filed by over 40 Air India pilots who have been terminated from service. Many of the pilots had resigned due to non-payment or delayed payment of their salaries. They later withdrew the resignations before the six-month notice period was

Weather delays rescue in Meghalaya coal mine

Rain and slushy conditions

have delayed the rescue operation at a coal mine in Meghalaya, where a dynamite blast led to the flooding of a pit trapping five labourers more than 500 ft below. The incident happened on Sunday. Four of the trapped labourers - two unidentified are from Assam and one is from Tripura. "We have requisitioned a crane the miners were using for the rescue personnel... We have also placed pumps to drain out the water from the mine. but the weather is playing spoilsport," an official said.

DM Act is of 2005 vintage, was first enforced during pandemic

Centre issued notice to ex-Bengal Chief Secretary under it

VIJAITA SINGH

Hours before he retired on May 31, former Chief Secretary of West Bengal Alapan Bandyopadhyay was served a show-cause notice by the Union Home Ministry under Section 51 of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005, punishable by imprisonment of up to two years or a fine or both.

The Section pertains to "punishment for obstruction" for refusal to comply with a direction given by the Central government.

EXPLAINER

The DM Act, 2005, came into existence after the 2004 tsunami. It was invoked for the first time in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 24, 2020, the Centre, through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) headed by the Prime Minister, invoked the provisions of the Act to streamline the management of the pandemic, empowering district magistrates to take decisions and centralise other decisions on the supply of oxygen and movement of vehicles.

The Act has been extended across the country till June 30 and it is enforced by the Home Ministry.

The officer, by abstaining himself from the review



Alapan Bandyopadhyay

meeting taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at cyclone-affected Kalaikunda in West Bengal on May 28, "has acted in a manner tantamount to refusing to comply with lawful directions of the Central Government and is thus violative of Section 51 (b) of the Disaster Manage ment Act, 2005," the notice to Mr. Bandyopadhyay said.

The Section prescribes "punishment for obstruction" for refusal to comply with any direction given by or on behalf of the Central government or the State government or the National Executive Committee or the State Executive Committee or the District Authority under the Act.

It says that violation shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term that may extend to one year or with a fine or both upon conviction. It adds that if "such refusal to comply with directions results in loss of lives or imminent danger thereof, ishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years". According to Meeran

Chadha Borwankar, former Director-General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Section 51 of the Act has two important caveats. "Under the Act, the action on the part of the person has to be 'without reasonable cause' and 'failure of an officer to perform the duty without due permission or lawful excuse'. I am sure the Chief Secretary had 'reasonable cause' and 'lawful excuse' for not attending the meeting," he said.

Earlier use

Through the particular provision, the Home Ministry made spitting in public a punishable offence in April last year. The guidelines issued by the Ministry under the DM Act, binding on the States, made "wearing of face masks in public places mandatory". On March 30, 2020, when thousands of migrants gathered at the Anand Vihar railway station in Delhi due to the sudden announcement of the countrywide lockdown, two Delhi government officers were suspended and two others were served show-cause notice by the Centre under the Act for dereliction of duty.

'China's population norms serve as warning for India

Need to focus on stabilisation: experts

JAGRITI CHANDRA

China's decision to relax its two-child norm and allow couples to have three children must serve as a warning for India that coercive population strategies can be counter-productive, experts.

After enforcing one-child and two-child policies to control its population over the past four decades, China on Monday announced that it will allow couples to have a third child as it stares at a fast ageing population. India, on the other hand, has been toying with the idea of population control measures through a two-child norm, which found a mention in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech two years

"India can learn from China's failed experience of enforcing coercive population policies. Population control measures, however stringent, have landed China in a population crisis and in India it will be worse," says Poonam Muttreja of the Population Foundation of India. "We will end up with the same issues of an ageing population and very few people to take care of them in another three decades. In Sikkim and Lakshadweep, we are already facing the same challenge of an ageing population, shrinking work-

force and an increase in sex



India has been toying with the idea of population control measures

selective practices given that they have low fertility

India has long been con-

cerned about curbing popu-

lation "explosion", but

needs to focus its attention on population stabilisation instead. "India has done very well with its family planning measures and now we are at replacement level fertility of 2.1, which is desirable. We don't need any coercive measures. But we need to sustain population stabilisation because in some States, including Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Karnataka, the total fertility rate is way below replacement level, which means we will experience in 30-40 years what China is experiencing now," says Niranjan Saggurti, Director, Population Council of India. Replacement level fertili-

ty is the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.



'2020-21 darkest economic year in 4 decades'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The financial year of 2020-21 has been the 'darkest' year of the economy in the past four decades and the Narendra Modi government should heed the advice of economists to avoid its repeat, the Congress said on Tuesday

Separately, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter, "PM's hall of shame – Minimum GDP. Maximum

Unemployment".

"The current state of the economy is no doubt largely due to the impact of the pandemic but it has been compounded by the ineptitude and incompetent economic management of the BJP-led NDA government," said former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram. He alleged that advice of economists had been rebuffed, world-wide experience ignored, suggestions on cash transfers and fiscal expansion were turned down and 'hollow packages" like Atmanirbhar fell flat. "We had pointed out

that what the economy needed was a strong dose of stimulus, including increased government expenditure, direct transfers of cash to the poor and liberal distribution of free rations. Our pleas fell on deaf ears, and the result is a negative growth of 7.3%," he added.

Mr. Chidambaram said many industry bodies, including the CII and FICCI, had pleaded for fiscal expansion, including cash transfers to the poor, and cited the RBI's monthly review flagging the 'demand and consequences.

exclusion from GoM

The group will discuss GST waiver on COVID-19 essentials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have questioned the Union government's decision not to include Finance Ministers from the Congress-ruled States in the Group of Ministers (GoM) formed to examine the issue of GST exemption to COVID-19 relief material.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma is the convener of this eight-member committee. The other members are Ministers from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Odisha, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot wrote on Twitter, "The Union Government has set up a GoM following the GST Council Meeting of May 28th, 2021. A deliberate

attempt has been made to keep the principal Opposition party, the Congress, that has three members in the GST Council out of the

'It's deliberate'

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the exclusion of the Congress was against the spirit of cooperative federalism. "Congressruled States are also part of the GST Council, so why have they been omitted out of this committee," he asked.

It was "deliberate" and to ensure that the Centre got to have its way, he alleged.

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal has been one of the first leaders to raise the necessity of holding a GST Council meeting to rationalise the tax on supplies needed for the pandemic. West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, too, had raised this issue. Both have not found space in the committee. The Ministers of the Congress-ruled States had recently proposed that for all goods needed to deal with COVID-19, the GST should be only 0.1%.

The GoM has to examine GST waiver for vaccines, medicines, medical-grade oxygen, pulse oximeters, test kits, hand sanitisers, oxygen therapy equipment, ventilators, and so on. It has to submit a report by June 8.

Congress CMs question SC stays order on oxygen concentrators

The Delhi HC had criticised the levy of IGST in case of imports for personal use

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed a Delhi High Court verdict that declared the levy of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on oxygen concentrators imported for personal use or as a gift as a violation of the fundamental right to life.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah issued a formal notice on an appeal filed by the Union Finance Ministry that the High Court encroached on policy by quashing the May 1 notification, which imposed a 12% IGST on concentrators imported for private use or as a

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal said the GST Council was scheduled to meet on the issue on June 8. "A decision has already been taken in the 43rd meeting of the GST Council on May 28 to constitute a Council of Ministers so that COVID-19 related items are exempted. The



Essential equipment: Health workers arranging oxygen concentrators at a COVID-19 facility in New Delhi. • PTI

High Court entered into the area of policy..." he submitted. He explained that the IGST earlier was 77%, which was brought down to 28% and again to 12%. The High Court decision ought to be stayed to provide a clear field for the council to take a decision on COVID-19-related equipment.

Unconstitutional: HC

In its decision, the High Court had classified oxygen

concentrators as life-saving devices during the pandemic. It said charging the IGST was unconstitutional.

It had called the citizens' struggle to get oxygen during the second wave as a "George Floyd moment" in a different context and setting. Desperate citizens were crying out "I cannot breathe" while being "chased and driven by the merciless novel coronavirus"

The Bench held that oxy-

gen concentrators should be treated on a par with life-saving drugs.

The High Court decision had come in a petition filed by a senior citizen, whose nephew had shipped him a concentrator as a gift. The court initially asked the government to consider temporarily dropping the 12% GST levied on such imports altogether, citing the shortage of oxygen in the second wave of the pandemic.

The Finance Ministry refused to comply, stating that if the petitioner's argument about Article 21 was accepted, "it will lead to absurd consequences and interpretations, wherein citizens will be seeking exemption from property tax, since housing is an essential facet of Right of Life ... or exemption from taxes imposed on several food items since Right to Food has been held by the Supreme Court to be a part of Right of Life under Article

Panel had warned MHA on Lakshadweep

Congress leader Anand Sharma urges the Home Minister to intervene

The MHA may take up mat-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary panel on Home Affairs, headed by Congress leader Anand Sharma, had warned the Union Home Ministry to ensure that any decision on the development of Lakshadweep is taken after consultations with all stakeholders and elected representatives.

Mr. Sharma said in his letter to the Home Minister that the Parliamentary Panel, in its report tabled in March this year, had pointed out that while the development of the islands was necessary, decision-making should follow a thorough process. The latest rules, framed

by the Lakshadweep administrator, Praful K. Patel, have put the island dwellers in a tizzy.

Among his many deci-

ters of structured planning and overall economic development with the UT administration, agencies concerned, member of Parliament of the UT and other elected representatives. This will also help in finding a way forward and amicable solution to the developmental problems of the UT

sions are banning the sale and consumption of beef and relaxing restrictions on

'The MHA may hold periodic meetings on development of Lakshadweep as it is a highly eco-sensitive region. The MHA may take up matters of structured planning and overall economic development with the UT administration, agencies conParliament of the UT and other elected representatives. This will also help in finding a way forward and amicable solution to the developmental problems of the UT," the standing committee had said in its report.

Mr. Sharma has urged the Home Minister to intervene. "The Ministry of Home Affairs may urgently appoint a panel of experts to examine all the developmental issues,

instead of leaving it entirely to the administration," he wrote.

'Violation of rights'

The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which gives unhindered power to the administrator to remove or relocate islanders from their property without their consent and without giving justification for the proposed activities, is another big point of contention. This is a violation, Mr. Sharma said, of "Right to Livelihood," a fundamental right.

"Large scale of acquisitions of land, in total disregard of the interest and demand of the people of the island, will adversely affect their livelihood, particularly of the fishing communities,"

NGT orders U.P. govt. to take action on illegal sand mining

Panel was hearing a plea pertaining to Hamirpur district

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal sand mining in Hamirpur district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Uttar Pradesh government to take remedial action for the same.

