



Akhilesh Yadav has lost faith in his own leaders, says Mayawati

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BJP members in Standing Committee flag rising fuel prices

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Chinese astronauts dock with new space station

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India takes on New Zealand in WTC final from today

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NEARBY



Ration scheme: CM's fresh bid to get L-G nod

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday sent the file of the home delivery scheme of ration to L-G Anil Bajjal for approval. He also responded to the objections raised saying that the scheme was in accordance with the law.

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Apex court approves CBSE assessment formula

Class 12 results to be arrived at by considering marks in unit tests, Classes 10 & 11

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave in principle clearance to the schemes placed on record by the CBSE and the ICSE to assess the final marks of Class 12 students whose exams were cancelled due to COVID-19.

The CBSE has divided the marks assessment process into two components – theory and practical. The theory component would be assessed by first giving 30% weightage to average scores obtained by the students in Class 10 in their three best performing subjects out of a total five. Secondly, another 30% weightage would be given to marks based on the

Timetable Ready

The CBSE has set deadlines for schools to complete the assessment process

By June 23, 2021

• Formation of result committee by school

• To note subject-wise maximum marks of subjects offered by the school

• Identification of students who changed subject(s) in Class 12 with CBSE approval



• Checking of marks of Classes 10 & 11 if student passed from boards other than CBSE

By June 30: Finalisation of roadmap and schedule by the committee

By July 15: Finalisation of result after moderation and checking by schools

• Uploading of marks on Board's link

• **CBSE will declare results by July 31**

SOURCE: CBSE AFFIDAVIT IN THE SUPREME COURT

theory component of the final exam taken in Class 11. Finally, 40% weightage would be given for marks obtained in one or more unit tests, mid-term exams and pre-board exams in Class 12.

So, if the total marks for

theory is 80, the 30% weightage of Classes 10 and 11 would come to 24 marks each and the 40% weightage derived from performances in tests conducted in Class 12 would translate to the remaining 32 marks.

On the practical side, calculation would be on the "actual basis" of the marks uploaded by the schools on the CBSE's portal.

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RELATED REPORTS ▶ PAGE 8

Scheme evokes mixed response

SHINJINI GHOSH
JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

There were mixed reactions to the CBSE's assessment scheme for the Class 12 exams. Some said it was not an accurate evaluation process, while others welcomed it. Devansh Saraf, who was to take his exam, said any assessment done would not be accurate to what a student could have been able to achieve in an offline exam. He, however, felt the CBSE criteria was as fair as it could get.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Students freed as court rejects police's stand

Police wanted time to verify addresses



Victory stand: Natasha Narwal, Asif Iqbal Tanha and Devangana Kalita outside Tihar Jail in Delhi after their release on Thursday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday issued the release warrant for Jawaharlal Nehru University students and activists Devangana Kalita and Natasha Narwal and Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, who were arrested in May last year in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

They were released from Tihar jail in the evening.

Additional sessions judge Ravinder Bedi rejected the Delhi Police argument that it needed more time to verify the permanent addresses of the three accused as they were outside Delhi. "I would say this by itself cannot be a plausible reason for the accused to be kept imprisoned

till the time such reports are filed," the judge said.

"The accused is directed to be released forthwith as per orders of the Delhi High Court," the court said, taking into account the undertaking given by counsel of the accused that their clients would not leave the jurisdiction of the Capital.

In the morning, the High Court directed the trial court to "proceed with promptitude and expedition" on the pleas filed by the three activists for immediate release. "The orders enlarging the applicants on bail have already been rendered by us. It needs to be implemented," the HC said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 2 & 9

Operationalise vaccine units: Stalin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

In his first meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi after assuming office, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday urged him to operationalise the vaccine units in Chengalpattu and Coonoor.

He also sought the scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the three farm laws and the proposed Chennai-Salem Greenfield Expressway.

Mr. Stalin handed over a memorandum containing 25 major demands, including



T.N. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

exemption of Tamil Nadu from the NEET-based admission to medical courses and scrapping of the entrance tests for admission to other professional courses.

He sought additional allocation of COVID-19 vaccines and drugs; establishment of an AIIMS in Coimbatore; and reservation for the Other Backward Classes in the all-India quota for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses.

The State sought the withdrawal of the income ceiling to identify backward classes, and an amendment to the Constitution to enable the States to allocate reservation for the Most Backward Classes and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes based on caste composition.

I have written to PM thrice to withdraw Governor: Mamata

She denies allegations of post-poll violence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday that she had written thrice to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to withdraw Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar from the State.

She was responding to questions on Mr. Dhankhar's

visit to Delhi. She described the Governor as "Centre's own person" and denied allegations of post-poll violence.

"A child can be cajoled into silence... In this case, speech is silver and silence is golden," the Chief Minister said, responding to the Governor's allegations of post-poll violence in the State.

On speculation that the Governor might be changed, Ms. Banerjee said she had

not been informed about any such development. "How am I supposed to know? When a Governor is appointed, the State government is usually consulted. That was not done in this case," she said.

This is the first time the Chief Minister has gone on record that she had written to the PM on withdrawing the Governor.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Mammoth support



Rescue mission: An injured tusker, 'Silver Monstra', being helped towards a waiting truck (not in picture) by other elephants at the Theppakadu elephant camp in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. • SATHYAMOORTHY. M

A 'deal' prompted by one couple's need, another's desire

Payment dispute led parents who sold their baby to file kidnapping complaint, landing all in police net

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A couple's need for money and another's desire for a male child led them to strike a deal on a six-day-old infant and subsequently land in police net.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said the accused have been identified as Vidyand Yadav, 50, his wife Rampari Yadav, 45, Raman Kumar Yadav, 32, Haripal Singh, 50, Govind Kumar, 30, and his 24-year-old wife Pooja.

The police said on Tuesday they received a call at Fatehpur Beri police station from Mr. Govind, who said his six-day-old baby boy had been kidnapped. When the police reached the spot in Aya Nagar, he said his wife, Ms. Pooja, had delivered the baby on



The six accused in police custody. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

June 8. One of their friends, Haripal Singh, invited the couple to live with him because there wasn't enough space at their rented accommodation. On June 12, the couple reached the friend's residence in Aya Nagar where Mr. Haripal locked them from outside and fled with the child, alleged Mr. Govind. The police registered a kid-

napping case based on his statement.

A team led by Station House Officer Kuldeep Singh launched the investigation and traced Mr. Haripal, who allegedly told them that the couple had, in fact, given the child willingly to the relatives of his friend, Mr. Raman, who lives in the Moti Bagh jhuggis. When the police reached

Mr. Raman's house, he told them that the couple had sold the baby to his relatives, Mr. Vidyand and Ms. Rampari for ₹3.6 lakh, and the duo had already left for Kanpur. The police sought the details of the train they had boarded and nabbed the couple from Kanpur railway station. They were then brought to Delhi.

Financial crisis

Further investigation revealed that Mr. Govind and Ms. Pooja were extremely poor and needed money for which they agreed to sell their baby for ₹3.6 lakh to Mr. Vidyand and Ms. Rampari through Mr. Haripal and Mr. Raman. "When Vidyand and Rampari were questioned, they said they were married for 25 years but couldn't bear a child because

of which their relatives in their village in Bihar would demean them and use derogatory words. Vidyand, in fact, sold his land to be able to buy the baby. He told Raman that he will only take the child if it's a boy," said a senior police officer. A written agreement was signed between the two parties and pictures were also taken.

Police said Mr. Govind decided to inform them because they got only ₹2 lakh cash and four cheques of ₹40,000 each dated June 18. Mr. Govind wanted to encash the cheques on June 14 and leave for his village immediately. When he tried to reach Mr. Haripal and Mr. Raman on phone, they blocked him. He also couldn't reach them physically. Feeling cheated, he decided to call the police.

Paras elected as new LJP president

No opposing nomination filed; democratic process was followed, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The rebel group of the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Thursday elected Pashupati Kumar Paras unopposed as the new party president. After his election, Mr. Paras, who days before had staged a coup in the party, told mediapersons, "I was elected according to the party's constitution and democratic process. The party has thrust a big responsibility on me and I'll take forward the party."

The LJP's national executive committee meeting was held at the residence of senior party leader Suraj Bhan Singh in Patna.

Mr. Singh later announced that no other nomination had been filed against Mr. Paras.

After the coup in the party, the rebel LJP group had elected Mr. Singh, a party



Big responsibility: Pashupati Kumar Paras after being elected national president of the LJP in Patna on Thursday. • PTI

leader and former MP from Munger, as its working president.

'Autocrat nephew'

When asked why he and other party leaders had to break away from his nephew Chirag Paswan, the newly elected president said, "If the ne-

phew becomes an autocrat, what can an uncle do?"

"I've been elected under the party's constitution, which says that every three years, election for the party president will take place. No one can be party president for life in a democratic setup," said the MP from Haji-

pur. Mr. Paras also urged partymen who had quit previously to "come back to fulfill the dream of party's founder leader Ram Vilas Paswan". He said there was no "internal bickering" in the LJP and that the party would "take care of people coming from every section of the society".

The LJP is currently an ally of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Centre.

Earlier, Mr. Paswan was removed from the post of LJP president after an emergency meeting of the party's national working committee. Out of a total of six LJP MPs, five rebelled against Mr. Paswan.

Mr. Paswan, however, on Wednesday nominated party leader and former MLA Raju Tiwari as the LJP State president.

'Continue demolition of illegal buildings in Aravali forest land'

SC had refused to give encroachers any quarter on June 7

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to halt the demolition of about 10,000 unauthorised residential constructions encroaching into the ecologically fragile Aravali forest land near Lakarpur Khori village in Haryana.

A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari had refused to give encroachers any quarter on June 7 while ordering the demolition. The court had categorically said that "land-grabbers cannot take the refuge of the rule of law" and demand fairness.

However, fresh petitions were filed urging the court to revisit its order and provide

for rehabilitation of the residents, including children. The petitioners, mostly residents whose properties face the axe, said they were not given time to submit documents to the local authorities to prove their claim.

But the court refused to budge on Thursday.

Onus on State

The Bench said the residents had enough time to prove their claims in accordance with a notification issued by Haryana in 2020. The court said the onus was on the State to rehabilitate the residents in compliance with a 2003 scheme. The demolition would continue. "Petitioners were obligat-

ed to provide documents to come under the rehabilitation scheme, which they have failed to do. We have recorded the submission that clearance of unlawful encroachment on forest land will be carried out as per due process of law," the court said.

The Haryana government said officials and personnel were pelted with stones at the site of demolition. However, the court declined to pass any orders while merely telling the authorities, "You know what to do then."

The court had in its June 7 order made it clear that the encroachers should be evicted by the land even by force. The next hearing is scheduled on July 27.

'Vindication of Constitution's libertarian promise'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court order regarding the release of student-activists - Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Tanha - is a resounding vindication of the Constitution of India's libertarian promise, said former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar on Thursday.

He said the subsequent steps by the government to delay their release "mock the conscience of the Constitution and the memory of our Freedom Fighters".

"Protagonists of a muscular State seem to have forgotten the inescapable lesson of history that the cry for freedom is irrepresible. The State ill serves its purpose by oppressing its constituents..." he said, adding that the attempt to label dissenters as "anti-nationals" must be fought.

Friends, family shed tears of joy as they welcome JNU students

Crowd gathered outside Tihar jail ahead of Devangana and Natasha's release

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

"I can't wait to hold her and feed her favourite food when she gets home," said JNU student Devangana Kalita's husband Andra Ling, who welcomed her at Tihar Prison Complex on Thursday evening after completing court formalities.

Wearing a blue *mekhela chador* - a traditional attire of Assamese women, gifted by mother - Devangana stepped out of Tihar Prison gate number 3 along with Natasha Narwal a little after 7 p.m. on Thursday evening and hugged her husband with a wide smile "It's been a long and difficult year of waiting with so many twists and turns. I am finally relieved," he said.

Around 6 p.m., JNU students started gathering outside Tihar for the three to be released by 7 p.m. The crowd grew bigger with their close friends and family joining.



JNU students wait for the release of their friends outside Tihar jail on Thursday. ■ HEMANI BHANDARI

side Tihar for the three to be released by 7 p.m. The crowd grew bigger with their close friends and family joining.

Praise for judiciary

Ms. Narwal's paternal uncle Virender Singh Malik, criticised Delhi Police for the two-day delay and praised the judiciary. "This order has raised hopes among other

detainees on such charges. Justice delayed, though not denied but in one sense, it was denied as Dr. Narwala (Natasha's father) is not with us. He just kept waiting for her release," he said.

Shortly after 7 p.m., a friend peeped through the hole in the gate and started raising slogans, bringing cheer among the crowd. The

pitch of the slogans increased and minutes later, Devangana and Natasha stepped out amid the roaring. "Saare pinjre todenge... itihās ki dhara modenge" the two joined the crowd. A friend's eyes welled up with tears of joy.

Asif's friends welcomed him outside gate number 4 without the crowd. Though his family was away, his friends made sure his mother saw him speak outside the jail through a video call from Jharkhand. "I am very proud of him," she said, teary-eyed.

Standing at a distance, Devangana laughed and said: "I can't quite believe I am out of jail. I think I'll continue to feel that someone will come and arrest me from home tomorrow". The trio then came together for a picture with their fists held high.

Man 'burnt to death' near Tikri border; one arrested

SKM says it is an attempt to defame farmers' movement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

A man was burnt to death allegedly by a group of farmers protesting against the farm laws near Tikri border in Haryana's Bahadurgarh on Wednesday. One of the accused, Krishan, has been arrested.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (Bahadurgarh) Pawan Kumar said two accused, including Krishan, were identified. Both belonged to Jind and were part of the ongoing farmers' protest. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said that it was an attempt to defame the farmers' movement.

According to the FIR, the incident took place around 5 p.m. when Mukesh, a resident of Kasar village, went for a stroll and reached the farmers' agitation site. A little later, Mukesh's brother Madan Lal received a call on his phone saying that the farmers at the

An "unfortunate case of suicide" was being used by the "BJP and JJP govt., its political agents and their troll army to implicate the farmers' movement"

SAMYUKT KISAN MORCHA

protest site had doused Mukesh with an inflammable liquid and set him afire with an intention to kill him, said the FIR registered at Sector-6 Bahadurgarh Police Station.

Madan Lal, the complainant, said he informed village sarpanch who took Mukesh to Civil Hospital for treatment. Mukesh identified one of the assailants as Krishan, according to the FIR.

Mukesh was later referred to Post Graduate Institute of

Medical Sciences in Rohtak where he died during treatment.

Krishan and his fellow accomplices were having drinks with Mukesh when an altercation broke out between them and they set him afire, said Inspector Jai Bhagwan, Station House Officer, Sector 6 Bahadurgarh police station.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, in a press statement, claimed that as per the facts known to it, the man doused himself with petrol to end life due to conflict in his family, and the Kisan Morcha volunteers rushed in to douse the fire and save his life. The SKM said an "unfortunate case of suicide" was being used by the "Bharatiya Janta Party and Jannayak Janata Party government, its political agents and their troll army to somehow implicate the farmers' movement".

DMRC to build 'halt platform' to link two corridors

Move aimed at improving interconnectivity between Green and Pink Lines

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a bid to improve interconnectivity between Green and Pink Lines, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Thursday said a special "halt platform" was being constructed at Punjabi Bagh West metro station to connect the two corridors.

The DMRC said: "There will not be any ticketing facility on the interchange platforms but boarding and deboarding facilities will be available."

230m-long FOB

Officials said the platforms will be connected by a 230-m-long foot overbridge (FOB), which will connect the platforms with the Punjabi Bagh West metro station of the Pink Line.

Bridging the gap

First and last train services on Green Line

S.N.	SECTION	WEEKDAYS (MON-SAT)		SUNDAY	
		FIRST TRAIN	LAST TRAIN	FIRST TRAIN	LAST TRAIN
1	Brig. Hoshiar Singh-Inderlok	7 a.m.	9 p.m.	8 a.m.	9 p.m.
2	Brig. Hoshiar Singh-Kirti Nagar	7.18 a.m.	9.10 p.m.	8.18 a.m.	9.10 p.m.
3	Inderlok - Brig. Hoshiar Singh	7.25 a.m.	9.30 p.m.	8.25 a.m.	9.30 p.m.
4	Kirti Nagar - Brig. Hoshiar Singh	7.25 a.m.	9.30 p.m.	8.25 a.m.	9.30 p.m.

*Timings are till September 30

SOURCE: DELHI METRO

While the Pink Line connects Majlis Park and Shiv Vihar, the Green Line runs between Inderlok and Bahadurgarh.

"The platforms will be 155m in length and shall be connected with the FOB by two extra-large lifts [each

platform] with a capacity of 26 passengers each and staircases. The total height from the platform level of the new platforms to the concourse of the Punjabi Bagh West station is 16.75m. Therefore, the passage has been planned at two levels,"

officials explained.

Currently, there is no interconnectivity between the two corridors.

"This facility will be of great benefit to passengers traveling to and from the satellite city of Bahadurgarh and other outer Delhi areas such as Mundka and Nargoi," DMRC officials said.

Due to the construction work, services on the Green Line are set to be regulated from late night on Friday to September 30, the DMRC said.

"To undertake the construction of this halt platform, the first and last train services between Brigadier Hoshiar Singh [Bahadurgarh] to Inderlok/Kirti Nagar will be regulated from the intervening night of June 18 and 19 to September 30," the DMRC added.

Need to develop criteria for assessing board students next year, says Sisodia

He says exams should have been cancelled long time back

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the evaluation criteria of CBSE and ICSE that takes into account the performance of students over three years, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said there was a need to develop criteria for assessing board students next year.

"We cannot think that normal conditions will prevail anytime soon. To avoid another situation next year where we have to rush and take decisions with regard to administering board exams, we should already start developing a plan taking into account online exams and the modalities to conduct assessments and projects if schools have to open partially," Mr.



Education Minister Manish Sisodia hailed the evaluation criteria for CBSE and ICSE students.

Sisodia, also the Education Minister, said.

He added that there was a need to accept the reality of the pandemic and understand that it might linger for a longer period of time. "What has happened this year is not feasible every year, we have to take well-thought decisions for the best interest of our students," Mr. Sisodia

He added that cancelling board examinations should have been considered a long time back, instead of waiting for Supreme Court to intervene in the matter "It is unfortunate that Supreme Court and State governments had to intervene and protest for cancelling board exams..." Mr. Sisodia said.

R-Day violence: chargesheet filed against Sidhu, others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday filed a supplementary chargesheet against actor-activist Deep Sidhu and others in the Republic Day violence case.

CMG Gajendra Singh Nagar will pass the order on the point of cognisance of the fresh chargesheet on June 19 at 2 p.m. "The IO pointed out the names of the witnesses who were severely injured or from whom the weapon was snatched," the court noted. On January 26, protesting farmers clashed with the police during the tractor rally against farm laws and stormed into the Red Fort, injuring scores of policemen.

Complaint against actor, Twitter MD in Loni case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police received a complaint against Swara Bhaskar, Manish Maheshwari, Twitter MD and others in connection with Loni incident where a man from a minority community was attacked, officials said on Thursday.

"We have received a

complaint against Swara Bhaskar, Manish Maheshwari, Twitter MD and others at Tilak Marg police station. It is under inquiry," a senior officer said.

In a video on social media, an elderly Muslim man had accused four men of beating him up, chopping his beard and asking him to chant "Jai

Shri Ram" in Ghaziabad's Loni.

Meanwhile, a police team, which is probing the 'Covid Toolkit' matter, was sent to Bengaluru where they questioned Twitter India MD Manish Maheshwari.

The police, however, did not divulge further details of the questioning.

Amount spent on land purchase for Ram temple shows graft: AAP MP

'Information not provided to I-T department on purchases'

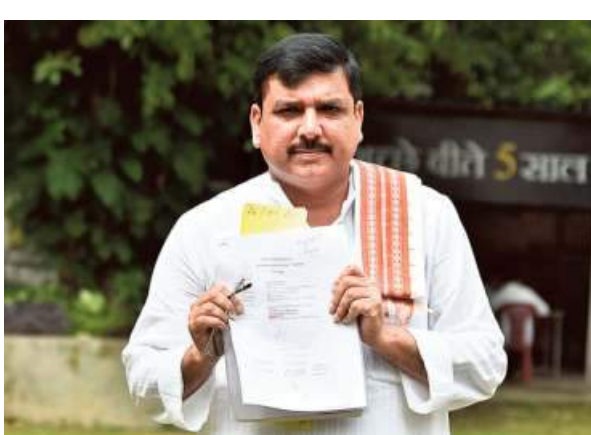
STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AAP MP Sanjay Singh on Thursday alleged that for Ram temple 12,080 square meter of land was bought for ₹18.50 crore, while 10,370 square meter of land next to it was bought for only ₹8 crore, which clearly shows that there has been corruption.

"Even if the rate of 10,370 square meter of land for ₹8 crore is considered correct, then about 26,000 square meter of land could be bought for ₹18.50 crore, whereas only 12,080 square meter of land was bought for ₹18.50 crore," he said.

IT information

He said that in Uttar Pradesh, if any purchase of more than ₹50 lakh is done in the registry department, information is given to the Income Tax Department. "In such a situation why was the information not given in this case of purchase of land



AAP leader Sanjay Singh at a media briefing at the party's headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Why was the information not given in this case of purchase of land worth ₹18.50 crore, ₹8 crore and ₹2 crore

worth ₹18.50 crore, ₹8 crore and ₹2 crore?" he asked. The AAP leader claimed

that Ram temple is not being built because "scam and corruption" are being done. "The people of BJP and Ram Janmabhoomi Trust have eaten the money of Prabhu Shri Ram Mandir. The poor had back on their expenses and donated for the temple of Lord Shri Ram, every rupee of that donation money should be put to good use," Mr. Singh said.

Man and his mother held for staging robbery

Police recover over ₹6 lakh from duo

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man and his mother have been arrested for allegedly staging a robbery and flee with ₹6 lakh in north Delhi, the police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Chetan Saini and his 52-year-old mother Madhu Saini - both residents of Kanhiya Nagar, Ganesha Pura, they said.

The case came to the fore when complainant Kamal Gupta, proprietor of Kamal Auto Industries in Anand Parbat Industrial Area, approached the police on Tuesday.

He told them that he had given ₹6.33 lakh to his employee Chetan to deposit in the bank but could not contact him, a senior officer said. His phone was switched off, Mr. Gupta said.

The police then found Chetan admitted to a hospital with a hand injury. He told the police that when he was going deposit the mo-

ney, he was robbed of the cash, one scooter, one bill, cheque, his mobile phone and purse.

"During investigation, the police found Chetan's statements to be suspicious. He was interrogated at a length when he said he had staged the robbery along with his mother and cousin brother," said DCP (North) Anto Alphonse.