Taking note of an earlier order passed by the Tribunal, a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "...this application stands disposed of with a direction to the Chief Secretary, U.P., and District Magistrate Hamirpur, to look into the matter and take remedial action following due pro-

Earlier, in a similar mat-

The Environment for the State of U.P....may department may also develop an appropriate

mobile app for receiving and redressing the grievances

ter, the green panel had said, "The Environment department may also develop an appropriate mobile app for receiving and redressing the grievances against the sand mining, including connivance of the authorities, and also a mechanism to fix accountability of the officers concerned. Recommendations of the Oversight Committee

Superintending Engineer - I

be duly taken into account. "The mechanism must

provide for review at the level of the Chief Secretary at least once in every quarter, in a meeting with all departments concerned in the State. The Chief Secretary, U.P., may ensure further action in the light of the report of the Oversight Committee," the Bench said. The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by petitioner Suresh Kumar who alleged sand mining in a "submerged water area" in Hamirpur district in violation of existing laws and guidelines.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

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Tirunati, on or before 19-06-2021 by 3.00 n.m. IST. For further details contact

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MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, MESCOM Bhavana, Kavoor Cross Road,

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SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIF

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a period of 10 years on Boot basis.

(1) Director, S.V. Gosala: 9849050646 (2) PA to SE-I: 9704678512.

Swapan Dasgupta back in RS; shameful, says Trinamool

He was forced to resign ahead of the West Bengal election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A month after his resignation from the Rajya Sabha to contest the West Bengal poll on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket, Swapan Dasgupta was renominated to the House by President Ramnath Kovind to fill the seat that fell vacant after his resignation, for his remaining term till April 24 next year.

Mr. Dasgupta lost the Tarkeshwar seat to his Trinamool Congress rival, Ramendu Sinharay, by a margin of over 7,000 votes.

Mr. Dasgupta was forced to resign after the Trinamool Congress pointed out that he should be disqualified from the Upper House for contesting the election despite being a nominated member.

PEERZADA ASHIQ

The police on Tuesday filed a

chargesheet against Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP)

youth president Waheed

Parra, hours after Special

Rapporteurs of the United

An official said the char-

gesheet was filed in a case re-

lated to "his clandestine con-

nections with different

Pakistani terrorists and se-

Meanwhile, Special Rap-

porteurs of the United Na-

tions (UN) have sought a res-

ponse from the Centre on an

alleged series of human

cessionist organisations".

Nations raised his arrest.

The government is setting a bad precedent here by throwing all parliamentary norms out of the window

SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY Trinamool Congress

Trinamool's chief whip in the Rajya Sabha, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, told The Hindu, "I do not think it has ever happened in the history of the Rajya Sabha that a person who resigned just a month back is renominated by the President of India. The government is setting a bad precedent here by throwing all parliamentary

norms out of the window." Mr. Ray termed it a

and Kashmir, including the

arrest of Mr. Parra and two

ed "brutal torture in repri-

sal" for Mr. Parra's participa-

tion in a virtual meeting with

diplomats from the UN Se-

curity Council (UNSC). The

report claimed that he was

subject to abusive interroga-

tions after his arrest that last-

The report also highlight-

Police file chargesheet against Parra of PDP

Hours earlier, UN Special Rapporteurs had raised his arrest and 'torture'

shameful act. "He was sent to West Bengal, protected as a leader of the BJP. After losing the battle now, he is being rehabilitated by the backdoor. The BJP, it seems, does not have educated people to run the show, so they are holding on to the ones they have," he said, adding that it was an insult to the office of the President. "The nominated posts are to be occupied by persons of eminence. And now, the President is forced to nominate a person who fought on a BJP ticket just a month

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter, "I think this is the FIRST time since the Rajya Sabha came into being in 1952 that such a thing has happened."

ed from 10 to 12 hours at a

time. In the comments, Mr.

Parra reportedly "raised the

alarm about the Govern-

ment of India's actions in

J&K, its treatment of Muslim

minorities, and the recent

border tensions with China",

the letter said. "He was held

in a dark underground cell at

subzero temperature, was

deprived of sleep, kicked,

slapped, beaten with rods,

stripped naked and hung up-

Affairs (MEA) did not res-

pond to a request for

that Mr. Parra's arrest raised

The Ministry of External

The communiqué said

side down."

comment.

Rajnath speaks to Australian Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India remains fully committed to implementing a comprehensive strategic partnership with Australia and both sides look forward to convening a Ministerial 2+2 dialogue at the earliest opportunity, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday after a telephonic conversation with his Australian coun-

terpart Peter Dutton. Both Ministers reviewed the defence cooperation between the two countries in the backdrop of the current regional situation and they acknowledged the had momentum achieved following the upgrade of the partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020, a Defence Ministry state-

concerns as it came three

days after he filed his nomi-

nation for the District Deve-

lopment Council poll, indi-

cating the rapporteurs felt

the actions were politically

motivated. The report said

that after the UNSC meeting,

Mr. Parra received threats

The two other cases

raised by the UN body in-

cluded the alleged custodial

killing of 23-year-old shop-

keeper Irfan Ahmad Dar,

who was arrested on Sep-

tember 15, 2020, and the al-

leged disappearance of Na-

seer Ahmad Wani after an

Army raid on his house on

November 29, 2019.

from NIA officials.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-TENDER NOTICE

panchayaths - supplying, laying distribution system and providing FHTCs Construction of 7.5 LL, 5.5 LL and 6 LL OHSRs, supplying and laying CWPM supply and erection of RW and CW pumpset. EMD: ₹500000, Tender fee: ₹16800 Last Date for submitting Tender: 14.06.2021, 03:00pm. Phone: 0491-2544927

We b site: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.et enders.kerala.gov.inwww.etenders.kerala.gov.in Sd/ Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Palakkad



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Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id.: tncsc.tn@nic.in

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE No. QC2/035813/2020

Dated: 01.06.2021 Short Term E-Tender No.: TNCSC/21-22/ET/06 Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic tender for "THE SUPPLY OF 6,500 NOS. OF LOW DENSITY BLACK POLYETHYLENE COVERS HAVING THE SIZE OF 9.8 X 6.4 X 5.2 METERS WITH 250 MICRON THICKNESS."

uploaded through https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tncsc from 02.06.2021 to 14.06.2021.

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature ertificate (DSC) of Class-III.

For Registration and further details contact MSTC Limited

hone: 25222842/25251910/25261005 e-Mail: mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in

14.06.2021 up to 2.00 PM Last Date for Online Submission 14.06.2021 at 3.30 PM Short Term E-Tender Opening Date & Time



Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes, Division-2, Room No.309, 3rd Floor, New Building, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No.FF-2(Lakes)/TN-05/2021-22 SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer-2, Lakes Division Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the projects detailed in the

·uo.	0.50.0	
SI. No.	Name of the Project	Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Providing DPR Services for Development and Improvements to Thavarekere Lake (Call-2).	510.00
2.	Providing DPR Services for Development and Improvements to Arehalli Lake in Sy. No. 27 and 28 (Call-2).	689.50

Tenders must be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit Declaration form as specified in the Tender Documents as per G.O. No: FD 675 Expenditure-12/2020 Dated: 22-12-2020

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Pre bid meeting at the Office Chief Engineer (Lakes) on 07-06-2021 at 3:00 p.m. (2) Last Date for Submission of Proposals is 11-06-2021, 4:00 p.m. (3) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 14-06-2021, 11:00 a.m (4) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through e-Procurement. Further particulars can be obtained from the above Office during working hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Lakes-Division-2, BBMP. HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410 Follow Physical Distancing



Tender No.

/IND755/CALL-2

interested

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Office of Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept, 1st Floor, E Block, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan Bangalore - 560 009. Tel. 080-22533700 Fax.: 22240509 Email: cerws14@gmail.com

No.RDP/RDW&SD/25/Tech/AE-10/2020-21/302 Dated:01-06-202 **TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)**

Tender No.RDP/RDW&SD/25/Tech/AE-10/2020-21 Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. o Karnataka invites a tenders from eligible firms/agencies in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) through e-procurement for "Hiring of reputed Firm/Organization for Project Management Unit services for implementation of various Drinking Water Supply Projects under Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department".

The last date for submission of bids through e-procurement is 03-07-2021 before 5:30 PM. Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 17-06-2021 at 11:00 AM. The Amount put to tender is f 8.45 Crores (Exclusive of GST) and EMD Amount of tender is Rs. 10,00,000/- For further details please visit website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact 080-22533700 during Sd/-

Chief Engineer, **Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department** Bengaluru.

Maintair

A ND-NDE



rights violations in Jammu



security to Poonawalla

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday suggested that the Maharashtra government do a rethink on security for the CFO of vaccine manufacturer Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla, saying, "He is playing a very substantial role." A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and Abhay Ahuja was hearing a petition filed by advocate Datta Mane seeking Z plus security for Mr. Poonawalla as he is allegedly being threatened by States and businessmen to supply the COVID-19 vaccine, Covishield. The petition also sought a direction from the court to register an FIR against those threatening Mr. Poonawalla.

Odisha hospital accused of neglecting patients

BHUBANESWAR Disturbing photographs of patients, including a woman, lying naked on the floor of a washroom and beds in a COVID-19 hospital in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha have been shared on social media. A delegation of citizens under the banner of 'Ame Mayurbhanjia' met Mayurbhanj Collector Vineet Bhardwaj and apprised him of the situation. "We got to know that the condition of patients was extremely distressing in the hospital. There was no one to give care to them," said Bibek Patnaik of the group. Mr. Bhardwai visited the hospital and said the charge of neglect of patients was not true.

BJP MLA booked for flouting norms

A BJP MLA from Maharashtra has been booked along with 60 others for violating COVID-19 norms after a video clip of him celebrating and dancing at his daughter's pre-wedding function surfaced online. A case was registered against Mahesh Landge, a two-time MLA from Bhosari in Pune's Pimpri-Chinchwad area, on Monday night. The police said all physical distancing and safety

Railways sets a record in freight loading for May

The Railways on Tuesday said it loaded the highest ever freight of 114.8 million tonnes for the month of May. The loading stood at 114.8 million tonnes, 9.7% higher than 104.6 million tonnes in May 2019, "Despite the COVID challenges, freight figures continue to maintain the high momentum in terms of earnings and loading in May. On mission mode, the Railways' freight made the highest-ever loading for May," said a statement by the Ministry of Railways. It also said that a total of 22.916 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen have been delivered to States so far.

NCPCR tracks data on orphans

9,346 children have either lost a parent or been abandoned during pandemic

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

Bal Swaraj, an online tracking portal of a national child rights body, shows details of nearly 10,000 children in the country in immediate need of care and protection. They include children aged between zero and 17 orphaned or abandoned during the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) informed the Supreme Court that these children ran a high risk of being pushed into trafficking and flesh trade. It said it had received several complaints of government authorities illegally transferring details of children to private entities and NGOs.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose is *suo motu* examining ways to protect children who have suffered personal loss and trauma due to the pandemic.

"The cataclysmic CO-VID-19 pandemic devastated the vulnerable sections of society... there are a number



Harsh truth: Many children are facing personal loss and trauma due to the impact of COVID-19. •BISWARANAJAN ROUT

of children who have become orphans due to the demise of either the breadwinner of the family or of both their parents," the court's amicus curiae, advocate Gaurav Agrawal, said.

Immediate care

On May 28, the Bench directed the Centre to state welfare measures for the children orphaned by the pandemic. The NCPCR, represented by advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi, and the States were asked to compile data identifying children in need of immediate care. District authorities were asked to immediately cater to the basic needs of food, shelter and clothes to orphaned and abandoned children. "The district authorities are directed to upload the information of children who have become orphans after March, 2020 on the portal "Bal Swaraj" before tomorrow evening [May 29]," the Bench had ordered.

Bal Swaraj records the details of 9,346 children who are in need of care and protection as of May 29. Of this, children who have lost either parent are 7,464, those orphaned and abandoned are 1,742 and 140 respectively. The portal shows that children aged between eight and 13 form the highest age bracket who are in dire need of help. There are 3,711 of them.

The NCPCR affidavit also provided Statewise data on the total number of children orphaned, abandoned or having lost a parent since March 2020 when the pandemic first hit the country. Interestingly, West Bengal authorities have provided the details of only one child while Delhi has listed only five children on the NCPCR portal as of May 29.

District authorities of Uttar Pradesh have listed 2,110 children orphaned, abandoned or lost a parent. Tamil Nadu lists 159 children, Kerala 952, Bihar 1,327, Maharashtra 796, Karnataka 36, Andhra 116, Haryana 776, Jammu and Kashmir 375 and Gujarat 434, among other States as of May 29.

The NCPCR said the uploading of data on the Bal Swaraj portal was an ongo-

Govt. nod to resume supply of oxygen for industrial use

Home Ministry says needs of hospitals must also be met

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The government has temporarily permitted the resumption of oxygen supply for industrial use by several sectors, including firms producing oxygen cylinders, copper, aluminium, steel as well as exporters and food processing units.

Infrastructure projects and micro, small and medium enterprises have also been allowed to use liquid oxygen.

In April, as the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic surged, the Centre had invoked the Disaster Management Act to limit oxygen supplies for industrial use, and subsequently strengthened the curbs by directing all oxygen stocks to be diverted for medical purposes.

On Monday, the Home Ministry informed the Commerce and Industry Ministry that it may allow usage of liquid oxygen to specified industries 'on temporary basis



Small reprieve: Infrastructure projects and MSMEs have been allowed to use liquid oxygen on a temporary basis. • FILE РНОТО

subject to ensuring adequate supply of liquid medical oxygen to hospitals and other medical purposes as per demands of States and Union Territories'.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had urged the Home Ministry to consider resuming oxygen supplies for micro, small and medium enterprises, infrastructure projects, exporters, food processing units, as well as continuous pro-

cess industries such as furnaces, refineries, steel, aluminium, copper processing plants, etc. that require continuous power supply.

Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has approved the proposal, and asked the DPIIT to also ensure that adequate supply is available for the defence forces and industries such as ampules and vials, pharmaceuticals, oxygen cylinders, PSA oxygen plants and neutral glass

High count | Despite average daily COVID-19 deaths reducing in India, it continues to record the highest daily fatalities in the world The chart shows the average daily deaths on May 31 in the five 3,500 3,000 2,500 2.000 1,500 1,000

1.29 lakh new cases and 3,163 deaths registered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India recorded 1,29,436 new COVID-19 cases and 3,163 new deaths till 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The country has so far reported a total of 2,83,03,271 cases and 3,35,073 deaths.

Tamil Nadu reported 26.513 new intections, tollowed by Kerala (19,760) and Karnataka (14,304). Maharashtra recorded 854 new casualties on the day, followed by Tamil Nadu (490) and Karnataka (464). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous reports.

The figures do not include cases and deaths from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Ladakh. The data are sourced from the respective States' health bulletins.

Around 19.25 lakh samples were tested in the country on Monday (the results for which were made available on Tuesday), which is 2.42 lakh more tests than those conducted on Sunday. However, it is 1.33 lakh less tests than those conducted on the previous Monday (May 24).

India's average daily test positivity rate (positive cases identified for every 100 tests) continues to decline. It was 8.6% on May 31 compared to 12% recorded a week before.

About 27.8 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Tuesday, which is 17.62 lakh doses more than what was recorded in the previous 24 hours and 2.93 lakh more doses than what was recorded during the same period a

Over one in three new cases recorded around the

Vaccination rate is key to lifting lockdowns: ICMR

Immunisation of over 70% of vulnerable population a must

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Unlocking of the country has to be done patiently and guided by the number of vaccinations done for the vulnerable population, Balram Bhargava, Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said at the Health Ministry press conference on Tuesday. Currently, India has just managed to suppress the second wave but it can resurface at any time, he added.

"To open up, areas have to clock a less than 5% positivity rate for a week and also over 70% of the vulnerable population should be vaccinated. There is no shortage of vaccination in India, and we are among the select few countries in the world which are manufacturing vaccines. India will quicken its vaccination rate in June and by July-August, we will be in a position to offer one crore doses in a day. The aim is to have the population vaccinated by December," Dr. Bhargava said.

Aayog member (health) V.K. Paul said the government was re-looking at COVID-19 in children and new facts had emerged about post-COVID infection, including multi-system inflammatory disorder of children.

"We will be issuing a re-



Inoculation drive: The Centre has said that all adults in India will be vaccinated by the end of the year. • VIJAY SONEJI

vised guideline to manage paediatric COVID and any post COVID complications. The infrastructure is also being geared up to ensure that we are able to cater to the requirements of children if that scenario arises," he said. Dr. Paul added that currently there was no change in COVID vaccination doses and there is no proposal to provide a single dose to people.

Faster insurance process Meanwhile, the Central government on Tuesday announced a new system of processing the insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) Insurance

Scheme for Health Workers Fighting COVID-19'. "Claims will be certified by the District Collector and after ap proval claims are to be settled in 48 hours," said a release issued by the Health Ministry

The Ministry said the States and other stakeholders had been raising the matter that the processing of the insurance claims was getting delayed. This latest order is aimed at cutting down delays and further streamline and simplify the processing of the insurance claims.

This new measure comes after the extension of the scheme for one year from

'No dramatic rise seen in cases among minors'

It is part of overall surge: Maharashtra

STAFF REPORTER

Maharashtra's Public Health Department on Tuesday said the State has not seen a dramatic rise in the number of child COVID-19 patients. It said that the percentage of minors losing life to the disease was 0.07% till May

According to the health department data on minors from November 2020 to April 2021, the percentage of those infected in the age group of 0-5 years was 1.3%, that of 6-11 years was 2.4%, and 12 to 17 years was 4.1%, with the total being 7.8%.

According to officials from the Health Department, the percentage has remained in this range for all months. "The increase in absolute numbers is due to the increase in the total number of infections from all age groups," the official

Commenting on the reports of the increase in number of infections among minors in Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra, the department said in March 2021, the total number of COVID-19 patients in the district was 18,669, out of which minors were 1,631 (8.74%). In April 2021, the total number of patients were 77,344, out of which minors were 7,607 (9.83%), and in May 2021, out of a total of 80,785 patients, the minors were 9,416 (11.65%).



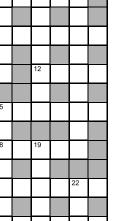
A swab sample being taken from a boy for COVID-19

As per the data, the percentage of minors getting infected by COVID-19 in November 2020 was 6.9% of the total infections. In December 2020 and January 2021, it was 6.3% and 6%, respectively. In February, March and April of 2021, the percentage was 7.26%, 6.78% and 8.38%, respectively.

Additional Chief Secretary (Public Health), Dr. Pradeep Vyas, said the State government has already formed a task force of paediatricians. "The State government is working at improving infrastructure at the hospital level and setting up the required machinery to combat the possible outbreak of the virus among minors," he said.

Ahmednagar District Collector Rajendra Bhosale said the district was adequately prepared to tackle a possible "third wave" of the pan-

TH CROSSWORD+ 13263 Never go off the grid. We are digital now. Come solve online.



ACROSS

- 1 Church architect's advanced instrument (6)
- 4 Crazy sailor's taking boat on road (6) 8 Group of people of some obscure origins have base in large town... (7)
- **9** ... chasing King's lost drawing (7) 11 Idea from one in local office's killed regularly (10)
- 12 Less number of fouls, initially pitched by pitcher (4) 13 Sugar container emptied daily (5)

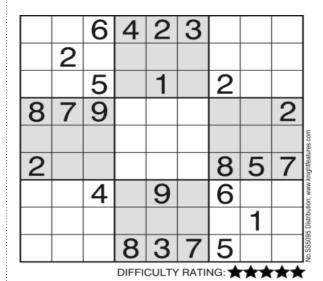
- 14 He rigs networks to support Hawaii's skyscraper (4-4)
- 18 Where one may find a movie director somewhere on the big picture?

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

- 20 Last bit of frizzle airbrushed from photograph of braid (4) 21 Only men can get this notice at a Mississippi tech company (5,5)
- 23 Wise, mostly courteous, and nice at heart (7)
- 24 A new team's entry often causes worry (7)
- 25 This' required to obtain college degrees, ultimately? (6)
- 26 Window's old top requires replacement (6)

- 1 Lover without love ever without heart (5)
- 2 Ignoring sound eastern law, leader lost foresight (7)
- 3 Pet at Macy's running with tip of leash causing disaster (9) 5 Management sounded unenthusiastic (5)
- **6** Cloudy nuclear explosion (7)
- 7 Utensils to mostly tenderise ingredients hung around head of nail (6,3)
- 10 Perform extemporaneously, express displeasure and walk (5-4) 13 Fire set to a lab on freight carrier (5.4)
- 15 Rapid slides on islands go sliding (9)
- 17 Not oddly, robust oldie vies to survive (7)
- 19 False argument demonstrated by Glossop & his minions (7) 21 It could bail one out? (5)
- 22 Change will finally come up after some time (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13262 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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FAITH

Devoted disciple

Kooratazhvan, a devoted disciple of Ramanujacharya, was blinded by a fanatic king. Ramanuja was anxious that his sishya regain his sight. So he asked him to pray to Lord Varadaraja of Kanchipuram. He could have asked Kooratazhvan to worship in any Vishnu temple. Why specifically this temple? The reason was Alavandar, who identified Ramanuja as his successor, had composed a sloka in praise of Varadaraja, wherein he praises the Lord's capacity to give sight to the sightless, the ability to walk to those who cannot walk, ability to hear to those who cannot, eloquence to one who cannot speak, and progeny to the childless. That is why Ramanuja asked Kooratazhvan to seek Lord Varadaraja's blessings, said P.B. Rajahamsam in a discourse.

Alavandar's sloka is unique, because it is the earliest sloka by any Vaishnavite Acharya. There is a sloka of Nathamuni, which has come down to us. It is a sloka that compares Nammazhvar to the Sun. But this sloka does not point to any particular deity. The earliest sloka, which specifically refers to the deity of a temple, is Alavanadar's sloka in praise of Lord Varadaraja of Kanchipuram. While all the Azhvars have praised deities of different temples, the very first sloka in praise of an archa form of the Lord by a Vaishnavite Acharya is that of Alavandar.

However, while Kooratazhvan did indeed eulogise Lord Varadaraja, through his Varadaraja stavam, he did not ask for restoration of his eyesight. The Lord makes it possible for him to see Him. All that Kooratazhvan wants is for the Lord to make it possible for him to see the Lord and his Acharya – Ramanuja. So long as this is granted to him, he does not care about seeing anything else in this world. Such a great devotee and sishya was Kooratazhvan.