On Wednesday, the police raided his house and recovered the money. The scooter was also recovered on his instance, the DCP said.

Chetan has been working in Kamal Auto Industries for the last 14 months. He used to take cash from the factory for delivery purposes and bank depositions. This time, he told the police that it was a large sum of money and he decided to siphon it off, the police said. On Tuesday, Chetan staged a robbery near Shastri Nagar. Madhu assisted him in the commission of the crime, an officer added.

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
3RD FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI 834 001, JHARKHAND.

CORRIGENDUM - 3

Name of Project: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Mahagama, Barharwa, Hariharganj, Barkishariya, Domchanch, Bachra&Dhanwar in Jharkhand.
NIT No.JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/FSMS-7 ULBs/2021-381
Tender ID.2021_UDD_49641_1
P R No.:246399

This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum are being made in RFP documents (Ref. JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/FSMS-7 ULBs/2021-381for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Mahagama, Barharwa, Hariharganj, Barkishariya, Domchanch, Bachra&Dhanwar in Jharkhand")

The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender. If any bidder has already submitted his/her bid, then he/she should resubmit his/her bid taking into account following amendments/Pre-bid Response/Corrigendum.

Sr no.	Bid Document Ref.	As per Corrigendum 1	As per Corrigendum 3
1	Last Date/ Time of Bid Submission	17.06.2021 17:00 Hrs	24.06.2021 17:00 Hrs
2	Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	18.06.2021, 17:00 Hrs	25.06.2021, 17:00 Hrs
3	Date of Bid Opening	18.06.2021, 17:30 Hrs	25.06.2021, 17:30 Hrs

Sd/-
PR 248188(Urban Development)21-22*D Project Director (Technical)

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CORRIGENDUM - 3

Name of Project: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Hussainabad, Bishrampur, Lohardaga, Garhwa, Chhatrapur, Khunti, Chatraand Latehar.
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Tender ID.2021_UDD_49640_1
P R No.:246532

This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum are being made in RFP documents (Ref. JUIDCO Ltd/RFP/FSMS-8 ULBs/2021-380for "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services for Fecal Sludge Management Scheme of Hussainabad, Bishrampur, Lohardaga, Garhwa, Chhatrapur, Khunti, Chatraand Latehar")

The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender. If any bidder has already submitted his/her bid, then he/she should resubmit his/her bid taking into account following amendments/Pre-bid Response/Corrigendum.

Sr no.	Bid Document Ref.	As per Corrigendum 1	As per Corrigendum 3
1	Last Date/ Time of Bid Submission	17.06.2021 17:00 Hrs	24.06.2021 17:00 Hrs
2	Last Date / Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	18.06.2021, 17:00 Hrs	25.06.2021, 17:00 Hrs
3	Date of Bid Opening	18.06.2021, 17:30 Hrs	25.06.2021, 17:30 Hrs

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

Member of gang involved in looting mobile shops nabbed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A member of an inter-State gang, which is allegedly involved in burglaries in over 50 mobile showrooms in Delhi, has been arrested, the police said on Thursday.

On May 17 night, a man complained to the police that someone broke into his JIO mobile showroom near Delhi Cantt police stations and fled off with all the mobile phones. An FIR was lodged. During probe, the police received inputs that members of Mewati Gang are involved

in such cases. A tip-off was received by the police that on June 15, a member of Mewati gang, Tarif, would come on a stolen two-wheeler in Vasant Vihar to receive a mobile showroom.

"A trap was laid and the accused, Tarif from Haryana was held. We recovered one country-made pistol along with two live cartridges from him," said the officer.

DCP (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh said they have identified other members of the gang as well and arrests will soon be made.

Timings DELHI

FRIDAY, JUN. 18	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
	RISE 12:28	SET 00:32
SATURDAY, JUN. 19	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
	RISE 13:30	SET 01:06
SUNDAY, JUN. 20	RISE 05:24	SET 19:22
	RISE 14:33	SET 01:41

Delhi Weather

Delhi City	max 35	min 26
Safdarjang	35	26
Palam	36	26

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Dry and very warm weather likely. Light winds and occasional partly cloudy sky would prevail.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
37°C A hot day with moderate winds likely. Thunder clouds may develop at few areas with partly cloudy sky.

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IN BRIEF

Fortis hospitals to start Sputnik V inoculation

NEW DELHI
Fortis Healthcare on Thursday said that they will start vaccination using Sputnik V vaccine at two of its hospitals from Saturday. "The two-dose vaccine will be available at two hospitals — Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, and Fortis Hospital, Mohali. In the coming days, the vaccine will be available at more Fortis hospitals across 11 cities as part of the phase-wise pilot project," the hospital said.

'Raise production capacity of Dwarka water plant'

NEW DELHI
Delhi Water Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday directed officials to increase the production capacity of the Dwarka water treatment plant (WTP) from 50 million gallons per day to 70 million gallons per day. The Minister said a lake would be built inside the Dwarka WTP across an area of 10 acres to increase groundwater levels. PTI

'Delhi govt.'s expenditure increased in April, May'

Order issued to curb non-essential expenditure, says Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said that a memorandum has been released to rationalise the Delhi government's expenditure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Sisodia said that the expenditure of the Delhi government has increased around 80% during the first two months of the current financial year compared to the corresponding period during the previous financial year.

He stated that revenue receipts of Delhi have been ₹5,273.26 crore during the first two months of the current financial year, while its expenditure has reached



Manish Sisodia

₹8,511.09 crore.

"Delhi has incurred ₹3,237.83 crore more than its receipts which were met from last year's savings. Historically, during the first two months, the expenditure used to be ₹4,705.14 crore in FY-2019-20 and

₹4,965.58 crore in FY-2020-21. However, due to unprecedented COVID surge, the expenditure during the first two months has jumped to ₹8,511.09 crore in current financial year," he said.

Tax collection declines

Mr. Sisodia said that the tax collection has declined due to second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown.

"The order has been issued to curtail the expenditure of the government, beyond the expenditure for essential and day-to-day functions. Further, the various welfare schemes being run for the Delhi residents will remain unchanged," an official statement said.

Adequate vaccine stock available in Capital, says AAP leader Atishi

158 new infections reported as cases continue to dip in city

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

AAP leader Atishi on Thursday said that adequate vaccine stock is available in Delhi for people above 45 years of age and 18-44 age group too.

"Stock of 2.34 lakh vaccines available for 18-44 and 7.44 lakh vaccines for 45+." So far, 62,58,937 people have been vaccinated in Delhi, out of which more than 15 lakh people have received both the doses," Ms. Atishi said. "Ever since the revaccination of youth has started in Delhi, youngsters are coming to get the vaccine in

Stock of 2.34 lakh vaccines available for 18-44 and 7.44 lakh vaccines for 45+ age group

ATISHI
AAP leader

large numbers by registering on the CoWIN app. We hope that people of 45 years and above, who have not got themselves vaccinated yet, will also come forward and get inoculated soon," she added.

Meanwhile, the downward trend in COVID-19 cases continued with 158 new cases being reported in the

past 24 hours, taking the total cases to 14,31,868, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday

Also, 10 deaths were reported and the total number of deaths stood at 24,886. A total of 77,542 tests were done in a day, the bulletin said. Of the total cases, 14,04,428 people have recovered and there are 2,554 active cases.

The test positivity rate (TPR) was 0.20%, which means that about one person out of 500 people taking COVID-19 tests are now positive for the virus.

Ration scheme: CM's fresh bid to get L-G nod

Kejriwal responds to objections raised, says scheme in accordance with the law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday resent the file of the home delivery ration scheme of ration to the Lieutenant-Governor for approval. He also responded to the objections raised saying that the scheme was in accordance with the law and was being implemented to follow the orders of the Central government.

'Wrong to halt scheme'

Mr. Kejriwal said that it is wrong to halt this scheme during the COVID-19 pandemic as with its implementation, crowding at ration shops could be avoided and added that the L-G was informed about the Cabinet's decision regarding the doorstep delivery scheme of ra-



A woman collects free ration at a government school in Vishwas Nagar in New Delhi. • FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

tion four times in the last three years. However, he never opposed it. He questioned why the scheme was suddenly being stopped when the plan had already been approved.

Mr. Kejriwal said that the request of the L-G to send

the matter to the Central government for approval does not seem right as the approval of the Central government is neither mandatory nor necessary.

"The Delhi government has only implemented the orders of the Central govern-

ment. In addition, the Delhi government has been, from time to time, informing and seeking assistance from the Centre regarding the implementation of the doorstep delivery scheme through several letters," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that the only objection received from the Central government was to remove the name of 'Chief Minister' from this scheme which the Delhi government immediately accepted.

In reference to a petition filed in the Delhi High Court by an association of ration shopkeepers seeking a stay on the scheme, the Chief Minister said that the matter has already been heard five times and the High Court has refused to grant a stay on the same.

COVID-19 third wave unlikely to affect children: study

'SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity rate among kids high compared to adult population'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

It is unlikely that a possible third wave of COVID-19, due to the prevailing variant of the virus, would disproportionately affect children, according to the interim result of a multicentre study by researchers at AIIMS, Delhi and other hospitals.

The study is yet to be peer reviewed and has appeared in pre-print on an online platform.

"SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity rate among children was high and were comparable to the adult population. Hence, it is unlikely that any future third wave by the prevailing COVID-19 variant

would disproportionately affect children two years or older," the report read.

The report has published interim data of serological prevalence (% of people with antibodies) among children aged between 2 to 17 years along with a comparison with people of 18 year of age and above.

"The data collection period was from March 15, 2021 to June 10, 2021. Total available data was of 4,509 participants of which <18 years were 700 and ≥18 years was 3,809. The seroprevalence was 55.7% in the <18 years age group and 63.5% in the ≥18 year age group," the report said.

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12 policemen injured in U.P. protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNNAO

Twelve police personnel were injured when people protesting over the death of two motorcycle riders in an accident pelted stones at them near a village here, officials said on Thursday.

Forty-three people have been arrested, and a case has been registered against 100 named and 250 unknown persons in connection with the violence that took place on Wednesday, the police said.

Devikheda village residents Rajesh and Vipin died as their motorcycle was hit by a car in the City Kotwali police station area.

Farm laws will benefit farmers: Lal

Haryana CM announces special package for labourers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Thursday reiterated that the new farm laws were in the interest of farming community and farmers should not oppose their implementation.

"Farmers should understand that the farm laws are in their interest. Let the laws be implemented, if after implementation, these laws prove to be non-beneficial the government would be ready to work on the legislations," he said here.

Mr. Lal was addressing a press meet on completion of 600 days of the second tenure of his government.

He said that amid the ad-

verse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy, the State government has decided to give economic relief packages.

"In view of the financial constraints faced by the labourers working in the unorganised sector a relief package of ₹600 crore would be given to 12 lakh such families in the State. Under this, a financial assistance of ₹5,000 will be given to all such families. To ensure that the labourers of the unorganised sector have easy access to the scheme a portal has been designed and the registrations on the portal will start from June 18," he said.

"Besides this, we are announcing a relief package of

₹150 crore for small shopkeepers. Also, a discount of 25% would be provided to 600 farmers, who would purchase e-tractors," said Mr. Lal.

Aid for Corona warriors
The Chief Minister said a financial aid of ₹5,000 per family of Corona warriors such as ASHA workers and employees of NHM would also be given.

He said that the State government has borne the entire cost of the Covid affected patients of below poverty line families.

Mr. Lal said that it has been decided to waive off the entire property tax for the first quarter of the year 2021-22.

'Centre's relief package for children defective'

Monthly stipend to orphans only after 18 years of age: Gehlot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said the Centre's relief package for children who lost their parents to the COVID-19 infection was "defective", as it stipulated the payment of a monthly stipend to them only after they attain 18 years of age. The package for orphans should be revised with a provision for immediate relief, he said.

Addressing a video-conference meeting on COVID-19 vaccination here, Mr. Gehlot said he would speak to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the Centre's scheme and point out the "shortcomings and confusion" to him about the financial help to be extended to orphans. "Who knows where a child will be after 18 years? A package should provide an instant help," he said.

Mr. Gehlot said the Centre had not announced any measures to render help to wo-



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

men whose husband died of COVID-19 during the pandemic. In Rajasthan, the Congress government has announced a relief package comprising an ex-gratia of ₹1 lakh each to widows and orphans, followed by a financial assistance every month.

CM's scheme
As part of the Chief Minister's Corona Baal Kalyan Yojana, the children who lost their parents will get ₹2,500 a month till they attain 18 years of age. The orphans will be provided an assistance of ₹5

lakh on the completion of 18 years as well as free senior secondary education and other benefits under the scheme.

Referring to the ongoing vaccination, Mr. Gehlot said the vaccine wastage in the State had reduced to just 0.8%. It was about 2% as against the national average of 6% recently, when the Centre had written to the State government seeking a probe into the "misleading reports" about the vials of vaccines found in the dustbins at some inoculation centres, said Mr. Gehlot.

17 children die of COVID-19 in Meghalaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

COVID-19 has claimed the lives of 17 children in Meghalaya, according to local media reports, which cited official data.

The COVID-19 dashboard of the State's Health Department revealed 5,101 minors aged up to 14 years testing positive since the outbreak of the pandemic in Meghalaya in 2020. Of these, 4,344 recovered till June 15, while 17 died of the disease.

Cause of concern
What has worried government and healthcare specialists is that 13 children died over the past 30 days.

"We are concerned by the positivity rate among children. We are in the process of constructing three prefabricated paediatric hospitals to deal with the situation," State Health Minister Alexander Laloo Hek said.

State capital Shillong, Tura and Jowai towns would have a prefabricated hospital each.

**OFFICE OF DIRECTOR (REVENUE)
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5	KRANTI-KBMG+	M/s Aman Engg. Works Mfg.
6	KRANTI-ULTRA-G	M/s Aman Engg. Works Mfg.
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Adv. No. J.S.V. 114 (2021-22) Director (Revenue)

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Replacement of over aged HV/LV Circuit Breakers and Lightning Arresters

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Assam seeks realignment of tracks through wetland

Trains have run over several elephants

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has proposed the realignment of a broad gauge railway line through the Deepor Beel, an 'Important Bird Area' designated under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands.

Several elephants have been run over on the railway track between the elevated Rani Reserve Forest and the sanctuary. The elephants use four corridors crossing the track to often bathe and feed on the aquatic plants in the wetland.

The wetland is about 10 km southwest of Guwahati.

"We have sent a proposal to the Centre for the realignment of the railway line running through the wetland, which creates noise pollution and disturbs the migratory birds. Clearance from the National Green Tribunal [NGT] is expected once the eco-sensitive zone is de-



Whistling teals at Deepor Beel near Guwahati. ■

clared by the authorities concerned," State Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said at a meeting on the beautification of the wetland on Thursday.

Garbage dump
The meeting was held with Guwahati Development Department Minister Ashok Singhal, who sought steps to check the pollution of the wetland, under stress from a dumping site nearby and channels that carry untreated sewage from the city.

Odisha govt. announces package for the poor

It will spend ₹1,690 cr. on their welfare

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

As the COVID-19 pandemic triggered massive job loss and pushed millions into crisis, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday announced an assistance of ₹1,690.46 crore for economically and socially weaker sections of society.

The package would primarily benefit landless farmers, construction workers, urban poor, particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs), beneficiaries of State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and physically-challenged students.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, 17.89 lakh landless farmers will get special monetary assistance of ₹1,000 under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) for which ₹178.911 crore

has been earmarked.

The government has placed ₹260 crore under Mukhyamantri Karma Tappara Abhiyan or Mukta Yojana (MUKTA), a scheme of urban wage employment. It has been decided to provide additional ₹50 to MGNREGA workers over their usual wage received between April and June. During this time, 6 crore man-days have been created which means the government would spend ₹300 crore.

Each registered construction workers will get special COVID-19 assistance of ₹1,500 for which ₹360 crore would be spent.

Similarly, the government will provide 5 kg of free rice to SFSS beneficiaries from the month of July to November for which ₹92.86 crore has been earmarked.

The CM also announced ₹5,000 for 66,214 members of PVTGs.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "BHARATIYA PRAJA AIKYATA PARTY". The office of the party is located at NO. 01, KOTE STREET, NEAR VENKATESHWARA TEMPLE, KODIGEHALLI L, SAHAKARANAGAR, POST, BANGALORE-560092, KARNATAKA. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Name/Address of the office bearers of the party are as follows:-
President : G. Veerareddy S/o GB Nagareddy R/o House No.365B, Yelagudde Paili, Bagepalli, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka-515201
General Secretary : Ajit Shrikant Nadig S/o Shrikanth Nadig R/o 203, Kerekoppa Kerejaddi, Sira-581318
Treasurer : Madhukeshwari Honnannavar D/o Shivappa R/o Shivappa Soumitri Siddarameshwara Colony Ranichannanna Nagar, Dharwad
If anyone has any objection to the registration of "BHARATIYA PRAJA AIKYATA PARTY" they may send their objection with reasons (thereof), to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sardan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), India Paryavaran Bhawan, Bhabang Road, New Delhi-110003 vide letter No. F.No. IA-J-11011/358/2019-IA-1(11) dated 02.03.2021 has accorded the "Environment Clearance" to M/s Parnami Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., for Manufacturing of Formaldehyde 300 MT per day at Village- Ismailia, Tehsil-Sampla, District-Rohtak, State-Haryana. General Public is further informed that copy of said Environment Clearance Letter is available in the office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), India Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi.

M/s Parnami Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., Village- Ismailia, Sampla, Rohtak, Haryana
Place: Rohtak
Date: 16.06.2021

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTH CENTENARY

BIRTH CENTENARY

SMT. SEETHALAKSHMI RAMAN

18th JUNE, 2021

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For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
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"e" Procurement Notice No.-03 /OCCL/2021-22 (on-line)

Type of Work :- Canal Lining Work (CCGG)
Total Nos of Work :- 01 (One) No.

Sl. No.	Bid Identification No.	Period of Completion	Amount Put to Tender (approx) (Rs. In Lakh)	Bid Security	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of Tender (on-line)
01	OCCL-SMP/02/2021-22	24 (Twenty four) calendar months	Rs.7662.73 Lakh	Declaration as per W.D.O.M No.5984, dated:27.04.2021	From 21.06.2021, 10.00 AM to 13.07.2021 up to 5.30 PM	From 21.06.2021, 10.00 AM to 13.07.2021 up to 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer - Managing Director, Odisha Construction Corporation Limited
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: 14.07.2021, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
MANAGING DIRECTOR
CIPR-34120/11/0004/2122
CAD-456

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that our Client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule herein below pursuant to which we are investigating the title of the Said Property.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of the Said Property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any agreement of Sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise whatsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived, relinquished, abandoned or discharged for all intents & purposes.

Schedule of the Property (Said Property)
Apartment No. M1422B, 22nd Floor, having a Super Area of 590.814 sq. ft. (6360.00 sq. ft.) in "The Magnolias", DLF Phase-V, Sector-42, Gurugram, Haryana-122022 along with a proportionate undivided share in the common areas & Car Parking Spaces Nos. PB14, 133, PB14, 134, PB14, 135, within the limits of Sub-Registrar of Registration District Gurugram, Taluka Wazirabad & within the local limits of Municipal Corporation of Gurugram.

Rishi Vohra (Advocate)
Lexstone Chambers
1073, LGF, Sec-40, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Mob.: +91-9810512051

TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE

Supply of Machinery & Equipment for CFC Sealed tenders are invited from manufacturer/supplier/traders (having minimum three years of experience in manufacturing/supplying/trading of machinery) for Supply of Machinery and equipment for Common Facilities Centre in village Murthal, Distt. Sonapat, Haryana, being facilitated by Urbo Rural Integrated Development Association (URIDA), WZ-33A, Dayalsar Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. Tender should be submitted in separate envelopes for Technical Bid with earnest money of Rs. 5,60,000/- or Bid security declaration for tenders and Financial Bid can be deposited at the below mentioned address upto 2.00 PM of 08/07/2021. The Demand Draft of earnest money should be in the name of Urbo Rural Integrated Development Association, payable at Delhi. Tenders received will be opened before the Procurement Committee of the proposed Common Facilities on 08/07/2021 at 03.00 PM. Tender form can be obtained from URIDA, WZ-33A, Dayalsar Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059 on any working day between 18/06/2021 to 07/07/2021 from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM and upto 12.00 PM on 08/07/2021 by payment of Rs. 500/-. The details of works and Terms and Conditions are available in Tender Form. Secretary- URIDA reserves the right to cancel any or all the Tenders without assigning any reason.
Pre Bid Meeting - 28/06/2021.
Capt. Deepak Raj
Secretary, URIDA

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sharif Ahmad S/o. Mansoor Alam Siddiqui R/o. C-37, Zakir Bagh, New Friends Colony, Delhi 110025 have changed my Name to Sharif Ahmed Siddiqui for all purposes.

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

IT IS hereby made public that our original agreement to sell dated 3rd June 1986 executed in respect of house No. 135, block D situated at Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi has been lost or misplaced somewhere and not traceable so far. FIR done for the same with LR No:384781/2021. If anyone finds the same, inform us at +91-931-087-0339.

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DIRECTORATE OF UNIVERSITY FOREIGN RELATIONS
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FN/IO/CW/NRI ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION (2021-22)

Applications are invited from the eligible Foreign Nationals / Persons of Indian Origin / Children of Indian Workers in Gulf Countries / Non Resident Indian candidates seeking admission into B.Tech/B.Tech (IDP) / M.Tech/M.Sc/MBA/MCA/M.Pharmacy / Ph.D Courses for the Academic Year 2021-22. The application form is available in the DUFR office or it can be downloaded from the website or apply through online application available on the university website www.jntuhdr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in. The filled in application is to be submitted along with required documents and DD of Rs.1000/- in favour of "The Registrar, JNTUH" payable at Hyderabad. For further details www.jntuhdr.com, www.jntuh.ac.in.
Date : 18.06.2021
DIPR.R.O. No. : 1873-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Sd/- REGISTRAR

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely : Divya Rana D/o Shiv Kumar Rana R/o H. No. 236, Prem Nagar, Ghaziabad (UP) has been missing since 12.06.2021 from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station New Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 19A dated 12.06.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-
Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion : Wheatish, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing** : Green colour T-shirt & light blue colour jeans and black colour mask and sports shoe in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
SHO :
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, New Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/165/RLY/2021 Tel. No. 011-24356743, 8750871311

IN BRIEF



Naidu condemns killing of two TDP activists

VIJAYAWADA
TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday condemned the killing of two party activists in Kurnool district. Mr. Naidu said he suspected the role of YSRCP MLA Katasani Rambhupal Reddy in the incident.

Ganja, liquor worth ₹52 lakh seized, 10 held

CHITTOOR
The Chittoor police seized huge quantities of ganja, and Karnataka-made liquor and banned chewing tobacco products, all worth about ₹52 lakh, and arrested 10 people during raids in three different locations in Tavanampalle mandal of Andhra Pradesh. Three vans, an autorickshaw and two motorcycles were also confiscated.