Europe demands explanation after U.S.-Danish spying claims

Macron, Merkel seek explanations from both Washington and Copenhagen

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

France, Germany and other European countries demanded answers on Monday following reports the U.S. spied on its allies using Danish underwater cables, as questions mounted over whether Denmark knew about the operation.

In an investigative report on Sunday, Danish public broadcaster Danmarks Radio (DR) and other European media outlets said the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) had eavesdropped on Danish underwater Internet cables from 2012 to 2014 to spy on top politicians in France, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

The NSA got access to text messages, telephone calls and Internet traffic, including searches, chats and mes-



saging services - including those of Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, DR said.

French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday they expected explanations from both Washington and Copenhagen. "This is not acceptable between allies, and even less between allies and European partners," said Mr. Macron after the two leaders talked via video conference.

picion," said Mr. Macron, as he stressed the value of the ties between Europeans and Americans.

That is why what we are waiting for complete clarity," from both Denmark and the U.S., he added. "We are awaiting these answers."

Ms. Merkel said she "could only agree" with Mr. Macron's comments, adding she was "reassured" by Danish Defence Minister Trine Bramsen's condemnation of any such spying.

Ms. Bramsen, who took over the defence portfolio in June 2019, has neither confirmed nor denied DR's report, but told AFP that "systematic eavesdropping of close allies is unacceptable".

Denmark's neighbours also demanded explanations. "It's unacceptable if countries which have close allied cooperation feel the need to spy on one another," Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg told public broadcaster NRK. She said Norway had asked Denmark "for all the information they have".

Swedish Defence Minister

Peter Hultqvist said he had been "in contact with Denmark's Defence Minister to ask if Danish platforms have been used to spy on Swedish

China jails blogger for Galwan comments

Qiu questioned govt.'s account of last year's clash

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Chinese authorities have sentenced a once popular blogger to eight months in prison "for defaming martyrs" over his comments questioning the government's account of last year's clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers in the Galwan Valley.

Qiu Ziming "received a jail term of eight months for defaming martyrs on Monday", the Communist Partyrun Global Times reported, adding that this was "China's first such reported case since a new amendment was attached to the Criminal Law" that introduced penalties for "insulting" or "slandering" national heroes or martyrs.

The court said the sentence was "lighter" than the maximum possible threeyear sentence because he "confessed to his



Fatal conflict: Indian and Chinese soldiers facing off in the Galwan Valley last year. • AP

crime". Mr. Qiu was among at least half a dozen people known to have been detained for comments questioning the government over the June 15, 2020 clash in the Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian soldiers lost their

At least four Chinese soldiers died in the clash, with China announcing military honours for them – its only confirmation so far of casualties - eights months after the clash took place.

Mr. Qiu, 38, an investigative journalist formerly with The Economic Observer, was arrested in Nanjing in February after posting messages to his 2.5 million followers on Weibo, the Twitter-equivalent used in China.

'Higher death toll'

He suggested that China's fatalities would have been higher than four because as per the official account, some of the soldiers died coming to the aid of troops in difficulty, who, in his view, would have suffered losses as well.

He also questioned why

the announcement took eight months, while India had, in contrast, promptly recognised the 20 Indian soldiers who died. India's prompt announcement, he wrote, suggested that "in India's view they won and paid a lesser price".

The police in Nanjing had said he was arrested for "releasing false information and smearing the four heroes who died and one who was wounded when dealing with the Indian military's illegal trespassing".

Last week, Wang Jinyu, 19, a resident of Chongqing who is also a U.S. permanent resident and is wanted by China for similarly commenting on the Galwan clash, was freed after being detained in Dubai, the Associated Press reported.

Asked about his detention in Dubai, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday that "competent Chinese authorities are investigating and handling the case in accor-

ELSEWHERE



U.S. to hand over Bagram base in 20 days: officials

The U.S. military will hand over its main Bagram Air Base to Afghan forces in about 20 days, an official said. The vast base, built by the Soviets in the 1980s, is the biggest military facility used by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, with tens of thousands of troops stationed there during the peak of U.S. involvement in the country. AFP

Malaysia scrambles jets to intercept Chinese planes

Malavsia scrambled iets to intercept 16 Chinese military aircraft off the country's coast in the South China Sea, a rare incident that the Foreign Minister angrily denounced on Tuesday as an "intrusion". It took place on Monday off the Malaysian part of Borneo island over the fiercely contested waters, where China and Malaysia have overlapping territorial claims. AFP

Sri Lanka cargo vessel fire extinguished after two weeks

Island nation facing 'worst beach pollution in history'

MEERA SRINIVASAN COLOMBO

The fire aboard a Singaporeregistered cargo ship off Colombo was finally extinguished after about two weeks following a concerted international operation, the Sri Lankan Navy said on Tuesday. "Experts from the [Dutch]

salvage company SMIT boarded the vessel [MV X-Press Pearl] and said the engine rooms are flooded. Our divers are yet to obtain clearance to check if there is any leak. The Indian Coast Guard vessels are also still here, assisting us," Captain Indika De Silva told The Hin-

Flames broke out aboard the vessel on May 20, and spread rapidly after an onboard explosion on May 25, leading to what Sri Lanka's environmentalists fear could be the country's worst environmental disaster.



The charred remains of the vessel. • Special ARRANGEMENT

The vessel, which left the Hazira port in Gujarat on May 15, was headed to Singapore via Colombo, carrying 25 tonnes of nitric acid, other chemicals and 28 containers of plastic raw material. Much of the cargo reportedly fell into the sea, while tonnes of plastic pellets were found deposited along Sri Lanka's coastline, prompting authorities to restrict access to the sea and impose a

fishing ban. Sri Lanka's Marine Protection Authority chairperson Dharshani Lahandapura said: "This is probably the worst beach pollution in our history."

Many social media users shared photographs of plastic pellet heaps and dead fishes along the country's southern beaches.

Statement recorded

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan investigators questioned the crew of the cargo ship, even as the vessel smouldered for over 12 days.

The Criminal Investigation Department recorded a statement from the captain for 14 hours on Monday, Colombo-based The Morning newspaper reported.

The Colombo Magistrate's Court issued an order preventing the captain, chief engineer, and the deputy chief engineer of the vessel from leaving the country.

China reports human case of bird flu strain

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

China reported the world's first human infection of the H10N3 bird flu strain on Tuesday but said the risk of it spreading widely among people was low.

A 41-year-old man was admitted to hospital with fever symptoms in Zhenjiang on April 28 and was diagnosed with H10N3 a month later, the National Health Commission (NHC) said in a statement.

"The risk of large-scale spread is extremely low," the NHC said, adding that the man was in a stable condition. It described H10N3 as

low pathogenic – less likely to cause death or severe illin transparent. ness - in birds. Several strains of bird flu have been found among animals in China but mass outbreaks in humans are rare. The last human epidemic of bird flu in China occurred in late 2016 to 2017 with the H7N9 virus.

address paedophilia by priests This is the most comprehensive revision since 1983 pontiff has striven to tackle grooms or induces a minor

Pope updates canon law to

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis updated the Catholic Church's criminal code on Tuesday by adding details on punishing sexual abuse crimes of minors by priests, measures long sought by activists against paedophilia.

Revision of the penal sanctions within the Code of Canon Law followed a yearslong process involving input from canonist and criminal law experts and came after repeated complaints by victims of sexual abuse and others that the code's previous wording was outdated and

The purpose of the revision, the most comprehensive since 1983, is "restoration of justice, the reform of the offender, and the repair of scandal" wrote Pope Francis in introducing the changes. Since becoming pope in 2013, the Argentine

the decades-long sexual abuse scandals involving Catholic priests around the globe, although many activists against paedophilia insist much more needs to be done. He convened an unprecedented summit on clerical sex abuse in 2019 while lifting secrecy rules that hindered investigations of abusing priests, among other measures.

The new code falls short of explicitly spelling out sexual offences against minors yet refers to offences against the sixth commandment, which prohibits adultery.

Under the new heading of "Offenses against human life, dignity and liberty", the code specifies that a priest is to be stripped of his office and punished "with other just penalties" if he commits offences against the sixth commandment with a minor. Similarly, a priest who

"to expose himself or herself pornographically or to take part in pornographic exhibitions" will be similarly punished.

One aim of the revision, wrote Pope Francis, was to reduce the number of penalties left to the discretion of judges, especially in the most serious cases.

"The new text introduces various modifications to the law in force and sanctions some new criminal offences, which respond to the increasingly widespread need in the various communities to see justice and order reestablished that the crime has shattered," he wrote.

Other technical improvements related to "the right of defence, the statute of limitations for criminal action, a more precise determination of penalties", he added. The changes will take effect in December.

WHO gives nod to China's Sinovac jab

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The World Health Organization on Tuesday approved the Sinovac COvaccine for VID-19 emergency use - the second Chinese vaccine to receive the WHO's green light.

The UN health agency signed off on the two-dose vaccine, which is already being deployed in several countries around the world. "WHO today validated the Sinovac-Corona-Vac vaccine for emergency use," it said in a statement.

The move gives countries, funders, procuring agencies and communities "assurance that it meets international standards for safety, efficacy and manufacturing". Last month Sinopharm became the first Chinese vaccine to be approved by the WHO.

The WHO has also given emergency use listing to vaccines being made by Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and the AstraZeneca jab being produced in India, South Korea and the EU, which it counts separately.

The listing paves the way for countries to quickly approve and import a vaccine for distribution, especially those states without an international-standard regulator of their own. It also opens the door for the jabs to enter the Covax scheme, which aims to provide equitable access to doses around the world, particularly in poorer countries.



'Europe should speak in one voice'

Pro-China 17+1 grouping has not proved beneficial, says Lithuanian Ambassador

SUHASINI HAIDAR

In May, Lithuania announced it would pull out of the China and Central & Eastern European (CEE) 17+1 mechanism, which is seen as a pro-China grouping of countries within the EU. Denying that the decision came because of U.S. pressure, Lithuania's Ambassador to India Julius Pranevicius spoke about the growing tensions between the European Union and China over a number of issues, including sanctions and trade negotiations:

The Lithuanian Foreign Minister has announced that Lithuania is pulling out of what is called the '17 plus one' grouping of Central and **Eastern European countries** with China. What was the

main trigger for this? ■ We began this format [grouping with China], this kind of cooperation, nine years ago, but we discovered that the whole thing is not so beneficial, and so we started to gradually withdraw from that format. And, indeed, last month our Minister officially announced that Lithuania no longer considers itself a '17 plus one' format member and will not partici-

pate in this initiative. I would also say that we had expected that our trade would benefit a lot, that our exports would grow as a result of this grouping, and we didn't see it happening. But the main reason is our membership at the European Un-



ion. We want Europe to speak in one strong voice, and in that sense the '17 plus one' format became a divisive forum. We would prefer to keep the dialogue as 27 members plus one, meaning that the entire European Union will engage as one with China on all aspects.

Tensions between China and Lithuania have been building up over a number of issues: Lithuania's new ties with Taiwan, its Parliament's resolution on Uighurs, and then Chinese sanctions on Lithuanian and EU politicians, which led to the EU putting the **Comprehensive Agreement**

on Investment on hold.