Plea against development rules dismissed

Kerala HC says examination of legality of Lakshadweep draft regulation is completely premature

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday dismissed a writ petition challenging the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation, 2021, which proposes to develop towns on inhabited Lakshadweep islands.

The petition was filed by K.P. Noushad Ali, secretary of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. According to him, the draft regulation grants the Administrator the power to "declare any area to be a planning area" for the purpose of development.

Petitioner's contention

The petitioner contended that the draft Bill gave sweeping powers to the administration and all its bodies to directly interfere with an islander's right to possess and retain property. The draft regulation was widely



Up in arms: Activists of the CITU gathering for a protest outside the Lakshadweep administration office in Kochi. ■ AP

opposed as it vested the Administrator with powers to remove or usurp smallholdings of property owned by islanders.

The petitioner also challenged the procedure to be followed for auctioning livestock on the islands and the decision to discontinue the

service of the temporary staff engaged by the administration in certain sectors.

Dismissing the petition, the Bench comprising Justices S.V. Bhatti and Murali Purushothaman observed that examination of the legality of the draft regulation, which was under the active consid-

Aisha Sultana gets interim anticipatory bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday granted interim anticipatory bail to Aisha Sultana, a filmmaker, in a seditious case registered against her.

Justice Ashok Menon ordered that she be granted interim anticipatory bail if she is arrested when she

appears before the Kavaratti police on June 20 for interrogation in connection with the seditious case.

She has been charged with offences under Sections 124 A and 153 B of the IPC for her alleged remark on a TV channel that the Union government had used a bio-weapon against the islanders.

21-year-old killed 'for rejecting proposal'

Her 13-year-old sister was injured

STAFF REPORTER MALAPPURAM

A 21-year-old man stabbed a woman to death and injured her sister in an apparent reprisal for rejecting his romantic advances at Elamkulam, near Perinthalmanna, on Thursday morning, the police said.

Vineesh Vinod entered the 21-year-old woman's house and allegedly attacked her in her room on the second floor.

Her younger sister, 13, was also injured in the attack.

Police arrested Vineesh within hours of the incident.

They said the woman's family had rejected Vineesh's marriage proposal.

A shop run by the woman's father at Perinthalmanna was gutted on Wednesday night. Vineesh's hand is suspected in the incident.

The State Youth Commission registered a suo motu case and said the maximum punishment should be meted out to the culprit to prevent recurrence of such crimes. The commission would launch a campaign to create awareness among youth, its chairperson Chintitha Jerome said.

NBSA reprimands three TV channels

Their reports 'targeted Tablighi Jamaat members' during pandemic in 2020

STAFF REPORTER BENGALURU

The News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA), acting on complaints filed by the Bengaluru-based Campaign Against Hate Speech (CAHS), has reprimanded three television channels — Times Now, TV18 Kannada, and Suvarna News — over reports that "targeted Tablighi Jamaat members" during the pandemic in 2020.

The CAHS had taken objection to two programmes aired by TV18 Kannada on April 1, 2020, on Tablighi Jamaat. In his order, Justice A.K. Sikri (retired), chairperson of the NBSA, noted, "... the manner in which the programmes were presented

was highly objectionable. The news report was based on pure conjecture. The tone, tenor and language was crass, prejudiced and disrespectful ..."

Imposes fine

The NBSA has imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on the broadcaster payable to the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and directed it to run an apology on air on June 23 for violating the Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards. The authority has also asked the broadcaster to take down videos of all web portals.

Acting on a complaint against seven programmes

aired by Suvarna News between May 31 and April 4, 2020, the NBSA noted in its order, "The entire blame/cause of the spread of the coronavirus was linked to the Tablighi Jamaat and, in turn, to a particular community. The titles of the programmes had an insidious effect which would incite communal violence ..."

It also noted that "there was certainly a lack of balance, objectivity and impartiality in the programmes" and they "were overtly prejudiced against a particular religion."

The NBSA has imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on the broadcaster, payable to the NBA, and asked it to take

down the videos from public forums.

Over a complaint against a panel discussion "Is Tablighi Jamaat wilfully sabotaging India?," aired on April 2, 2020, the NBSA has issued a censure to Times Now "for telecasting such a programme on a sensitive issue which could create communal dissension amongst communities".

Justice A.K. Sikri, in his order, stated, "The anchor of the programme made certain statements relating to the Tablighi Jamaat which were violative of the fundamental principles mentioned above [accuracy, impartiality, neutrality, and objectivity]."

Jolt to BJP: Vidarbha leader to join Cong. on Rahul's birthday

Sunil Deshmukh had switched to the saffron party in 2014

STAFF REPORTER MUMBAI

In what could be termed a blow to the BJP in Vidarbha, senior party leader and former Minister Sunil Deshmukh is set to join the Congress on June 19. Mr. Deshmukh's re-entry into the Congress has been cleared by the party high command.

Former State Youth Congress president, Mr. Deshmukh, had switched to the BJP in 2014 after the party repeatedly neglected him over former President Pratibha Patil's son Raosaheb Shekhawat.

Mr. Deshmukh was Minister of State (Finance) in the 2004 Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) government. Despite that he was denied ticket from the



Sunil Deshmukh

Amravati Assembly seat. The Congress gave the ticket to Mr. Shekhawat. Mr. Deshmukh then contested as an Independent and lost the election.

Prominent face

In 2014, he joined the BJP and defeated Mr. Shekhawat and since then he was the

party's prominent face in Vidarbha. In 2019, he lost to the Congress candidate, Sulbha Khodke, and later he was sidelined in the BJP.

Mr. Deshmukh's re-entry to the Congress comes days after party State president Nana Patole announced that the party was ready to contest the polls independently. The move is seen as the party's plan of expansion and regaining the lost space. A week ago, Mr. Patole toured Amravati district where the final talks with Mr. Deshmukh seem to have held.

According to a senior party leader, Mr. Deshmukh will join the party on June 19, the birthday of Rahul Gandhi, in the presence of senior leaders and party in-charge H.K. Patil.

Pilot project to check for deafness in newborns to kick off in Maharashtra

It will be started in Pune, Gadchiroli, Jalna districts: Minister

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE PUNE

Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Thursday said an experimental project will use mobile units to check the hearing of newborn children in the State. The project will be started in Pune, Gadchiroli and Jalna districts, he added.

This initiative comes in the backdrop of the National Deafness Prevention Programme, which is being implemented in 16 places in the State.

The pilot project was conceived by Baramati MP and senior Nationalist Congress Party leader Supriya Sule and was presented by Abhijit Raut, State organiser, Disability Rights Development Forum, at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan in Mumbai.



Rajesh Tope

Otoacoustic emission

Mr. Tope had a detailed discussion with senior Health officials on the implementation of the otoacoustic emission method in newborns following the presentation.

"Early hearing problems in children can be diagnosed and treated with the neces-

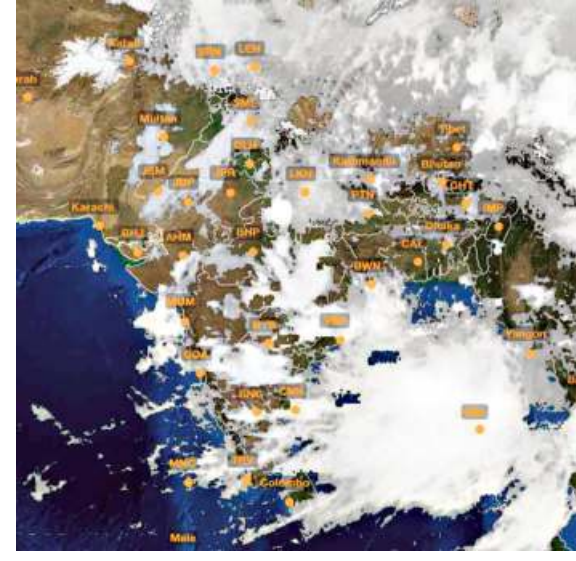
sary treatment. Therefore, it is important to implement this programme for the overall development of children," the Health Minister said.

There were around 92,000 hearing and language-impaired persons at present in the State, of whom 51% were in rural areas and the rest in urban pockets, he added.

"Deafness can be prevented if this test is done at an early stage. Therefore, this programme should be planned according to the method of early diagnosis and treatment. Mobile units can be used to go to primary health centres and check the newborns. Hearing tests can also be done during a child's immunisation session," Mr. Tope said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.5	25.8	Kozhikode	33	31.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	59	34.5	23.0	Kurnool	—	33.8	25.2
Aizawl	—	—	—	Lucknow	0.6	32.6	26.3
Allahabad	—	29.8	27.4	Madurai	—	36.0	27.1
Bengaluru	5	28.4	20.8	Mangaluru	19.3	29.2	24.0
Bhopal	15.4	34.8	21.4	Mumbai	—	29.6	26.0
Bhubaneswar	0.9	29.4	24.9	Mysuru	16	27.2	20.2
Chandigarh	16	34.7	24.2	New Delhi	—	35.0	26.2
Chennai	—	37.8	29.7	Patna	—	31.4	24.0
Coimbatore	0.9	32.3	23.1	Port Blair	—	30.9	26.8
Dehradun	9	33.8	23.2	Puducherry	—	37.4	26.4
Gangtok	58	19.6	18.2	Pune	12.7	26.8	21.6
Goa	66	31.2	24.6	Raipur	—	34.0	26.5
Guwahati	6	35.4	26.4	Ranchi	—	25.8	22.7
Hubbali	—	26.0	21.0	Shillong	—	25.1	18.1
Hyderabad	—	32.6	23.8	Shimla	—	26.6	15.7
Imphal	5	29.0	20.8	Srinagar	—	22.1	14.3
Jaipur	—	38.8	26.9	Thiruvananthapuram	6	31.5	25.0
Kochi	17	31.0	24.6	Tiruchi	—	37.6	28.0
Kohima	—	28.8	18.4	Vijayawada	—	36.6	28.2
Kolkata	51	25.8	23.8	Visakhapatnam	—	35.4	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	Pollutants in the air you are breathing					Yesterday
	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	
Ahmedabad	7	40	79	120	102	In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonapat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 251 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15
Bengaluru	9	46	87	63	63	
Chennai	12	8	35	73	86	
Delhi	5	33	49	122	198	
Hyderabad	4	39	12	18	18	
Kolkata	8	20	20	53	53	
Lucknow	—	40	68	51	78	
Mumbai	1	7	7	107	113	
Pune	6	22	90	215	134	
Visakhapatnam	11	48	33	40	86	

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Pet dog fights a battle with the bulge

50kg dog undergoes laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy

RAINA ASSAINAR NAVI MUMBAI

In what could be a first-of-its-kind surgery, a laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy was performed recently on an eight-year-old dog weighing 50 kg.

Deepika, an Indie cross breed, was adopted by Yasmin Daruwalla, a resident of Pune. "Initially, she was quite active. Would run around the house, play with me, and go for walks. Gradually, she lost interest in all activities, would just sit on the couch, salivating and panting severely," she said.

Deepika's food intake and medication also increased. Ms. Daruwalla said, "I came across Dr. Narendra Pardeshi of Small Animal Clinic,



The surgery was performed on June 6. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pune, on the internet. We tried to reduce her weight based on his prescribed diets for obesity, cardiac food, and joint foods."

When none of these worked, Dr. Pardeshi suggested a laparoscopic sleeve

gastrectomy surgery for which Ms. Daruwalla consulted Dr. Shashank Shah, a bariatric surgeon at Laparo Obeso Centre, Pune.

"Like humans, obesity is a silent killer in animals too. There are many obese pets

in the country that need to undergo surgery. Indian dogs who are fed more on carbohydrate-rich food can become obese, as was the case here," said Dr. Shah.

"The normal lifespan of dogs is 12-15 years which can reduce by six years if they are obese," Dr. Pardeshi said, adding, "Deepika weighed 50 kg against an ideal weight of 18-20 kg and we met with no success after prescribing her dog foods, exercise, and thyroid medication." The surgery was done on June 6.

"After surgery, we advised restricted movement and exercise for 15 days. Now the dog's weight is about 45 kg," Dr. Pardeshi added.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Sheetal**, W/o: **Sh. Ajay**, R/o: H. No. B-961, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped with her son **Namely Samarth** since **05.06.2021** at 3:45 pm. from her house from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 17A dated 06.06.2021** has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under: **Age:** 24 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Blue colour suit, red colour salwar and slipper in her feet. The description of the missing/kidnapped son **Samarth** is as under: **Age:** 3 years, **Height:** 3'5", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** White colour shirt and blue colour jeans. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female and her son but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female and her son kindly inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/873/RD/2021

SHO P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27511294, 8750870329

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown**, **S/o: Unknown**, **R/o: Unknown**, **Age: about 55 Years**, **Complexion: Fair**, **Height: 5' 4"**, **Face: Oval**, **Built: Thin**, **Wearing: White colour shirt**, who was found near Rain Basera Bangla Sahib Gurudwara Lane, New Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 43-A Dated 16.06.2021** has been registered at **P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi**.



Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO P.S. Parliament Street, New Delhi DP/282/ND/2021 Tel.: 011-23361100

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition from Gate No. 5, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi on Dated 29.04.2021 and he brought in Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi wide MLC No. 132098/21. Where he declared broadhead dead. In this regard a **DD No. 09A, Dated 29.04.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi**. The description of the person is given as under:



Name: Unknown, **S/o: Unknown**, **R/o: Unknown**, **Age: about 45 years**, **Height: 170 cm**, **Complexion: Shallow**, **Face: Round**, **Built: Normal**, **Wearing: Dark Blue Colour Jacket and Black Colour Pant**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform at **website: http://cbi.nic.in**, **E-mail: cicbcbi@cbi.nic.in** or **Fax No.: 011-23011334**, **Tel. No. 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229, 2301528, Ext. 210**.

S.H.O P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi DP/698/SW/2021 Ph: 011-24106346, 24106345, 9896935958



Reverse migration

Political mobilisation based on opportunistic defection can only offer limited purchase

Leaders switching parties and parties recruiting turncoats are not unheard of in Indian politics. A shrinking party would lose leaders while an expanding party would gain them. The talent acquisition strategy of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) goes far beyond such familiar opportunism. In the recent years of its growth, it has built entire electoral strategies around leaders who crossed over from other parties. In Assam, its two consecutive Chief Ministers were in other parties not long ago; the current incumbent, Himanta Biswa Sarma, was not just any other Congress leader but a decision maker in the 15-year-long tenure of the party until 2016. Perhaps encouraged by the success in Assam, the party launched a similar strategy in West Bengal. It recruited dozens of leaders from other parties, particularly the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Not surprisingly, a good number of the leaders who crossed over to the BJP due to its lure or fear of the central agencies investigating scams and irregularities, are now flocking back to the TMC. Even as it continued to induct defectors from the Congress and the Telangana Rashtra Samithi this week, Mukul Roy left the BJP to return to the comfort of his old party, the TMC. Several others may follow suit. The TMC itself is a haven of defectors – dozens of leaders from the Congress and the Left Front have joined it since it won power in 2011. The political flux is unlikely to end soon.

The BJP has achieved significant growth in West Bengal in a short span of time. Had it relied more on leaders who had organically grown with it, the BJP would not have been in such an embarrassing position. Its hurry to be in power even in places where it has not established itself as a viable party is harming it. It is also coarsening the political debate and harming democracy itself, simultaneously. If the reverse migration of TMC leaders is rattling the BJP in West Bengal, in Kerala, another State where it tried to punch far above its weight, it is caught in a vortex of corruption allegations. Allegations range from bringing money from Karnataka for the campaign in Kerala through *hawala* routes and bribing an ally. The leaders that the BJP recruited from other parties in Kerala have added up to nothing. All this should point the BJP towards the virtue of patience, which is not unfamiliar to it. Replacing grassroots activism with large-scale defections from other parties can only win short-term rewards, if at all. In the long run, such trends undermine the parties, the persons involved and the democratic processes. The BJP must learn to be more modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Tactics too focused on the short term can only harm the larger interest over the longer term.

Old and slow

India and New Zealand are vying for the latest ICC trophy in the game's original format

Ever since Australia and England played the first ever Test at Melbourne in March 1877, cricket's longest format has constantly evolved. Timeless Tests were dispensed with and rest days within a game were discarded while faster rebelling One Day Internationals and Twenty20s emerged. As the abridged variants attracted fans and commerce, Tests of recent vintage also embraced the day-and-night spectacle. Through these changes, nations have tested themselves in bilateral series with the Ashes and India-Pakistan clashes having stronger brand equity. Yet, there was a demand for context, a yearning that these languid affairs with breaks for lunch and tea over five days coalesce into something more significant. Limited-overs' cricket had World Cups but in Tests, it was all about annual rankings. The International Cricket Council (ICC) stepped in to plug this gap with the World Test Championship (WTC) and the inaugural final will feature India and New Zealand, the leading two teams based on points garnered since 2019. The summit clash commencing at Southampton's Ageas Bowl on Friday, presents an opportunity for both India and New Zealand to gain some ICC silverware that is missing in their trophy cabinets. The respective countries have suffered a title drought with New Zealand winning the ICC Knockout tournament, as the Champions Trophy was known then, back in 2000 while India claimed the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013.

Previously, Virat Kohli's and Kane Williamson's men had riveting jousts though it was the New Zealanders who mostly emerged on top. India lost the 2019 World Cup semi-final at Manchester and last year in New Zealand, won the T20Is and then succumbed in the ODIs and Tests. A neutral venue can negate home-advantage but New Zealand may feel more comfortable while taking into account the playing surface and the prevailing weather. However, India has the confidence gleaned from winning in Australia while also getting the better of England when Joe Root's men came visiting. Meanwhile, true to its giant-slayer tag, New Zealand edged past England with a 1-0 verdict in the two-Test series over the last fortnight. Williamson and company have been in cricket's birthplace for a longer time with additional matches under their belt while India has the so-lace of intra-squad warm-up games. The simplistic trope would be Indian batting against opposition bowling but times have changed and Kohli has an incisive pace arsenal led by Jasprit Bumrah besides solid back-up in spin. The teams seem equal and the provision for an extra sixth day should come in handy as rains are forecast. If there is a draw or a tie, the championship will be shared which is ideal as in their unique ways, India and New Zealand have repeatedly proved their mettle.

A judicial pushback to a draconian legal regime

The Delhi court ruling is a way forward in finding a balance between civil rights and the imperatives of anti-terror laws



GAUTAM BHATIA

The judgment of the Delhi High Court granting bail to activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal, and Asif Iqbal Tanha – they have been in jail for over a year (without trial) for their alleged role in the 2020 Delhi riots – is significant for many reasons. Most importantly, it brings to a close many months of jail time for three people who are yet to be proven guilty of any crime, something that should be anathema to any civilised justice system. What is also significant, however, is that the judgment represents an important judicial pushback to the authoritarian legal regime under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (“UAPA”).

The root of the issue

Ostensibly designed to check and address terrorism, the UAPA is perhaps one of the most abused laws in India today. The root of the problem lies in Section 43(D)(5) of this Act, which prevents the release of any accused person on bail if, on a perusal of the case diary, or the report made under Section 173 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure, the court is of the opinion that “there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is *prima facie* true”.

It is important to break this down. Broadly speaking, India follows the adversarial system of criminal justice, where two sides to a dispute attempt to persuade the court that their version of events is

true. At the heart of the adversarial system of justice is the testing of evidence through cross-examination. Each side is afforded the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge, and question the evidence produced by its opponent; and the best way for a judge to unearth the truth – or the closest approximation of it – is to consider which side's evidence is left standing, and appears more persuasive, after the rigours of cross-examination.

Production of evidence, and cross-examination, involves witnesses, recoveries of incriminating objects, tests of handwriting or voice samples, and many other elements. It constitutes the bulk of a criminal trial. In India, with our overburdened courts and creaking justice system, criminal trials take years. In high-profile cases such as the Delhi riots case, where the record is bulky, and the witnesses number in their hundreds, trials can take many years – even a decade or more.

Importance of bail

For this reason, bail becomes of utmost importance. If an individual is not able to secure bail from the courts, they will languish as under-trials in prison, for the duration of the case, no matter how many years it takes (in recent memory, there are cases of people being found innocent in terrorism cases after 14 and even 23 years in prison). Bail, thus, becomes the only safeguard and guarantee of the constitutional right to liberty.

In ordinary circumstances, when considering the question of bail, a court is meant to take into account a range of factors. These include whether the accused is a flight risk, whether he or she might tamper with the evidence or attempt to influence witnesses,



and the gravity of the offence. But it is here that Section 43(D)(5) of the UAPA plays such a damaging role. As we have just seen, under the classical vision of criminal justice, truth – about innocence or guilt – can only be determined after the evidence of both the prosecution and the defence has been subjected to the rigours of cross-examination. However, as lawyers and scholars such as Abhinav Sekhri and Anjana Prakash have also pointed out, Section 43(D)(5) short-circuits that core assumption. For the grant of bail, it only looks at the plausibility of one side's evidence – that is, the Prosecution's. It binds the court to look at only the case diary or the police report, which has not been challenged by cross-examination, and requires that bail be denied as long as the unchallenged prosecution case appears to be *prima facie* true.

One-sided

The perversity of Section 43(D)(5), thus, is that it forces the court to make an effective determination of guilt or innocence based on one side's unchallenged story, and on that basis to deprive individuals of their freedom for years on end. In a democratic polity, which is committed to the rule of law, this is a deeply troubling state of affairs.

The effect of Section 43(D)(5), as one can see, is that once the police elect to charge sheet an individual under the UAPA, it becomes

extremely difficult for bail to be granted. Even outlandish or trumped-up cases can sound convincing until people have a chance to interrogate and challenge them. In short, unless the police prepare an extremely shoddy case – that is riddled with internal contradictions, for example – a case diary or a report will invariably make out a “*prima facie*” case against an individual.

Finer points of the judgment

It is here that the Delhi High Court's judgment becomes important. The Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani correctly note that even though Section 43(D)(5) departs from many basic principles of criminal justice, there are other fundamental principles that remain of cardinal significance. These include, for example, that the initial burden of demonstrating guilt must always lie upon the prosecution; and also, that criminal offences must be specific in their terms, and read narrowly, to avoid bringing the innocent within their net. On this basis, the court's judgment notes that as the UAPA is meant to deal with terrorist offences, its application must be limited to acts that can reasonably fall within a plausible understanding of “terrorism”. “Terrorism” is a term of art, and not a word that can be thrown around loosely. Thus, to attract the provisions of the UAPA – the judgment holds – the charge sheet must reveal factual, individualised, and particular allegations linking the accused to a terrorist act.

The judgment then finds that even if the police's claims are taken to be true, no such allegations exist. At the highest, the accusations against the activists involve calls for protests and *chakka jams*

(road blockages). There is no act, overt or covert, attributed to the activists that could constitute a terrorist offence. And, importantly, inferences or hypotheticals drawn by the police do not count at the stage of granting bail. Coupled with the significance of the right to protest and to dissent under our constitutional scheme, the judgment therefore holds that even *prima facie*, a case under the UAPA has not been made out, and therefore, there is no question of the application of Section 43(D)(5).

The Delhi High Court's judgment indicates a pathway forward in the quest for finding a balance between citizens' civil rights and the imperatives of anti-terrorism legislation such as the UAPA. A position under which citizens can be jailed for years on end just on the basis of police reports and case diaries, with courts precluded from granting them bail, is completely inconsistent with democracy, and redolent of authoritarian or tyrannical states. However, the court's analysis shows how even within – and consistent with – the terms of the UAPA, there is an important role for a conscientious judiciary to play. By scrutinising the police case on its own terms, and according a strict interpretation to draconian legislation such as the UAPA, courts can ensure that civil rights are not left entirely at the mercy of the state.

At the time of writing, the High Court's judgment has been appealed by the Delhi Police to the Supreme Court of India. It now remains to be seen whether the highest court will also endorse this crucial ruling, which restates the responsibility of an independent judiciary in checking executive impunity.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

A place for disruptive technology in India's health sector

Artificial intelligence, autonomous systems and data analytics have a defining role to play in shaping the medical sector

SURJITH KARTHIKEYAN & GOWTHAM DAAS RAJENDRAN

As frontline warriors fighting COVID-19, the medical community has been selfless, but also losing a number of staff in the process. Nurses and attendants, on full-time duty, donning mainly masks and gloves as the only protective gear have been exposed to great risk. It is in such a situation that the relevance of disruptive technology and its applications comes into focus, potentially helping to reduce the chances of hospital staff contracting the infection.

There are reports in the global media of established innovative field hospitals using robots to care for COVID-19 affected patients. There are hospitals, in China, that use 5G-powered temperature measurement devices at the entrance to flag patients who have fever/fever-like symptoms. Other robots measure heart rates and blood oxygen levels through smart bracelets and rings that patients wear; they even sanitise wards. Last year, in India, the Saiwan Singh government hospital in Jaipur held trials with a humanoid robot to deliver medicines and food to COVID-19 patients admitted there (<https://bit.ly/3wLxtSQ>).

The critical aspect is how new technologies can improve the wel-

fare of societies and reduce the impact of communicable diseases, spotlighting the importance of technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), autonomous systems, blockchain, cloud and quantum computing, data analytics, 5G. Blockchain technology can help in addressing the interoperability challenges that health information and technology systems face. The health blockchain would contain a complete indexed history of all medical data, including formal medical records and health data from mobile applications and wearable sensors. This can also be stored in a secure network and authenticated, besides helping in seamless medical attention.

Big data analytics can help improve patient-based services tremendously such as early disease detection. Even hospital healthcare facilities can be improved to a great extent. AI and the Internet of Medical Things, or IoMT (which is defined as a connected infrastructure of medical devices, software applications, and health systems and services) are shaping healthcare applications.

Medical autonomous systems can also improve health delivery to a great extent and their applications are focused on supporting medical care delivery in dispersed and complex environments with the help of futuristic technologies.



This system may also include autonomous critical care system, autonomous intubation, autonomous cricothyrotomy and other autonomous interventional procedures. Cloud computing is another application facilitating collaboration and data exchanges between doctors, departments, and even institutions and medical providers to enable best treatment.

Furthering UHC

According to the World Health Organization (<https://bit.ly/3gtHBT>), “Universal health coverage (UHC) is the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer. It is a powerful social equalizer and the ultimate expression of fairness.” The question is about how UHC can be achieved through the application of digital technologies, led by a robust strategy integrating human, financial, organisational and technological resources. Studies by WHO show that weakly-coordinated steps may lead to stand-

alone information and communication technology solutions, leading to a fragmentation of information and resulting in poor delivery of care. India needs to own its digital health strategy that works and leads towards universal health coverage and person-centred care. Such a strategy should emphasise the ethical appropriateness of digital technologies, cross the digital divide, and ensure inclusion across the economy. ‘Ayushman Bharat’ and tools such as Information and Communication Technology could be fine-tuned with this strategy to promote ways to protect populations. Online consultation through video conferencing should be a key part of such a strategy, especially in times when there is transmission of communicable diseases.

Using local knowledge

In addition to effective national policies and robust health systems, an effective national response must also draw upon local knowledge. Community nurses, doctors, and health workers in developing countries do act as frontline sentinels. An example is the Ebola virus outbreak in Africa, where communities proactively helped curtail the spread much before government health teams arrived. Another example is from

Indonesia, where the experience of backyard poultry farmers was used to tackle bird flu. Primary health centres in India could examine local/traditional knowledge and experience and then use it along with modern technology.

Possible challenges

In the developing world, and this includes India, initial efforts in this direction should involve synchronisation and integration, developing a template for sharing data, and reengineering many of the institutional and structural arrangements in the medical sector. Big data applications in the health sector should help hospitals provide the best facilities and at less cost, provide a level playing field for all sectors, and foster competition. The possible constraints in this effort are a standardisation of health data, organisational silos, data security and data privacy, and also high investments. However, there is no doubt that disruptive technology can play an important role in improving the health sector in general.

Surjith Karthikeyan is an Indian Economic Service Officer, serving as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Gowtham Daas Rajendran is a post graduate in public policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The undercount

The recent spurt of data reconciliation in connection with COVID-19 deaths in a number of States confirms long-held suspicions of inaccurate mortality being reported previously. These revisions will represent a truer estimate of fatality, in turn leading to better epidemiological data needed to track the intensity of the outbreaks.

Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Surge in FDI inflows

In the article, “What explains the surge in FDI inflows” (*The Hindu*, OpEd page, June 2, 2021), which analysed data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on May 24, 2021 and the May 2021 bulletin of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in India, the RBI data appear to have been

misinterpreted. The analysis of the reasons behind the buoyancy in FDI inflows is erroneous. The writer seems to suggest that the FDI inflows of U.S.\$81.72 billion include amounts attributable to ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ and ‘FII investments’ with the surge in FDI inflows (to U.S.\$81.72 bn in 2020-21) being attributable to an increase in ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ and ‘FII investments’.

FII investments are different from FDI. FII investment amounts have not been included to calculate FDI inflows. FII investments of U.S.\$38 billion in 2020-21 have been categorised separately by the RBI and do not form part of the FDI inflow figure of U.S.\$81.72 bn. If the writer's intention was to demonstrate the staggering increase in aggregate foreign exchange inflows under the FDI and FII routes, U.S.\$119.8 billion

should have been quoted. Aggregate foreign exchange inflows under these routes witnessed an increase of 59.88% over the figure of U.S.\$74.94 billion in 2019-20. The writer appears to attribute the amounts in respect of ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ to investments from private equity funds and also seems to suggest that the ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ amount has been taken into account to calculate the FDI inflow figure of U.S.\$81.72 bn. However, ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ of U.S.\$27 billion in 2020-21 has been categorised separately by the RBI and does not form part of the FDI inflow figure.

India attracted the highest ever FDI inflows of U.S.\$81.72 bn in 2020-21, higher by 10% over 2019-20. FDI inflows remained buoyant despite challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown. The

Government of India has put in place a stable, predictable and transparent policy environment and continues to take measures to develop infrastructure, to improve the business environment and liberalise the FDI policy regime. Their effects will continue to deliver results.

YOGESH BAWEJA,
ADG (MEDIA & COMMUNICATION),
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY

SUKHCHAIN SINGH,
ASST. DIRECTOR (M&C),
PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU,
NATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE,
New Delhi

R. Nagaraj responds:

As stated in the article, “total FDI inflow” of \$81.72 bn in 2020-21, as in the Commerce Ministry's press release (May 24, 2021), is identical to “Gross inflows/gross investment” in the RBI Bulletin (RBIB) (Foreign Investment Inflows; Table 34, row no. 1.1.1.1).

Likewise, the FII investment of \$38 bn mentioned in the Ministry's response is similar to the figure reported in the RBIB table, row no. 1.2.2. Similarly, ‘repatriation/disinvestment’ of \$27.056 bn is also recorded in the same table, row no. 1.1.1.2. In the RBIB tabulation, a few arithmetical identities define these financial flows. For instance, gross inflows (1.1.1.1) are related to ‘Direct Investment to India’ (1.1.1) and repatriation/disinvestment (1.1.1.2). ‘Foreign Investment Inflows’ (1) is the sum of ‘Net Foreign Direct Investment’ (1.1) and ‘Net Portfolio Investment’ (1.2). ‘FII’s’ (1.2.2) is a sub-set of net portfolio investment (1.2). By rearranging the rows in Table 34, we get the following identities: Identity 1: Gross inflow (1.1.1.1) = Foreign investment inflow (1) + Repatriation (1.1.1.2) + FDI by India (1.1.2) - Net

portfolio investment (1.2); Identity 2: FII’s (1.2.2) = Net portfolio investment (1.2) - GDRs/ADRs (1.2.1) - Offshore funds and others (1.2.3) + portfolio investment by India (1.2.4). Plugging in the values from the table for 2020-21 against each variable (in billion dollars), we get the following arithmetical identities: Identity 1: \$81.72 = \$80.209 + \$27.056 + \$11.299 - \$36.843; Identity 2: \$38.097 = 36.843 - 0.0 - 0.0 + 1.254. As reported in the table, the above identities show that Gross inflows are related to: net foreign portfolio investments and repatriations/disinvestment, contrary to the claims made in the Commerce Ministry's response. Hence, the official contention that total FDI inflow does not include portfolio investment and repatriations is not tenable.

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Should India accept Islamic State returnees?

PARLEY Respecting international law, India should bring them back and try them in court as Indian citizens

In 2016-18, four women from Kerala accompanied their husbands to join the Islamic State (IS) in Afghanistan's Khorasan Province. Their husbands were killed in different attacks and the women are now lodged in an Afghanistan prison. Authorities in Afghanistan want to return the women to India, but the Indian government has not indicated what it proposes to do in this matter. Sources say security agencies have advised against taking them back. What do international laws say about foreign fighters returning to their countries? K.P. Fabian and Kabir Taneja discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Suhasini Haidar. Edited excerpts:



K.P. Fabian is a former diplomat, author and Professor at the Indian Society of International Law

Ambassador Fabian, you have argued that no matter the crime, the Indian government must take back Sonia Sebastian alias Ayisha, Reffea, Merrin Jacob alias Mariyam, and Nimisha alias Fathima Isa along with their children. Tell us why?

K.P. Fabian: A couple of reasons, actually. One, under the Indian Penal Code, Section 3, any citizen of India can be tried in India for any offence committed in India, abroad, or even in outer space.

Two, we hear from media reports, not yet contradicted by the government, that Afghanistan wants to deport them and India has refused. Reports also say that they may be a grave threat to India's security and can't return. That is rubbish because these four women, if they are coming back to India, will be in the custody of our security forces. They can be taken to court and held in custody till the court gives a verdict. While in custody, they cannot be of any threat to the security of India.

Finally, they have their families here. In this particular case, Nimisha's mother has said that there is a granddaughter who is four years old. What crime has she committed? It is necessary for that child to be with the grandparents, if the parents are not able to look after her. So, there is no reason for India to stand in the way of their return

when Afghanistan has asked for it.

The question some are asking is that if these women left India of their own volition and joined what they believed was an Islamic Caliphate, and pledged allegiance to this separate Caliphate, don't they lose their right to an Indian citizenship by acquiring this other notional citizenship?

KPF: No, there are international treaties which say that you cannot strip anyone's citizenship if it makes that person stateless. Let me draw your attention to Shamima Begum, a U.K. citizen who left the U.K. at the age of 15 to join the IS. After the IS fell, the U.K. government said she cannot return and stripped her of citizenship. The Court of Appeal in the U.K. said the government was in the wrong. The government then went to the Supreme Court and said there are national security reasons for the decision not to let her in. The Supreme Court said she can contest the decision taken to strip her of citizenship, but when she is in a position to do so.

The Indian passport enables you to go out. You also need a visa or an agreement that there is no need for visa. The same passport permits you to come back without a visa.

Kabir Taneja: I believe that they should be allowed to come back and be tried as Indian citizens by an Indian court because if they have joined an organisation such as the IS, which is banned in India, they can be tried in court. Arif Majeed (an IS recruit who returned from Iraq in 2014) went through the trial and is now out on bail because the court said it's very difficult for the prosecution to come up with concrete evidence as all the acts committed were outside India's geography. So, after serving six to seven years as an undertrial, he was given bail. Now, you can argue whether that case was a successful case of trying someone who had joined a banned organisation or whether it fell apart.

Due to the fact that India does not have a cohesive policy towards foreign fighters, and also because it



VIVEK BENDRE

does not have that many such cases, it's easy for the state to approach them on an ad hoc basis and tell these women in Afghanistan, 'you did it by choice and we are not responsible for you anymore'.

Is there a national security risk from bringing back people who have been radicalised and have been associated with a terror group, possibly involved in terror attacks in other countries? Should there be a different standard in their treatment?

KT: The problem here is how do you estimate a person's radicalisation? We've seen this phenomenon of IS foreign fighters. Many states are saying it was these people's choice to join a terror organisation and they are not the state's responsibility anymore.

As far as the national security question is concerned, there is no easy answer to it. It ultimately comes down to what a state's policy towards foreign fighters in general is. And if it is ad hoc, if it is on a case-by-case basis, it gives a lot of leverage to the state to decide what kind of action it would like to take towards that particular case. In the case of Arif Majeed, the government allowed him to return, but in the case of these women in Afghanistan, the government is not doing so.

KPF: Even if these particular young women were brainwashed and radicalised, and remain radicalised, we as a state have a duty to get them back and de-radicalise them. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says everyone has the right to leave any country, including his

Even if these young women were radicalised, and remain radicalised, we as a state have a duty to get them back and de-radicalise them.

K.P. FABIAN

own, and to return to his country, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights says no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.

The pictures that we saw coming out of the IS shook the world. People were being drowned alive and burnt alive, there was sexual slavery of Yazidi women, people were killed indiscriminately in Raqqa. When it comes to a threat like the one that the IS poses at the height of its brutality, is there a case for a different approach to returnees?

KPF: No, this must be decided according to legality and morality. I do not accept the argument that India cannot handle the threat posed by these four women. And what happens to that four-year-old girl, especially in Afghanistan, where there is every likelihood of the Taliban coming back? The state has a responsibility to its citizens and it can't wash its hands of that responsibility.

KT: In reality, states have had very different approaches to IS returnees than in the past, for example, when foreign fighters joined the Mujahideen to fight the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1990s. In the case of the IS, a lot of European IS returnees have been kept in the al-Hol camp in northern Syria. Apart from

the legal questions, there is also the political push back against allowing these fighters to come back to their original countries. In addition, when foreign fighters would sign up for the IS, they would destroy their own passports and have no papers to prove their claims. Now, the camp poses a different kind of problem – if these fighters are not moved out, IS ideology will fester in these camps and pose a fresh threat. So, there is a need for a broad-based global agreement on what to do with them.

India has seen far smaller numbers joining the IS. According to estimates, the total number of people influenced by the IS is only between 100 and 300. Does that imply de-radicalisation programmes may be more successful here if these recruits are able to return?

KT: It is hard to tell, and different States in India have different blueprints for de-radicalisation. In the U.K., we have seen people come out of these programmes and still commit acts of terror. With these returnees from Afghanistan, we are still not sure how they were radicalised. Who helped them go to Afghanistan? Until these questions are answered, it may not be possible for the state to be comfortable about allowing them to return.

KPF: Regardless of what India's experience is, all countries must respect international law. It is absolutely clear that Afghanistan has every right under international law to deport these recruits. Now, if Afghanistan has the right to deport them, where does it deport them to? These people have Indian passports. So, if you respect Afghanistan's right to deport them, it follows that you have to say that India has an obligation to accept them.

Eventually then, is this a question of which laws could apply: international laws on the right to repatriate citizens or national security laws in India? And would the nature of the crimes be a factor in differentiating between one returnee and the other?

KPF: In the case of Shamima Be-

gum, it is my view that such a decision would not have been made if she were not originally from Bangladesh or another country of that nature. If she were born to [Caucasian British] parents, for example, it would not have happened. Second, even under British law, you cannot strip a person of their citizenship if, as a consequence of that action, that person becomes stateless. The U.K. tried to maintain that she could have Bangladeshi citizenship, but Bangladesh declared that there is no question of her getting Bangladeshi citizenship because she was born in the U.K. I think it is necessary to look at these matters not only in terms of the law, which is always evolving, but also in terms of humanity. If we cannot look at young people who made a big mistake, and if we want to condemn them forever, well, I do not think we are behaving humanely.

KT: I think there should be differentiation on the basis of the crime committed. And of course, there should be differentiation on where the crime was committed. When it comes to foreign fighters, it's not just about the law that comes into play. Security concerns come into play, the legality comes into play, and politics comes into play, both foreign policy and domestic politics.

Thousands of people like Shamima Begum are still stuck in various camps across West Asia. The problem is formulations on what states should do were not made earlier, despite the problem seen with the Mujahideen in Afghanistan-Pakistan and then with al-Qaeda. This was also the first time where there was such an influx, specifically from Europe, into the IS. And there has been such chaos and confusion – from the security point of view, political point of view and legal point of view – about how these countries should treat people, who would want to come back and say they made a mistake. I think the answers will take time. The problem is the people who are currently stuck in this rut are facing the brunt of both the legal point of view and security point of view. I still believe that a lot of these recruits who have made the decision of joining these kinds of groups are going to face a lot of pushback from the various states that they originally came from.



Kabir Taneja is Fellow with the Strategic Studies Programme at the Observer Research Foundation and author of 'The ISIS Peril'



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Recovery takes more than reforms

In any serious attempt at economic recovery, the focus must be on food supply and not money supply

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The most recent growth estimates of the National Statistical Office show that after a steep contraction in the first quarter of last year, growth accelerated steadily afterwards. This would have assured a recovery had we not experienced the second wave of the pandemic that came with the current financial year. Overlapping State-level lockdowns that started in April have now lasted for almost as long the nationwide lockdown of 2020, and there is no gainsaying their impact on the economy. Output may well have contracted in the beginning of this year. So, though recovery will eventually come, it could be W-shaped rather than V-shaped.

Meaning of reforms

When the issue of economic recovery was raised in public, a minister asserted that the economy will recover due to the reforms planned or already implemented by the government. We do not know what the government has in mind but we should be sceptical of the claim that reforms can make a difference at this stage. Since 1991, the term 'reforms' has been used to mean both policy changes that remove restrictions on private sector activity in certain areas and those that increase profits in existing lines of production. Recent examples of these are allowing greater private sector participation in defence as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan launched in 2020 and the significant lowering of corporate tax in 2019, respectively. However, more reforms may be ineffective in spurring recovery. Presently for the private sector, entry into a new area or undertaking investment in an existing activity may not appear profitable given their expectation of the state of the economy in the near future, upon which their revenue will depend.

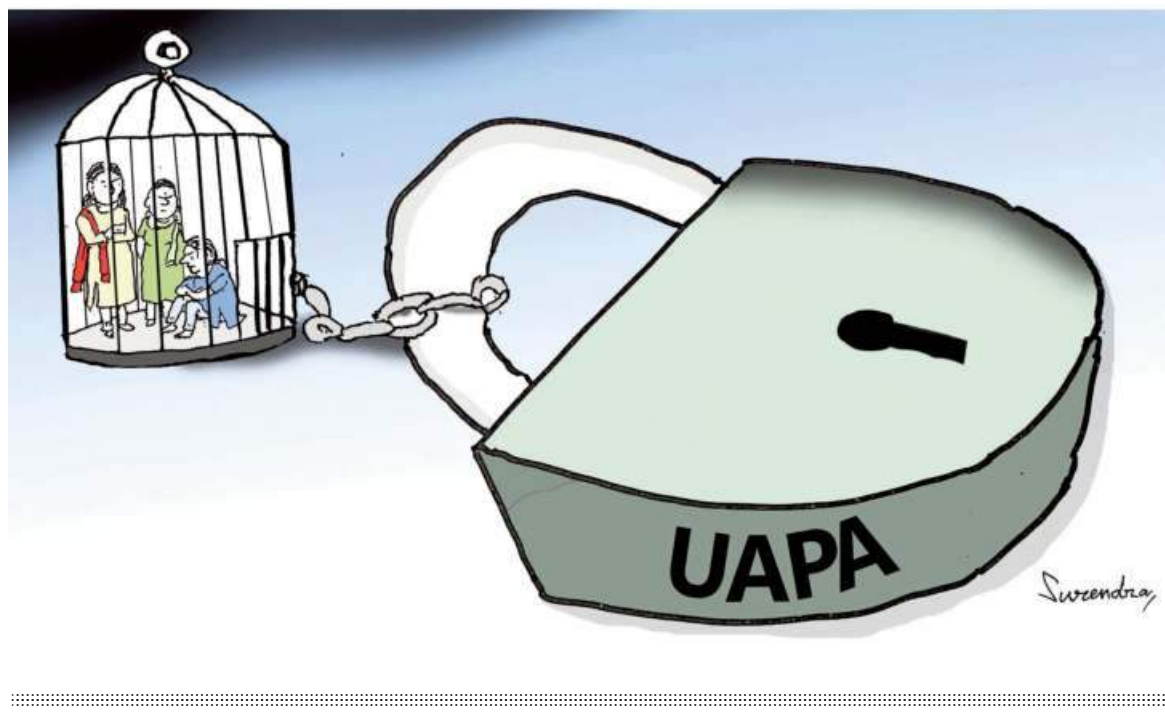
We may assume that the private sector is fully aware of the following history. In February, believing that the peak of the epidemic had been crossed, the government reverted to its principal macroeconomic pre-occupation, namely fiscal consolidation or the paring down of the fiscal defi-

cit. Accordingly, it raised its budgeted expenditure by less than 1% in the last Budget. The onset of the second wave of COVID-19 in April has thrown the economic policy calculations of the government out of gear. Back in February it was already known that the economy had contracted in 2020-21. To keep public expenditure virtually unchanged under such circumstances had been heroic enough then, but now, with a possible further contraction of the economy, to continue with the frigid fiscal stance would be disastrous. Though we do not know how output has fared so far this financial year, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy show that unemployment has risen in May, indicating slack demand for output. With this knowledge, the private sector is unlikely to respond with alacrity to liberalising reforms.