■ Well, we decided to set up a trade office in Taipei, which is part of our broader reach out to Asia, and to be more active and to be more present in different parts of this continent. This is not so unusual - around 15 European countries, and I think about 60 countries all have the trade missions in Tai-



wan. This move was driven by our trade and economic needs, as well as our decision to broaden resources in Asia, and we are also establishing new embassies in South Korea and Singapore. This should not reflect on

had a resolution on the situation in Xinjiang (calling for UN enquiry into treatment of Uighurs), but that is their decision, they are keen to observe what is happening in different parts of the world.

China's presence in this area

our bilateral relations with On the sanctions, it was China that decided to impose entry bans and sanctions against some European politicians and academics, and that has had an impact on EU-China relations. Yes, the Lithuanian Parliament

What is Lithuania's stand on

the Belt and Road Initiative,

other European countries more recently, like Montenegro, over the debt incurred?

■ In our case, the investments from China are not very large, and China ranks 40th among all the countries in the world on FDI in Lith-

uania. We also have a well-functioning system of screening of all the foreign direct investment that was introduced in 2002, and a special commission that checks them. We don't have any issues that would makes us fear China's presence in this area, as you said with the examples of some other

India is now back in negotiations with the EU on a free trade agreement, just as the EU put a hold on its **Comprehensive Agreement** on Investment (CAI) with China. Have Lithuanian tensions with China come up in bilateral discussions in New Delhi?

countries.

■ We very much welcome the decisions of the most recent summit for European leaders and Prime Minister Modi and the decision to launch the discussion on trade agreements. In terms of our bilateral cooperation, we haven't discussed our stance on the '17 plus one' format with Indian counterparts recently, but when we do have ministerial meetings, we will discuss what is happening more broadly in the world, as we always do.





DIPR/DDU/R.O:452/2021-22

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking) #49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. . Phone No. 080-22265383 website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-06/2037/2021-22

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the work of Implementing 2MLD Karanja Water Supply Scheme Including Water Supply Pipeline (Raising Main), Construction of Valve Chambers from City Municipal Corporation to Kolhar Industrial Area, Bidar District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is: 17.06.2021 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

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

Chief Engineer-2, KIADB Bengaluru

OIPR-10112/11/0018/2122

Date: 01.06.2021

MARKET WATCH

	01-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,935	0.00
US Dollar	72.90	-0.39
Gold	48,892	0.58
Pront oil	70.00	2.00

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANG
Adani Ports	798.20	28.6
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank	745.15	5.5
Baiai Auto	4238.95	46.1
Bajaj Finserv	11829.90	23.6
Bajaj Finance		
Bharti Airtel		
BPCL		
Britannia Ind	3446.75.	-1.1
Cipla	946.45	-2.9
Coal India		
Divis Lab		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
Indian OilCorp		
ITC		
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank	1797.00	10.7
L&T	1474.65	6.9
M&M		
Maruti Suzuki		
Nestle India Ltd	17758.50.	62.9
NTPC	110.20	0.3
ONGC		
PowerGrid Corp	224.40	-1.2
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life	966.30	-9.3
State Bank		
Shree Cement	27623.15	45.1
Sun Pharma	671.05	2.7
Tata Consumer	r	
Products Ltd.	665.80	1.9
Tata Motors	318.10	-0.6
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra	1030 50	8.8

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 01				
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL		
US Dollar	72.70	73.02		
Euro	88.84	89.23		
British Pound	103.06	103 55		

.. 6601.35... -106.65

CURRENCY	I I ROA	I I SELL
US Dollar	72.70	73.02
Euro	88.84	89.23
British Pound	.103.06	103.55
Japanese Yen (100).	66.32	66.61
Chinese Yuan	11.39	11.44
Swiss Franc	80.80	81.20
Singapore Dollar	54.96	55.21
Canadian Dollar	60.37	60.66
Malaysian Ringitt	17.61	17.70
Source:Indian Bank		



ALL to operate only for 5-10 days in June

Ashok Leyland Ltd. said its plants will be operational in the month of June only for five to 10 days due to the pandemic-induced lockdown. The company had earlier announced the closure of its plants during May, "The plants are still not fully operational due to the lockdown in the States where our plants are located," the commercial vehicles manufacturer said.

Yamaha cuts prices of two FZ-25 bikes CHENNAL

Yamaha Motor India has announced a revision in the ex-showroom prices of two bikes in the FZ-25 series. "Our team has managed to bring down the input costs for the FZ-25 series and would like to pass on the benefit to customers," Yamaha Motor India said in a statement. The revised prices are ₹1,34,800 (exshowroom, Delhi) for FZ-25 and ₹1,39,300 for FZS-25.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ITC Ltd. on Tuesday report-

ed a consolidated net profit

of ₹3,816.84 crore for the

fourth quarter ended March

2021. The cigarette-FMCG-

to-hotel major had posted a

net profit of ₹3,926.46 crore

during the January-March

quarter of the previous fis-

Revenue from operations

was at ₹15,404.37 crore dur-

ing the quarter under review. This was ₹12,560.64

crore in the corresponding

results for the latest quarter

were not comparable with

Meanwhile, ITC said the

period of 2019-20.

cal, ITC said in a filing.

ITC posts consolidated

Q4 net profit of ₹3,817 cr.

Revenue from operations at₹15,404 cr.

Moody's cuts GDP forecast

Agency sees economy expanding by 9.3% in FY22 versus earlier estimate of 13.7%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service cut its 2021-22 India GDP growth forecast to 9.3%, from 13.7% earlier, while noting that longer-term risks to the economy would increase if the second COVID-19 wave lasted beyond June and the vaccination roll-out remained a challenge.

"At this stage, we expect an outright decline in economic activity to be limited to the April-June quarter, followed by a rebound in the second half of the year," the ratings agency said on the impact of the second wave.

Following the 7.3% contraction in GDP last year, the second wave would push a recovery to the country's pre-pandemic level out even further, Moody's said, with a

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

India's manufacturing sec-

tor recorded the weakest

performance in 10 months

in May, with job losses accel-

erating as order books

shrank, according to the IHS

Markit Purchasing Manag-

ers' Index (PMI) which slid

from 55.5 in April to 50.8 in

May. A reading of 50 indi-

ing sector is showing in-

creasing signs of strain as

the COVID-19 crisis intensi-

fies," said Pollyanna De Li-

ma, Economics associate di-

rector at IHS Markit, adding

that all indices were down

from April, including key

gauges of current sales, pro-

duction and input buying.

"The Indian manufactur-

cates no change.

NEW DELHI

Manufacturing PMI slides

in May, job losses quicken

'Index at 50.8, nears stagnation'



Growth shackles: Moody's expects decline in economic activity to be limited to April-June. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

'catch up' unlikely till the end of 2021. In 2022-23, the agency now expects growth of 7.9% compared with its earlier expectation of 6.2%.

"The government's ability to limit the spread of the virus and materially increase the rate of vaccinations will have a direct impact on...

"Amid a lack of new

work, goods producers re-

duced headcounts again,

with the rate of job shedding

tive sentiment dipped to a

The overall level of posi-

This subdued optimism,

Ms De Lima warned, could

hamper business invest-

ment and cause further job

losses, going forward.

quickening," she said.

10-month low.

both health and economic outcomes," Moody's noted. Moody's warned of more

scarring if the second wave "caused a permanent loss of jobs and business closures", resulting in a fundamentally weaker growth dynamic.

"We do not expect a sustained recovery in private investment until domestic economic conditions strengthen and the health of the financial sector improves."

While Moody's did not expect the government to enhance spending much from its Budget plans, revenue shortfalls and diversion of more funds to countering the pandemic would push the general government fiscal deficit to 11.8% of GDP this year instead of 10.8% projected earlier. The combined impact of slower growth and a wider deficit would drive the general government debt burden to 90% of GDP in FY22.

Citing structural constraints and the limited effectiveness of reforms, Moody's said it expects India's real growth rate to average about 6% over the medium term.

NBFCs, HFCs feeling heat of second wave: ICRA

'Loan overdues are set to increase'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Collections of non-banking companies (NBFCs) have been adversely impacted due to widespread and more stringent lockdowns in May 2021, rating agency ICRA said.

'With 25-30% of collection through field operations, loan overdues are set to increase as regular collections and recoveries from overdues were impacted by the more extensive and stringent lockdowns implemented by various states during May 2021," the rating agency said.

However, housing finance companies (HFCs), with a lower share of field collections, had been less



impacted than the NBFCs, ICRA said.

Stating that NBFCs and HFCs felt the stress of the second wave COVID-19 lockdowns and movement restrictions, ICRA said the budding recovery in loan collections witnessed in the third and fourth quarters of FY21 had been stemmed.

SBI pares FY22 **GDP** forecast to 7.9%, from 10.4% earlier

VIKAS DHOOT

State Bank of India has slashed its GDP growth projection for this fiscal to 7.9%, from 10.4%, and said India's economic recovery will now be 'W-shaped' instead of the 'V-shaped recovery' anticipated earlier.

While the bank's researchers said there could be an upward bias to its projections, linked to the 'fervent hope of one crore vaccinations per day beginning mid-July as per government projections', they expect a 'disproportionately larger impact' on the economy from the second COVID-19 wave, especially since rural India is not as resilient as its urban counterpart. "Pick-up in pent-up demand is unlikely to make a large difference in FY22 GDP estimates, and hence it could only be a modest pick-up." the group's chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti Ghosh said in a report.

"For [FY22], GDP outlook will be impacted by... international commodity prices which have risen sharply during the year... impact of higher commodity prices will be visible in domestic prices thus impacting consumption.

"The rural economy has been affected during the second wave. Diesel consumption, two-wheeler and tractor sales, fertilizer sales, MGNERGA employment generated all declined in April 2021," Mr. Ghosh pointed out. Warning that the intensity of the third wave could be as severe as the second wave, going by international experience, the report's author said vaccination should be the key priority for India.

Auto sales decline from April levels

'Pent-up demand may drive recovery'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Automakers posted muted wholesales of vehicles last month amid multiple Statewise lockdowns and disruption to production due to the second wave of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, said it sold 32,903 passenger vehicles (PVs) in the country, compared with 1.35 lakh in April 2021, and 13,702 in May 2020. "The company shut production from May 1 through May 16, so as to divert oxygen from industrial use for medical purposes. In May 2020, the company witnessed production disruption owing to lockdowns. Since neither of the two months had normal production, the sales volume of May 2021 are not comparable with May 2020," the company said.

Hyundai Motor India's domestic sales stood at 25,001 last month. It had dispatched 6,883 in May 2020, and 49,002 units in April 2021.

Tata Motors said domestic PV sales fell to 15,181 units from 25,095 units in April 2021. It had recorded sales of 3,152 units in May 2020. Its domestic commercial vehicle (CV) sales stood at 9,371 units in May, as against 14,435 in April, while it was 1,266 units in May 2020.

For Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M), domestic PV sales were 8,004 units last month. It had sold 18,285 units in April 2021 and 3,867 unts in May 2020. Its domestic CV sales stood at 7,508 units, as against 16,147 units in April 2021 and 5,209 units in May 2020.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor sold a total of 707 units in May, and had reported who-



lesales of 1.639 units in May 2020 and 9,622 units in April 2021. Naveen Soni, senior VP, TKM, said the overall market situation as well as consumer sentiment were better than in May 2020, and the company anticipated that 'pent-up demand' and the demand for personal mobility would continue to be significant once markets open.