Public spending is the key

Right now, raising public spending is the only game in town left to the policymaker serious about bringing on a recovery. If we are to have it, though, we should accept a higher than budgeted deficit. A debate involving economists and central bankers has been set off on whether the government should now 'print money'. This is the wrong way to approach the problem. It puts the cart before the horse. It is also alarmist. The objective is to revive the economy, public spending is the instrument and the funding must be found. It need not involve money creation. India's public debt is low by comparison with the OECD countries, and debt financing remains an option. Even if money financing is adopted, it need not cause accelerating inflation as some predict. Experience in India suggests otherwise. However, studies do show that any economic expansion would be inflationary if the production of food does not respond adequately. How the expansion is financed is less relevant for inflation at least in the near term. In any serious attempt at economic recovery, the focus must be on the food supply and not the money supply.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches economics at Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana



NOTEBOOK

Court-hopping at the click of a mouse

COVID-19 has changed the way reporters cover the Supreme Court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

A few years ago, an elderly reporter of inextinguishable zest and curiosity began his daily work of covering the Supreme Court from his usual spot – right under the judges' noses.

One of the judges, noticing the physical proximity of the man to the dais, turned to him frowning. "Who are you," he asked as the reporter continued to jot down the court's observations, including this question, oblivious that the entire courtroom was now focused on him.

The veteran scribe collected his nerves admirably, bowed to the Bench, ever respectfully, and introduced himself and his employer. The judge asked him to keep his distance from the podium, probably move to the rear end of the courtroom. The reporter bowed and dutifully retreated, only to doggedly move forward within the

next few minutes to catch a juicy remark falling from the Bench during the hearing.

COVID-19 changed it all last year. Reporters stopped being physically present at Supreme Court hearings. The first few days were a jumble. The court experimented with allowing only three reporters entry into a courtroom. The rest had to wait outside or try to sneak in. This reporter, of rather bulky proportions, could not tiptoe past the ever-vigilant Delhi Police personnel stationed outside the courtroom.

Over the next few days, the virus flexed its muscles. The Supreme Court shed its physical operations and turned to virtual mode. While judges and lawyers functioned from homes, reporters were invited to watch the proceedings online on desktop monitors arranged at a nearby annex building. On the bright side, we could gawk

at the lovely homes of senior lawyers displayed on the screens and overhear their chit-chat. We spotted a couple of shirtless male lawyers too. Though we missed the hurly-burly of the court and scampering from one courtroom to another, changing courtrooms on the screen with a click of a mouse saved sweat and time.

At times, though, poor connectivity irked the judges. Echoes, the background noise of dogs barking, vendors and, once, even a mother scolding a child to finish his breakfast encroached into the hearings.

Things changed again before the second wave hit. The court opened a new press lounge inside the complex. Here, reporters could watch the proceedings on personal laptops instead of a common monitor. But by then the virus had caught up with us in earnest. Some of us fell sick along with the world

around us. The court went through a harrowing time. Many lost their colleagues and close friends.

Then a new Chief Justice was sworn in. A former journalist himself, Chief Justice N.V. Ramana understood that, like judges and lawyers, reporters need to be safe while doing their job. In early May, the court, steered by its e-Committee headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, launched a software that allowed reporters to stay at home and watch Supreme Court proceedings on their mobile phones. Technology had brought the apex court's hearings into our homes.

But I still think about the elderly reporter. It has been quite a long time since I heard his breathless voice over the phone in the evenings after a 'physical' day in court, asking "Hey, what happened in *** case? I was in the other courtroom and couldn't make it here in time."

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 18, 1971

U.S. not willing to put pressure on Pak.

Washington, June 17: The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, had a 45-minute meeting with President Nixon here yesterday, during which the former is understood to have pointed out that only a political approach could restore normalcy in East Bengal and that the U.S. and the international community should do their utmost to see that the real representatives of the people there were restored to power. Mr. Swaran Singh stressed that the refugees were only a mere symptom – at the root of it lay the political problem which could not be solved either by the Pakistani Army or a civilian junta handpicked by the military overlords of Pakistan. Earlier in the day, the External Affairs Minister had a working lunch and a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. William Rogers, when he made the same points. At both meetings Mr. Swaran Singh emphasised that the refugee relief work for which the U.S. and other countries had made some contributions, was only a palliative and not a cure for the underlying problem. At any rate he had not undertaken his present tour of world capitals to raise donations for this purpose.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 18, 1921

Education in India

(From an Editorial)

At a time when many of the Western countries are engaged in solving the problem of educational reform it was naturally expected that the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India would discuss, in his report, the several educational questions in India and convey to the public what was intended to be done by the Government to secure satisfactory solutions for them. In the absence of any such illumination, his report on Indian Education for the year 1919-20 is rendered a rapid record of facts and figures relating to the educational activities in the country during the period under review. It takes a bird's-eye view of the educational progress in the country and does not attempt to do more than give a brief summary of important events recorded by the Directors of Public Instruction in several provinces and one looks into it in vain to find out what the future educational policy of the Government is and what lines of action are to be taken to make education in the country free from the charge of its being merely literary.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC approves CBSE assessment formula

According to the scheme, the total marks awarded should be in consonance with the past performance of the school in Class 12 exams. A result committee under the principal would be formed in each school. It has been given the liberty to prepare the result by following the policy. The CBSE said it would declare the results by July 31, 2021.

In case any candidate is not satisfied with the assessment done, based on the policy, he or she would be given an opportunity to take the examinations to be conducted by the Board when the situation is more "conducive".

"Most of the candidates will be happy with this scheme... When there is a

manageable number you can consider holding a physical exam later," a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari addressed Attorney General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for the Union of India, which is the CBSE's controlling authority.

CISCE formula

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) assessment formula would include taking into consideration the students' Class 10 ICSE Board exams, project and practical work in subjects, best marks obtained in school exams in Classes 11 and 12 and the best performance of the school itself in the past six years.

CBSE scheme evokes mixed reactions

"Online examinations conducted in the past year are not a true representation of a student's capability and potential but considering Class 10 and 11 marks do even out things and help provide a result that a student could have achieved in an offline examination," Mr. Saraf observed.

Some students felt that the education system was such that it put so much emphasis on Board exam results that taking into account marks from previous results and assessments was not quite fair. They said there was scope for bias as grading was not being done by external examiners.

"Although Class 10 and 12 exams are standardised, there is a lot of scope for internal bias while considering Class 11 marks," said Aurora Uban, whose exams got cancelled. "Children are told that only Class 12 boards and clearing the JEE and NEET matter, so most of them never actually study up till the final external board exam," she said.

Principals of schools welcomed the assessment scheme. Jyoti Arora, principal of the Mount Abu School, said the CBSE's submission of the criteria was a result of extensive consultations. "The CBSE consulted Sahodayas across the country. Again, unusual decisions for unusual times. Considering all three classes is a balanced approach," she said.

Tania Joshi, principal of The Indian School, said the announcement had come as a much-needed relief to students. "Usually students perform well in the Class X boards so now the results combined with the other classes, will get balanced out. So it is a win-win situation," Ms. Joshi added.

Delhi University (DU) officials said they would take a call on the admission procedure at a later stage.

Rajeev Gupta, Chairperson of DU admissions, said, "We have to wait for some time to understand the repercussions of the decision."

Court rejects police stand; students freed

The Delhi Police argued that it also needed to verify the Aadhaar cards of the people who have been nominated as sureties by the three accused. For this, the trial court can pass an order directly to the authority concerned, they said.

"Do you follow this procedure in other cases as well," the High Court asked the Delhi police. Both Ms. Kalita and Ms. Narwal, who were arrested in connection with the northeast Delhi riots last year, were granted bail by the Delhi High Court on Tuesday. Following this, they had moved the local court for securing immediate release order.

The Delhi Police have

moved the Supreme Court challenging the High Court verdict granting regular bail to the three students who were booked under the anti-terrorism law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The case is likely to come up for hearing on Friday.

While granting bail, the High Court gave the Delhi police a dressing down for 'casually' invoking provisions of anti-terrorism laws against the three who had protested against the enactment of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

The High Court also ruled that no offence under the UAPA was made out against any of the three students.

'Wrote to PM thrice to withdraw Governor'

Earlier, the Trinamool Congress leadership, including several MPs, had written to President Ram Nath Kovind demanding the Governor's recall.

Ms Banerjee described the Union government's attempts to "control Twitter" as unfortunate. "They cannot control Twitter, that is why they want to bulldoze Twitter. They cannot control me, that is why they want to bulldoze my government and my party," she said.

Speaking on allegations of post poll violence, the Chief Minister said there were a few incidents, and she had asked the police to take strong action in such cases.

"There are no incidents

now. At the time when the State was under the Election Commission, there were some sporadic incidents. But all incidents were not political. In some cases, personal enmity was there. As the matter is sub judice, I won't speak. But I do not support any violence and whenever there is an incident, I have asked police to take strong action," Ms Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister said the BJP was trying to create an atmosphere of violence. "There is no political violence, it is BJP gimmick violence," she said.

On Thursday, Mr Dhankhar called on the President. The Governor also called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the evening.

CBSE to record Class 10, 12 marks throughout the year

'Long-term plan to ensure year-round assessment emphasised for all classes'

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is considering a system of continuous assessment for 2021-22, whereby all student scores – from unit tests, mid-terms, project work and pre-Board examinations – would be regularly recorded with the Board throughout the year, so that it would be possible to compute and declare final results even if COVID-19 prevents a final Board examination again, Controller of Examinations Sanyam Bhardwaj told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

"We are preparing a scheme, which will be implemented for the 2022 examination for Class 10 and Class 12. In case the pandemic persists, even then we will be



New methods: The CBSE was considering asking for each assessment to be submitted to it. ■BIKEK CHETTRI

able to declare the result without such special schemes. We have started working on it, and discussions are going on," he said. "We are trying to ensure that at regular intervals, we should note down the performance of the students and that should be with the CBSE only. The school will

be doing each and every thing and that will be with us, and if there is any problem, we should be able to declare the result, without having to ask the schools to apply this kind of formula to declare the result," he added, noting that the CBSE was considering the option of asking for each assess-

ment through the year to be submitted to the Board. This may lead to further standardisation of continuous assessment formats as well.

Dr. Bhardwaj was speaking soon after he notified the CBSE Tabulation Policy for the 2020-21 Class 12 results, which gives a lot of discretion to schools themselves and their results committees, to assign and revise marks in order to ensure they aligned with the school's historical performance.

"We are trying for a system to be brought into place, looking into the New Education Policy, in which we will see that year-round development should be recorded," he said, adding that this would not be for Class 12 alone, but for all students.

Ex-encounter specialist, two others sent to NIA custody

Held in connection with Antilla bomb scare, murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Former encounter specialist and Shiv Sena leader Praadeep Sharma and two others, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Antilla bomb scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case, have been sent to NIA custody till June 28.

Early on Thursday morning, NIA officials conducted searches at Mr. Sharma's residence at Andheri and questioned him till noon, after which he was placed under arrest. Later, the NIA arrested Satish Motukuri and Manish Soni from Malad.

Mr. Sharma has been arrested for his alleged role in the conspiracy and destruction of evidence in the case.

The NIA had arrested Santosh Shelar and Anand Jadhav, both residents of Kurar village in Malad, and they, NIA sources said, named Mr. Sharma and arrested and dismissed police inspector



Caught in a web: Praadeep Sharma arriving at the NIA office in Mumbai earlier this year. ■VIVEK BENDRE

Sunil Mane in the case.

Through the investigation, they found that dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze and Mr. Mane handed over Hiran to Mr. Satish, Mr. Manish, Mr. Santosh and Mr. Anand on March 4, 2020, a day before Hiran's body was found in Mumbra creek, NIA officials said.

"Later the accused made calls to Mr. Vaze and Mr. Sharma. We also recovered some cash from the suspects, which we believe was paid to them by the officers," they added. Mr. Sharma's

role in Hiran's murder was being probed as well.

However, Mr. Sharma contested the NIA's claim before the court and stated that he had no relations with Mr. Vaze. He asserted that he did not know anyone arrested in the case. He stated that he had appeared before the NIA whenever he was called. He claimed that he was being framed because of two groups in the police force. He added that he had no role in this case, and that he would not have been home if he was involved in the case.

'Arsenal Consultancy can't give opinion on Sen's plea'

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) told the Bombay High Court on Thursday that Arsenal Consultancy, a digital forensic analyst that said false evidence was planted against retired Professor Shoma Sen who is an accused in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, has "no locus standi to give opinion without the court's permission".

The affidavit was filed before a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and N.J. Jamarid in the petition filed by Ms. Sen seeking to quash three chargesheets against her in the case.

Vikram Khalate, Superintendent of Police, NIA, raised questions on the maintainability of the petition. "Arsenal Consultancy has no locus standi to give such opinion without permission of this court."

The Bench adjourned the matter to July 13.

Pragya Thakur to host yoga session for MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP MP from Bhopal Pragya Singh Thakur will host one of the four segments being organised as part of the International Yoga Day celebration on June 21 by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, members were informed on Thursday.

Ms. Thakur, 51, had won the 2019 election from Bhopal. She is also one of the key accused in the 2008 Malaga bombings.

According to the bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Ms. Thakur will host a talk at noon on "Yoga: A Way of Life". The event is being held online.

Centre opens 14 disability early intervention centres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on Thursday launched 14 cross disability early intervention centres across the country to provide support to infants and young children at risk of or with disabilities.

Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister

Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually inaugurated the centres that are located at seven national institutes and seven composite regional centres of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

"Research studies suggest that early childhood [0-6 years] is a time of remarkable brain development...

Early intervention can provide specialised support and services for infants and young children at-risk or with disability and/or developmental delay and for their families to help them in their overall development, well-being and participation in family and community life," a statement from the Department of Empower-

ment of Persons with Disabilities said.

Through the centres, which have been started as a pilot, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are covered.

SC to look into Class 11 State exams in Kerala

'Will examine why it was not cancelled'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine why Kerala has still not cancelled the Class 11 examinations conducted by its State Board.

"Counsel for the petitioners shall serve a copy of the petition on the standing counsel for the State of Kerala, as we are informed that it has not cancelled the 11th standard examination conducted by the State Board," a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari ordered. The court listed the case for hearing on June 21.

The Bench also asked Assam, Punjab, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh to explain their reasons for not cancelling their Class 12 examinations. The four States' case has drawn the court's attention, as out of 28

States, six had conducted the examinations and 18 cancelled them. "But four States [Assam, Punjab, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh] have not cancelled the examination as of now. Counsel for the petitioners shall serve the standing counsel for the above mentioned four States via email/online," the court directed.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by child rights activist Anubha Shrivastava Sahai to cancel the State Board examinations due to the pandemic. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) cancelled the Class 12 examinations due to concerns over exposing children to infection. The CBSE and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations Boards on Thursday came up with an alternative assessment procedure to compute marks.

Minor reshuffle in Central bureaucracy

Kumar now Minority Affairs Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

In a minor reshuffle in the top bureaucracy in the Central administration, the Narendra Modi government on Thursday appointed senior bureaucrats Renuka Kumar and Sanjay Kumar Singh as Secretaries for Minority Affairs and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances respectively.

Mr. Singh, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, succeeds Indevvar Pandey, who has been appointed as Women and Child Development Secretary. Mr. Pandey, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre, had been appointed as Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), in April.

Mr. Singh, now Special Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education & Secretary, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, will also be the

Secretary, Department of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare in the Ministry of Personnel.

Ms. Renuka Kumar is a 1987-batch IAS officer serving in her cadre State, Uttar Pradesh. She has been appointed as the Minority Affairs Secretary in place of Pramod Kumar Das, who retires on June 30.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the appointment of Manoj Kumar Parida as Chairman, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention, in the rank and pay of Secretary to the Government of India. Mr. Parida is a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. B. Anand, Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, will be Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare in the Ministry of Defence. He will succeed Ravi Kant, who retires this month.

IN BRIEF



Stan Swamy will remain in hospital, says HC

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Thursday said Father Stan Swamy, a Bhima Koregaon case accused, will remain at the Holy Family hospital till July 5, as he has critical medical issues and requires intensive care. Senior advocate Mihir Desai, representing him, told a Division Bench that Fr. Swamy was in the ICU.

Rajasthan waives mandi duty on forest produce

JAIPUR
The Rajasthan government has waived mandi duty and farmers' welfare cess for the forest produce sold outside the Krishi Upaj Mandi premises to extend relief to tribal population and the traders dealing with tendu leaves and timber and non-wood products. The decision has led to abolition of the duty regime which was in force for the last 40 years.

'Will give befitting reply to external aggression'

GUWAHATI
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India had never invaded any country, but would give a befitting reply to any external aggression. He avoided mentioning China while naming the "five countries" bordering the northeast at a programme to dedicate 12 strategic Border Roads Organisation (BRO) projects to the country.

Job outcomes will be improved: Gangwar

NEW DELHI
Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said on Thursday that India was committed to improving employment outcomes for the youth, a Ministry statement said. He said this after the signing of a statement of intent between the Labour Ministry and UNICEF here, it added.

OFB corporatisation an anti-national step: CPI

NEW DELHI
A day after the Union Cabinet approved the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), the Communist Party of India (CPI) on Thursday accused the Centre of taking the decision during the pandemic. CPI general secretary D. Raja called it an "anti-national step".

APPEAL
I Jerin 12 years old, need your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. I suffer from Embryonal Rhabdomyosarcoma and has to undergo Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I urgently need **Rs. 20,00,000/-** for my Autologous Bone Marrow Transplant and supportive care. Donations sent by Ch/D/D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No: 60182010083310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. (Please do not mention patient name on the Cheque).
All Correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No. 13, N.No. 29, Pyyofis Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137491/ 28235324/ 738978027. E-Mail: india.womenswelfare.org
Jerin

INTERVIEW | SRINATH REDDY

'We must use the available vaccines to protect the most vulnerable'

More data is needed on the ideal interval between two doses of Covishield but there should be no hesitancy, says president of the Public Health Foundation of India

HINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

With the ideal interval between Covishield's first and second doses coming under debate, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) president **Srinath Reddy** said data on the Indian experience on the issue was still being gathered. He said there were reassuring reports of good protection being provided to healthcare workers. However, it was not yet clear how effective one dose of the vaccine is against the delta variant, which is the dominant variant now in many parts of the country. He said more information was needed on that aspect, especially for high-risk, older age groups.

The time gap between Covishield's first and second dose has come under the scanner in India yet again. Should we be reverting to a shorter time gap?

The time gap issue initially surfaced due to the way the AstraZeneca trials were conducted internationally. The British-led international trial accidentally created two strands among the trial participants - a larger group which received the vaccine shots at a four-week interval (as per trial protocol) and a smaller group which received the second shot after 12 weeks. Interestingly, the second group showed higher

efficacy (81%). So, Britain decided to adopt a three-month dosing interval. A later large U.S. trial of the same vaccine, with 32,000 participants, also showed a high efficacy (76%). The WHO recommended an eight-12 week spacing.

Those trials were conducted when the ancestral wild virus was in circulation. Then came the variants, against which most vaccines showed lower efficacy. Even then, the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine offered adequate protection against the alpha variant. Against the delta variant, however, the first dose provided only 30% efficacy against sympto-

matic infection, according to data from Public Health England. Against serious illness and death, the vaccine seems to provide reasonable protection with one dose. A second dose demonstrably increases efficacy against both mild and severe infections. Hence, the U.K. switched to an eight-week interval.

Concerns have been raised about inadequate protection of a single dose against the Delta variant, in a French study. Two doses do provide better protection. Hence, the suggestion from international experts that the people at risk of severe disease must be provided that level of protection earlier.

[Data on] the Indian experience is still being gathered. There are reassuring reports of good protection being provided to healthcare workers. However, it is not yet clear how effective one dose is against the delta variant, which is the dominant variant now in many parts of the country. We still need that



Safe behaviour and vaccines will together protect us. We can't run fast on one leg

data, especially for high-risk, older age groups and persons with co-morbidities - not just in relatively younger and healthier healthcare workers.

I would like to close this by pointing out the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has stated that it will review recent evidence.

Let us leave it to that expert body, to review all available national and international evidence. In the

meanwhile, people need to be assured that vaccines are protective even against the delta variant. They should get both shots, whenever scheduled.

If there is a limited supply till July, let us use the available vaccines to provide maximum protection to the most vulnerable. There is no reason for vaccine hesitancy.

Has India vaccinated enough of its population? Is the pace of vaccination steady enough to allow opening of the country?

We have not vaccinated enough numbers as yet. There are many susceptible individuals still. I believe the pace of vaccination will pick up from July, with increasing domestic production and international procurement.

I think we do need to open the country, but carefully. Vaccines protect against disease, once the virus infects.

For protection against viral transmission, we need to adhere to public health advisories, with discipline in our

behaviour for several months more. We must wear masks, avoid ill-ventilated and crowded places as much as possible and not allow super-spreader gatherings. Safe behaviour and vaccines will together protect us. We can't run fast on one leg.

Is there enough data to start children's vaccination?

International trials are available for some mRNA vaccines, to provide evidence of efficacy and safety. Trials in younger children, some including even infants aged six months, are now in progress. Some trials of child vaccination are now on in India too.

We should wait for these international and domestic trials to be completed. If a nasal or orally administered mucosal vaccine proves safe and efficacious, that will be a boon for child vaccination.

Is the mutating virus a cause of worry? Is there data showing that virus could escape vaccination cover?

The worry is misplaced at present. Available vaccines are offering enough protection, at the right dose. Even if neutralising antibody levels fall with time, T cell immunity is likely to remain. In fact, that cell-mediated component of our immune system is capable of fighting the virus which has entered our cells, whereas antibodies can only attack the surface spike protein as it circulates in the blood. Memory T and B cells also store the image of the antigen and can readily re-activate our defence when the virus enters our body.

Newer vaccines are also being prepared and some are under testing. Current mRNA vaccines are being tweaked to attack the spike protein mutations in the variants. Inactivated whole virus vaccines are being prepared, similar to Covaxin. Beyond that, multi-antigen vaccines are being tested, which combine the spike protein, the nucleocapsid (which wraps the genetic material of the virus) and ORF 3a (which helps the viral re-

plicas to exit the infected cells). Such vaccines will present a larger platter of our antigens to our immune system.

Even if spike protein mutations evade the neutralising antibodies, other antigens in the vaccine will still evoke an effective response. These internal antigens of the virus are also much slower in mutating than the surface spike protein. So, science can still provide us solutions.

What is the way ahead?

We need to combine four components of response as we move ahead. They are protect ourselves from exposure to the virus and its entry into the body; prevent free passage of the virus by avoiding crowded places, non-essential travel and super-spreader gatherings; vaccinate as fast and as many as possible; and develop, evaluate and introduce new vaccines which can effectively protect against current and emerging variants.