Impact on two-wheelers Hero MotoCorp said it sold over 1.59 lakh units in the domestic market last month due to adverse impact of the plant closure amid the second wave of the pandemic. Sales stood at 3.42 lakh for April 2021 and 1.08 lakh units for May 2020.

Honda Motorcycles and Scooters India said it dispatched 38,763 units in May. It had sold 2.4 lakh twowheelers in April, and 54,000 units in May 2020

TVS Motor sold 52,084 two-wheelers in the country last month compared with 41,067 units in May 2020. "Domestic sales in May 2021 were lower due to lockdowns in many States, but retails continue to be ahead of despatch," it said. The two-wheeler maker

said international demand continued to be robust as two-wheeler exports registered sales of more than 1.02 lakh units in May 2021 from 15,151 a year earlier.

Infosys to probe insider trading case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's second largest IT firm Infosys on Tuesday said it will initiate an inter nal investigation into an insider trading matter after markets regulator SEBI barred two of its employees from the securities market in the case.

SEBI has banned eight entities, including two emplovees of Infosys, for indulging in insider trading activities in the shares of the company.

The entities had traded in Infosys's scrips while in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI) pertaining to its financial results, SEBI said.

The order came after the SEBI alert system had generated insider trading alerts for the period about July 15, 2020 i.e. near to the announcement of financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020.

acquired on July 27, 2020.

the group and 'FMCG Oth-

ers' of the quarter and the fi-

nancial year ended on

March 31, 2021 include those

of Sunrise from July 27,

2020 and consequently are

not comparable with pre-

ITC's total expenses were

at ₹10,944.64 crore in Q4

FY21. For the FY21, ITC's net

profit was at ₹13,389.80

crore. It had posted a net

profit of ₹15,584.56 crore in

came in at ₹53,155.12 crore.

This was ₹51,393.47 crore in

ITC shares on the BSE de-

clined 0.65% to close at

₹215.20 on Tuesday.

Revenue from operations

the previous year.

2019-20.

vious periods," ITC said.

"The financial results of

Power consumption

'Slow recovery in May, at 110.47 BU'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Power consumption witnessed an 8.2% year-onyear growth in May at 110.47 billion units (BU), indicating slow recovery in commercial and industrial demand of electricity, according to power ministry data.

The slower pace of recovery in industrial demand of electricity in May can be attributed to local lockdown restrictions imposed by States to curb the spread of CO-VID-19 amid the second wave of the pandemic,

Moreover, the two cyclones in May resulted in power outages and lesser consumption due to rains in different areas of the country during peak summer season, they said. Experts are hopeful that the commercial and



sumption as well as de-States easing local lockof COVID-19 decline. Power consumption

in the entire month of May last year was 102.08 the lockdown, and had witnessed a year-on-year fall of nearly 15% in May

sees 8.2% y-o-y growth

experts believe.



industrial power conmand would rise in the coming days with many down restrictions imposed to curb the second wave after the number of daily new positive cases

BU due to the impact of

'Sugar output climbs to 305.7 lakh tonnes'

Jan.-May exports at 45 lakh tonnes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Sugar production between October 1, 2020, and May 31 rose to 305.68 lakh tonnes -35.63 lakh tonnes higher than that of the corresponding period in the 2019-20 sugar season.

Compared with 18 sugar mills that were crushing sugarcane on May 31 last year, only seven, located in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, were into the process on May 31 this year, the Indian Sugar Mills' Association said in a press re-

The association added that export contracts

lease on Tuesday.



58 lakh tonnes of sugar, as against the 60 lakh tonnes of maximum admissible export quantity (MAEQ) fixed by the government.

It is estimated that about 45 lakh tonnes of sugar had been exported between January and May this year.



the earlier period as it also included the revenue of Sunrise Foods, which it had

QUICK SINGLES



Shafali keeps top spot in WT20 rankings

Shafali Verma, with 776 points, maintained pole position among T20 batters while Kathryn Bryce became Scotland to make it into the top-10 in the ICC rankings published on Tuesday. PTI



Jamieson named NZ's Cricketer-of-the-Year

New Zealand all-rounder Kyle Jamieson on Monday was awarded the 2021 edition of the Players' Cap. The allrounder was presented the 'Cricketer-of-the-Year' award by wicketkeeper-batsman B-J. Watling, who will retire after the UK tour. ANI

CSA awards for **Nortje and Shabnim**

Pacer Anrich Nortje and Shabnim Ismail were named South Africa men's and women's 'Cricketer-of-the-Year' at CSA's virtual awards ceremony on Monday. ANI

Broad named vice-captain

ANI

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), on Tuesday, confirmed that pacer Stuart Broad would be the side's vice-captain for the two-match Test series against New Zealand, beginning on Wednesday.

"Our vice-captain for #ENGvNZ. Broad8," official handle of England Cricket tweeted.

Last week, England men's cricket team coach Silverwood had called up Kent's wicketkeeper-batsman Sam Billings and Nottinghamshire's top-order batsman Haseeb Hameed for the upcoming Test series against New Zealand.

The probable

England: Joe Root (Capt.), Rory Burns, Dom Sibley, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Dan Lawrence. James Bracev (wk). Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood, Stuart Broad, and James Anderson

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Tom Latham, Devon Conway, Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, BJ Watling (wk), Colin de Grandhomme, Kyle Jamieson, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, and Matt Henry.

'Continuity in Test cricket will be great'

Sometimes it's nice to go in without a baggage, you just play and enjoy the atmosphere, says Mithali

CRICKET AMOL KARHADKAR

With India women set to play two Tests in three months, that too away from home, after a seven-year drought, the focus will definitely be on the traditional format as Mithali Raj's side embarks on a full tour of England. Captain Mithali stressed that playing Test cricket will be a big step forward for the younger lot, which has been focusing on limited-over cricket.

"It's good to have Tests, whether it's home or away. If there's continuity, it's great because it helps players as well. Sometimes it's nice to go in without baggage, you just go in, play and enjoy the atmosphere," Mithali said during a media interaction ahead of a tour that will comprise a Test, three ODIs and three T20Is in England. The women's and men's squads will leave together during the wee hours of Wednesday.

Lot of exposure

"It's good to have the girls who are playing for the first time and the girls who have played in the past and can share their experiences how it was back in 2014. But having back-to-back Test match-



Forget the past: Mithali has urged everyone to move on from the unsavoury episode involving Ramesh Powar and herself in the coach's earlier stint. • FILE PHOTO

es can give a lot of exposure to the current lot."

Recently appointed head coach Ramesh Powar, albeit ironically, referred to the conventional format as "new" for the youngsters but hoped that the forthcoming Tests in England and Australia (in September) will reinvigorate interest in women's

"It's a great start. As a coach I want more Tests all over the world. It's a good start and let's take it step by step. Don't push the girls into a zone where you are demanding too much. It's a new format which hasn't been played consistently over the past few years. You

might get surprises." Powar's reappointment

last month had raised eyebrows considering he and Mithali had had a public fallout during his short stint as coach in 2018. While Mithali urged everyone to "move on" from the episode and "look forward", Powar stressed they are not going back to the episode.

"I would like to stop the speculation that is happen-

The schedule

June 16-19: Bristol,

3.30 p.m. ODIS

June 27: Bristol, 3 p.m.

June 30: Taunton, 6.30 p.m. (Day-Night)

July 3: Worcester, 3 p.m.

July 9: Northampton, 11 p.m. (Day-Night)

July 11: Brighton, 7 p.m. July 14: Chelmsford, 11 p.m. (Day-Night)

This is a great opportunity for me, Mithali and for the whole group to take women's cricket to another level

Head coach

ing. We interacted well. Otherwise I wouldn't have come back into women's cricket. Everyone grows up in three years," he said. "This is a great opportunity for me, Mithali and for the whole group to take women's cricket to another level when BCCI is supporting us. I don't think we're going to go back to these small things."

T20 World Cup: ICC accepts BCCI request to extend deadline

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has acceded to the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI's) request to extend the deadline for finalising the venue for the T20 World Cup to be played later this year.

The ICC Board, during its meeting on Tuesday, has asked the BCCI to resolve all the pending issues and confirm its plan for hosting the T20 World Cup by June 28.

"The ICC Board has requested that the (event) management focuses its planning for the T20 World Cup 2021 being staged in the UAE with the possibility of including another venue in the Middle East," an ICC statement issued after the meeting said.

Decision later

"A final decision on the host country will be taken later this month. The Board also confirmed that the BCCI will remain the hosts of the event regardless of where the event is played."

The Hindu understands that with a 16-team event to be staged, the three venues in UAE – Dubai, Abu Dhabi

The BCCI has time till June 28 to host the World Cup in India. If not, we will host it in the UAE. In case the event is shifted to the UAE, we are adding another venue. They are thinking about

whether there should be

three or four venues

SOURAV GANGULY **BCCI** president

and Sharjah - may not suffice. As a result, the ICC is considering hosting a few games in Oman, which has created excellent infrastructure for cricket.

The T20 World Cup is tentatively scheduled to start around Oct. 18 and end on Nov. 14.

the ICC Meanwhile, Board has expanded the ODI and T20 World Cup events. The ICC Board confirmed that the T20 World Cups in 2024, 2026 and 2028 will have 20 teams each (55 matches), the ODI World Cups 2027 and 2031 will see 14 teams vying for honours (54 games).

While the men's Champions Trophy will return in 2025, a six-team women's T20 Champions Trophy will be introduced in addition to the 10-team T20 World Cup.

Players' families allowed on England trip

No BCCI office-bearers for WTC final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The families of players and support staff of both the Indian men's and women's cricket teams will be allowed to accompany them during their lengthy tour of England this month, a senior BCCI source revealed on Tuesday.

Long tour

The BCCI had put in a request that the players be allowed the company of their loved ones given that they have to spend a considerable amount of time in a biosecure bubble because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, it is learnt that none of the BCCI officebearers, including president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah will be present for the World Test Championship final against New Zealand in Southampton from June 18-22, due to the strict quarantine rules of

the country. "Yes, it's good news that players will have their families during the tour of UK. Ditto for the women's team

who can also have their families around. These are times when mental well-being of players is paramount.

"The BCCI understands that we need our players and support staff to be in a good head space," the source said.

However, Ganguly and Shah, who were originally supposed to be in England for the WTC final will not be

"As far as I know, the ECB didn't grant permission to them (Ganguly and Shah). Normally, administrators go before the Test match but as per quarantine rules, since they are not playing members, they would have had to undergo hard quarantine of 10 days."

Both teams have served a 14-day quarantine period (home plus hotel) in India and undergone six RT-PCR tests which allow them to board the charter flight to London on Wednesday.

It is expected that they will have three days of hard quarantine (room) and then be able to use the gym as well as begin skills training.

Nadal advances, Barty fights through hip problem

The Spaniard begins his bid for a record-setting 21st Grand Slam title with a straight sets win over Popyrin

ROLAND GARROS

AGENCIES

Rafael Nadal began his bid for a record-setting 21st Grand Slam title with a straight sets win on Tuesday as the fallout from Naomi Osaka's revelations over depression and anxiety sent shockwaves through Roland Garros.