Number of COVID-19 tests declines rapidly

19.31 lakh samples were analysed on Wednesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

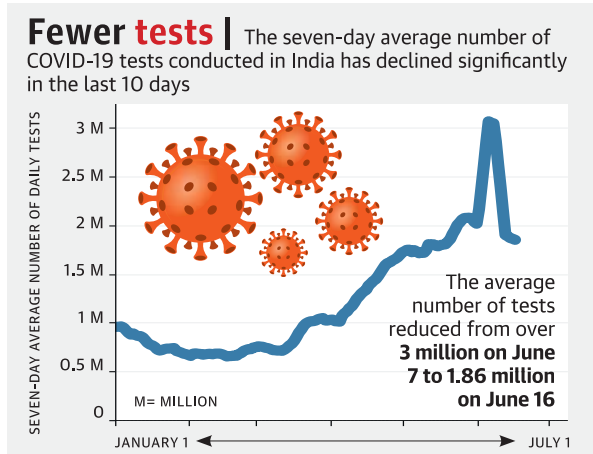
India recorded 57,837 new COVID-19 cases and 1,536 new deaths till 9.30 p.m. on Thursday. The country has so far reported a total of 2,97,57,425 cases and 3,83,467 deaths.

Kerala reported 12,469 new infections, followed by Maharashtra (9,830) and Tamil Nadu (9,118). Maharashtra recorded 636 new fatalities, followed by Tamil Nadu (210) and Karnataka (138). Maharashtra's fatalities include backlog deaths which were missed in the previous reports.

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

Around 19.31 lakh samples were tested in the country on Wednesday (the results for which were released on Thursday). The number of samples tested has come down drastically in the last ten days. The average number of tests conducted declined from over 30 lakh on June 7 to 18.6 lakh on June 16.

About 34.63 lakh vaccine doses were administered in the country in the 24 hours ending 7 a.m. on Thursday, which is 6.6 lakh doses more than what was recorded in



the previous 24 hours. It is also 84,700 doses more than what was recorded during the same period a week ago. The seven-day rolling average of daily vaccinations in the country continues to increase. It stood at 31.26 lakh on June 16, which is more than the 26.69 lakh recorded a week before (June 9).

About 23.1% of adults in India, 43.3% of those aged above 45, and 46.8% of people aged above 60, have been administered at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, until 8 p.m. on Thursday. While 15.9% of the country's population has received at least one dose, only 3.6% are fully vaccinated. The figures are based on the estimated population in 2021.

India continued to record the highest number of 7-day

average daily deaths globally as of June 16. The two other countries with the highest daily fatality count after India were Brazil (2,025) and Colombia (595). Nearly 34.6% of the world's new deaths were recorded in India on June 16.

More than 2.18 crore vaccine doses are available with States and Union Territories, and over 56,70,350 more are in the pipeline and will be received by them in the next three days, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday.

More than 27.28 crore (27,28,31,900) doses have been provided to the States and Union Territories so far by the Centre (free of cost channel) and through direct State procurement category, the Ministry said.

(With PTI inputs)

Boost facilities for children, say guidelines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Going by sero-surveillance reports, COVID-19 infection in children above 10 years occurs in similar frequency as that of adults, notes the "Guidelines on operationalisation of COVID care services for children and adolescents" released by the Health Ministry earlier this week.

While children have less severe disease than adults, intermittent surges in the number of cases are anticipated and so it is desirable to augment the existing facilities to provide care to children with acute COVID, it says.

The guidelines state that the majority of infections is asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic among children and it is uncommon to have moderate to severe COVID-19 in healthy children. Children with co-morbid conditions have more severe manifestations and poorer outcomes; they should be a priority group for vaccination, once vaccines are approved for children.

"A combined effort from private and public sector is needed to handle any surge in future after the withdrawal of the lockdown, school reopening or as third wave strikes over next three of four months," said the guidelines, calling for paediatric-specific plans to be put in place.

Birth, death registrations up in 2019

14 States/Union Territories achieved 100% level of birth registrations: report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The level of registration of births and deaths in the country improved in 2019, according to the "Vital Statistics of India Based on The Civil Registration System" report.

Some States and Union Territories were, however, lagging behind. The report states that the level of birth registration increased from 87.8% in 2018 to 92.7% in 2019; and death registrations went up from 84.6% to 92% during the period.

While 14 States/Union Territories achieved 100% level of birth registrations, 19 States/Union Territories achieved the same level in cases of death.

Sex ratio at birth

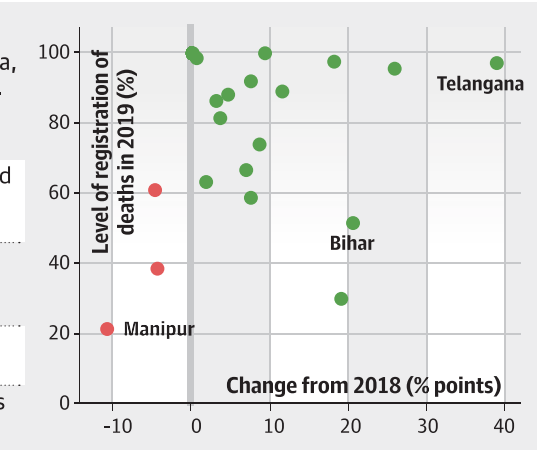
Based on the information received from 32 States/Union Territories, the share of institutional births in the total registered births was 81.2%. The number of registered births increased to 2.48 crore in 2019 from 2.33 crore in 2018. The share of male and female was 52.1% and 47.9%.

In the case of registration of births within the prescribed period of 21 days, 15 States/Union Territories achieved more than 90% registration.

The highest sex ratio at birth (SRB) based on registered events was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1,024),

Counting the dead | Of every 100 estimated deaths in India, around 92 were registered in 2019. In 2018, only 84.6 of every 100 estimated deaths were recorded

- Level of death registration declined in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu
- Telangana recorded the highest increase in the share of registered deaths from 58.5% to 97.2%
- Bihar too recorded a significant jump from 31.2% to 51.6%
- At least 18 States and U.T.s records all the deaths



followed by Nagaland (1,001) Mizoram (975) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (965). The lowest SRB was reported by Gujarat (901), Assam (903) and Madhya Pradesh (905), followed by Jammu & Kashmir (909).

The number of registered deaths increased from 69.5 lakh in 2018 to 76.4 lakh in 2019. The share of male and female was 59.6% and 40.4%.

Based on the information received from 31 States/Union Territories, the share of institutional deaths in total registered deaths was 32.1%.

Infant deaths

Eleven States/Union Territories achieved more than 90% registration of deaths within the prescribed period of 21 days.

In the case of registration of infant deaths, the share of urban area was 75.5% compared to 24.5% in rural areas.

In the north-east, Arunachal Pradesh reported 100% registration of births, but only 38.6% of deaths. Nagaland also registered 100% births, but just 30% deaths, while Manipur recorded 67.7% births and only 21.4% deaths. In Sikkim, there was 100% registration of deaths, but 61.2% registration of births.

Full registration

However, Mizoram and Tripura reported 100% registration of both births and deaths. Meghalaya had 100% registration of births and 97.6% registration of deaths, while Assam reported 100% registration of births and 74% registration of deaths.

In Bihar and Jharkhand, the levels of registration of births were 89.3% and 84.3% and the levels of registration of deaths were 51.6% and 58.8%. In Daman & Diu, the figures were 50.7% and 61%.

Listing the limitations, the

report said the level of registration of States/Union Territories and India level presented in the report was arrived at using the mid-year projected population of the respective States/Union Territories of 2011-2019 based on 2011 census (Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections, July 2020, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and, therefore, was not comparable with rates presented in previous reports.

Incomplete data

The level of registration was arrived at using Sample Registration System Rates for 2018 as the survey for 2019, which was scheduled for 2020, could not be completed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, some States/Union Territories submitted incomplete or partial data, which was not included.

THE CROSSWORD + 13277 Display keystrokes of genius. We are digital now. Come solve online. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjptn>

(set by Afterdark)

- Primarily energetic, Ali's disturbed to get sleep, back at hotel with Queen (9)
- Eggy and unguarded, not having some sleep leads to irritation for babies (5,4)
- Lawrence is in our custody faraway (5)
- Some pepper and cilantro on digestion produce a hormone (9)
- Bones; star shaped next to his heart (5)
- With power, heat, atom can be new inside? It's an illusion (7)
- Can upside down in cab accident, good insulated container (4,3)
- Provide support to an insect at a stage of lifecycle (11)

DOWN

- Rise when annuity's quietly removed by college (9)
- Selection of Sen voicing a brief postscript (5)
- Rule in favour of one country? Totally heartless (9)
- Final stage managed somehow, Australia slips away while England is in front (7)
- Say, Bill designed courses (7)
- For starters, nature arranges crystals resembling elements like mother-of-pearl (5)
- Poor man going after popular princess (8)
- Charges hidden by Cafe Espresso (4)
- Appreciation of program by competitor, one who is old (8)
- Riot if road is cut short and relaid? Even more certain (1,8)
- Warning by hotel; root vegetable in India's not good, about to return (9)
- In the position of draw; shot! (7)
- Worker's vehicle is a small platform on four wheels (7)
- One father or two fathers (4)
- Prank of a jerk (5)
- Here, Belarusians hold revolt (5)

ACROSS

- A good enemy countered with logic in 17th & 18th century Europe (3,2,6)
- Hit in Crimston Bay? No, the other way round (7)
- Permit lady to enrage? Not new (7)
- Currency's new, look at advisory (5)
- A rascal holds instalments irregularly dispensing cash to educators (9)
- One managed to get one tea perhaps (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13276

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Sri Lanka reports cases of delta variant amid a daunting third wave

Currently, there are about 62,000 active cases; people across the country voice concern over economic distress

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Thursday detected the highly transmissible Delta or B.1.617.2 variant of COVID-19 in five patients, amid a stubborn third wave persisting through a near-month-long lockdown in the country.

Spotting an unusual outbreak in a Colombo neighbourhood last week, the Allergy, Immunity and Cell Biology Unit at the Sri Jayewardenepura University conducted genetic sequencing, studying 13 recent samples, and spotted the Delta variant.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Chandima Jeewandara, director of the unit, said: "The Delta variant comes with three main factors – it is highly transmissible, it causes severe disease, and it

evades single dose vaccine," he said.

Thursday's finding points to the presence of the Delta variant in the community, a week after it was found in one patient in a quarantine facility.

"It is the worst we could have imaged at such a time," Dr. Jeewandara said, pointing to the current case load – about 62,000 active cases – and low vaccine coverage. "We are already dealing with a spike in cases with the Alpha variant. Delta poses a greater risk because our vaccine coverage is low, and among those who are vaccinated a majority have got only one dose," he said.

According to data published by the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, more than 30 lakh people, or just over 16% of

the Sri Lanka's adult population, have got at least one dose of vaccine – Covishield, Sinopharm and Sputnik – as of June 16. Of those, only some 7 lakh, or less than 5% of the adult population, have got both doses.

Slow drive

Meanwhile, nearly 6 lakh persons are awaiting their second dose of Covishield, delayed after India stopped exporting vaccines in the wake of its own devastating second wave. The Sri Lankan government is trying to tap other sources, while the country witnesses a steady surge in infections in the past fortnight, with daily cases spiking to over 3,000 on some days, despite a continuing lockdown allowing only essential services and select travel.



Long wait: People waiting in a queue to get their dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Colombo on Tuesday. AFP

For a week now, less than 20,000 PCR tests were carried out a day, data from the Health Promotion Bureau showed, although medical professionals are calling for more testing. Further, Colombo-based Institute for Health Policy, an independent research institution, found an average test positivity rate of 13.8% during the last week, based on official data.

A high positivity rate and daily deaths – an average of 67 in the past week, coupled

with a slow vaccination drive, concentrated in the capital, only heightens the threat posed by the Delta variant, experts have cautioned.

The source of the Delta variant now detected in the community is yet to be established. The Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Authority's ban on travellers from India from disembarking, imposed early May, is in place, but visitors from select countries are allowed to enter. Observing it was "likely imported",

Dr. Jeewandara said: "Remember, the Delta variant has been detected not just in India, but in many other countries, including the U.K. and the U.S. It could have come from anywhere, we do not know yet."

Economic distress

While health authorities grapple with the prevailing spike, and prepare to tackle the Delta variant, people across the country, especially daily wage earners, are reeling under the economic blow of the lockdown.

Scores of garment sector workers, domestic workers, and youth employed in small shops and restaurants have lost their jobs since the pandemic struck. The country witnessed an increase in unemployment to 5.8% last year, the highest since 2009, after the civil war ended.

Those engaged in rural livelihoods have also suffered huge losses, with limited or

no access to the market, and falling prices for their produce. "Women engaged in small-scale farming and fisheries in our district are desperate for some respite. Most traders don't buy their produce any more. And in the event of a trader coming to their village to buy their produce, the women don't get to fix the price, but are forced to sell it for whatever the trader dictates," says Arunachalam Elangeswari, of the Suriya Women's Development Centre in the Batticaloa district, in the Eastern Province.

"With the entire family at home now, that too with much less income, some women are eating only if there is something left after the rest of the family has had a meal," said the community activist. "The women are unable to buy sanitary pads, and we are hearing of many more cases of domestic violence in these past weeks."

The situation among people without homes or personal toilets is miserable, especially when they contract Covid-19, like some families in Ratnapura district, in the Sabaragamuwa Province. "We work with the people in villages where rubber estate workers reside. They are mostly Malayaha [hill country] Tamils from very poor homes. They have no access to health care. And most of them are not covered in the 5,000-rupee allowance," said Catholic priest Fr. Jeewantha Peiris, referring to the government's Covid assistance scheme for low-income households. While families already registered for the government's poverty alleviation Samurdhi programme have received it, many poor families who are not part of the programme have been left out of the pandemic allowance, according to him. "They get excluded at every level."

Hong Kong police arrest newspaper editors

Senior media figures have been accused of 'collusion with foreign forces to endanger national security'

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Hong Kong police on Thursday arrested five senior figures at the *Apple Daily*, a tabloid newspaper that had taken a strong stand supporting pro-democracy protests, under a new national security law.

The five, including publisher Cheung Kim-hung and Editor-in-Chief Ryan Law, have been accused of "collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security," the *South China Morning Post* quoted a police statement as saying.

Thursday's search of the paper's offices by more than



Major crackdown: Ryan Law, second from right, *Apple Daily's* Editor-in-Chief, being arrested in Hong Kong. AP

200 police officers was the second major move following last year's new national security law targeting a newspaper that had angered the pro-Beijing camp in Hong Kong for its coverage of the 2019 protests and calls for

democracy.

Hong Kong's national security police, the *Post* reported, cited "more than 30 *Apple Daily* articles calling for sanctions against the city and mainland China", saying the articles were "evidence

of a conspiracy to collude with foreign forces in violation of the national security law."

Prior to the passing of the law, the media in Hong Kong had broadly functioned with freedom that newspapers on the mainland are denied, under the "one country, two systems" model that guaranteed a range of rights following the 1997 handover.

'Attack on press freedom'

The ambiguity of the national security law and how it defines collusion has been criticised by journalist associations in Hong Kong. "The operation proves that the national security law has

been weaponised to target certain media outlets," Hong Kong Journalism Association chairman Chris Yeung Kin-hing told the *Post*. "Members of the public will refrain from sending tips to journalists on issues of public interest, as media outlets may not be able to guarantee the security of journalistic materials," he said.

Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, said Thursday's raid was "a new low in a bottomless assault on press freedom". "This has nothing to do with enforcing the law," she said, "and everything to do with politicised retribution."

Chinese astronauts dock with new space station

The country plans to have a fully functioning station by 2022

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The first group of Chinese astronauts on Thursday entered the country's under-construction space station, a major step in China's plans to have a fully functioning station by next year.

On Thursday afternoon, the Shenzhou-12 spaceship, carrying the three astronauts, completed an "automated rendezvous and docking" with the Tianhe module, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said, adding this "signified that for the first time the Chinese

have entered their own space station".

Shenzhou-12 was launched on Thursday morning from the Jiuquan launch centre in the Gobi desert, and the astronauts entered Tianhe around six and a half hours later, the agency said.

The three-man crew will be in orbit for three months. This is the first of two manned space missions planned for this year, part of an intense schedule of launches aimed at completing the space station in 2022. The official Xinhua news

agency said the mission will "help test technologies related to long-term astronaut stays and health care, the recycling and life support system, the supply of space materials, extravehicular activities and operations, and in-orbit maintenance."

The Shenzhou-12 mission follows a busy few weeks for China's space programme, coming after last month's launch for the Tianzhou-2 cargo spacecraft, which carried vital supplies for the space station. At least five more missions are planned for the year.

ELSEWHERE



Palestinian teen shot by Israeli troops dies

JERUSALEM
The Palestinian Health Ministry said on Thursday that Palestinian teenager Ahmad Shamsa, who was shot by Israeli troops in the West Bank a day earlier, has died of his injuries. The Israeli military said that a soldier saw a group of Palestinians approaching, and that one "hurled a suspicious object at him, which exploded adjacent to the soldier". The Army said the soldier fired in the air and then shot the man. AP

Brexit hardliner becomes First Minister of N. Ireland

Paul Givan replaces Arlene Foster

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BELFAST

Brexit hardliner Paul Givan was installed as Northern Ireland's new First Minister on Thursday, as Britain's split from the European Union continues to cause friction in the bitterly divided province.

Mr. Givan, 39, from the pro-U.K. Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), replaced Arlene Foster after she was ousted by colleagues for appearing too soft in her opposition to a controversial post-Brexit "protocol" go

verning Northern Irish trade.

Michelle O'Neill, from the pro-Ireland Sinn Fein party, was reconfirmed as Deputy First Minister after the British government intervened to help ease issues and avert a snap election.

In his maiden speech, Mr. Givan failed to mention the protocol, which has riled resentment among unionists for effectively keeping Northern Ireland inside the EU customs union and single market for goods since the start of the year.

U.S. to make Juneteenth a federal holiday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. will soon have a new federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery.

The House voted 415-14 on Wednesday to make Juneteenth, or June 19th, the 12th federal holiday, and President Joe Biden is scheduled to sign the Bill into law on Thursday.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas.

Russia is ready for further dialogue if U.S. is willing: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Moscow is ready to continue dialogue with Washington after his summit meeting with President Joe Biden, provided the U.S. was also willing to do so.

The two leaders held their first face-to-face meeting in Geneva on Wednesday to

ease soaring tensions between Moscow and Washington, with relations at their lowest since the end of the Cold War.

"We are ready to continue this dialogue to the same extent as the American side is," Mr. Putin said in televised remarks.

He added that the atmosphere of the meeting was "quite friendly" and two

leaders "were able to understand each other on key issues".

When asked to describe Mr. Biden, Mr. Putin said the U.S. President's portrayal in the press has "nothing to do with reality".

"Biden is a professional, you have to be very attentive when working with him so as not to miss something," Mr. Putin said.

Iran goes to polls today

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iranian voters are set to elect a new President on Friday, with the ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi expected to replace the moderate Hassan Rouhani after a host of candidates were disqualified.

The vote comes at a time when the recession-hit country is in talks with world powers to revive the nuclear deal.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
नाभिकीय ईंधन सभित्र / NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
ईसीआईएल डक, हैदराबाद-500062
ECIL POST, HYDERABAD-500 062

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण हेतु सूचना NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
निविदा सूचना संख्या Tender Notice Nos.: MI/491/2021

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, ऑनलाइन (ई-टेंडर) के माध्यम से सक्षम और पर्याप्त अनुभव रखने वाले पात्र उम्मेदवारों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दोहरा चरण प्रणाली में मंच दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of President of India, on line(e-tender) Two Part item rate tenders are invited from competent and well experienced eligible contractors for the following work.

कार्य का नाम Name of the Work	विवरण General and Industrial Housekeeping and sanitation services for upkeep of areas and buildings at NFC, Hyderabad.
अनुमानित लागत Estimated Cost	Rs. 630.41 Lakhs
बयाना जमा राशि Earnest Money Deposit	On non-Judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/- duly notarized in original, shall be submitted
ठेके की अवधि Duration of contract	12 Months
निशुल्क देखने और ई-निविदा को डाउनलोड करने की अवधि Period for free view and downloading of e-tender	18.06.2021 to 05.07.2021
बोली की ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने की देय तिथि Due date for online submission of bids	24.07.2021
हार्ड प्रतियों को प्रस्तुत करने की देय तिथि Due date for submission of hard copies	04.08.2021
बोली खोलने की तिथि Date of opening of bid	04.08.2021

विस्तृत निविदा नोटिस और पात्रता मानदंडों को नाईस की वेबसाइट www.nfc.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। The detailed tender notice and eligibility criteria can be seen in NFC Website www.nfc.gov.in. निविदा दस्तावेजों को केवल www.tenderwizard.com/DAE की वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Tender documents can be downloaded only from website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE. इच्छुक उम्मेदवारों के पास वेब क्लास-III डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर होने चाहिए तथा निविदा को डाउनलोड तथा भाग लेने हेतु उन्हें www.tenderwizard.com/DAE में अपना नाम दर्ज करवाना होगा। The intended bidders must have valid Class-III digital signature and should enroll with www.tenderwizard.com/DAE for downloading the tender and participation. संपर्क-सूत्र - दूरभाष संख्या Contact: 040-2718040/16/4677/4202, even@nfc.gov.in

हस्ता Sd/-वरिष्ठ अधीक्षक अभियंता (क्यू, पीएच, सी.एम.एस. एवं ई.एम.) / Senior Superintending Engineer (Q, PH, CMS & EM)

भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार
SATISH DHAVAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
निर्माण एवं अनुसंधान समूह
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
औरिहिकोटा / SRIRAHIKOTA-524124.

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ई-निविदा सूचना सं. सीएमजी/सी/के 2187005 तिथि / Dt: 15/06/2021
e-Tender Notice No. CMG/C/K 2187005

1. भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए मुहूर्तद सामग्री-दर निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा आमंत्रित है/ On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited through e-tendering for the following work(s).