Nadal, the 13-time champion in Paris, defeated 63rdranked Alexei Popyrin of Australia 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(3) to take his record at the tournament to 101 wins against just two losses.

"I was lucky to win that third set, I don't know how (I did). The beginning of the match had been very tough too," said Nadal, who had been 2-5 down in the third set, saving two set points.

"In these warm and fast conditions it's always very difficult. He's young and the speed of his ball is very strong."

Up next is fellow 34-yearold Richard Gasquet.

The pair first played one another when they were children. As professionals, Nadal leads 16-0.

Winning return

World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty marked her return to Paris for the first time since her 2019 title triumph by beating American left-hander Bernarda Pera 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 but admitted she was fighting a hip



Garros just twice 20nly the second time in the last 11 Majors that Cecchinato, who

the defence of her title in

2020 due to the pandemic

but this year has won tro-

phies at the Yarra Valley Clas-

sic, Miami and on clay in

Stuttgart in the run-up to Ro-

After easing through the

first set on Court Philippe

Chatrier, Barty went off the

boil in the second and called

for the trainer at the change-

over. "I'm not going to hide

behind the fact I'm not quite

land Garros.

Struff and Rublev both won 170 points each in their five-set thriller Nadal has won 301 of the 328 full sets

100%," said Barty, whose left

will go out there with the

right attitude every day and

be really accepting of that

and give it a crack no matter

recovered from a 2-5 second

set deficit to beat French

teenager Oceane Babel 6-2,

his 63rd successive Grand

Andreas Seppi, playing in

Fifth seed Elina Svitolina

"But I can guarantee that I

thigh was heavily strapped.

301 he has played at the French Open problem. Barty, 25, skipped

7-Serena vs Buzarnescu 15-Azarenka vs Tauson **DOUBLES:** Ankita & Davis vs Hradecka & Siegemund

Slam, stunned 20th seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-4.

VEDNESDAY'S PICKS

For Seppi, it was a first win at any level this year.

Venus bows out Venus Williams, playing the

tournament for the 24th time and a runner-up 19 years ago, saw her 89th Grand Slam end at the first hurdle as Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova eased to a 6-3, 6-1 win over the 40year-old American.

IMPORTANT RESULTS First round: Men: 3-Rafael Na-

dal (Esp) bt Alexei Popyrin (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(3); Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) bt 7-Andrey Rublev (Rus) 6-3, 7-6(6), 4-6, 3-6, 6-4; Andreas Seppi (Ita) bt 20-Felix Auger-Aliassime (Can) 6-3, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-4; Ricardas Berankis (Ltu) bt 29-Ugo Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; Marco Cecchinato (Ita) bt Yasutaka Uchiyama (Jpn) 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; 14-Gael Monfils (Fra) bt Albert Ramos Vinolas (Esp) 1-6, 7-6(6), ____

Doubles: Rohan Bopanna (Ind) & Franko Skugor (Cro) bt Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) & Andre Begemann (Ger) 6-4, 6-2.

Women: 1-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Bernarda Pera (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2: 25-Ons Jaheur (Tun) ht Yulia Putintseva (Kaz) 7-5 6-2: 13-Jennifer Brady (USA) bt Anasta-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt Oceane Babel (Fra) 6-2, 7-5; 17-Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt Katarina Zavatska (Ukr) 6-4, 6-1; 32-Ekaterina Alexandrova (Rus) bt Venus Wil-

liams (USA) 6-3, 6-1. Monday's results: Men: Lorenzo Musetti (Ita) bt 13-David Goffin (Bel) 6-0, 7-5, 7-6(3).

Women: 28-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt Zhu Lin (Chn) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 12-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) 6-1, 6-4.

Fallen seeds

■ Men: 7-Rublev, 13-Goffin, 20-Auger-Aliassime, 29-

■ Women: 12-Muguruza, 22-Martic

Roland Garros hosts first-ever night match

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Serena Williams started her latest bid for a recordequalling 24th Grand Slam title with a hard-fought victory over Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu in the first-ever night session at Roland Garros on Monday.

set. I was up and I felt like I had some opportunities. She's a really good player, she's had some really good wins so I was really happy I was able to get that first set and the match," said the three-time Roland Garros champion.

"It wasn't easy in that first

The first official night match under the lights on Court Philippe Chatrier was played behind closed doors due to a 9 p.m. curfew imposed by the French government due to COVID-19.

Begu fought back from

5-2 down in the opening set,

but failed to serve it out

when leading 6-5 and then

saw two set points come and go when leading the breaker 6-4. Williams needed only

Serena. • AFP

one opportunity, driving a forehand volley into the corner to take control. The former World No. 1

strengthened her grip on the tie by breaking 74thranked Begu in the first game of the second set. She broke again in the seventh game before wrapping up victory after an hour and 42 minutes.

Kvitova pulls out with freak injury

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Petra Kvitova pulled out of the French Open on Tuesday after suffering a freak ankle injury by falling during her "post-match press requirements".

"It is with great disappointment that I announce my withdrawal from Roland Garros," she said.

"During my post-match press requirements on Sunday I fell and hurt my ankle. Unfortunately, after an MRI and much discussion with my team, I have made the tough decision that it would be unwise to play with it."

Kvitova said she was hoping to be back in time for a tilt at a third Wimbledon title to add to the ones she won in 2011 and 2014.

"It's incredibly bad luck, but I will stay strong and do my best to recover in time for the grass-court season," said Kvitova.

Reactions to Osaka's withdrawal

I feel for Naomi. Not everyone is the same. I'm thick. Other people are thin. Everyone is different and everyone handles things differently. You just have to let her handle it the way she wants to and the best way she thinks she can. That's the only thing I can say: I think she is doing the best she can



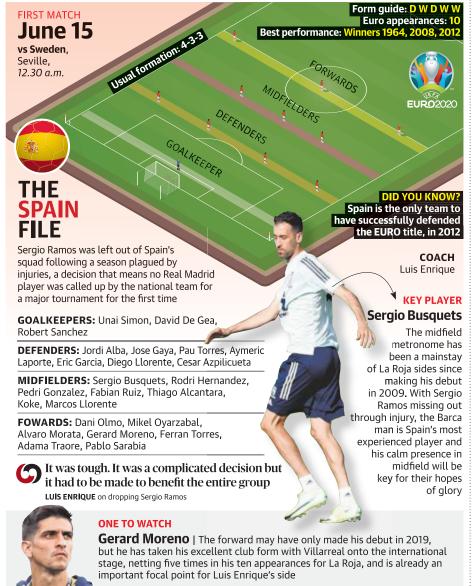
athletes we are taught to take care of our body, and perhaps the mental and emotional aspects get short shrift. This is about more than doing or not doing a press conference. Good luck Naomi, we are all pulling for you!

I am so sad about Osaka. I truly hope she will be ok. As

It's incredibly brave that Osaka has revealed the truth about her struggle with depression. Right now, the important thing is that we give her the space and time she needs. We wish her well

You shouldn't ever have to make a decison like this, but it's so impressive taking the high road when the powers that be don't protect their own. Major respect!

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



TV PICKS

Roland-Garros: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.; SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. **England vs New Zealand:** 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Rummenigge to step down; Kahn to take over

After 30 years in the top echelons of Bayern Munich management, Karl-Heinz Rummeniage will step down as chairman at the end of the month and will be replaced by former Germany captain Oliver Kahn, according to reports on Tuesday. AFP

Garcia returns to Barca from Manchester City

Manchester City's Spain centre-back Eric Garcia will join Barcelona on a five-year deal next month, the Catalan club said on Tuesday. Garcia will leave City when his deal ends on July 1. Garcia came through the academy at Camp Nou before joining City. AFP

Sasikumar Mukund advances

LITTLE ROCK (ARIZONA) Sasikumar Mukund knocked out seventh seed Roberto Cid Subervi of Dominican Republic 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the \$52,080 Challenger tennis here on Monday.

'India can beat Qatar'

ISL has groomed Indians to take on strong teams:: I.M. Vijayan

WC QUALIFIERS

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

As he looks forward to watching India's World Cup qualifier against Oatar, to be played at Doha on Thursday, I.M. Vijayan cannot help but think of a match he wouldn't quite like to remember.

That match, a World Cup qualifier in 1996, was also against Qatar. India lost it by a tennis score - 6-0.

"We played poorly, but that was the time when we didn't have as much exposure – domestic or overseas – as today's players," Vijayan told *The Hindu* on Tuesday. "Those days we could rarely meet quality opposition. Things have changed quite a lot for the better in Indian football."

Last meeting

So much so, he feels India can even turn the tables on Qatar this time around. "I think this Indian team can beat Qatar," he said. "The goalless draw when they last played Qatar, in 2019, should give them a lot of confidence.'

It was a performance India can be proud of: against the Asian champion ranked No. 62 in the world at the time. Qatar is now ranked 58th while India is 105th.

Vijayan, one of the alltime greats of Indian football, doesn't feel such a huge



Memory to cherish: I.M. Vijayan with one of his favourite players, Xavi, in Doha last year. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gap will easily translate into victory for the host. "Because of the ISL, India's footballers are well-equipped to take on strong teams," he said. "When you are playing alongside and against top quality international footballers, you improve physically and mentally."

Against Qatar, he feels Sunil Chhetri – back in action after recovering from CO-VID-19 – will hold the key to India's fortunes. "He is my favourite Indian player," says Vijayan.

"Defender Sandesh Jhingan, midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan and goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu also have crucial roles to play."

When he thinks of Qatar, he also thinks of Xavi, the Spanish legend who is now manager of Doha's Al Sadd club. The former Barcelona midfielder, who helped Spain win the 2010 World Cup, had recently put out a video on Twitter wishing Vijayan on his birthday. "I was surprised and hap-

py when I saw the video,"

Manu shoots 587

SPORTS BUREAU OSIJEK (CROATIA)

Manu Bhaker shot 587 in women's 25-metre sports pistol to reinforce her strong grip on the event in the European shooting championship here on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old Manu shot 296 in the rapid fire section, after having scored 291 in the precision stage.

Asian Games gold medallist Rahi Sarnobat also improved her score in the rapid fire section to reach

584 among a small bunch of MQS shooters. She had 293 on the second day.

Sylvia Steiner of Austria topped with 590 in the regular event.

Earlier, in the mixed rifle 3-position event, Anjum Moudgil (438) and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (437) placed 19th in the preliminary stage. The duo was 15 points short of the leaders, Norway.

Tejaswini Sawant and Sanjeev Rajput shot identical 431 and placed 33rd among 36 teams.

Marin pulls out of **Tokyo Olympics**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Defending champion Carolina Marin, on Tuesday, pulled out of the Tokyo Olympics after suffering an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) tear in her left knee that will require a surgery to heal.

The 27-year-old from Spain felt discomfort in her knee during training on Saturday and tests revealed that it was an ACL injury.



Marin will undergo surgery

Westbrook and Beal on song for Wizards

The duo's fine show keeps team afloat, cuts Sixers' lead to 3-1

NBA PLAYOFFS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russell Westbrook and Bradley Beal were on song as Washington Wizards stayed alive in the NBA playoffs beating Philadelphia 76ers 122-114 in game four in the Eastern Conference at Washington on Monday.