विवरण Name of work	व्योरा Details
कार्य का नाम Title of Work	सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार में अर्ध क्रायो चरण हेतु द्वितीय प्रमोचन मंच संवर्धन परियोजना (4 भवनों का निर्माण - सिविल एवं जन स्वास्थ्य कार्य) Second Launch Pad Augmentation Project for Semi Cryo Stage at SDSC SHAR (Construction of 4 Buildings - Civil & PH Works)
एनआईटी सं. व तिथि NIT No & Date	सीएमजी/सी/के 2187005, तिथि: 15.06.2021 CMG/C/K 2187005, Dt: 15.06.2021
निविदा की अनुमानित लागत Estimated Cost put to tender	₹ 1513.00 लाख / Lakhs
पूरा करने की अवधि Period of Completion	12 (बारह) महीने / Months
निविदा दस्तावेज मांगने की अवधि Period during which the tender documents can be requested	18/06/2021 को 10:00 बजे से 30/06/2021 को 14:00 बजे तक / From: 18/06/2021, 10:00 Hrs To: 30/06/2021, 14:00 Hrs
निविदाओं को अपलोड करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last date and time for uploading of tenders.	05/07/2021 को 14:30 बजे / Hrs

बयाना जमा (ईएमडी) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
संलग्न-1 के रूप में अनुसंधान निगरान प्रयंत्र में बयाना राशि जमा घोषणा पत्र प्रस्तुत करेंगे। Earnest Money Deposit Declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format enclosed as Annexure-1

2. कृपया इच्छुक निविदाकर्ता किरत सूचना आमंत्रित निविदा (एनआईटी) हेतु हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO को देखें। अन्य विवरण एवं निविदा दस्तावेजों के मूल्य हेतु www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पर जाएं या दूरभाष सं. 08623 226447, 226420 पर संकेत करें। Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website www.isro.gov.in / www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. For further details and purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO, Ph: 08623 226447, 226420.

समूह प्रभार, सीएमजी, एरिहिकोटा शार / Group Head, CMG, SDSC SHAR

भारत सरकार / Government of India
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग / Department of Atomic Energy
नाभिकीय ईंधन सभित्र / Nuclear Fuel Complex
ईसीआईएल डक, हैदराबाद / ECIL Post, Hyderabad-500062

CORRIGENDUM
Tender Notice No.: C/1243/2021

Dates for Tender for the work "NFC Kota Township: Construction of One Block Of Type-III, Two Blocks of Type-IV & One Block of Type-V Residential Buildings (Stilt + 13 Floors) including Civil, PH, Internal Electrical & Fire Fighting Works for Nuclear Fuel Complex Township at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan" - T.N.No. C/1243/2021 are extended. Tender request: Up to 26.06.2021, Site Visit: 28.06.2021 & 29.06.2021. Online submission: 20.07.2021 upto 21:00 hrs, Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies: 28.07.2021 up to 14:00 hrs, Online opening of tender (Envelop-I): 28.07.2021 @ 15:00hrs. Eligibility criteria for participation are available in detailed NIT of tender document uploaded in www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Dy. Chief Engineer (CEO,PD&EP)
For and on behalf of President of India

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LTD.
Assam & Assam Arakan Basin and Jorhat Asset

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI Ref. No.: ONGC/EOI/A&AA Basin/DGB/788452

ONGC, Assam & Assam Arakan Basin, Jorhat invites Expression of Interest (EOI) to carry out "SUPPLY AND OPERATION OF GAS COMPRESSION AND CASCADING SYSTEM FOR OPERATION OF DGB SYSTEM IN CATERPILLAR ENGINES OF DRILLING RIGS AT JORHAT" as per the schedule given below:
Download of brief details : 16.06.2021 to 07.07.2021.
Registration of firms for EOI : 09.07.2021.
Last Date for Submission of EOI documents : 09.07.2021.
Date of EOI meeting : 20.07.2021.
Mode of EOI Meet : online.
For details of EOI and downloading of brief scope of work please log on to our website at <https://tenders.ongc.co.in>

Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (Department of Fisheries)
Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Fine Arts Avenue, Cochin -16

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2021

Applications are invited for the admission of BfSc(NS)/VNC/MFC for the year 2021-2022 and the application form and Prospectus can be downloaded from CIFNET website: www.cifnet.gov.in and applied with necessary documents.

BACHELOR OF FISHERY SCIENCE (NAUTICAL SCIENCE)	VESSEL NAVIGATOR COURSE(VNC) / MARINE FITTER COURSE(MFC)
COURSE DETAILS 1. Four year degree programme (8 semester) with integrated practical & onboard training on ocean going fishing vessels 2. Affiliated to CUSAT, Kochi, recognized by UGC and approved by DG Shipping, Mumbai 3. The course will be conducted at CIFNET, Kochi only. 4. They are eligible for CDC ELIGIBILITY : 10 + 2 with minimum 50% marks in all subjects of PCB or PCM and only pass in 10 + 2 with PCB or PCM is enough for SC/ST and the candidates, who are appearing for 10+2 exams during 2021 are also eligible. AGE : 17 to 20 years as on 1 st October, 2021(max. age for lateral entry – 22 years) Intake Capacity : (40+5) seats (Gen/Gen-EWS/OBC/SC/ST – 38, NRI –1, Foreign National – 1, Lateral Entry System –5 (refer prospectus) MODE OF SELECTION : Based on MARKS obtained in 12 th Standard Application fee : Rs. 500/- for General/OBC and Rs. 250/- for SC/ST	COURSE DETAILS 1. Two years trade course (4 semester) with practical training on board fishing vessel out at sea and these Courses introduced by DGET, New Delhi under Craftsmen Training Scheme of NCVT 2. The courses are conducted at CIFNET Kochi/Chennai/Vishakhapatnam 3. They are eligible for CDC. ELIGIBILITY : Pass in 10 th Standard with 40% marks in Maths and Science separately and the candidates who are appearing for 10 th exams during 2021 are also eligible. AGE : 15 to 20 yrs as on 1 st August 2021.Upper Age is relaxable to SC/ST by 5yrs Intake capacity : VNC - 20, MFC-20 at CIFNET Kochi/Chennai/Vizag (Gen/Gen-EWS/OBC/SC/ST - 16 seats & State Government Sponsorship – 4 seats at each centre/course preferably from fishermen community) MODE OF SELECTION : Based on MARKS obtained in 10 th Standard Note : The Selected candidates will be paid Rs.15000/- per month as stipend and on completion of VNC/MFC, Post Institutional Training will also be offered with stipend of Rs. 20500/- pm and onetime Uniform allowance of Rs.2500/- Application fee : Rs. 300/- for General/OBC and Rs. 150/- for SC/ST

1. Filled in application along with necessary documents like marksheet(SSLC/HSC), community certificate if SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS and also the receipt/UTR number generated for the payment of application fee through online must be sent to "The Director, CIFNET, Fine Arts Avenue, Kochi-682016"
2. Last Date to receive the filled in application along with necessary documents is 15th July, 2021

A.K. CHOUDHURY, DIRECTOR

MARKET WATCH

	17-06-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	52,323	-0.34
US Dollar	74.08	-1.04
Gold	46,863	-1.99
Brent oil	72.67	-2.96

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	646.90	-59.80
Asian Paints	3060.30	41.60
Axis Bank	738.60	-11.20
Bajaj Auto	4053.90	-56.55
Bajaj Finserv	11818.55	-37.60
Bajaj Finance	6050.25	-31.35
Bharti Airtel	528.65	-8.10
BPCL	476.90	-4.35
Britannia Ind	3658.15	18.70
Cipla	950.95	-5.80
Coal India	152.15	-3.40
Divis Lab	4302.35	1.65
Dr Reddys Lab	5286.50	-119.60
Eicher Motors	2673.75	-67.30
Grasim Ind	1458.20	-11.00
HCL Tech	986.40	7.00
HDFC	2487.30	-34.15
HDFC Bank	1466.10	-18.50
HDFC Life	700.30	8.15
Hero MotoCorp	2914.10	-61.30
Hindalco	369.25	-11.00
Hind Unilever	2417.70	9.80
ICI Bank	633.00	-7.10
Indusind Bank	984.05	-29.65
Infosys	1495.20	-14.70
Indian Oil Corp	114.60	-1.30
ITC	205.65	-2.20
JSW Steel	696.35	-9.05
Kotak Bank	1766.05	5.45
L&T	1487.55	-3.35
M&M	805.70	-0.45
Maruti Suzuki	6969.35	-144.90
Nestle India Ltd.	18059.05	93.85
NTPC	117.40	-2.40
ONGC	125.10	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	239.85	-2.30
Reliance Ind	2215.65	4.05
SBI Life	983.30	-8.50
State Bank	420.25	-5.70
Shree Cement	28368.10	143.35
Sun Pharma	665.05	-3.50
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	745.00	9.10
Tata Motors	345.65	-3.70
Tata Steel	1103.75	-38.40
TCS	3317.75	43.40
Tech Mahindra	1080.25	11.10
Titan	1711.40	-3.55
UltraTech Cement	6704.85	117.45
UPL	835.05	-3.15
Wipro	558.70	3.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.88	74.20
Euro	88.14	88.52
British Pound	103.05	103.50
Japanese Yen (100)	66.71	67.03
Chinese Yuan	11.48	11.53
Swiss Franc	80.73	81.08
Singapore Dollar	55.11	55.36
Canadian Dollar	59.89	60.15
Malaysian Ringgit	17.84	17.93

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



TVS Motor unveils iQube e-scooter in Chennai

CHENNAI TVS Motor Company unveiled its electric scooter 'TVS iQube' here. The EV is already available in New Delhi and Bengaluru. TVS iQube is an urban scooter powered by an advanced electric drivetrain and next-generation SmartXconnect platform. Priced at ₹1,15,218, it is available for online booking and contactless delivery, the company said.

Natco Pharma net drops 43% as revenue declines

HYDERABAD Natco Pharma reported a 43% decline in consolidated net profit for Q4 to ₹53 crore on the back of lower revenue in the base business. Total income dropped 25% to ₹359.7 crore. For FY21, the net profit slid 3.4% to ₹442.4 crore. Natco Pharma said it was able to sustain revenue during the year despite significant negative impact of the pandemic on the base business.

CII urges ₹3-lakh crore stimulus

Industry group pushes for cash transfers, fuel tax cut to help revive demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Mooting 'urgent' fiscal support to shore up the economy, industry body CII on Thursday said the government has room to provide a ₹3-lakh crore stimulus and advocated a reduction in fuel taxes and enhancement in cash transfers to households to revive demand.

Stressing that livelihoods had taken a severe hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president T.V. Narendran called for employment generation to be the central focus of policy measures and an expansion of the central bank's balance sheet to accommodate a fiscal push of 1.3% of GDP.

"The ongoing second wave has had a significant impact on economic activity



Cash in hand: It's not a good idea to raise resources via higher taxes at a time of recession, says T.V. Narendran. ■ K. PICHUMANI

in this quarter and a large part of the labour force faced health issues, either themselves or in their families," Mr. Narendran said, stressing that health exigencies and job losses had squeezed spending ability.

Terming the demand shock as a big area of concern for India's consumption economy, the CII

president said the cumulative impact of two waves on incomes, livelihoods and consumer sentiment, coupled with increase in household medical expenses, are likely to impact consumer demand for some time.

"There is always a temptation to raise resources through higher taxation to fund higher spending. But

we believe it's not a good idea at the time when the economy is in recession, and instead some tax reductions could incentivise spending," he said, calling for a reduction in excise duties on fuel, some temporary GST rate cuts and inclusion of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) under the GST regime.

High fuel prices are impacting businesses as well, he said, especially in sectors such as aviation where ATF costs are 60% of total costs. "We will recommend that the Centre takes a balanced view on the need to manage inflation and push growth, and the way they deal with oil prices is one part of the puzzle that needs to be fixed," said Mr. Narendran, who is the global chief executive officer and managing director of Tata Steel.

Shares slip, rupee falls as Fed signals earlier rate increases

Sensex slides 0.34%, rupee drops to weakest since early May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI
Equity benchmarks fell for the second straight session on Thursday, mirroring weakness in global markets after the U.S. Federal Reserve surprised investors by signalling faster-than-expected rate increases.

A sharp drop in the rupee - which plunged 76 paise against the dollar - also sapped risk appetite, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 0.34% lower at 52,323.33. The broader NSE Nifty declined 76.15 points, or 0.48%, to 15,691.40.

Banking and finance stocks accounted for most of the losses, while the IT pack saw brisk buying, fuelled by a weak rupee. Indusind



Bank was the top loser in the Sensex, shedding 2.9%, followed by Dr. Reddy's, NTPC, Maruti, Bajaj Auto, Axis Bank, Bharti and HDFC.

UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and HCL Tech were among major gainers. "Domestic equities traded weak today on account of weak global cues... as investors focused more on the

U.S. Federal Reserve raising the country's economic growth forecast while noting its projection to hike interest rates sooner than expected," said Vikas Jain, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities.

"The Fed raised the U.S. growth forecast to 7% this year, while officials moved their first projected rate increases from 2024 into 2023 and opened talks about when to pull back on the \$120 billion in monthly bond purchases," Mr. Jain added.

The rupee dropped 1% to 74.08, its weakest level since early May, while the benchmark 10-year bond yield slid slightly to end at 6.04%. (With inputs from Reuters)

Nadella is Microsoft chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW YORK

Microsoft's India-born CEO Satya Nadella has been appointed as the technology giant's new chairman, an additional role in which he will "lead the work to set the agenda for the board."

Microsoft Corp. on Wednesday announced that the board's independent directors unanimously elected Mr. Nadella to the role of board chair.

"In this role, Mr. Nadella will lead the work to set the agenda for the board," the company said.

Flipkart challenges court order on antitrust probe

'Move to allow investigation erroneous'

REUTERS NEW DELHI

Walmart's Flipkart has filed a legal challenge against the restarting of an antitrust probe into the company, arguing in a court filing that the investigation would cause "irreparable injury."

The Competition Commission of India began an investigation in January last year following a complaint that Flipkart and Amazon promoted select sellers on their e-commerce platforms and used deep discounts to stifle competition.

The companies have denied wrongdoing and near-immediate legal challenges from the pair stalled the probe for more than a year



until a court last week allowed it to resume, having dismissed arguments that the CCI lacked evidence.

The fresh appeal from Flipkart, filed on June 16, argues that decision to allow the probe to resume was erroneous and must be put on hold.

The filing, which was not made public, also urged the court to quash the initial CCI order for the investigation.

Wipro IT to issue \$750-mn dollar notes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Wipro said its step-down subsidiary, Wipro IT Services, will issue U.S. dollar-denominated notes worth \$750 million on June 23.

The net proceeds of the notes, which are proposed to be listed on Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Ltd., are intended for refinancing existing debt and general corporate purposes.

A filing said the fixed rate, senior, unsecured notes will entail coupon rate at 1.5% per annum, payable semi-annually on June 23 and December 23 each year, starting December 23, 2021. The notes will be guaranteed by Wipro.

Indian IT on track to hit revenue goal: Nasscom

'Sector continues to be net job creator'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

The Indian IT industry is on track to meet its vision of \$300-350 billion in revenue by 2025, given strong deal pipelines and a bright business outlook, industry association Nasscom said on Thursday.

The industry was a net hirer of skilled talent, adding 1.38 lakh people in FY21, and had 'robust' hiring plans for FY22 with top players TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech and Tech Mahindra planning to add more than 96,000 employees, it said. Responding to media reports about automation leading to job losses, the association said the industry



would continue to be a net creator of jobs.

"Nasscom would like to clarify... around hiring and job creation," it said. "With the evolution of technology and increasing automation, the nature of traditional IT jobs and roles will evolve, overall leading to the creation of newer jobs." The IT and BPM sectors together had headcount of more than 4.5 million as of March 2021.

₹17,777 crore returned in 6 shut schemes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund (MF) on Thursday said it had returned ₹17,777 crore to unit holders of six shuttered debt schemes till June 15.

This amounts to 71% of assets under management (AUM) as on April 23, 2020, when the fund house shut its six debt mutual fund schemes citing redemption pressures and lack of liquidity in the bond market. Further, cash to the tune of ₹580 crore was available for distribution as on June 15, the fund house said. In the latest disbursement during the week of June 5, investors were paid ₹3,205 crore.

Sugar season likely to end with lesser stocks

Exports may touch 70 lakh tonnes: ISMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COIMBATORE

The closing balance of sugar stocks in the country during the current season ending September is expected to be 20-25 lakh tonnes lesser than the previous season, according to the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA).

The closing stock last season (October 2019-September 2020) stood at 107 lakh tonnes, ISMA said. Mills have produced 306.65 lakh tonnes between October last year and June 15 this year. This is 35.54 lakh tonnes higher than last season's production for the corresponding period.

According to the sugar mills and ISMA's estimates, total sugar sales by mills in May stood at 22.35 lakh tonnes against the domestic sales quota of 22 lakh



tonnes. "Sugar sales by mills in March stood at 22.34 lakh tonnes, 23.13 lakh tonnes in April and 22.35 lakh tonnes in May," ISMA said.

The total sugar sales during the current year (October 2020-September 2021) may cross the estimate of 260 lakh tonnes, which will be 8-10 lakh tonnes higher than last season. Further, sugar exports this year are likely to be about 70 lakh tonnes, the association said.

Mercedes unveils S-Class car at ₹2.17 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Mercedes-Benz has introduced the seventh-generation S-Class car in India with prices starting at ₹2.17 crore for S400d 4MATIC and ₹2.19 crore for S450 4MATIC, ex-showroom.

"The S-Class has been one of the much anticipated luxury cars in the market with unparalleled customer trust and loyalty," said Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India. Cumulatively, more than 8,000 S-Class cars have been sold in India.

"We are seeing demand for all our products. In the first six months, we have seen 50% sales growth over the same period last year. We will keep introducing new products to revive the market," added Mr. Schwenk.

Tube Investments Q4 profit surges 74% as sales improve

Board declares final dividend of ₹1.50 per share

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd.'s (TII) reported standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March rose 74% to ₹129 crore on account of higher sales revenue.

Total revenue from operations rose by 58% to ₹1,480 crore. Engineering segment reported a revenue of ₹854 crore (₹545 crore), metal-formed products ₹401 crore (₹301 crore) and cycles and accessories ₹301 crore (₹129 crore) respectively, it said.

The company also implemented a voluntary retirement scheme incurring ₹13.33 crore. Profit before tax (after exceptional items) stood at ₹162 crore.

"TII has closed the year with a healthy performance



M.A.M. Arunachalam

post revival of the economy from the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic," said M.A.M. Arunachalam, chairman. "The results are encouraging considering that the company had lost almost one full quarter of operations," he said.

"We are hopeful that with governments' constant en-

deavour to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts towards maintaining the momentum in economic activity, the impetus in our operations is likely to continue," he said.

The board recommended a final dividend of ₹1.50 per share and also approved fresh long-term borrowing of ₹200 crore for FY22 through the issue of privately-placed secured non-convertible debentures.

TII said it acquired controlling stake of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. as on November 30, 2020 and hence, the consolidated results include revenue for the period December 2020 to March 2021 of ₹1,393 crore and profit before tax (before exceptions) of ₹ 67 crore.

'Online casual gaming to grow at 29%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU

India's online casual gaming sub-segment, a ₹6,000-crore industry in FY21, is projected to reach ₹16,900 crore in FY25, growing at a CAGR of 29%, KPMG said in a study.

The sub-segment accounted for 44% of India's total online gaming industry in FY21 and its share is likely to touch 58% by FY25, showed the study titled 'Beyond the tipping point - A primer on casual gaming in India.'

In terms of users, as per the report, at 420 million gamers in FY21, it accounted for 97% of the total gamers in India. However, the sub-segment was significantly under-indexed on monetisation with lower ARPU as compared with other gaming markets.

SPORT

Belgium breaks Danish hearts

Books a last-16 slot with a come-from-behind win

EURO 2020

ASSOCIATED PRESS COPENHAGEN

Substitute Kevin de Bruyne set up one goal and scored the winner himself to give Belgium a 2-1 victory over Denmark in a European Championship game marked by an emotional tribute to Christian Eriksen in the first half.

De Bruyne came on after halftime for his first appearance since sustaining a facial fracture in the Champions League final and squared the ball for Thorgan Hazard to equalise in the 55th minute. He then scored in the 71st with a low shot from outside the area.

The win put Belgium into the round of 16 at Euro 2020.



Super sub: Kevin De Bruyne came off the bench to play a starring role for Belgium. ■ REUTERS

It was Denmark's first game since Eriksen's collapse and the host team started at a furious pace at a raucous Parken Stadium. Yussuf Poulsen scored with a low shot inside the far post in only the second minute. Players from both teams

halted play after 10 minutes as the 25,000 fans at the stadium rose for a minute of thunderous applause in tribute to Eriksen.

The result: Group B: Denmark 1 (Poulsen 2) lost to Belgium 2 (T. Hazard 55, De Bruyne 70).

Eriksen to be fitted with cardiac device

ASSOCIATED PRESS COPENHAGEN

Christian Eriksen will be fitted with an implantable device to monitor his heart rhythm, the Danish soccer federation said on Thursday. Eriksen is recovering in a Copenhagen hospital after suffering cardiac arrest during Denmark's game against Finland at the European Championship.

The Danish federation said doctors have determined that Eriksen needs to have an ICD - implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

"This device is necessary after a cardiac attack due to rhythm disturbances," the federation said in a statement.

Italy motors ahead like a supercar into pre-quarters

ASSOCIATED PRESS ROME

The wingers sprint forward like Ferraris. The midfielders are just as capable at scoring as the forwards. And the reserves look like starters.

A new-look Italy is impressing with its offensive flair at the European Championship.

Midfielder Manuel Locatelli scored two goals Wednesday and the Azzurri beat Switzerland 3-0 to become the first team to reach the last 16 at Euro 2020, and they did it with a game to spare.

They also did it with their 10th consecutive victory. "I'm fortunate to have great players who enjoy playing soccer, like to have fun and take some risks - which is the essence of soccer," Italy coach Roberto Mancini said.



Letting fly: Manuel Locatelli, left, scores Italy's second against Switzerland. ■ AP

As usual - and perhaps the only characteristic carried on from Italy teams of the past - the defence was impenetrable.

Italy leads Group A with a six points, Wales has four, Switzerland one and Turkey zero.

In Group C, Ukraine

edged out North Macedonia 2-1 in Bucharest on Thursday to give its hopes of reaching the last 16 a boost.

The results: Group A: Italy 3 (Locatelli 26, 52, Immobile 89) bt Switzerland 0.

Group C: Ukraine 2 (Yarmolenko 29, Yaremchuk 34) bt North Macedonia 1 (Alioski 57).

By The Numbers

- 1 - Italy became the first to qualify for this edition's knockouts with a game to spare
- 10 - This is Italy's 10th consecutive victory in all competitions
- 29 - Italy's unbeaten streak, one shy of the team record

TODAY'S MATCHES

GROUP E
Sweden vs Slovakia 6.30 p.m.
GROUP D
Croatia vs Czech Republic 9.30 p.m.
England vs Scotland 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Live on Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD)

History beckons as India and New Zealand battle for supremacy

In a contest for the ages, Kohli and Williamson eye a global triumph as evenly matched sides try to outwit each other in seaming and swinging conditions

WTC FINAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SOUTHAMPTON

Virat Kohli carries the expectations of a billion while cricket romantics will pin their hopes on Kane Williamson when India and New Zealand engage in a battle to create a lasting legacy in pristine whites in the inaugural World Test Championship final starting here on Friday.

For the connoisseurs of the glorious game, Test cricket is the ultimate format and despite its aura, the 144-year-old history needed a facelift along with a context which the World Test Championship provided despite various bottlenecks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Kohli, India's most successful Test captain, a trophy-less cabinet doesn't do justice to the champion performer that he has been for a decade. He needs a global triumph. Every captain needs it but perhaps the Indian captain wants it more.

Williamson stands in his way with a bunch of fine cricketers in international cricket.

If Williamson happens to stand with the ICC Test Mace on the Hampshire Bowl balcony, one might just smile and think that perhaps "Nice guys don't always finish last".

But, after two years and half a dozen series later, a battle-hardened Indian team will give its all in a match,

from which the winning team will also walk away with a \$1.6 million windfall.

Cheteshwar Pujara would be ready to take more bruises on his body if Neil Wagner starts bowling short. Ajinkya Rahane has grown in stature.

R. Ashwin wouldn't mind one bit if he can fool Williamson, Ross Taylor or the dogged Henry Nicholls with a carrom ball or a slider.

Ishant Sharma has grown 14 years older since that epic WACA spell to Ricky Ponting and India's senior-most player deserves to win a World Championship as much as anyone else.

Man to man, there is very little to choose between the two teams even though playing New Zealand in conditions that aid seam and swing isn't easy.

The teams:
India (final XI): Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami.

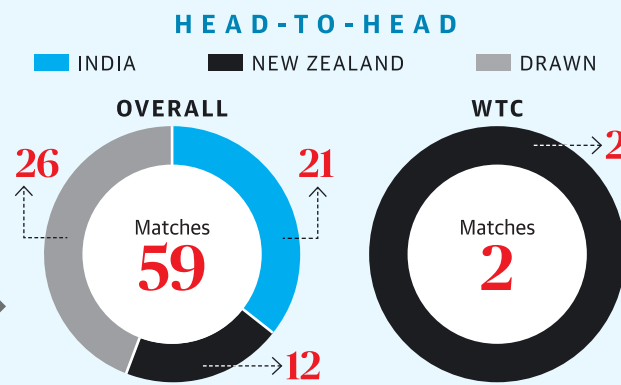
New Zealand (from): Kane Williamson (Capt.), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner, B-J. Watling and Will Young.

Umpires: Richard Illingworth and Michael Gough; **Match referee:** Chris Broad.

Match starts at 3 p.m. IST.

THE ULTIMATE Test

As Kohli's India and Williamson's New Zealand gear up for the summit clash of the World Test Championship (WTC), a look at their journeys and how the teams have fared against each other



HOW THE TEAMS REACHED ROSE BOWL

- INDIA**
- bt West Indies **2-0** (away), 2019
 - bt South Africa **3-0** (home), 2019
 - bt Bangladesh **2-0** (home), 2019
 - lost to New Zealand **0-2** (away), 2020
 - bt Australia **2-1** (away), 2020-21
 - bt England **3-1** (home), 2021
- NEW ZEALAND**
- drew with Sri Lanka **1-1** (away), 2019
 - lost to Australia **0-3** (away), 2019-20
 - bt India **2-0** (home), 2020
 - bt West Indies **2-0** (home), 2020
 - bt Pakistan **2-0** (home), 2020-21



GROUND REALITY
WEATHER: Rain has been forecast on all five days of the Test

No. 1 [the weather] does not change [things] from our point of view as a team. For us, it is about covering all the bases
KOHLI

THE ARCHITECTS

INDIA							
	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s
BATTING							
Ajinkya Rahane	17	28	3	1095	115	43.80	6/3
Rohit Sharma	11	17	1	1030	212	64.37	2/4
Virat Kohli	14	22	2	877	254 n.o.	43.85	5/2
	M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	SR	5WI/10WMI
BOWLING							
R. Ashwin	13	24	67	7/145	20.88	46.9	4/0
Mohammed Shami	10	18	36	5/35	19.77	39.9	1/0
Ishant Sharma	11	20	36	5/22	17.36	36.3	3/0
NEW ZEALAND							
	M	Inns	N.O.	Runs	HS	Avg.	50s/100s
BATTING							
Kane Williamson	9	14	0	817	251	58.35	1/3
Tom Latham	11	18	1	680	154	40.00	5/1
Henry Nicholls	10	15	1	585	174	41.78	1/2
	M	Inns	Wkts.	BBI	Avg.	SR	5WI/10WMI
BOWLING							
Tim Southee	10	20	51	5/32	20.66	45.9	3/0
Kyle Jamieson	6	12	36	6/48	13.27	33.3	4/1
Trent Boult	9	18	34	4/28	29.29	59.0	0/0

THE BATTLES

- India vs New Zealand in Tests with Kohli and Williamson at the helm
- 2016** India won by 197 runs, Kanpur
 - 2016** India won by 321 runs, Indore
 - 2020** New Zealand won by 10 wickets, Wellington
 - 2020** New Zealand won by seven wickets, Christchurch

THE BATTLEFIELD

- India in Tests at Southampton
- Played 2
 - Won 0
 - Lost 2
 - 2014** lost to England by 266 runs
 - 2018** lost to England by 60 runs
- New Zealand is yet to play a Test at the venue

FORM GUIDE

(last five matches, latest game first)

INDIA	W	W	W	L	W
NEW ZEALAND	W <td>D</td> <td>W <td>W <td>W</td> </td></td>	D	W <td>W <td>W</td> </td>	W <td>W</td>	W

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN & G. PRASAD
GRAPHIC: A. GANESHAN
SOURCE: ICC & ESPNCRINFO

'We've been waiting for this'

Situation we faced made us more hungry, says Kohli

ASHWIN ACHAL

India's route to the World Test Championship (WTC) final has been anything but smooth. From being on top of the table before COVID-19 struck, the team found itself in danger of missing the cut when the International Cricket Council (ICC) changed the ranking points system.

India had to turn it around by winning the two remaining series of the Test cycle – against Australia away and England at home – to book a spot in the summit clash.

Skipper Virat Kohli believes that the challenges faced along the way only served as motivation to perform. "It wasn't supposed to be a topsy-turvy ride (to the WTC final). When you're sit-

ting at home and the rules change suddenly, you get confused. We didn't choose to miss any matches in this WTC cycle. In our minds, we had already qualified way before things got complicated. Looking back, whatever happened was for the best. If we had qualified earlier, maybe we would have relaxed a little bit. The situation we faced made us more hungry and determined. We used it as fuel and motivation to move forward," Kohli said on the eve of the WTC final clash against New Zealand.

Kohli is not keen on the 'nice guys' tag earned by the Kiwis. "I don't understand this term ('nice guys'). I don't think any other team has bad guys in it. For us, New Zealand is a team with quality players. It's serious

stuff out there. It's not fun and games. This is a huge Test match. We've been waiting for this opportunity," he said.

Business on-field

Kohli may share a great bond with his opposite number Kane Williamson, but come match day, it's all business.

"Kane and I have become friends over the last few years, having played against each other quite a bit. We stay in touch, and there is a good vibe when we meet. But when you step into the field, you want to get him and everyone else in the New Zealand team out as early as possible. They would want to do the same to us. The camaraderie, understanding and bonding happens off the field," Kohli said.



One step away: The Indian contingent will be determined to make the grand finale a memorable one. •TWITTER/ICCI

'The challenge is strong against this Indian side'

We have similar strengths: Williamson



In familiar zone: The New Zealand team will fancy its chances in the seamer-friendly environment. •REUTERS

S. DIPAK RAGAV

After missing the second Test against England due to an elbow niggle, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson confirmed he has since improved ahead of the WTC final that starts on Friday.

"My elbow has improved with the help of an injection a few days back. I am still managing but it has shown signs of improvement," said Williamson on the eve of the match.

When asked if it will be a case of India's batting against the New Zealand bowlers, Williamson said, "I think there are a number of areas of competition. We know how strong the Indian seam bowling attack is, the

quality of their spin and clearly their batting is world-class, so they are a very good side and we are aware of that. For us there are some similar strengths as well," he added.

To a query about whether his side goes into the contest as favourites considering they are the No. 1-ranked side, the 30-year-old said, "We are much more concerned with the cricket that we want to play and also very realistic that India are an incredibly strong side all around the world, and rightly so recognised as the best team. You have these rankings, they take slightly different shapes everyday. But, we know that the challenge is very very strong against this Indian side."

A showcase of the immortals

Test cricket's first 'final' features stars befitting the occasion

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

Southampton's present is about a city with its nippy air marinated in sea salts and a nostalgia that includes the Titanic which set sail in 1912, never to return. It was also the county – Hampshire – that had the West Indian great, the late Malcolm Marshall, firing his thunderbolts.

In this setting of quaint homes, undulating roads and giggling waves, the willow game's oldest format will finally have a summit clash to formally coronate the champion. Since 1877, Test cricket has adhered to its unique rhythms but there never was a singular match that anointed one unit as the numero uno!

Eventually with the International Cricket Council (ICC) conceptualising the World Test Championship, its endeavour will find fruition when India and New Zealand walk out at the Ageas Bowl for that one 'final' Test commencing on Friday. England's whimsical summer also lures in the rains and it is anybody's guess about who will have the last laugh – Virat Kohli's men, Kane Williamson's dogged troops or the weather gods with their penchant of irony.

The last time the outfits



Who will have the mace? Williamson and Kohli will be keen to lay their hands on the coveted prize. •ICC

clashed in England, it was the 2019 World Cup semifinal at Manchester. The slow-burn encounter stretched across two days due to the weather's quirks and it gifted delirium to New Zealand and heartbreak to India. Since then, much has changed irrevocably in a pandemic-ravaged world while Kohli and Williamson have shepherded their men towards success and stability. Equally their vice-captains delivered by it Ajinkya Rahane in Australia or Tom Latham in Old Blighty.

New Zealand steps in fresh from its series triumph over England while for India the WTC final is also a starting block as the five-match Test series against Joe Root's men will start on August 4.

India may have missed its best personnel at different points during the Australian tour and yet it found new heroes. This common thread of resilience has also been the spine that binds New Zealand and even way back in the 1980s, it could hold its own at home against Clive Lloyd's indomitable West Indians.

Kohli's fire against Williamson's ice, Rohit Sharma's belligerence against Trent Boult's swing or the pragmatic textures that a Cheteshwar Pujara or a Ross Taylor offer are part of the multiple threads that serve as a splendid base for a match with its reserve sixth day just in case the skies oscillate between the deep blue and the dark grey!

Shafali and Smriti give a bright start before India loses its way

The two add 167 for the opening wicket but the side slips to 187 for five at close

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISTOL

Shafali Verma hit a brilliant 96 on debut and Smriti Mandhana made 78 before five quick wickets derailed India as the visitors slumped to 187 for five in the first innings in reply to England's 396 for nine declared at stumps on the second day of the one-off Test here on Thursday.

Shafali, who smashed 13 fours and two sixes, and Smriti, who hit 14 fours, were involved in a superb 167-run stand off 48.5 overs for the opening wicket before both departed in quick time, triggering a collapse.

Nightwatchman Shikha Pandey, skipper Mithali Raj and Punam Raut got out in quick succession as India lost five wickets for 16 runs to

give England the upperhand. At close of play, Harmanpreet Kaur was batting on four with Deepti Sharma for company. India trails England by 209 runs.

Dunkley shines

Earlier, resuming at 269 for six, England lost Katherine Brunt (8) and Sophie Ecclestone (17) in the morning session but debutant Sophia Dunkley continued to frustrate the visitors and remained unbeaten on 74 as the hosts added 127 to their overnight score. Dunkley forged a 56-run partnership with Ecclestone for the eighth wicket and 70 for the ninth with Anya Shrubsole (47). It was Shrubsole's career-best score.

Debutant off-spinner Sneha Rana finished with figures of four for 131. Deepti Sharma (three for 65) too impressed.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: Lauren Winfield-Hill c Taniya b Pooja 35 (63b, 4x4, 2x6), Tammy Beaumont c Shafali b Sneh 66 (144b, 6x4), Heather Knight lbw b Deepti 95 (175b, 9x4), Natalie Sciver lbw b Deepti 42 (75b, 6x4), Amy Jones lbw b Sneh 1 (9b), Sophia Dunkley (not out) 74 (127b, 9x4), Georgia Elwiss c Deepti b Sneh 5 (11b), Katherine Brunt lbw b Jhulan 8 (37b), Sophie Ecclestone c Shikha b Deepti 17 (56b, 1x4), Anya Shrubsole b Sneh 47 (33b, 6x4, 1x6); Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-1, nb-2): 6; Total (for nine wkts. decl. in 121.2 overs): 396.

Fall of wickets: 1-69 (Winfield-Hill, 20.3 overs), 2-140 (Beaumont, 48.1), 3-230 (Sciver, 72.6), 4-236 (Jones, 75.4), 5-244 (Knight, 78.1), 6-251 (Elwiss, 81.2), 7-270 (Brunt, 93.6), 8-326 (Ecclestone, 111.3), 9-396 (Shrubsole, 121.2).

India bowling: Jhulan 21-3-

58-1, Shikha 15-3-61-0, Pooja 14-3-53-1, Sneh 39.2-4-131-4, Deepti 27-5-65-3, Harmanpreet 5-0-25-0

India — 1st innings: Smriti Mandhana c Brunt b Sciver 78 (155b, 14x4), Shafali Verma c Shrubsole b Cross 96 (157b, 13x4, 2x6), Punam Raut lbw b Knight 2 (31b), Shikha Pandey c&b Knight 0 (6b), Mithali Raj c Beaumont b Ecclestone 2 (2b), Harmanpreet Kaur (batting) 4 (10b, 1x4), Deepti Sharma (batting) 0 (4b); Extras (b-4, lb-1): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 60 overs): 187.

Fall of wickets: 1-167 (Shafali, 48.5), 2-179 (Smriti, 54.3), 3-179 (Shikha, 55.6), 4-183 (Mithali, 57.2), 5-183 (Punam, 58.2).

England bowling: Brunt 9-1-41-0, Shrubsole 10-2-18-0, Sciver 7-1-21-1, Cross 12-4-40-1, Ecclestone 16-1-61-1, Knight 6-5-1-2.



Takes two to tango: Smriti and Shafali forged a fine opening stand, matching each other stroke for stroke. •GETTY IMAGES

Nadal pulls out of Wimbledon, Olympics

REUTERS
MADRID

Rafael Nadal pulled out of Wimbledon and the Tokyo Olympics on Thursday, saying he took the decision after consultations with his team in a bid to prolong his career.

The 35-year-old Spaniard said the two-week gap between the French Open and Wimbledon – which starts on June 28 – was not enough time for him to recuperate after a demanding claycourt season where he played in five tournaments.

"I have decided not to participate at this year's Championships at Wimbledon and the Olympic Games in Tokyo," Nadal tweeted.



Rafael Nadal. •FILE PHOTO

Nadal has won two gold medals at the Olympics – singles in 2008 at Beijing and a doubles gold at Rio 2016.

"It's never an easy decision to take but after listening to my body and discussing it with my team I understand that it is the right decision."

TV PICKS

WTC 2021 final: India vs New Zealand: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3 p.m.
England Women vs India Women: Only Test, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Euro 2020: Sony Ten 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Golf: USGA-US Open championship: Eurosport (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.
Copa America 2021: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 a.m. (Saturday); Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF

Gujrathi returns to Champions Tour

NEW DELHI
The return of Vaidit Gujrathi will see four Indian Grandmasters in the 16-player \$100,000 Goldmoney Asian Rapid online chess championship, which is part of the Champions Tour, beginning on June 26.
The players: Magnus Carlsen (Nor), Ding Liren (Chn), Anish Giri (Ned), Wesley So (USA), Alireza Firouzja (FIDE), Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol), Vidit Gujrathi, Daniil Dubov (Rus), Peter Svidler (Rus), Vladislav Artemiev (Rus), Sateem Saleh (UAE), B. Adhiban, Hou Yifan (Chn), D. Gukesh, and Arjun Erigaisi.

Milkha Singh 'stable and improving'

CHANDIGARH
Legendary Indian athlete Milkha Singh is "stable and improving" under the constant supervision of a medical team, after having recovered from COVID-19, PGIMER officials said here on Thursday. The 91-year-old was on Wednesday shifted out of COVID ICU to another section of the PGIMER hospital. P11

COPA AMERICA

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

GROUP A
Chile vs Bolivia
2.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Argentina vs Uruguay
5.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Live on Sony Ten 2 and Sony 6 (SD & HD)

India names tried-and-tested squad

The Rani Rampal-led team for Tokyo Olympics has mix of youth and experience

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Indian women's hockey team for the Tokyo Olympics was announced on Thursday with coach Sjoerd Marijne sticking to a largely tried-and-tested mix of youth and experience.

The 16-member Rani Rampal-led side has a core group that has been together for more than three years now. While eight of the players were part of India's previous outing in 2016 at Rio Olympics, 12 of them participated at the 2018 World Cup, where India reached the last-eight and the Asian Games, finishing runner-up.

Besides Rani, others from the Rio squad include Savita Punia, Deep Grace Ekka, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Monika, Nikki Pradhan, Navjot Kaur and Vandana Kataria, with a total of 1,492 caps between them.



Carrying India's hopes: The Indian women's hockey team for the Games. • TWITTER/THEHOCKEYINDIA

"This team has worked very hard over the last few years and has made progress consistently. There's a good mix of experienced players and new talent, which is excellent," chief coach Marijne said.

"We look forward to tak-

ing on the best in the world in Tokyo. This is a team with a lot of potential and drive which we hope to channelise to our best performance yet," he added.

This will only be the ninth-ranked team's third Olympic appearance and se-

cond consecutive one.

The squad: **Goalkeeper:** Savita; **Defenders:** Deep Grace Ekka, Nikki Pradhan, Gurjit Kaur, Udita; **Midfielders:** Nisha, Neha Goyal, Sushila Chanu, Monika, Navjot Kaur, Salima Tete; **Forwards:** Rani Rampal, Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami, Vandana Kataria, Sharmila Devi.

Manish found cheating, stripped of Natl. u-18 title

Aronyak Ghosh elevated as the winner

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Five days after the completion of the National under-18 online rapid chess championship, the All India Chess Federation (AICF) on Thursday took away the title from Odisha's Manish Kumar and named Bengal's Aronyak Ghosh champion.

The development followed the ruling of the Fair-play panel that found conclusive evidence against Manish of using unfair means on his way to the third place in the National

under-16 event on Tuesday.

"The members of the Fairplay panel had doubts over Manish's play even in the under-18, but there was no conclusive evidence. But during the under-16 championship, Manish was found cheating. The committee unanimously decided to nullify all his results," confirmed AICF secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan.

As a result, Aronyak and Ayush Sharma, who tied with Manish for the title, were elevated as winner and runner-up respectively. Sankalp Gupta took the third spot.

Harika in last eight

D. Harika beat former World champion Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia to move into the quarterfinals of the Women's Speed Chess championship on Wednesday night. In a closely fought encounter that went into the four-game tie-breakers, the Indian won 14.5-12.5.

Harika's fine victory came after India's campaign got off to a disappointing start with Koneru Humpy going down to Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva on the opening day last Saturday. The other Indian in the fray, R. Vaishali will meet China's Lei Tingjie on Saturday.

Hawks, Clippers post wins

NBA PLAYOFFS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers and Utah Jazz were on the brink of elimination from the NBA playoffs on Wednesday after Atlanta Hawks and Los Angeles Clip-

pers notched up against-the-odds victories on the road.

The results: **EC:** Philadelphia 76ers 106 lost to Atlanta Hawks 10 (*Hawks lead series 3-2*).

WC: Utah Jazz 111 lost to LA Clippers 119 (*Clippers lead series 3-2*).

IOA signs MPL as principal sponsor for Olympics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association on Thursday announced an ₹8 crore sponsorship deal with MPL Sports Foundation till the end of 2022 and covering major events in the period.

The deal will see MPL coming on board as the principal sponsor for the Indian contingents at the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Asian Games & Commonwealth Games.

In addition, it will also supply the official sports kit for the contingents at the Asian and Commonwealth Games, the IOA said in a statement. Interestingly, it does not include the Olympics kits which will remain unbranded.

Meanwhile, Amul has signed a ₹1 crore deal till December 31 this year specifically covering the Tokyo Olympics.

Three share lead; title-race wide open

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A.R. Ilamparthi (Tamil Nadu), Sandip Nagare (Maharashtra) and Venu Akkarakaran (Kerala) shared the lead with 6.5 points after seven rounds of the National under-14 online rapid chess tournament on Thursday.

With 22 players following the leaders at six points, and four rounds to go, the title-race is wide open.

After Ilamparthi and Akkarakaran drew their seventh-round game on the top board, Nagare defeated Alekhya Mukhopadhyay to emerge as the only winner from the first seven boards.

Vijaykrishna passes away

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Former Karnataka all-rounder B. Vijaykrishna passed away here on Thursday following a cardiac arrest, the Karnataka State Cricket Association stated. He was 71.

A left-arm spinner and southpaw batsman, Vijaykrishna played 80 First Class and two List-A matches. In First Class cricket he scored 2,297 runs (average 25.8) and took 194 wickets.

Vijaykrishna was part of the Karnataka team that won three Ranji Trophy titles - 1973-74, 1977-78 and 1982-83.

Vijaykrishna represented Karnataka with distinction in a 15-year domestic career. Despite his considerable talent, Vijaykrishna could not break into the Indian team.



B. Vijaykrishna.

Bopanna and Divij lose

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
HALLE

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan were beaten 6-3, 7-6 (3) by Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen of Belgium in the quarterfinals of the €1,455,925 Halle Open on Thursday. The Indian pair collected 90 ATP points and €14,340.

In the ITF men's event in Tunisia, Siddhant Banthia and USA's Alexander Kotzen

made the doubles semifinals.

Other results: €1,455,925 **Halle Open: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Sander Gille & Joran Vliegen (Bel) bt Rohan Bopanna & Divij Sharan 6-3, 7-6(3).

€132,280 **Challenger, Nottingham: Pre-quarterfinals:** Kamil Majchrzak (Pol) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 **ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Alexander Kotzen (USA) & Siddhant Banthia bt Nicolas Bruna (Chi) & Imanol Lopez Morillo (Esp) 7-6(5), 6-4.

Berrettini stops Murray

AGENCIES
LONDON

Andy Murray's grasscourt return was cut short in brutal fashion at Queen's Club as Italian top seed Matteo Berrettini dished out a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to the five-time winner on Thursday.

Berrettini's huge first serve and forehand did most of the damage but the Italian also showed plenty of silky touch on the slick lawns to register his first ca-

reer win over Murray. "I did not play very well," said Murray, adding that just being back on court was not a barometer of success for him.

In another match, second seed Denis Shapovalov beat defending champion Feliciano Lopez 6-2, 6-3.

Third seed Alexander Zverev was bounced out by France's Ugo Humbert 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3 in the Halle Open pre-quarterfinals.

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