Westbrook finished with 19 points, 21 rebounds and 14 assists, while Beal delivered a game-high 27 points.

Beal scored the 1,000th post-season point of his career early in the game, while Westbrook recorded the 12th career triple-double in the playoffs, to move into third place on the all-time list.

The Sixers lost four-time



Elsewhere, Donovan Mitchell had 30 points and Grizzlies 120-113 to take a stranglehold 3-1 lead in their Western Conference series.

Jordan Clarkson scored 24 points, Bojan Bogdanovic added 13 and Mike Conley had 11 in the win.

Ja Morant finished with 23 points and 12 assists, Dillon Brooks and Jaren Jackson each added 21, and Ionas Valanciunas finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds for Memphis.

The top-seeded Jazz can close out the first round, best-of-seven series on Wednesday in game five in Salt Lake City.

The results: EC: Washington Wizards 122 bt Philadelphia 76ers 114 (76ers lead 3-1). WC: Utah Jazz 120 bt Memphis Grizzlies 113 (Jazz leads 3-1).

Left-arm quick, right-arm quicker — it's up to the coaches



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

s cricket dead? Not that it has become unpopular or that there is di-Lminishing interest for it on television, but in a deeper, more creative sense. Has everything to be known about the game - the crafts, techniques, tactics, strategies - already been revealed, and can one say with conviction that there are no more worlds to conquer?

Somehow that doesn't sound right. No field of human endeavour can say the turn of the 20th century, it was bearm, and therefore might be an illegal

lieved that physics was dead. As if on cue, quantum theory and relativity upset long-held ideas, and the field was blown wide open. It is a useful lesson.

The gifts from Pakistan

For long it was assumed that in cricket there were just a few gaps to be filled. The googly had been invented at the turn of the 20th century, and for decades its mirror image was sought the leg-break bowled with an off-break action. Then Saqlain Mushtaq developed the doosra. The other major development also came from the gifted Pakistani bowlers - reverse swing. From Sarfraz Nawaz to Imran Khan to Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram it was an unbroken line.

The rest of the cricketing world followed after initial skepticism. When it was discovered that the doosra usually there is nothing more to be done. At indicated a bent (or straightening) delivery, the authorities put a figure on what constituted a legal one. Bowlers were allowed to straighten their arm by 15° to remain within the law. The change allowed us to appreciate the skills of bowlers such as Muttiah Muralitharan and Harbhajan Singh and the possibilities in the doosra itself.

Both these innovations took place in the last century, and for many coaches there are no more gaps to be filled in the evolution of the game. There was the odd club bowler who could bowl off either arm, but he was seen as a freak rather than the harbinger of a re-

In international cricket it happened on one memorable occasion, though. Garry Sobers was batting on 364 when the occasional off-spinner bowling to him – Hanif Mohammad – switched to left-arm spin. Sobers didn't mind (he was later quoted as saying, "He could bowl with both hands if he wished.").

He then pushed for the single that gave him the highest individual score in a Test innings.

The ambidexterous bowler

The ambidextrous bowler is a rarity. He (or she - Bangladesh's Shaila Sharmin and Australian Jemma Barsby are in this exclusive club) is usually a spinner, but Pakistan's Yasir Jan, a pace bowler, has been described as "leftarm quick, right-arm quicker". That is both evocative and a pointer to the

The Sri Lankan with a name that can be set to music – Pasqual Handi Kamindu Dilanka Mendis – bowled both left-arm orthodox and right-arm offspin on his debut against England. Vidarbha's Akshay Karnewar has played 15 First Class matches in this dual role.

dextrous player – one who can bowl can bowl off either arm, stick to one.

and bat both right- and left-handed as well as field and throw off either. That's six players in one! Often we don't know there is a gap to be filled till someone actually fills it.

Batting has seen fewer fundamental changes. The switch hit or the Dilscoop over the wicketkeeper's head are recent, but batting is about refining what already exists rather than inventing something fresh.

Sunil Gavaskar once famously batted left-handed for Mumbai in a Ranji Trophy match, but that had little to do with technique or tactic and more with (opponents Karnataka believe to this day, four decades later) tantrum.

Stick-to-one theory

Old school coaches discourage players from doing too many things. If you can The shortest format of the game can bowl both spin and pace, then focus be expected to encourage the ambion on one or the other, they say. If you

right-handed, but they are told this will not do. As a boy, Michael Hussey was a right-handed batsman till he saw Allan Border bat, and switched to batting left-handed. He does everything else right-handed.

Right-handers Sachin Tendulkar and Kane Williamson write left-handed and hold their rackets in their left hand. Coaches speak about the dominant hand and how to use it, but do not encourage those who are comfortable doing it either way.

The next major innovation in batting is in the hands (left and right) of the coaches who will have to jettison a favourite theory: that it is better to be a good right-hander or a left-hander than an unsure left-and-right hander.

population is ambidextrous. Surely there are some cricketers among that

Sanjeet the Lion shows his class

Sanjeet's 91kg title win has boosted his confidence

BOXING

KOLKATA

Popular as 'Sher' among his peers for wearing a lion's tattoo on his back, 24-year-old Sanjeet loves his newlyachieved status as an Asian champion following his lion-

Sanjeet's 91kg title win, India's lone gold medal in the men's section of the Asian championships, has boosted his confidence. "This is my best perfor-

zakhstan in 2018," Sanjeet told *The Hindu* on his return from Dubai on Tuesday.

"I have gathered a lot of confidence and feel I could have qualified for the Tokyo

Olympics." The Asian crown was San-

"I am thankful to JSW and Army for their support during my recovery and rehab, which took about five to six



Sweet victory: Sanjeet's win at the Asian championships was his first achievement after a major shoulder injury in October 2019. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



in Paris this year but was heart-broken when he learnt about its cancellation due to the pandemic. His cousin and early coach Sanjeev Kumar says Sanjeet was in

"I could not train for fivesix days as I was in a state of shock. Later, I regained my motivation and resumed training," said Sanjeet, hailing from a big joint family in Rohtak.

Sanjeet said his game improved after he joined the Army in 2015 and participated in the semi-professional league World Series of Boxing (WSB) in 2018.

"I got a lot of facilities, sparring partners and organised training in the Army. The WSB, which had five-round bouts, enhanced my endurance."

The well-built boxer feels his punches have gathered more power in recent years but his endurance needs some attention. "I have to work on my endurance. I want to do well in the World championships in October," said Sanjeet.

Vidal hospitalised after positive **COVID** test

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Chilean midfielder Arturo Vidal, who plays for Inter Milan, has been hospitalised after testing positive for coronavirus, his national team said on Mon-

This means the 34-yearold will miss Thursday's Cup qualifier

against Argentina. No other player in the squad had tested positive for the virus

Vidal was initially hospitalised with severe tonsilitis, but tested positive for coronavirus on Monday, the team statement said.

FC Goa extends Gama's contract

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian Super League side FC Goa has inked a new three-year contract with Saviour Gama to keep the left-back at the club until 2024

Gama's consistent performances on the left of the backline helped FC Goa secure its fourth consecutive playoff appearance whilst propelling the club to a 15game unbeaten run to end the last season.

Aguero hoping for Messi partnership

Wish could yet be scuppered if the Barca legend doesn't renew

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Sergio Aguero said on Monday that he was hoping to have the "pleasure" of playing alongside Lionel Messi after signing a two-year deal with Barcelona.

However he is still not sure that Messi will be his teammate next season as the club captain is yet to sign an extension to his current contract which expires next month.

"Let's hope we play together ... what happens with Leo is down to decisions that he will make with the club," Aguero told reporters at the Camp Nou after he was unveiled on the famous pitch.

"Obviously it will be a pleasure if we play together. If he continues here, which I think he will, we will try to do our best for the club as he always has done."

Declining performances Barca will hope Aguero's arrival in Catalonia helps to

Two to tango: While Sergio Aguero has combined with Lionel Messi for Argentina, the future is still unclear as far as Barcelona is concerned. • REUTERS

low Argentine Messi to stay, as the club faces up to declining performances on the pitch and a worrying finan-

Ronald Koeman's side finished third in LaLiga this past season and has debts of €1.2 billion.

It was knocked out of the

cial situation.

convince his friend and fel-

Champions League at the last-16 stage by Paris Saint-Germain, and could vet face sanctions from UEFA for refusing to back out of the short-lived European Super

League project.

Talks going well

Last week club president Joan Laporta said that talks for Messi's new contract were "going well", and on Monday insisted that Aguero's signing was part of a

broader Barca rebuild. "The signing of Aguero is for Aguero. We want to build a competitive team and obviously we also want Leo to stay, we have already told him this," Laporta said.

Aguero leaves City as its

all-time record goalscorer with 260 goals, and with the most goals scored for a single club in Premier League history - 184 goals in 275 appearances.

"Leaving aside last season, I had nine very good years at City," said Aguero.

"A knee issue kept me out for a few months, I recovered, I got COVID ... but in the last four months I've felt very good physically."

Long in the offing

His move to Barcelona had been long in the offing, with Guardiola saying a week ago that he was close to a deal with the Catalan giant.

He will participate in this

year's Copa America, which on Monday was moved from Colombia and his home country Argentina to Brazil. "If they have made that

decision it is because things are not going well in Argentina, there have been a lot of infections over the last few days and many deaths. I think it was a good decision,"

Japanese Olympic athletes get vaccination shots

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan started vaccinating the Tokyo Games-bound athletes on Tuesday, Japanese Olympic Committee said.

The vaccination of healthy athletes comes as only 2-3% of the general population in Japan has been fulvaccinated. Japanese Olympic Committee officials said about 200 athletes were vaccinated on the first day of the roll out. The officials did not name

any of the athletes and also restricted coverage of the event, possibly fearing a public backlash.

Mitsugi Ogata, one of the official, said the vaccination of young athletes would not affect distribution to the general population, including the elderly and medical workers.

"Vaccination operations for athletes are conducted in a different organisation from those for the nation," Ogata

The International Olym-

pic Committee said being vaccinated is not required for participating in the Games. However, the IOC has encouraged all athletes to be vaccinated. IOC President Thomas

Bach said he believes more than 80% of the residents of the Olympic Village in Tokyo will be vaccinated.

said Vijayan. "I had met Xavi on a few occasions; I was introduced to him by Shafeer Korea, who has designed the Qatar jersey and who hails from my native place of Thrissur. I always enjoyed watching the great Spain and Barcelona teams he was

post-season point of his career on Monday. • AP

all-star Joel Embiid with an injury in the first quarter. Embiid hurt his knee after falling on a drive to the bas-

Rudy Gobert scored 13 of his 17 in the third quarter as Utah Jazz beat Memphis

Some schoolboys can bat either left- or

About one percent of the world's

Y.B. SARANGI

hearted showing in Dubai.

mance. I beat two Olympic qualified boxers (Sanjar Tursunov of Uzbekistan 5-0 in the semifinals and Olympics silver medallist Vassiliy Levit of Kazakhstan 4-1 in the final). The win over Levit was sweeter as I had lost to him in the President's Cup in Ka-

jeet's first achievement after a major shoulder injury, which he picked up during the World Military Games in October 2019. It forced him to go under the knife and rendered him unfit for the Asian Olympic qualifier in

Sanjeet worked hard for the World Olympic qualifier